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One Nation, One Election: Centre

Kovind-led panel to explore ways to hold concurrent elections for Lok Sabha and Assemblies as was done till 1967

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after announcing a Special Parliament Session later this month, the Centre on Friday constituted a committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of "One Nation, One Election".

Sources said Kovind will explore the feasibility of the exercise and the mechanism to see as to how the country can go back to having simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, as was the case till 1967.

With speculation of possibility of general elections 2024 to be advanced so that they could be held with State Assembly polls, Opposition parties slammed the Government's move to set up the committee to study the feasibility of "one nation, one election", alleging it would pose a threat to the federal structure of the country.

Kovind is expected to speak to experts and may also consult leaders of different political parties. The Government's decision comes a day after it decided to call a



Special Session of Parliament between September 18 and 22, the agenda for which is under wraps.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said there are "important items" on the agenda of the Special Session of Parliament and it will be circulated "very shortly". He declined to comment on the items on the agenda and said it's in the "final stage" of preparation.

Since coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary for the idea of simultaneous polls, which include those at local bodies, citing financial burden caused by almost continuous election cycle and jolt to development work during the polling period.

Kovind too had echoed Modi's view and expressed his support to the idea after becoming President in 2017. Addressing Parliament, the former President had said in 2018,

"Frequent elections not only impose a huge burden on human resources but also impede the development process due to the promulgation of the model code of conduct."

Like Modi, he had called for a sustained debate and expressed hope that all political parties arrive at a consensus on this issue.

With the Modi Government approaching end of its second term, there is a view in its top echelon that it can no longer let the issue drag on and needs to move decisively to underscore its purposefulness after debating on the topic for years.

With the ruling BJP under Modi always animated by grander themes and big-ticket ideas to rally popular support, the issue will also suit the party politically and catch the Opposition off guard, leaders in the party believe.

Assembly polls are due in

five States — Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Rajasthan — in November-December and they are scheduled to be followed by the Lok Sabha elections in May-June next year.

However, the recent moves by the Government have thrown open the possibility of advancing the general elections and some State polls, which are scheduled after and with the Lok Sabha contest. Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh Assemblies are scheduled to go to the polls with the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP enjoys good relations with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik even though they are not formally part of its alliance. The BJP is in power in Arunachal while Sikkim is ruled by an ally.

Maharashtra and Haryana, two States where the BJP is in

power with allies, and JMM-Congress-ruled Jharkhand are slated to go for polls after the Lok Sabha contest.

Opposition leaders alleged the ongoing meeting of the INDIA alliance in Mumbai has in fact rattled the ruling BJP which caused the Government to set up a committee under Kovind to explore the possibility of holding polls for the Lok Sabha and Assemblies simultaneously.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called the Government's move a "diversion and distraction". "No matter how many diversions and distractions the ruling regime throws at the people, the citizens of India shall not be betrayed anymore," Kharge said without making any direct reference to the formation of the committee.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said the country is already "one" and no one is questioning that. "We demand fair elections, not 'one nation one election'. This move of 'one nation, one election' is being brought to divert attention from our demand for fair elections," he added.

While CPI leader D Raja said Modi always talks about India being the mother of democracy but the Government has taken a unilateral decision without discussing with other political parties, AAP national spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said the move betrays the "panic" in the ruling party after they saw the unity of Opposition parties under the INDIA bloc.

Security on high alert for G20 Summit

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A multi-agency security operation is being implemented to secure the G20 summit venue and protect the visiting dignitaries in the National Capital during the mega event on September 9-10, ensuring there are no infiltrations, acts of terror, or sabotage.

Nearly 1,30,000 security personnel are deployed for the high-profile mega event.

While the Delhi Police is heading the massive security umbrella, the security paraphernalia will include components of the paramilitary forces or the Central Armed Police Forces and the commandos of the elite anti-terror contingency force National Security Guard (NSG). As many as 1,30,000 security personnel, including the 80,000-strong Delhi Police, will be deployed during the G 20 summit.

Addressing a Press conference here on Friday, Special Commissioner of Police (Security) Madhup Tiwari said a Special Commissioner of police-rank officer will be commanding the security at the big venues.

Tiwari said the Delhi Police is being assisted by some Central Armed Police Forces and the NSG in the arrangements.

"The Delhi Police has devised an extensive security plan covering various aspects,



Delhi Police trainee commandos during helicopter slithering training session at Delhi Police Academy Jharoda Kalan on Friday ahead of G20 summit PTI

including airport security, venue security, accommodations, and motorcade management. The security planning aims to minimise disruption to normal law and order and inconvenience to the public," he said.

Tiwari, however, asserted that these measures have been taken keeping in mind that common people face minimum inconvenience.

"At the hotels, a DCP-rank officer will serve as camp commander. The rest of Delhi will be on high alert," he added.

Tiwari said more than half of the Delhi Police force will be involved in providing security for the summit. He asserted that arrangements have been made to ensure that the common people are not inconvenienced.

"Specialised measures involve the assistance of the

Indian Armed Forces, and we are confident that we will provide foolproof security. More than half of the Delhi Police force will be deployed in civilian attire for this event," said the official.

Noting that the existing manpower of the Delhi Police would not have been sufficient for this, Tiwari said the force is being aided by the NSG for anti-terror measures and some Central Armed Police Forces, who have assisted by providing vehicles and equipment.

"For specialised measures, we also have the Indian Armed forces assisting us. The staff has been provided role-based micro-functional training and made aware of their duties. This has been done through carcade rehearsals, point-wise briefing. The rest of Delhi will be on high alert," he said.

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Civil Aviation, Telecom get new secretaries in major reshuffle

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday appointed senior IAS officers Vumlunmang Vualnam and Neeraj Mittal as new secretaries in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Department of Telecommunications respectively in a major secretary-level bureaucratic reshuffle.

According to the order issued by DoPT, the Prime Minister-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved 1992-batch Manipur cadre IAS officer Vualnam, currently serving as an additional secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, as the new Civil Aviation secretary. He will replace Rajiv Bansal, who retired on August 31.

The ACC has modified its previous order which had appointed Bihar-cadre IAS officer Chanchal Kumar, who is serving as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, to the post, it stated.

According to the latest order, Kumar has been appointed as secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, where he will replace Tripura-cadre 1989-batch IAS officer Lok Ranjan upon his appointment as an administrative member in the Central Administrative Tribunal.

Mittal, a 1992-batch Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer who is currently in the cadre, has been appointed as the Secretary in the Department of Telecommunications, according to the order.

Tamil Nadu Cadre 1989-batch IAS officer S Krishnan will be the new Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, while his batchmate from the Uttarakhand-Cadre Umang Narula will be the new Secretary in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, it stated.

Narula will replace 1990-batch IAS officer from Odisha Cadre Gudey Srinivas, who has been appointed as the

Secretary in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the order said.

According to the order, Gujarat-Cadre 1989-batch IAS officer Katikithala Srinivas, currently serving as the director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, will be the new secretary in the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Sriram Taranikanti, 1992-batch IAS officer of the Tripura Cadre, currently serving as an Additional Secretary and financial adviser in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will replace Srinivas as the director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in the rank and pay of a Union Secretary.

"Vivek Bhardwaj, IAS (WB-90), Secretary, Ministry of Mines as Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Panchayati Raj in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India," the order further stated.

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INDIA parties to meet halfway to take on BJP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Opposition INDIA alliance made a further headway in its ongoing effort to cobble together a joint front to take on the Narendra Modi-led BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, as it set up coordination and election strategy committee, campaign committee and three working groups and decided to initiate the seat-sharing process immediately at the State-level and hold rallies across the country.

Taking forward from where they left at their first sittings held in Patna and Bengaluru, INDIA bloc leaders — after the deliberations at the Mumbai meeting — crossed the first major hurdle by resolving to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls together "as far as possible" and decided to initiate seat-sharing process in different States immediately and conclude it at the earliest "in a collaborative spirit of give-and-take".

In another decision, INDIA bloc set up a 14-member coordination and election strategy committee comprising



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, RJD chief Lalu Prasad, Delhi CM and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Tamil Nadu CM and DMK chief MK Stalin, J&K National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and other Opposition leaders during the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) meeting in Mumbai on Friday PTI

Sharad Pawar (NCP), K Venugopal (Congress), Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD), Abhishek Banerjee (TMC), Raghav Chaddha (AAP), D Raja (CPI), Omar Abdullah (NC), Mehbooba Mufti (PDP) and five other major parties in the alliance.

The joint front, however, chose not to appoint any con-

venor for the coordination and election strategy committee.

Having decided to reach out to the voters across the country with the theme of "Judega Bharat, Jeetega India" in different languages, INDIA bloc decided to organise public rallies at the earliest in different parts of the country on "issues of public concern and importance".

"We, the INDIA parties, hereby resolve to coordinate our respective communications and media strategies and campaigns with the theme 'Judega Bharat, Jeetega India' in different languages," a resolution passed.

The coordination and election strategy committee, which INDIA alliance's highest decision-making body, will com-

prise representatives from Congress, NCP, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Shiv Sena (UBT), Rashtriya Janata Dal, Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamooli Congress, Samajwadi Party, Janata Dal (United), National Conference, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, CPI, CPM (Marxist), and People's Democratic Party.

Apart from the coordination and election strategy committee, INDIA bloc set up a 19-member campaign committee, 12-member working group for social media, 19-member working group for media and 11-member working group research.

Speaking at the media briefing that took place at the conclusion of the two-day meeting, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said it is impossible for the BJP to win the 2024 general elections if the INDIA bloc, which represents 60 per cent of the country's population, was united. "The most important thing to understand is that this stage represents 60 per cent of India's population," the Congress leader said.

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After lunar feat, ISRO sets sights on the Sun with Aditya

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA

Days after landing on the Moon, India will aim for the Sun on Saturday with its maiden solar expedition, as ISRO's trusted PSLV will carry the Aditya L1 mission on a 125-day voyage to the Sun.

The 23.10 hour countdown for the launch of Aditya L1 onboard PSLV C57 commenced here on Friday, ISRO said.

The Sun observatory mission will be fired from the second launch pad at this spaceport at 11.50 am on Saturday, and comes close on the heels of India's successful moon expedition last month, Chandrayaan-3.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath said the Sun mission will take 125 days to reach the exact radius.

Aditya L1 is designed for providing remote observations of the solar corona and conduct in-situ observations of the solar wind at L1 (Sun-Earth Lagrangian point), which is

about 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.

According to ISRO, there are five Lagrangian points between the Sun and the Earth, and the L1 point in the Halo orbit would provide a greater advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occurrence of eclipse.

"This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities continuously," ISRO said.

On embarking on such a complex mission, the Bengaluru headquartered space agency said the Sun is the nearest star and therefore can be studied in much more detail as compared to the others.

By studying the Sun much more about could be learnt about stars in the Milky Way as well as in various other galaxies, ISRO said.

The Sun shows several eruptive phenomena and releases immense amounts of energy in the solar system. If such explosive solar phenomena are directed towards the

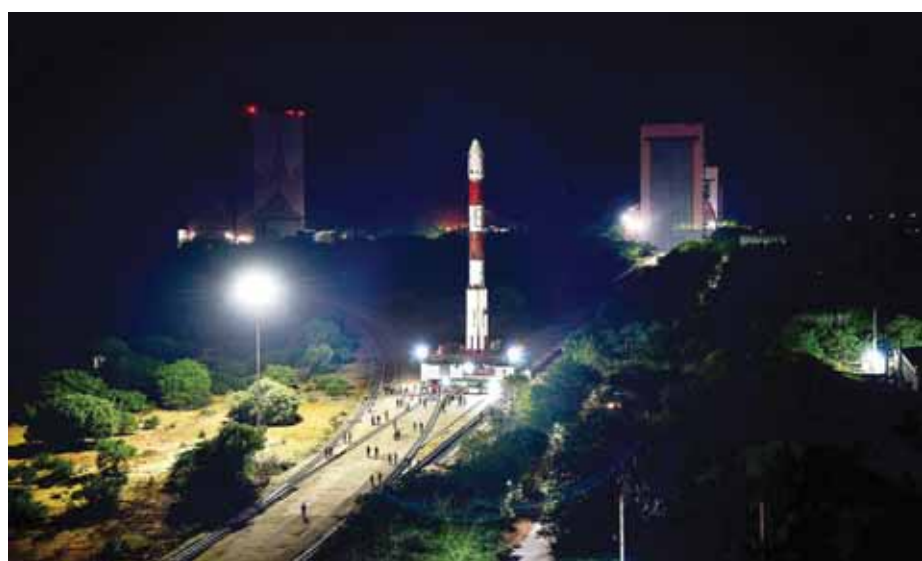
earth, it could cause various types of disturbances in the near-earth space environment.

Spacecraft and communication systems are prone to such disturbances; therefore, an early warning of such events is important for taking corrective measures beforehand, ISRO added.

ISRO scientists have used "XL", the more powerful variant of the polar satellite launch vehicle (PSLV) that would carry the spacecraft on Saturday along with the seven payloads. Similar PSLV-XL variants were used in the Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008 and the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) in 2013.

Of the total seven payloads, four onboard the spacecraft would directly view the Sun while the remaining three would undertake in-situ studies of particles and fields at the L1 point.

Initially, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft would be placed in a low earth orbit. It would be made more elliptical and later



ISRO's PSLV-C57 carrying "Aditya-L1" spacecraft sits at the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Friday. The launch is scheduled at 11.50 am on Saturday PTI

the spacecraft will be launched towards the Lagrange point L1 by using on-board propulsion systems.

As the spacecraft travels

towards L1, it will exit the Earth's gravitational Sphere of Influence. After exit, the cruise phase will start and subsequently, the spacecraft will be

injected into a large halo orbit around L1. It would take nearly four months to reach the intended L1 point.

The Aditya-L1 payloads

are expected to provide the most crucial information to understand the problems of coronal heating, Coronal mass ejection (CME), pre-flare and flare activities, and their characteristics, dynamics, and space weather.

The primary payload of Aditya-L1 the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph would be sending 1,440 images per day to the ground station for analysis on reaching the intended orbit.

VELC, "the largest and technically most challenging" payload on Aditya-L1, was integrated, tested, and calibrated at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics CREST (Centre for Research and Education in Science Technology), campus in Hoskote near Bengaluru with substantial collaboration with ISRO.

"From the continuum channel, which is the imaging channel, an image will come - one image per minute. So approximately 1,440 images for 24 hours, we will be receiv-

ing at the ground station," Aditya L1 Project Scientist and Operation Manager for VELC Dr Muthu Priyal said.

As regards the propulsion systems in the mission, Thiruvananthapuram-based Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC) has provided the required components.

The Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) developed by the LPSC has been crucial in satellite/spacescraft propulsion in India's major space achievements, be it the three Chandrayaan expeditions or the 2013 Mars Orbiter Mission.

"Now we also play a large role in the Aditya L1 Mission - the Aditya spacecraft. Which has a very interesting, very versatile thruster called LAM, which is delivering a thrust of 440 newtons," Dr A K Saraff, deputy director of LPSC said.

The objectives of the Mission include understanding the solar atmosphere, solar wind distribution, and temperature anisotropy, among others.

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India fortunate to have leader like Modi: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is fortunate to have got a leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is paving the way to make the country first in the world, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

Inaugurating the 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' under the 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' campaign here, Shah said the self-confidence that has been instilled in the mind of every citizen has happened through programmes such as the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' or 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh'.

The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative of the government to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence.

"The confidence instilled in the minds of every Indian through such programmes serves as inspiration for our courageous soldiers to carry out surgical strikes, empowers



our scientists to develop COVID-19 vaccine, and provides courage to ISRO scientists to reach the Moon and the orbit of the Sun," he said.

The home minister said 'Meri Maati, Mera Desh' is not just a programme, but a medium to connect with the future of the country.

"This programme can become a medium to make oneself a part of the process of making the country great and after 25 years when the present

generation will lead a great India, then they will have the satisfaction in their mind that the previous generation had helped make a very strong India," he said.

Connecting every person with the future of the country, connecting their feelings with the progress of the country and connecting the efforts of every person with the progress and development of the country is the test of leadership and its responsibility, Shah said.

Adhir, Salim rap Mamata in bypoll rally

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a clear contrast to the Friday's INDIA-level unity exercise in Mumbai where Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee and Sitaram Yechury exchanged genialities, senior Congress Working Committee member Adhir Chowdhury and CPI(M) politburo member Md Salim spitted venom on the Bengal Chief Minister from an Assembly by-election rally at Dhurguri in North Bengal.

The two developments were parallel and took place almost about the same time.

While Rahul made a general statement that INDIA partners were on the verge of ironing out their differences and



could soon be entering into seat-sharing talks from Dhurguri, Chowdhury said that there was no difference between Narendra Modi and Mamata as the former was 'looting the country' and the latter was 'looting Bengal'.

Attacking the Chief Minister for making sky-high promises but delivering on none of them, the Pradesh Congress president said, "It was the Left

and the Congress which as UPA allies had conceived the 100-days work scheme ... but today's Bengal is plagued by unemployment, violence and corruption."

Reminding that under Mamata the overall debt of Bengal had reached to Rs 6 lakh crore when "each new baby is born with a debt of Rs 60,000 on its head," Chowdhury said "Didi's regime has perpetrated a reign of loot and violence in Bengal."

Asking the people to "ignore certain developments here and there (read Bengaluru and Mumbai) and discount what the media tells you," Chowdhury said, "concentrate on Bengal and think about who can address your issues."

India to host Speakers of G20 countries in new Parliament building

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India will host the Speakers of Parliament of G20 countries next month in the new Parliament building here in a bid to build political support for international commitments.

The Parliament-20 meeting will be held from October 12 to 14 and presiding officers of the G20 countries and invitee nations will participate in the deliberations.

"This is a meeting relating to speakers and presiding officers of the parliament from all over G20 countries and invitee countries."

"This will happen between Oct 12 and 14 at the new parliament building," said Muktesh Pardeshi, Special Secretary, G20 India.

"One of the key narratives is India as the mother of democracy. So, when we have speakers of parliaments descending in Delhi during those days that key message will be re-affirmed through our deliberations," Pardeshi said.

He added that an exhibition showcasing India as the mother of democracy will also be organised to coincide with the Parliament-20 meeting.

"It is a matter of pride that the meeting will take place in the new Parliament building," Pardeshi said. This will be the ninth meeting of the P20 group, which was initiated during the G20 Presidency of Canada in 2010.

"Since parliamentarians play an important role in guiding respective governments, P20 meetings aim to bring a parliamentary dimension to global governance, raise awareness, build political support for international commitments, and ensure that these are effectively translated into national realities," another official said.

Ernakulam Shiva Temple becomes watering hole for tipplers

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Lord Shiva Temple at Ernakulam, one of Maha Kshetra (great temple) in South India has become a much sought after "watering hole" for tipplers thanks to trade union leaders and politicians affiliated to the CPI-M.

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court took cognizance of social media reports and suo motu filed cases against certain officials in charge of the temple.

The High Court has also asked the Kochi Devaswam Board to submit a status report on the allegations against the trade union leaders and party commissars.

Shanu M Mohan, a counter assistant in the temple, who was found in an inebriated condition in the temple premises was caught red handed by a group of devotees and handed over to the temple authorities.

Mohan is the head of Temple Employees Union under the control of the Centre



of Indian Trade Union, affiliated to the CPI-M. He has been suspended by the Kochi Devaswam Board since then.

Devotees who regularly pay their obeisance to the presiding deity told The Pioneer that Mohan was a law unto himself and has terrorized the staff as well as the devotees.

It is reported that Mohan, Akhil Damodaran (Devaswam Officer) and two casual workers belonging to the CITU were occupying the guest rooms of the temple without paying any rent. The rooms were stocked with liquor and non-vegetarian food for Mohan and Damodaran.

Justices Anil K Narendran

and P G Ajith Kumar has asked the Devaswam Board Commissioner to file a status report regarding the functioning of the temple and the number of cases that have been registered against temple staff for consuming liquor inside the temples that fall under the jurisdiction of Kochi Devaswam Board.

Vadakkumnath Temple (Thrissur), Chottanikkara Devi Temple, Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple, Tripunithura are the other famous Temples besides the Lord Shiva Temple that are administered by the Kochi Devaswam Temple. There are complaints from devotees that temple staff consume liquor as well as non-vegetarian food inside the temple premises. The High Court has asked the Devaswam officials to give a detailed account of the incidents against which action has been taken by the Board.

Since the CPI-M and the CITU are powerful organisations, the Board Officials are caught in a Catch-22 position.

Security on high alert for G20...

From Page 1
More than half of the Delhi Police will be deployed for the mega event, Tiwari added.

Asked if there will be any special uniform for those deployed for the summit, he said, "In order to ensure that there is a uniform look of all the jawans deployed for the summit, there will be a special civilian dress designed for them. We will also be having jawans from districts and police stations." He, however, ruled out any specific input of the state.

Apart from snipers placed atop key buildings in the Lutyens zone, the Delhi police will mount drone surveillance over the national Capital to thwart any aerial threats. In addition, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will also be kept on standby to mitigate any contingencies during the mega event to be attended by nearly 30 heads of states and multi-lateral fora.

A multi-tiered security cover entailing dog squads, quick reaction teams and special weapons and tactics contingents deployed during the event will provide foolproof security.

In a bid to safeguard the Delhi airspace and provide a secure environment for high-level gathering, the Indian Air Force would be keeping its airborne warning systems, fighter jets including the Rafale on high alert along with stationing the new air defence missile systems at vital locations to protect the Delhi air space to provide protection to the high-level meeting.

Sources said the counter-drone systems along with air defence missiles are also being stationed in the national Capital to protect against any possible air threat in the national Capital to protect against any possible air threat in coordination with all security agencies by the Indian Air

Force, sources said. The northern regions of the nation will remain under vigilant surveillance through the utilisation of Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), often referred to as the "eyes in the sky."

These airborne systems will ensure continuous monitoring of the area to detect any untoward movements or activities.

Various agencies will work with backroom support from the Intelligence Bureau. Other security measures include taking off the public transport buses and private vehicles in the bungalows zone area and its vicinity where the venue at the Pragati Maidan is located.

The gathering of the heads of state and other dignitaries will be held on September 9 and 10 at the newly-built Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan.

Many world leaders travel with their own bodyguards and vehicles. India has requested countries to be "rational" about the number of cars and personnel that they bring, but has not put any restrictions, sources said. The Government has also leased 20 bullet-proof limousines at a cost of USD 2.18 million for ferrying leaders.

The two-day summit, starting September 9, will have the most high-profile guest list India has ever welcomed, from US President Joe Biden to British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Bin Salman.

Leaders from Japan, Australia, France and Germany are also among those expected to attend, although Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is facing criticism from the West for the war in Ukraine, has said he will be represented by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

INDIA parties to meet halfway to take on...

From Page 1
"The real work in this alliance is the relationships that are forged between leaders of this alliance. There is both rapport and flexibility among the many senior leaders in the INDIA bloc," Rahul said.

He alleged that the Modi Government was "extracting money from the poor and giving it to a select few businessmen." "So we are going to propose a clear path, a path of development, a clear set of

ideas that will once again involve the poor people, the farmers, the workers in the progress of this country," the Congress leader said.

Targeting Modi for the second consecutive day for his alleged links with Gautam Adani, Rahul said, "The nexus between the PM and a particular businessman is for everyone to see... G20 is taking place, it is essential for our nation's credibility that PM calls for an enquiry on the Adani group."

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said, "We are being criticised even for holding a meeting. In the last ten years, the government of the day, do not have their feet on the ground... And then they are the ones to call us 'ghamandiya' or arrogant." "People have taken INDIA seriously and we will reach out to all, we will not stop, we would never go on wrong track... We will give a clean administration to the country, we will do whatever possible for that," Pawar said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded to know as to why the Modi Government is planning to hold a special session later this month "You did not call such a special session during demonetisation, China issue, Manipur issue."

Charging that the Modi Government was moving towards dictatorship, Kharge said, "They make their corruption invisible... We will continue to expose the Government on issues of corruption."

"The success of both our meetings, 1st in Patna and 2nd in Bengaluru can be measured by the fact that the PM in his subsequent speeches has not just attacked INDIA but has also compared the name of our beloved country with a terrorist organisation and a symbol of slavery," Kharge said.

Bihar's former Chief

Minister Lalu Prasad, to whom his daughter donated a kidney and he underwent a transplant in Singapore hospital recently, vowed to show the door to the Modi government before his death. "I am alive because of the blessings of all of you."

I promise you I will not die till the Modi Government is removed from office." Questioning the morality of Modi to remain in power, Lalu recalled late Prime Minister A B Vajpayee's criticism during the Gujarat riots over his failure to follow "Raj dharm."

Speaking in a lighter vein, Lalu asked the ISRO scientists to send Modi to Sunday in their next mission and leave him there.

Coming down heavily on the Modi Government, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "There has never been such an arrogant Govt at Centre; their arrogance will bring them down."

ED arrests Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal in bank fraud case

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate late Friday night arrested Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal in a money laundering case linked to an alleged bank fraud of Rs 538 crore at the Canara Bank, official sources said.

He was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) following a long session of questioning at the central agency's office here.

Goyal, 74, is expected to be produced before a special PMLA court in Mumbai on Saturday where the ED will seek for his custodial remand. The money laundering case stems from an FIR of the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) against Jet Airways, Goyal, his wife Anita and some former company executives in connection with an alleged Rs 538-crore fraud case at the Canara Bank.

The FIR was registered on the bank's complaint which alleged that it sanctioned credit limits and loans to Jet Airways (India) Ltd (JIL) to the tune of Rs 848.86 crore of which Rs 538.62 crore is outstanding. The CBI had said the account was declared "fraud" on July 29, 2021.

The bank alleged that the forensic audit of JIL showed that it paid "related companies" Rs 1,410.41 crore out of a total commission expenses, thus siphoning off funds from JIL.

After lunar feat, ISRO sets sights...

From Page 1

According to Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) professor and in-charge scientist Dr R Ramesh, the monitoring of the Sun on a 24-hour basis is a must to study solar quakes which can alter the geomagnetic fields of the Earth.

Explaining the need to study the Sun, he said that just as there are earthquakes on Earth, there are something called solar quakes -- called Coronal Mass Ejections (CME) on the surface of the Sun.

In this process, millions and millions of tons of solar materials are thrown into the interplanetary space, and these CMEs can also be directed towards the Earth, he said.

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E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE
E-tenders are invited for following items as per tender specifications.

T.S.	Name of Items	Approx. Qty.	Tender Opening Date
TS-319	AB Switch Male & Female Contact 33 KV 400 Amp.	1100	12.09.2023

For further information visit Website <https://www.mpwv.co.in> & <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>.
M.P. Madhyam/111770/2023 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (O)

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform that Advantage Financial Planners LLP (107, Qutab Plaza, DLF Phase-1, Gurugram -122002) is going to Surrender its SEBI Registration No. INA100000952 and BASL Membership Certificate No. 1416 and that if anyone has any grievances, they can lodge the grievances at scores.gov.in within 7 days of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Name - Hajara Bagam, S/D/W/O Ahamed Ali, Nai Abadi Dadrif Gauram Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 203247
Be it known to all concerned on behalf of my client that the original sale deeds Detail 1, original Saledeeddoc. No 13926 Dated 08.07.2013 In Favour Smt. Sama. Total Land area 50 Sq Yards. Plot no. 50, And 2. Original saledeed doc. No 353 Dated 10.01.2011 In Favour of Mohd. Jakir (property chain) in respect of the aforesaid property are misplaced/lost and aren't traceable and report in this regard has been lodged with P. S. Dabhi. Vide application no. - LR No 839613/2023, dated 29.08.2023 Any person (s), Association, or any other Legal Entity finding the same are requested to return the same to the undersigned forthwith. Any person (s) having any sort of right, claim, title or interest in the subject property under or on the basis of the said lost/misplaced document, or otherwise, may put forth his/her/its claim, along with the document(s) in support thereof, to the undersigned within 7 days from the publication of this notice, failing which no claim of any kind whatsoever shall be entertained thereafter.
Deepak Malik, (Advocate)
9540419808
Shop - 2 Kafaria Complex Dayanand Colony Gurugram

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल
क्रमांक-विशा/स्टोर/2023-25(239), दिनांक 01.09.2023
निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum)

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2023-25 (213), Bhopal, Dated 03.08.2023 द्वारा Multifunctional Photo Copier & 12 Other Items के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा के माध्यम से क्रय किये जाने वाले उपकरणों के तकनीकी मापदण्डों (Specification) एवं समय-सारणी में "आंशिक संशोधन" के संबंध में "शुद्धि पत्र" (Corrigendum/Addendum) जारी किया गया है जो website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक, विशेष शाखा (जी), म.प्र. भोपाल
दूरभाष क्रं.-0755-2443654
Email: sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in
G-19096/23

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that we Technan Buildwell Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office G-1354, L.G.F., Chitranjan Park, New Delhi - 110019 have allotted flats nos. C/G006, C/801&C/1206 in our Project Moti Residency Raj Nagar Ext. Ghaziabad to one Mr. Vivek Jain (now deceased) S/O Mr. M.P. Jain. Even after two years of the death of Mr. Vivek Jain no legal heirs have approached us regarding the above flats. We have cancelled the allotment of the above flats with intimation to the registered address of Late Vivek Jain. Through this notice we wish to inform that if there is any legal heir of late Vivek Jain then he/she may contact within seven days of this notice failing which we shall proceed as per law.
Authorised Signatory Technan Buildwell Pvt. Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that our client Kalksharan Praveen is in process to purchase/registration of sale deed of (levelling loan from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd.) Flat No 1551, 15th Floor Block E, Unit Type 8 Windsor Paradise II, Raj Nagar Extn. Ghaziabad-201002, U.P. who booked the same with the builder along with husband Late Mushtaq Ahmad nizam died on dated 19/4/21, leaving behind Kalksharan Praveen (wife), asna mushtir (daughter) and Mohd. Affan Mushtir (son) as his only legal heirs Whereas asna mushtir (daughter) and Mohd. Affan Mushtir (son) released their respective share in the said flat in the name of their mother Kalksharan Praveen vide Affidavits dated 22/2/2023.
All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First Floor, Mahatma Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063361

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम मर्या.
पर्यटन भवन, भदवदा रोड, भोपाल-462003
फोन : +91-755-4027100, 2774340/42, वेबसाइट : www.mpstdc.com
क्रमांक 379/यात्रिकी/पबलि/23 दिनांक : 01.09.2023

निविदा सूचना 195/2023 STDC_303912_1
मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम, भोपाल द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा प्रपत्र APPENDIX 2.10 पर म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य का नाम :- चित्रकूट, जिला सतना के कामतगिरी परिक्रमा पथ (श्री राम चन्द्र पथ गमन) हेतु निर्माण, उन्नयन एवं विकास कार्य (18 माह)। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत राशि रुपये 2255.84 लाख। वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन भुगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डाक्यूमेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 18.09.2023 समय सायं 05:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है। कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। म.प्र. माध्यम/111774/2023 कार्यपालन यंत्री

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Krishna Kumar S/o Shri Shreeram R/o 687, Punjabi Basti Near Shiv Mandir Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi -110008 declare that, I have changed my name from Krishn Kumar to Krishna Kumar for all future purpose.
PD(0148)C I, Sundareswaran Kumar R/O 7054 Sector D, Pocket 7, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070 has changed my name to Shree Kumar for all future purposes.
PD(0149)A

Civil Aviation, Telecom get new...

From Page 1
"The officer will take over as Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj vice Sunil Kumar, IAS (UP:87) upon her superannuation on October 31, 2023," it said.

"Nidhi Khare, IAS (JH:92), Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution as Special Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution by temporarily upgrading the post held by her to Special Secretary level in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India as a measure personal to the Officer," the order said.

According to the order, the officer will join as an OSD in the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India with effect from December 1 and take over as Secretary of the department when 1987-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer Ajay Tirkey will superannuate on December 31.

Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers vice S. Aparna, IAS (GJ:88) upon her superannuation on October 31, 2023," it said.

"V L Kantha Rao, IAS (MP:92), Additional Secretary, Department of Telecommunications as Secretary, Ministry of Mines vice Vivek Bhardwaj, IAS (WB:90) upon his appointment as Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Panchayati Raj," the order said.

Odisha cadre 1991-batch IAS officer Sanjay Rastogi has been appointed as the Additional Secretary and financial adviser in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in place of Manoj Sethi, ICAS (1993), by temporarily upgrading the post to additional secretary level, it said.

The ACC also approved in-situ upgradation of three 1992-batch IAS officers -- Tamil Nadu cadre Rajendra Kumar, Manipur cadre Rakesh Ranjan and Madhya Pradesh cadre Neelam Shammi Rao -- to the level of Special Secretary in the rank and pay of secretary to the government of India as a measure personal to them by temporarily upgrading the posts held by them, the order stated.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued a notice to the city police in connection with the alleged incident. The 85-year-old victim, who was staying alone in a slum, alleged that a man barged into her living area around 4 am and raped her, the panel said.

"She has also informed that the accused punched her face, cut her lip with a blade and tried to strangle her."

85-year-old woman raped in Delhi's Shakurpur, 1 arrested

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An 85-year-old woman was allegedly raped in north-west Delhi's Shakurpur area on Friday, police said.

Accused Akash (28) has been arrested in connection with the case, they said. A senior police officer said an elderly woman reported that she was sexually assaulted by an unknown person in the early hours of the day.

A case under section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Subhash Place police station and an investigation was taken up, the officer said.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued a notice to the city police in connection with the alleged incident.

The 85-year-old victim, who was staying alone in a slum, alleged that a man barged into her living area around 4 am and raped her, the panel said.

Helicopter slithering exercise held ahead of G20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the G-20 Summit, Delhi Police is providing training to the police cadets in 'Helicopter slithering' training to its newly recruited commandos.

This kind of Helicopter based training is first of its kind effort by the Delhi Police to train its commandos. The trainee commandos of the Delhi Police conducted the helicopter slithering exercise on Friday.

This is the second batch of Helicopter slithering training of Delhi police commandos.

The helicopter slithering exercise was conducted by the second batch of trainee commandos of Delhi Police at the Police Academy in the Capital.

According to officials, Delhi Police is giving training to its commandos to send

them for any evacuation in disaster or to deal with any terrorist incident.

A total of 16 Sub-Inspectors (Male), 03 Women/Sub-Inspectors, and 162 constables from the Delhi Police bravely undertook the 'Helicopter Slithering' field tactics drill training, which was conducted using a Border Security Force MI-17 IV Helicopter in the nation's capital. The constables have undergone three month Commando training at Delhi Police Academy.

This rigorous training was essential to enhance the preparedness of law enforcement ahead of the G-20 Summit and was carried out under the guidance of Border Security Force Air-Wing and Commando Trainers from Delhi Police Academy.

During the session, newly recruited constables and Sub



Inspectors have successfully executed helicopter slithering from heights of 07 meters and 10 meters, showcasing their exceptional skill and determination.

On May 31, the Delhi Police gave training to the first batch of recruited commandos, at the Delhi Police Academy in Jharoda Kalan, using an M-17 helicopter. The slithering training was given to 55 male, 25 female and 15 SWAT commandos. The commandos did this exercise safely and smoothly and gained confidence.

Slithering from a helicopter is risky procedure, not only for the pilot, but also to the person slithering down from an airborne helicopter.

It is dangerous and tough as compared to the slithering exercise from a building or a tree. However, it plays a critical role as a swift and vital

operation executed by highly-trained personnel to reach the ground level or a designated point during scenarios such as terrorist attacks or emergencies in rugged terrain where traditional transportation methods are impractical.

To facilitate this training session, a dedicated helipad was meticulously prepared within the grounds of the Delhi Police Academy, located in Jharoda Kalan, West Campus.

"The Delhi Police is prepared to stop not just any terrorist threat but also any like-ly protests. 'Vikrant', our logistics van carrying all equipment to deal with any law and order situation, will be deployed.

"We have equipped PCR vans and logistic vans with chain cutters to deal with protesters. We are fully prepared." "All the security situations are very tight, and we are going to conduct this global event very

successfully," police officials said.

After completing the Helicopter slithering training drill, Sunil Kumar Gautam, Special Commissioner of Police (Training), Delhi, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the officers for their outstanding performance during this Helicopter Slithering training session and also expressed gratitude for the unwavering support and cooperation from the Border Security Force officials, underscoring the significance of such collaborative initiatives in bolstering security and preparedness.

The G20 Summit is scheduled to be held in the national capital over two days — September 9-10 — at the state-of-the-art Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre at Pragati Maidan. India assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1 last year.

CRPF's 450 drivers to pilot left-hand driven, bullet-resistant VIP vehicles

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to facilitate hassle free movement of the heads of State and other dignitaries slated to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit here next week, as many as 450 drivers of CRPF's VIP security wing have been trained to pilot the special left-hand driven and bullet-resistant vehicles that will be used to ferry VIPs for the mega event.

A fleet of both bullet-resistant and non bullet-resistant Audi, Mercedes, BMW and Hyundai Genesis cars have been hired or purchased by the Union government to ferry 41 top foreign guests.

These specially-trained drivers will take the premiers and leaders to their destinations in the national capital, like the main meeting venue of 'Bharat Mandapam' and the five-star hotels where the dignitaries will stay, officials said.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the country's largest paramilitary force with



over 3.25 lakh personnel in its ranks deployed for a variety of internal security duties.

CRPF's VIP security wing with a strength of over 6,000 personnel secures 149 high-risk persons, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the Gandhis — Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The force has deployed a total of 900 personnel, including these 450 drivers, for providing proximate security to the VIPs during the two days of the G20 Summit on September 9-10 and

on the preceding day on September 8 when the heads of various nations will start arriving in the national capital.

This special G20 pool of the CRPF includes personnel who have earlier served in the Special Protection Group (SPG) that protects the Prime Minister and the counter-terrorist force National Security Guard (NSG).

The spouses of the dignitaries will be secured by the specially-trained men and women commandos of another paramilitary force — Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), official sources said.

As over 60 vehicles have been specially pooled in to ferry the VVIPs are left-handed, the CRPF VIP security wing has undertaken a special training to skill drivers for these cars as India has right-hand drive protocol, they said.

The force got some left-hand driven cars from Germany to train these personnel for about a month apart from skilling them to drive the bulky bullet resistant luxury vehicles.

Another paramilitary force — the Border Security Force (BSF) — has been tasked to provide the "contingency" carcade for the G20 Leaders' Summit, the sources said.

Other paramilitary or Central Armed Police Forces like the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) apart from the 'black cat' commandos of the NSG have been deployed for securing the routes and venues of the summit in coordination with Delhi Police, they said.

Shivling row: LG dismisses AAP's objection

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday dismissed the AAP's objection to 'Shivling-shaped' fountains installed in the national Capital, saying they are just art pieces and there is God in "every particle of the country".

Sources in the ruling AAP claimed the party will file a police complaint over the fountains as they have hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus. Reacting to this, Saxena said, "This is childish behaviour."

Saxena said the ongoing installation of new structures, and renovation efforts in the national capital in view of the G20 Summit has created permanent assets and asked Delhiites to preserve them.

Saxena and Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakashi Lekhi unveiled the newly installed Yakshini sculptures at Yakshini Chowk and on Ulan Batar Road in Delhi Cantt at the junction of Thimayya Marg and Palam



Technical Area and later inaugurated the IAF Park in front of the Air Force Station in Palam, Raj Niwas officials said.

The LG emphasised that such structures, renovations and refurbishing across the city has created permanent assets for Delhi and its people and it was everyone's responsibility to maintain and preserve them in the years to come.

Speaking at the inauguration, Saxena said the newly installed sculptures of Yakshinis represent the mythical guards of Lord Kubera's treasury and now symbolise the sentinels of

an ever emerging powerful and prosperous India.

The Yakshinis sculptures installed at the newly christened Yakshini Chowk have been sculpted by noted sculptor from Odisha, Dhruva Charan Swain and those at Ulan Batar Marg have been sculpted by another Odia sculptor Sudarshan Sahoo.

Saxena had travelled to Odisha in June this year to procure these sculptures, with an aim to adorn the National Capital with artefacts from all across the country, apart from providing an impetus to indigenous artisans and artists.

These sculptures, in addition to many others installed at different locations in the capital, are reminiscent of our ancient cultural heritage, he said. The Yakshini sculptures at both Ulan Batar Road and Yakshini Chowk stand at 6 ft tall. Two MIG fighter planes provided by the Indian Air Force have been installed at the newly inaugurated IAF Park. Eight water fountains installed at equal distances from each other in a symmetrical design.

Saxena said the park and the road junction that lie just outside the Palam Air Force Station had been lying in an unkempt condition and have since undergone a transformation in a short period of just two months.

As Delhi gears up to host the G20 summit from September 9 to 10, arterial stretches in the capital have been given a makeover.

As part of the beautification drive, 18 fountains shaped like the 'Shivling' have been installed at the Hanuman Mandir junction in the Palam airport's technical area, according to officials.

Finance Dept holding up proposal file for my Ghana visit: Assembly Speaker

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Legislative Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday alleged that the Government's Finance Department has been sitting on a proposal for his visit to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Ghana saying approval of Lt Governor is needed for it.

At a press conference at the Delhi Assembly, Goel also alleged that the officers of the services department summoned two Vidhan Sabha section officers and sought from them confidential information about a probe by OBC Welfare and Privileges committee and "threatened" them with suspension if they did not comply.

The Speaker said he has written to LG VK Saxena seeking disciplinary action against these officers for "misuse" of their official position and seeking confidential information into the probe against special secretary vigilance.

He said that a proposal for his visit to Ghana, scheduled to be held in October, is pending since June with the Finance department, despite clearance from the Centre's Finance and External Affairs ministries.

"Now after two months I am told they have sent it back to the Secretariat with the remarks that approval of the LG is needed!



"These conferences are held every year and the approval of Lieutenant Governor has never been asked for because the Speaker does not work under the LG and whatever clearances are required are given by the Government of India," the Speaker said.

Goel said he had attended the same Conference in Canada last year without any such objection.

He alleged that in the present case, the Finance department held up approval for him but cleared the proposal for the visit of two assembly officers accompanying him.

No immediate reaction was available from Finance department officers on the Speaker's charge. "Almost all proposals sent by the Assembly Secretariat to the

Finance department are kept pending without any reasons and returned with frivolous objections," Goel alleged.

The Finance department has left no stone unturned to "delay and deny" the financial proposals sent from the Assembly Secretariat, he charged, claiming that there were files pending on canteen payments, appointment of consultant to implement e-Vidhan project, and functioning of the Assembly, with the department.

The Speaker in his letter to the LG alleged that special secretary (services/vigilance) YVJ Rajasekhar and a deputy secretary (Services) called two section officers of the Assembly secretariat to their department and threatened them of disciplinary action and transfer if they didn't cooperate.

"The Delhi Assembly's Committee on Welfare of OBCs is examining a complaint against Rajasekhar that he secured his appointment in the government on the basis of a false OBC caste certificate.

"There are complaints pending against him before the Committee of Privileges. The Assembly officials were asked to divulge information about the proceedings in these committees which are confidential in nature," Goel said at the Press conference.



Prez Murmu to inaugurate 12-foot statue of Gandhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a 12-foot statue of Mahatma Gandhi and a 'Gandhi Vatika' near Rajghat on September 4, the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti's vice chairperson Vijay Goel said on Friday.

The statue and the 'Gandhi Vatika' are located on the Gandhi Darshan's premises near Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat, he said.

These will be inaugurated by President Murmu at a function to celebrate the 75 years of India's independence and its G20 presidency, Goel told reporters.

The statue is located at the entrance of the 45-acre Gandhi Darshan complex, he said and

added that a selfie-point has also been created at the 'vatika' for visitors and it will also have multiple statues of Mahatma Gandhi.

These have been sculpted by artisans from Jaipur, and show him seated on a bench and in his meditative pose, the samiti's vice chairperson said.

Flags of G20 member nations have also been installed at Gandhi Darshan, he said.

Goel said that the entire Gandhi Darshan complex is undergoing renovation due to the damage caused by the recent floods. Flooding of the complex damaged books at its library, he said.

The renovation is expected to be completed within two months and plans are to install swings at the garden as well as set up an art gallery, Goel said.

Work-from-home, traffic restrictions in Gurugram during G20 Summit

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In preparation for the upcoming G20 Summit scheduled for September 9 and 10 in the national Capital, the Gurugram Traffic Police issued a comprehensive traffic advisory on Friday. The advisory comes as foreign delegates are set to be accommodated in select hotels within Gurugram, leading to temporary restrictions on vehicular movement in the region.

The advisory noted that from 12 am (September 7) to 11.59 pm (September 10), heavy vehicles including roadways buses of Haryana and Rajasthan will not be allowed to enter Delhi from Sarhau toll on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway and Kapashera border.

The heavy vehicles will be diverted from IFFCO Chowk via Mehrauli-Gurugram Road towards Delhi. However, "essential vehicles" will be operational as usual.

In addition, multinational companies in Gurugram have been advised to implement work-from-home policies on September 8.

The traffic restrictions will primarily affect the Dhaulta Kuan route, where buses and private vehicles will be denied entry into Delhi during this period.

This restriction will be especially enforced when for-

eign delegates are traveling along this route.

To ensure a smooth flow of traffic, the police have devised a traffic diversion plan.

In case the air travellers opt to use the road, they should move out, keeping extra time in hand, he said.

Leela Ambience hotel on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway and Trident hotel in Udyog Vihar are proposed accommodations for various foreign guests, including officials.

Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Traffic), Virendra Vij, explained that the delegates will begin arriving at Delhi Airport from September 8 and some will be staying in Gurugram hotels, including Hotel Leela and Hotel Trident.

As a result, vehicle movement along this route will be restricted.

"A route diversion plan has been implemented for vehicles, so that commuters don't face issues while travelling on the particular dates," said DCP Virendra Vij.

Rig Veda, Magna Carta, Mona Lisa to be exhibited at culture corridor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Manuscripts of the Rig Veda from India, a rare copy of the Magna Carta from the UK and an anamorphic digital image of Mona Lisa from France will be among the several artefacts to be exhibited at the 'Culture Corridor' coming up at the G20 Summit venue here.

Certified original copies of the Charters of Freedom from the US, a fahua lidded jar from China and Panini's 'Ashtadhyayi' from India are some other items that will be part of the corridor.

The 'Culture Corridor — G20 Digital Museum' has been envisioned by the Ministry of Culture under India's presidency of the grouping, and this 'phygital' project will be unveiled at the Bharat Mandapam on September 9, coinciding with the opening of the summit.

The exhibition of artefacts — in physical and digital formats — will be done on the same floor level where the leaders' meetings will take place, and they will walk

through this 'cultural corridor' while moving into and out of the summit room, official sources said.

As part of this one-of-a-kind project, conceptualised about six months ago, India had asked each G20 member and invited countries to make submissions under four categories — one physical object of cultural significance, one "iconic cultural masterpiece" in digital format, high-resolution digital content depicting the intangible heritage, and natural heritage of each of the countries.

China has made "beautiful submissions" in the first four categories, but in the fifth category, "no artefact has been received so far from it", another source said.

Physical artefacts have arrived in India and are currently being stored at a place in New Delhi and over the next few days, these will be displayed at the Bharat Mandapam in time for the summit, the sources said.

They said after the summit, this exhibition will be opened for the people and visitors.

DU body to prevent defacement during students' poll

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Ahead of the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) polls, the Delhi University (DU) on Friday set up a special committee consisting of four teams for surveying and preventing defacement of public property especially around the campus area and around the colleges throughout the national Capital.

colleges to enhance their security arrangements while candidates of students' groups have been asked to follow rules related to the elections.

After a hiatus of three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Delhi University is all set to hold its student union elections on September 22.

As per the schedule released by the university, the last date for receipt of nomination papers of candidates and affidavits is till 3 pm on September 12.

Scrutiny of nominations and publication of the list of duly nominated candidates will take place at 3.15 pm and 6 pm on the same date.

The last date for withdrawal of nominations is until 5 pm on September 13.

On September 22, the election will take place between 8.30 am and 1 pm and 3 pm and 7 pm for students in day and evening colleges respectively.

The varsity's advisory council meeting was held on



Thursday.

The meeting was chaired by Professor Prakash Singh, Director, South Campus, Delhi University and was attended by the Proctor, Chief Election Officer, Principals of the Colleges and by the Professors who are the members of the Committee.

After due deliberations in the meeting, it was decided to set up a special committee consisting of four teams for surveying and preventing defacement of

public property especially around the campus area and around the colleges throughout Delhi.

This committee would work jointly with the Proctor's office and the DUSU 2023 Election Committee on a daily basis till the completion of the election process.

It was also advised colleges to enhance their security arrangements by deploying them especially during the night time.

Act on climate change, Guterres tells biggest economies ahead of G20 meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said his message to the world's biggest economies is to undertake reforms of global institutions and take action to combat climate change as he travels to New Delhi next week for the G20 summit.

Guterres has a busy travel schedule lined up as he heads to the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, on September 4-5; the ASEAN-UN Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, on September 6-8; the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India and the Summit of the G77 and China in Havana, Cuba, on September 14-15. India, President of the



G20, will host global leaders, including US President Joe Biden, for the Summit scheduled to take place on September 9 and 10 in New Delhi.

Speaking to UN reporters late Thursday, Guterres said his message to G20 - the world's biggest economies, which are also the biggest emitters - is that as climate chaos gathers pace,

the world is looking to them.

"They need to step up, accelerating their reduction of emissions - they account for 80 per cent of them - and supporting countries that are already paying the price for decades of heating caused by fossil fuels," he said.

Guterres added that G20 countries also need to look seriously into reform of global

financial institutions, rules and frameworks to adapt them to today's realities and more effectively enable developing countries to access the resources they need to invest in the Sustainable Development Goals.

"We must overcome the inequalities and divisions that blight our world today, including here, at the United Nations. Unless we act now, the Sustainable Development Goals could become an epitaph for a world that might have been," he said.

Guterres noted that the Africa Climate Summit, the UN-ASEAN Summit, the G20 Summit and the G77 Summit together "demonstrate the vitality of our multipolar international community."

"And multipolarity in itself does not guarantee peace and

stability. On the contrary, without strong multilateral institutions, multipolarity could be a factor for escalating geopolitical tensions, with tragic consequences," Guterres said.

He noted that unless the international community strengthens and reforms global multilateral frameworks, fragmentation is all but inevitable. "And with fragmentation, confrontation can come. Multilateral institutions will only survive if they are truly universal," he said.

"And I will therefore be carrying the same message to all these meetings - the strong call for reforms to bring our outdated multilateral institutions and frameworks into line with the economic and political realities of today's world based on equity and solidarity," Guterres said.

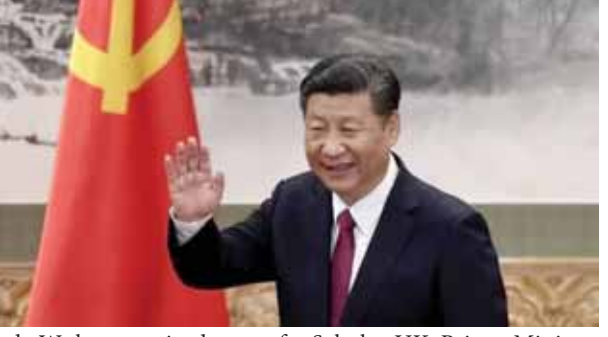
No written confirmation so far if Xi going to participate in G 20 Summit: Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is awaiting a written confirmation from China on President Xi Jinping's participation in the G20 Leaders Summit scheduled here next weekend, Muktesh Pardeshi, Special Secretary for G20, said on Friday.

"We have seen some reports in the newspapers. But, we go by written confirmation. And we have not seen (a written confirmation). Unless we see that I am not in a position to say either way," Pardeshi told PTI when asked about reports of Xi skipping the G20 meeting on September 9-10 and deputing Prime Minister Li Qiang for the event.

Pardeshi said the participation of world leaders in summits such as the G20 is usually conveyed through a diplomatic note. "I think that is await-



ed... We have received most of the other confirmations," he said on Xi's participation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has already conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that it will not be possible for him to travel to India to participate in the summit.

US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, German Chancellor Olaf

Scholz, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva are among the G20 leaders who have already confirmed their participation in the summit.

Modi will hand over the baton of the G20 Presidency to Brazilian President Lula on September 10.

Brazil will formally assume the G20 Presidency on December 1.

India, Sri Lanka to review Defence ties during Rajnath's visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Sri Lanka will review the entire gamut of their bilateral defence ties and explore ways to further strengthen them during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the island nation that was earlier scheduled to begin on Saturday. However, his visit has been put off for a later date due to some exigencies.

"Raksha mantri looks forward to visiting the island nation at the earliest possible time frame," said the Ministry. Giving details of his schedule, Defence Ministry officials said here on Friday the visit will be an important "landmark" in building the strong bonds of

friendship between the two countries. Moreover, it will reiterate India's continued commitment in furthering the existing warm and friendly relations with Sri Lanka, they added.

Rajnath will hold talks with President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, the defence ministry said. Wickremesinghe also holds the charge of Sri Lanka's defence ministry.

"During the visit, Rajnath Singh will hold talks with President and Defence Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena," the ministry said in a statement. It said the entire gamut of India's defence



ties between the two countries will be reviewed during the meetings.

Rajnath will also visit Nuwara Eliya in Central Sri Lanka and Trincomalee which is located in the eastern part of

the country. "This visit of Rajnath Singh will reiterate India's continued commitment in furthering the existing warm and friendly relations with Sri Lanka," the ministry said.

Rajnath will also host the Sri Lankan President and other prominent dignitaries on board INS Delhi, Indian Navy's first indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer. It arrived in Colombo on Friday. The ship is on a two-day visit that coincides with Rajnath's visit to the island nation, Navy officials said here.

As part of India's 'Arogya

Maitri' initiative to provide quality medical supplies to friendly countries, Rajnath will hand over state-of-the-art medical bricks that have been indigenously developed under project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), onboard INS Delhi.

The ship's visit aims to strengthen navy-to-navy ties and bolster the Bridges of Friendship with India's trusted neighbour. The crew of INS Delhi would be closely interacting with personnel from Sri Lanka Navy, both through professional engagements to enhance interoperability, and by creating environmental and health awareness through beach clean-up drive and a yoga session.

The ship would also remain open to school children and other local visitors. The Indian contingent would also lay a wreath and pay homage to the martyrs at the IPKF memorial.

INS Delhi was commissioned in November 1997 and is presently commanded by Captain Abhishek Kumar. The ship has recently undergone a mid-life upgrade and is equipped with the latest weapons and sensors, making it a formidable platform that is capable of undertaking all facets of maritime operations - on surface, air and underwater domains.

India has been expanding its overall strategic ties with Sri Lanka amid concerns over China's attempts to increase

influence over the island nation.

The docking of the Chinese missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang' at Hambantota port in August last year had triggered a diplomatic row between India and Sri Lanka. Another Chinese warship docked at the Colombo port last month.

In August last year, India handed over a Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft to Sri Lanka.

The aircraft was given to Sri Lanka from the inventory of the Indian Navy to help the country meet its immediate security requirement.

India has been supporting various capacity building measures of Sri Lanka defence forces including providing

indigenously constructed Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe visited India in July during which both sides vowed to further boost their defence and strategic ties.

It was the first visit to India by a Sri Lankan leader since the island nation reeled under a severe economic crisis last year.

India extended financial assistance worth around USD 4 billion to Sri Lanka, including lines of credit, for purchases of food and fuel last year when it was hit by the economic crisis.

New Delhi also provided guarantees to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help the country secure a USD 2.9 billion bailout package.

Mary Kom seeks Shah's help for protection of her tribe's villages from warring groups

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Boxing star MC Mary Kom has sought the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure "security forces prevent both warring groups from intrusion to Kom villages in Manipur." In a letter to Shah on Thursday she said the Kom community is an indigenous tribe of Manipur and one of the smallest among the minorities.

"We are all dispersed between the two rivaling communities... There are always speculations and doubts against my community from both sides, and are caught in the middle of all problems... Due to weak internal administration and tiny size as a community among the minority tribes, we have not been able to stand against any forces that intrude into our jurisdiction.

"We seek the help of the security forces to prevent both warring groups from intrusion into Kom villages," the



Padma Vibhushan awardee said. The former Rajya Sabha member requested all the deployed members of the Indian Army, Paramilitary, and state forces to be impartial in carrying out their responsibilities to safeguard the population and to be successful in maintaining peace and normalcy in the state.

Kom also urged everyone in Manipur especially Meiteis and Kuki Zo to join together, set aside their differences and restore peace and normalcy to the state. "We all need to co-exist, so let's put our differences and wounds aside," she added.

SC awards life to Bihar former MP Prabhunath for killing 2 on poll day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sentenced former Lok Sabha MP from Bihar Prabhunath Singh to life imprisonment for killing two people on the day of polling for Assembly elections in Bihar's Saran district in 1995. A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said Singh, a multiple-term former MP from Bihar's Maharajganj, and State of Bihar will have to pay Rs 10 lakh each compensation separately to the families of the two deceased and five lakh each to an injured victim of the case.

"Never seen a case like this before," the bench, also comprising Justices AS Oka and Vikram Nath, observed without elaborating. On August 18, the apex court had convicted Singh while overturning the orders of the trial court and the Patna High Court acquitting him in the case. On Friday, the matter was fixed for hearing arguments on the



quantum of sentence to be awarded to the convict.

At the outset, the bench observed, "There are no three options only, there is no third option available... Life (sentence) or death, these are the only two options". The counsel representing Singh said it is not a case where the court may consider granting death sentence. "Do you seriously feel that we are considering death penalty?" the bench asked.

The counsel said concurrent acquittals by the courts below have been reversed by the apex court in this case and they have also filed a petition seeking review of the top court

verdict convicting Singh. The bench observed the review petition will come up for consideration in-chambers. The apex court said it is inclined to award compensation and the state will also have to compensate the victims.

"Life sentence, 10 lakhs each for both the deceased and five lakhs for the injured, both by the respondent number two (Singh) and by the state separately," the bench said, adding, "We have already announced that, the orders you will get".

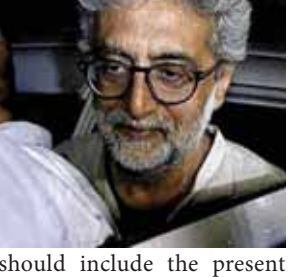
While convicting Singh in the matter, the apex court had observed that it was dealing with a case which was an "exceptionally painful episode of our criminal justice system". The top court had observed there was not even an iota of doubt that Singh was instrumental in making all possible efforts to "wipe out" the evidence against him. It had said the prosecution machinery, as also the presiding officer of the trial court, were used as a tool of his "high handedness".

SC directs NIA to apprise it of Navlakha's medical condition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday observed that keeping activist Gautam Navlakha under house arrest in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case further will set a "wrong precedent" and directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to apprise of his current medical condition and the stage of trial. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and J B Pardiwala asked Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the NIA, to file an affidavit within four weeks. Navlakha is under house arrest at a public library in Mumbai since November 2022.

"Prima facie we have our reservations, but a lengthy order has been passed. Without going into the merits of the case, this might set a wrong precedent. You may have 100 per cent merit, not saying anything about that. But to facilitate this, and do this for one person... File an affidavit. It



should include the present condition of this person and the stage of the trial," the bench observed orally.

As the hearing began, the lawyer appearing for Navlakha said the apex court had directed the NIA to file its reply in April on the activist's plea seeking a change of accommodation but the federal anti-terror agency has not submitted its response till date. Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, appearing for Navlakha, told the bench that the Bombay High Court is scheduled to hear the activist's bail plea and sought time.

ASG Raju told the bench the order for placing Navlakha under house arrest is an unusu-

al order which is probably the first of its kind. "He obtained the house order on grounds of his sickness. He said one lady would stay with him. But she isn't staying most of the time," Raju said, insisting the house arrest order is unwarranted. The ASG said Navlakha owes money to the State and urged the bench to direct them to pay at least Rs 20 lakh towards expenses for making available police personnel for his security. Ramakrishnan submitted that NIA's own medical examination confirms Navlakha's ailment.

While ordering his house arrest on November 10 last year, the apex court had directed Navlakha to deposit Rs 2.4 lakh towards the expenses to be borne by the state for deploying police personnel to effectively place him under house arrest. At the last hearing, the apex court had directed Navlakha to deposit another Rs 8 lakh as expenses for providing police personnel for his security.

Looking for another desi aircraft carrier: Navy chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

As India has gained the expertise to build aircraft carriers, Navy Chief Admiral Kumar said on Friday the service is looking at a repeat order for an Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) after inducting INS Vikrant and preparing a case for it.

He made this assertion while talking to reporters on the sidelines of launch of advanced stealth frigate 'Mahendragiri' in Mumbai and said with the indigenously built INS Vikrant, Cochin Shipyard has acquired an expertise in manufacturing an IAC.

"We are working for a third aircraft carrier which will be a repeat of the INS Vikrant. There is a lot of expertise that has been generated in terms of building an aircraft carrier. We are looking at having an IAC, a follow-on I would say, a repeat order being made. We are preparing a case for it," the Navy chief said. India currently has two



vibrant city like Mumbai. Named after a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha, this is the seventh ship of Project 17A frigates series and boasts enhanced stealth features, advanced weapons, sensors, and platform management systems.

"I am sure that Mahendragiri, once commissioned, will proudly fly the tiranga (national tricolour) across the oceans, as an ambassador of India's maritime might," Dhankhar said. "I congratulate our force with full confidence. They will continue improving themselves for security of the world at large," he said. "With a strong presence of over 10,000 women across the army, navy and air force, the Indian armed forces have made considerable strides in gender equality," he said. The launch of Mahendragiri is a significant milestone in our maritime history, he said. "It is the last of the 7 warships of the Nilgiri-class stealth frigates built under Project 17A," he added.

NIA seizes devices in raids in terror conspiracy case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday made significant seizures in connection with the conspiracy by the terror groups Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and the Tehrik-e-Taliban to recruit and radicalise impressionable youth in India in order to spread terror in the country.

The agency said the seizures were made during multiple raids across four States -- Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. "A host of incriminating digital devices were recovered during the searches at three locations in Maharashtra and one location each in the other three States," the NIA said in a statement.

The NIA is examining the devices to track those involved in the conspiracy and thwart their efforts to destabilise the country through the unlawful and radicalisation plans and cam-



paigns of the two terror outfits, it said.

The raids were part of the NIA investigations in a case registered in April 2023 against two accused recruited earlier by these banned organisations. The two suspects were involved in a series of disruptive terror-linked activities, including transfer of funds abroad for purchase of land in Afghanistan.

NIA investigations have revealed that the duo was also involved in radicalisation of vulnerable and susceptible youth and their recruitment

to the two outfits to further the activities of their terror fronts active in India. The entire conspiracy was aimed at spreading terror in India and disrupting its peace and communal harmony, the NIA further said.

While AQIS is a militant organisation striving to establish an Islamic state and an Islamic Caliphate in the Indian Subcontinent, Tehrik-e-Taliban is an umbrella organisation of various Islamist armed militant groups operating along the Afghan-Pakistani border.

Coast Guard chief for focused offshore security for opening EEZ, exploration activities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As India is opening substantial portion of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and expansion of exploration and production activities to achieve self-sufficiency in energy sector, Coast Guard chief Rakesh Pal on Friday stressed the need for focused and sustained offshore security efforts for facilitating these endeavours in a safe and secure environment.

Addressing the 135th meeting of the Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) in Ahmedabad to review the pre-

paredness and effectiveness of security, he also expressed concern over security challenges emerged due to ongoing conflicts in various parts of the world.

He emphasized need of modern technology such as anti-drone solutions in order to adapt with evolving maritime threat environment and bolster offshore security efforts.

The Coast Guard chief also stressed on the need of having round the clock surveillance of offshore assets for ensuring security and safety of offshore assets with extension of offshore activities into deeper seas.



NER GM inspects Banaras stn

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

General Manager of North Eastern Railway (NER) Chandra Vir Raman during his one-day visit to the city, inspected the Banaras railway station on Friday and saw the progress made under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) in which the station is being redeveloped with a cost over ₹53 crore. The GM also interacted with representatives of the employees' unions and inquired about the difficulties faced by them during their duty. The GM assured action on reasonable suggestions of the representatives to solve the problems. Thereafter, the GM left for inspection of Banaras-Prayagraj Rambhag rail section by his inspection special train from Platform No 3. During his inspection, he saw the progress of the double lane road over bridge (ROB) under construction at level crossing number 10 near Hardattpur station and observed the work plan for its construction. After stopping the inspection special near Katka station yard, Raman listened to villagers' demand for



NER GM Chandra Vir Raman inspecting the Banaras railway station in Varanasi on Friday.

construction of railway underpass and assured the villagers that their problem will be solved very soon by making an underpass. Earlier in the morning, the GM inspected the work plan through the foundation work and diagram of the under-construction ROB between Sarnath and Kadiपुर railway stations. The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone for the construction of double lane ROB near Kadiपुर, Hardattpur and Chaukhandi railway stations at a cost of 172 crore in July last. In this regard, the work of ROB to be made between Sarnath

and Kadiपुर stations has been started by the state government. The GM, during the inspection of this ROB, directed the officers concerned to start the work of the railway portion soon. He said that the target of June 2024 has been set for this ROB and after its completion, train punctuality will be better and safety will be strengthened. Apart from this, the movement of road users and vehicles will be smooth. The GM directed the officers concerned to get the bridge work done on priority basis. On the occasion Divisional Railway Manager (DRM)

Vineet Kumar Srivastava, ADRM (Infrastructure) Rahul Srivastava, Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) Kaushalesh Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Operations Manager AP Singh, Senior Divisional Engineer-3 Anuj Verma, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General) Pankaj Kesharwani, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage & Wagon) Anubhav Pathak, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Sheikh Rehman, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Dr Abhishek, Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunication Engineer Rajat Priya, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction) RN Singh, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Operation) Anil Srivastava, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar, Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti) IC Subhash, Joint General Manager (RVNL) Ashutosh Shukla and many other senior officers were present.

IPPB celebrates 5th anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has established many new dimensions in its short journey of five years with the aim of 'Aapka Bank Aapke Dwar'. It is playing an important role in the financial inclusion and Digital India. Various welfare schemes of the central and state governments are being easily delivered to the last person of the society through IPPB, said Postmaster General (PMG), Varanasi Region, Krishna Kumar Yadav while speaking at a function to celebrate the 5th anniversary of IPPB here on Friday. The PMG inaugurated the programme by cutting cake along with IPPB Chief Manager Brij Kishore. The IPPB was inaugurated in Varanasi by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on September 1 in 2018, while at the national level it was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. Yadav said that IPPB's transformative presence has reshaped the banking landscape, offering doorstep banking that epitomises accessible services and ignites change.

Minister inaugurates Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Mahotsav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Mahotsav (KSSM), which will run for more than three weeks (from September 1 to 24), had a grand start here on Friday when it was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal at Sant Atulanand Convent School. Mayor Ashok Tiwari, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam and Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal and other public representatives and officers were also present. The programme started with lighting of the lamp and Saraswati Vandana. Along with this, the programme was also formally started at other selected 61 places in the district. Addressing the people on the occasion, Ravindra Jaiswal praised the district administration for efforts being made to promote the cultural heritage of Kashi through this cultural festival which is being organised on a large scale. He said that Kashi is the city of Padma

awardees as several famous artists have brought glory not only to the city and state but also to the country, dominating at international stages. Taking inspiration from this competition, the people and youth will make attempts to achieve new heights in their cultural genres, he added. The DM, while addressing the function, said that this important festival is being organised with the inspiration of the Prime Minister. "The cultural importance of Kashi is known all over the world. The main objective of this programme is to introduce people to the rich cultural tradition of Kashi, spread its publicity as well as identify new talents and provide them a platform," he said, adding that till now more than 51,000 people have registered themselves to participate in the competitions. Apart from giving detailed information about this competition, he also informed about the upcoming Kashi Sansad Khet Mahotsav, Kashi Sansad Gyan Mahotsav and Kashi Sansad Tourist

Guide Competition to be organised on the same lines. More than 1,00,000 people appealed to participate. During the programme, certificates were also given to all the participants by the Minister Ravindra Jaiswal, Mayor Ashok Tiwari and DM. On the occasion, school director Rahul Singh, other public representatives, officials, children from various schools and a large number of participants were present. **STUDY:** In a groundbreaking study, fresh insights have emerged about the genetic history of the major ethnic groups in Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese and the Tamils. In this study, a team of international scientists co-led by Prof Gyaneshwar Chaubey of BHU, Dr Niraj Rai BSIP, Lucknow and Dr R Ranasinghe of IBMBB, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, have analysed the DNA data from Sinhalese and Tamil populations of Sri Lanka. This study shed light on their genetic affinity and historical origins.

Study: Sunthi could be effective in management of Covid-19

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A study by a team of researchers from Banaras Hindu University in association with their counterparts from IIT (BHU) and Gujarat Ayurveda University, has claimed that Sunthi (dried ginger powder) or Z.officinale could be effective in management of Covid-19. The study suggests that the use of Sunthi could be useful in prevention of Covid-19. The team of researchers comprises Vaidya Sushil Kumar Dubey (Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU), Dr Vishwambhar Singh, Dr Yamini Bhushan Tripathi, Dr Rameshwar Nath Chaurasia, Dr Parameswarappa S Byadgi, Dr Namrata Joshi, Dr Tej Bali Singh, Amit Kumar, Anamika

Yadav (IMS, BHU), Aishwarya Jaiswal (Department of Psychology), Dr Rajeev Mishra (Institute of Science), Dr Sunil Kumar Mishra (IIT BHU), and Dr Hitesh Jani (Gujarat Ayurveda University). Vaidya Sushil Dubey informed that this is first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary study providing preliminary evidence on the clinical safety and effectiveness of Ayurvedic formulation of dry Z.officinale (ginger powder) as a prophylactic agent for Covid-19. He said the study was conducted with over 800 participants, including the household members of hospitalised corona virus-infected patients and frontline healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, ward boys, paramedics etc) operating in authorised government-run Covid-19 hospi-

tals in Varanasi. He said the study was supported by the then District Magistrate of Varanasi Kaushal Raj Sharma (now Divisional Commissioner). The study used multi-centre, non-randomised, open-label, single-arm, pre-post design, he informed. As part of the exercise, participants consumed Sunthi powder four times daily, twice via oral (two grams) and twice via nasal (five gram) routes, for 15 days. They were followed-up after 15, 30 and 90 days. Besides, phytochemical analysis using liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry (LC-MS) was conducted. Findings established that ginger comprises phytochemicals that help prevent Covid-19 transmission and its Ayurvedic formulation helped reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission and

moderated Covid-19 symptoms. The findings of the study have been published in the reputed Journal of Herbal Medicine, which is the official journal of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists (NIMH) in the United Kingdom (UK). NIMH is the leading professional body of herbal practitioners in that country. This work is one of India's only two Covid-19-related clinical studies to be featured in this prestigious journal, claimed Vaidya Sushil Dubey. The study suggests that incorporating dry ginger in the Covid-19 prevention and management protocol of public health systems globally can be a safe, effective, readily deployable and affordable treatment for preventing coronavirus infection among the susceptible.

BHU launches Raja Jwala Prasad Post-Doctoral Fellowship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Committed to further enhancing its research output and promoting collaboration across disciplines, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has launched a new scheme that will bolster the university's efforts in this regard. Titled 'Raja Jwala Prasad Post-Doctoral Fellowship', the new scheme aims to encourage and empower faculty members who secure external funding for research activities. The scheme, launched under the Institution of Eminence (IoE) - BHU initiative of the Government of India, enables faculty members who have garnered significant external funding to engage young researchers as postdoctoral fellows with them.

The fellowship will be for one year subject to the possibility of extension of one more year based on performance and the availability of funds under IoE. The fellow will receive a consolidated monthly salary of ₹60,000. They will also be eligible for a monthly HRA of ₹10,000, in addition to a contingency amount of ₹50,000 per annum. Furthermore, fellows will also have access to comprehensive benefits, including health services, library and access to other university resources. The scheme named after former Pro Vice-Chancellor of BHU Raja Jwala Prasad, is a tribute to his towering contribution towards the success of the mission started by Mahamana, that is the establishment of BHU. Hailing from Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh, Raja Jwala Prasad was the chief engineer of the state. He had designed the layout of the university and was instrumental in laying the foundation of today's BHU, whose glory stands tall even after over 100 years of its coming into existence. Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain said, "The fellowship will significantly scale up research activity at the university by attracting young and talented post-doctoral researchers in large numbers. It will also contribute by preparing these young scholars for a successful academic and research career ahead. The university has availed of this opportunity to recognise the contributions of eminent engineer Raja Jwala Prasad who played a key role in development of BHU's iconic campus, and who also served as its Pro-Vice Chancellor."

The coordinator of IoE at BHU Prof Sanjay Kumar stated that the university recognises the contributions of faculty members in bringing in external funding for research activities. This scheme is an endeavour to further support such faculty members in their pursuit of achieving new milestones. The scheme also aims to promote interdisciplinary collaboration across departments and research areas. It will help accelerate the progress of ongoing research projects through additional research support. The faculty members, who will be getting Raja Jwala Prasad Post-Doctoral Fellows, will act as mentors and will provide guidance and support to the fellows during their tenure at the university. Their work is expected to be published in SCOPUS indexed journals.

GOVERNMENT OF GOA, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WORKS DIVISION XVII (PHE-N), PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, ALTO-PORVORIM, BARDEZ, GOA

e-TENDER NOTICE

No. PWD/DXVII/PHE.N/ASW/E/24-E/ 17/ 2023-24
Dated : 31/ 08/ 2023

- Last date of online application: 27/ 09/ 2023 upto 15.00 hrs.
- Last date of online submission of tender: 27/ 09/ 2023 upto 15.00 hrs.
- Date & time of opening of online tender. 29/ 09/ 2023 after 15.30 hrs.

For more details please contact the office of the Executive Engineer WDXVII (PHEN), PWD Alto Porvorim Goa.
(Website:-<https://eprocure.goa.gov.in>)
DI/ADVT/1274/2023

Artisans make Chandrayaan-3 models

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Inspired by the success of Chandrayaan-3 local artisans made beautiful wooden lacquerware models of the same. They want to present the pieces of these models to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also the MP this parliamentary constituency, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and ISRO Chairman Somanath. Wooden lacquerware is one of the Geographical Identified (GI) certified products which is also included in 'One District One Product' (ODOP) list. "There is a lot of demand for this Chandrayaan-3 model from different parts of the country," said Shilpi Shubhi Agrawal, who is at present busy in fulfilling its demand and expressing her willingness to present its models to the PM, CM and ISRO chief. "After the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the South Pole of the lunar surface, the wood art of Kashi has also got a boost. With the success of Chandrayaan-3, the world has started acknowledging the achievements of Indian scientists. At the same time, the success of Chandrayaan-3 has opened up a new business market for Indian artisans," she said, adding that these models have been made in



Wooden lacquerware artisans make Chandrayaan-3 models in Varanasi.

honour of ISRO scientists. "If we fail to meet the PM, CM and ISRO Chairman, then the models of Chandrayaan-3 will be sent to them through other mediums," she said, praising the Yogi government for his bid for promoting the traditional wood art on the world stage. Eminent craftsman and businessman of wood toy articles Bihari Lal Agrawal said inspired by the success of Vikram Lander in the Chandrayaan-3 Mission, the local artisans associated with the ancient art of the wooden toy industry have carved it very beautifully on wood. "Natural colours have been used in this. In our factory of Lolark Kund, it has been given concrete shape after working

day and night. Now the demand for Chandrayaan-3 model is coming from the markets of South India, Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai etc," he said, adding that talks are on to export the same models to some Singapore businessmen as well. He said that this virtually dying traditional industry has been revived again when the PM and CM made sincere efforts to promote the art at an international level. "Due to the training programme and financial assistance, a big market for the wooden toy industry has been created by the state government and due to this, the artisans, who were moving away from this artwork, have started joining the same again," Agrawal said.

Nutrition rally taken out

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A National Nutrition Month campaign was launched on Friday to make the district malnutrition free. In this direction, a public awareness nutrition rally was taken out at Kakarmatta Anganwadi Centre of Kashi Vidyapeeth development block as community participation is very important for effective implementation of the campaign which will run till September 30. Under the direction of CDO Himanshu Nagpal, nutrition and health related activities will be organised on a large scale with all the convergence departments and developing institutions. DPO DK Singh said the campaign with the coordination and integrated efforts of all the convergence departments related to nutrition, publicity and various programmes will be organised to bring public awareness regarding nutrition in important stages of the nutrition-based life cycle such as pregnancy, infancy, childhood and adolescence. The DPO said under the nutrition campaign, continuous efforts are being made to improve the nutritional level of children below six years of age, pregnant, lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

Workshop on Shramana tradition concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 15-day workshop on 'Sources and fundamentals of Shramana tradition' organised under the joint auspices of Parshwanath Vidyapeeth (PV) and Gujarat University concluded at PV premises here on Thursday. The chief guest of the valedictory function was former Vice-Chancellor of Shri Somnath Sanskrit University, Veraval (Gujarat) Prof Gopbandhu Mishra, while the guest of honour was the Senior Vice President (VP) of PV Kunwar Vijayanand Singh and special guest senior VP of PV Indrabhooti Barar. The function was presided over by head of the Department of Jain-Buddhist Philosophy, Faculty of



The concluding function of a workshop being held at Parshwanath Vidyapeeth in Varanasi on Thursday.

Sanskrit Vidya Dharma Vigyan (SVDV), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Ashok Kumar Jain. Prof Gopbandhu Mishra, while introducing the Shramana tradition, congratulated the PV for organising the workshop. In the last presi-

dential address, Prof Ashok Kumar Jain while explaining the essence of the workshop, advised the institute to keep organising such events in future also. Indrabhooti Barar highlighted the usefulness of the workshop and said very expe-

rienced scholars overwhelmed the participants with their knowledge. Kunwar Vijayanand Singh said the Shramana tradition has an important place in our society. Earlier, the programme began with the recitation of Manglacharan. The guests were welcomed by PV Director Dr Shri Prakash Pandey. Thereafter Dr OP Singh expressed happiness over the success of the workshop while giving a brief introduction of lectures presented by scholars during the fortnight-long workshop. Thereafter, the participants, while narrating their experiences said the workshop was very informative and useful in life. Later certificates were given to all participants. In the end Dr OP Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3 rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER GUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(i)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (D)	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit (E)	Date and Time of Property Inspection (F)	Date & Time of E-Auction (G)
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Rajeev Kumar (Borrower), LAN No. LBDEL00003000725	Apartment Number 1106, 11th Floor, Tower K, Godrej Summit, Sector 104 Gurgaon. Area: 171.31 Sq.Mt.	Rs. 1,55,96,173/- as on August 25, 2023.	Rs. 94,40,000/- Rs. 9,44,000/-	September 18, 2023 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	October 16, 2023, From 11:00 AM Onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/S NexXen Solution Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till October 13, 2023 before 05:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before October 13, 2023 before 05:00 P.M. and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before October 13, 2023 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before October 13, 2023 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8657476284, 8584874809

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. NexXen Solution Private limited 2. Ageo Asset Management Pvt Ltd. 3.Hecta Proptech Pvt. Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: September 02, 2023
Place: Gurgaon & Ghaziabad
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

BOMBAY MERCANTILE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED
(Since : 1939) (Multi State Scheduled Bank)
Regd Head Office : Zain G. Rangoonwala Building, 78, Mohammad Ali Road, Mumbai - 400 003.
Phone : 23425961/62/63/64, 23449586, 62552800

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the 86th Annual General Meeting of the Members [Shareholders] of BOMBAY MERCANTILE CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 10.30 a.m. at Baitul Hujaj [Haj House], 2nd Floor, 7 - A, M.R.A. Marg [Palton Road], Mumbai - 400 001 to transact the following business :

- To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 02nd September, 2022.
- To consider and adopt the Report of the Board of Directors and the Audited Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Account and Statutory Auditor's Report for the year ended as on 31st March, 2023.
- To appropriate Net Profit as recommended by the Board of Directors for the year ended 31st March, 2023.
- To approve the appointment of Statutory Auditors for the Bank for the year 2023-2024 and fix their remuneration.
- To consider the Annual Budget of the Bank for the year 2023-2024.
- To approve the amendment in Bye-Law Nos.4 [d], 5, 35[1] and [2], 44[1] and 44[3] as per Annexure attached.
- To grant Leave of Absence to the Members of the Bank who have not attended this 86th Annual General Meeting.
- Any other issue / business with the permission of the Chair.

By Order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Date : August 31, 2023
Place : Mumbai.
[DR. M. SHAH ALAM KHAN]
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Note:

- If there is no quorum within half an hour after the appointed time, the Meeting shall stand adjourned to 11.00 a.m. on the same day and the Agenda of the Original Meeting shall be transacted at the said venue, irrespective of the rule of quorum, in terms of Bye-Law No.39.
- Any Member desiring information pertaining to Accounts, is requested to write to the Bank, at-least six days in advance of the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- Copies of the Annual Report are available at the Head Office and the Branches of the Bank.



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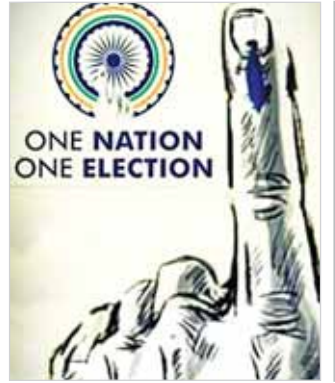
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PAPER WITH PASSION

'One-election' nation

The Modi Government seems to be moving towards the 'one nation, one election' concept

Seeking to restore the novelty of elections prevalent in India till 1967, the Modi government has taken up the cudgels to provide stability to Indian polity by reintroducing the concept of "one nation, one election." The idea is not new; it has been around. Also, it is both logical and convenient to have simultaneous state and general elections as it would save time and resources and spare the nation of frequent elections costing thousands of crores of exchequer's money. Till 1967, when Indian politics was dominated by Congress and it had governments in states as well as the Centre, the system worked well. But this ended after some state assemblies were dissolved prematurely in 1968-69. Thereafter, it almost became a norm. As the Congress dominance waned and several Opposition party governments took the oath of office, things became rather complicated as many state governments were dismissed before completing their terms and so state elections got out of sync with the general elections.



The dismissal of the state governments and the coalition governments at the Centre has indeed led to rather unstable governments which are prone to collapse before completing their stipulated five years. How far would the move achieve its purpose will depend on how it is done in the first place. However, speculation is that the Centre is set to introduce a Bill to this effect in the special session of Parliament, which has taken everyone by surprise. The possibility of "one nation, one election" policy, or simultaneous nationwide polls, will be examined by a committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

But the road to "one nation, one election" would not be easy; it will need to cross at least five roadblocks of constitutional amendments — Article 83 (2), which says the Lok Sabha's term should not exceed five years but it may be dissolved sooner; Article 85 (2) (B) which is that dissolution ends the very life of an existing House and a new House is constituted after general elections; Article 172 (1) says a state assembly, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for five years; and, of course, Article 174 (2) (B) which empowers Governor to dissolve the assembly on the aid and advice of the cabinet. The Governor has discretion when the advice comes from a Chief Minister whose majority is in doubt and Article 356 (Imposition of President's Rule in states). For a constitutional amendment, two-thirds members of the House must vote. A consensus of all political parties and state governments is needed. After the constitutional amendment Bill is passed in Parliament, it needs to be ratified by half of the states through resolutions in their assemblies. Besides, huge resources will be needed to implement it. This would include over 25 lakh EVMs and a similar number of VVPATs, almost double the current number, to conduct the polls. The idea has worked well in the UK and several other western countries but will it work in a large country like India is the question.

PICTALK



Elephants being brought for Mysore Dasara celebrations to Veeranahosahalli village, Mysuru district

Enmeshing AI with human intelligence



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Left unattended and not embedded in the inevitable 'human' context, Artificial Intelligence can be dangerous and misleading, to say the least

Artificial Intelligence' is the flavour of the season. There is a competitive pitch in making a bid for it, claiming expertise and establishing one's felicity in this area. Everyone feels the need to establish a claim to the slice of the pie. It is understandable because that is how fashions go.

It is difficult to fight fashions because it establishes primacy, gains resources and tends to set the norm. 'Artificial Intelligence' somehow has come to denote a higher and upgraded level of existence, cognition and expertise. The point that needs to be paid attention is that artificial intelligence is not 'auto-generative'. At best, it is based on certain felicity to combine and recombine elements and building blocks like codes. It cannot 'think', in a manner of speaking, in an 'original manner'. Combining or recombining constituents depends upon the strength and potential of the algorithm on which it works or is constructed.

This makes it look 'original' when in reality, as noted above, it is only the outcome of various permutations and more essential building blocks. This by itself is an achievement. It also multiplies time by 'abbreviating' it.

It is quicker, crisper and does not necessarily need process specialists. What is more: it creates illusions of originality. The human element in the picture decides, basically when to combine, recombine, disaggregate or more.

The timing and the intensity of use are determined by human choice and judgment. There is no exception to this and is a huge step forward in isolating the area of application; in determining or defining the content.

The novelty of the method is great excitement and the ambience of an air-conditioned environment with machine iniquitousness lends a certain aura to it. It mesmerizes without necessarily enlightening. It makes it look magical without, in reality, there being no magic in it.

But there is enough to attract and retain resources. The people manning these computerized setups manage, on the whole, to draw greater attention and per-



haps, at times get compensated better.

What computerization does not do, however, is a factor in the variables of personal learning, temperament, emotion, fatigue and feeling of the subject's well-being or otherwise. This can be dangerous because ultimately 'learning' or 'action' depends on the extent of synergy between the competency required and the personality of the individual affected.

This is where the personalized element swings back into the scene and becomes a determining factor in how efficacious computerization can be. Add to it the vagaries of age, experience, temperament, and energy level of the individuals involved in the act. Each of these factors, singly or in combination will affect the rollout of the computerization process, and indeed the selection of the domain where artificial intelligence can hold sway effectively.

This is a limited enumeration of the elements that determine the match between the constituents of the problem and the elements of the run of artificial intelligence. Thus it is that the nature of the 'programming' gets affected.



THE PEOPLE MANNING THESE COMPUTERISED SETUPS MANAGE, ON THE WHOLE, TO DRAW GREATER ATTENTION AND PERHAPS, AT TIMES, GET COMPENSATED BETTER

Indeed as 'artificial intelligence' gains ground 'organic intelligence' in the form of the human factor becomes a growing factor of programming. Indeed, some are inclined to argue that ultimately the human element becomes the dominant element and moves to the centre of action.

In several cases, it is arguable that because of the nature of "centre of stage" elements, the uniqueness of the situation takes on their dominant influence(s)/characteristic(s) and often evades pristine mathematical programming. The human factor evading predictability often impacts in a major way, the resource deployment and outcomes, also. Thus, it is that artificial intelligence or computerisation or digitalisation in that manner becomes what is 'never intended to be'. It is not able to run its full course. Indeed, the outcomes acquire their shape and timing. The managing of interventions becomes less programmable. Left unattended and not embedding it in the inevitable 'human' context can be dangerous and misleading, to say the least.

The present solution seems to be in recognising the need for allowing spaces for "temperament"; "competen-

cy"; "professionalism"; "far sightedness" and "literacy on organic elements of the scene". The requires as much, if not more, of research and human attention as does "Artificial Intelligence".

Combining it all is a challenge that is not being sufficiently recognized. Applied research will come in handy. Those in academic institutions will have to work with those in the field to frame the issue correctly. There is the obvious danger of commercial interests overtaking the fundamental 'growth interests' of the area. It is essential to recognize the strength of the "machine"; "mathematics"; and predictive validity".

It would be dangerous to ignore the situations "unpredictability" "organic nature" and "temperament". The "golden mean" is the answer. All elements of the 'golden mean' need consideration. They also need support to grow and fructify according to their basic genre. Striking the balance between the two approaches may not be easy. But to evade it would be well-nigh impossible.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliament's special session



Opposition parties have questioned the timing of the five-day special session of parliament called by the government, scheduled

from September 18 to 22. The government's announcement also comes amid the Mumbai meeting of the newly formed opposition bloc, INDIA. There is speculation that the special session will start at the old parliament building and end at the new building, sources said.

Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi to reconsider the dates for the special session of parliament as it coincides with the major festival. "I just read about the upcoming Special Parliament Session.

Bhagwan Thadan | Mumbai

This map clearly shows that Modi was lying when he said not one inch of land was lost in Ladakh. Interestingly, ignoring red eyes and all the lambasting by the Minister Of External Affairs S Jaishankar, or Arindam Bagchi, MEA spokesperson, China reacts to India's explicit displeasure with its 2023 "standard map" (which included Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin region and was received with great indignation by Indians). "It's hoped that relevant parties will treat it objectively and not over-interpret it," said the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Through this map, China has very clearly conveyed its intentions, rendering further talks meaningless and a total waste of time. Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Subramanian Swamy launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and wrote, "Say to Modi: 'If you cannot defend the integrity of Bharat Mata due to 'majboori' that you cannot admit, then at least you can step aside...' Truly, China is even renaming places and towns in Arunachal, and now the Map. But the Indian leadership does not have the courage to even admit the Chinese incursion into India. PM Modi should not forget that the people are in anger. They believe that a protest will not suffice. The Modi Government must undertake immediate

steps to reduce our economic dependence on China.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

DISGRACE TO A NOBLE PROFESSION

Sir — A teacher in a school allegedly instructed children to hit a student one by one, referring to his Muslim faith. Now, for the most shocking incident, a school teacher in a Delhi school comments on Muslims' texts and places of worship and targets Muslims, saying they haven't done anything for the country since independence.

It is very disgusting that she comments on Muslims' religious texts and places of worship. Even more shocking is that the teacher questions why Muslim families did not go to Pakistan during Partition. The teacher's comments are absolutely wrong. The responsibility of a teacher is to provide a good education to children. This type of teachers is spoiling the atmosphere and filling hate in young minds. Both incidents above prove that humiliating Muslims without repercussions has become common. The teachers' behavior is a blot on society and a disgrace to the noble profession.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Brexit aftermath — 3-1/2 years hence

The talk of a European single market and a single currency had set the pigeons among British hearts



SUBHASH CHOPRA

The September 1988 "Bruges speech" of Margaret Thatcher marked a watershed in Anglo-European history when she warned against the threat of a European super-state dominance from Brussels over the United Kingdom.

Dan Hannan, a passionate history student at Oxford, emerged as the young stormtrooper of the movement. The opposite camp was led by the Eurocentric Maastricht Treaty followers. By September 1992 on "Black Wednesday" the European Exchange Rate Mechanism collapsed. Yet in July 1993, the Maastricht Treaty received Royal assent. Pretty soon an anti-Maastricht band of MPs formed the European Research Group (ERG) with Hannan as its first secretary and employee. By 1997 Rishi Sunak, about to go up to Oxford as an undergraduate, was getting worried at the thought that Tony Blair had plans for the possible breakup of the United Kingdom and the rise of a European super state. As if to calm the nerves, along came Dominic Cummings to fight off Blair's



plans to join the euro. Hannan and Cummings became the double engine of the anti-European group!

Hannan also became the first full-time secretary of the anti-Maastricht "European Research Group (ERG)" one of whose star members was to be young Jacob Rees-Mogg. The "Bruges Speech" bombshell against any super-state dominance from Europe scotched all talk of any single market or closer political integration with Europe. A Eurosceptic ecosystem was in the ascendant. Margaret Thatcher resigned and the first thing she did in January 1991 was to become president of the Bruges Group.

The Conservatives ousted Thatcher when she offered MPs a second referendum and joined a temporary customs union with the EU. She pulled her Withdrawal Agreement Bill after appar-

ently accepting her failure. A dramatic end for the "Iron Lady" and the arch Brexiteer. She died in April 2013 after suffering a stroke.

The Oxford Campaign for an Independent Britain (CIB) could well be described as the genesis of Brexit itself which along with the "Bruges Group" became the flag bearer of an independent Britannia. The CIB quickly became mainstream. In November 1991, Edward Heath, who happened to join the debate in Oxford, was hissed repeatedly on points of information. The anti-European motion was carried by 108 votes. The Brexit victory had come full circle and unstoppable.

Brexit's long-term impact on the UK is a complex and evolving matter that can't be easily summarized as purely positive or negative. Different people and groups in the UK hold various opinions about whether Brexit was a beneficial move or a regrettable decision. One of the major concerns around Brexit was its potential impact on the UK's economy. Proponents argued that Brexit would allow the UK to have more

control over trade and regulations, potentially leading to new trade deals and economic growth. Critics, on the other hand, raised concerns about disruptions to trade with the EU, potential job losses, and economic uncertainty.

And after 30 months critics seem to have got it right. Besides, Brexit exposed divisions within UK society and politics, with different regions and demographics having varying opinions on the issue. It also raised questions about the future of Scotland's place in the UK, as Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU. The possibility of another Scottish independence referendum has been discussed as a potential consequence of Brexit.

It's important to note that public opinion on Brexit is diverse. Some may see positive outcomes in terms of regained sovereignty and new trade opportunities, while others may view negative economic impacts and geopolitical challenges.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in the UK. The views expressed are personal)

MYANMAR OPIUM A THREAT TO INDIA

Sir — There is a famous saying in geopolitics: "You can change your friends but not your neighbours." Thus, anything chaotic happening in a neighbouring nation would certainly impact you too, especially if a country like India shares an almost 1600 km long porous border with such a nation. Myanmar, after a military coup and civil war aided by devastating economic conditions, the farmers are turning to an old school: opium.

Armed conflicts along with economic instability have left farmers with no choice but to grow opium, undoing the years of efforts to reduce opium production in Myanmar's border areas. According to a study conducted by the United Nations, a 33 percent increase in opium production has been observed since 2021. There has also been a shift from small land to organized, much larger plots with state-of-the-art equipment and armed protection from many local militias. During such turmoil, many farmers see opium as an attractive product - with stable demands, both local and foreign. It is easier to produce and storing it is also not a hectic job. In lands where hardly any other crop grows, opium will yield profits. Transportation is also convenient, as one can even escape with it on foot in case of a police raid.

Arka Goswami | Durgapur

CHINESE INTRUSION

Sir — China has already crossed the Line of Actual Control (LAC), martyred 24 of our jawans, and taken over the majority of the Patrolling Points (only 26 remain with India, instead of the previously held 65) in No Man's Land areas. Although our Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has largely avoided speaking publicly on the border issue, going as far as saying on live television shortly after the deadly 2020 clashes that, "No one has intruded and nor is anyone intruding." However, on Monday, China has been redrawing the LAC to the detriment of India consistently during Amrit Kaal.



FIRST COLUMN

EMPOWERED WOMEN,
EMPOWERED WORLD

In terms of dignity and rights, all human beings are born free and equal



SAKSHI SETHI

In the words of Melinda French Gates, "When you lift up women, you lift up humanity." The power to empower other women is in all of us. Whether it's your sister, mother, or friend one of us can empower others with their words and actions. Today, all of us are living in the age of continued gender gap, wage gap, attitudes toward different races and groups, religious beliefs and many other obstacles, which makes it quite imperative that women, actively work to empower each other. Empowering other women to speak and express themselves also carries with it a responsibility to curtail negativity.

Empowering other women means listening, communicating and encouraging a woman in their goals and dreams. When one empowers another it can be a rewarding experience for everyone involved in it. By supporting other women one can feel more confident; start believing in their power, feel equipped to take on the new challenges and can effect change. By all these, it is not to suggest that empowering women is, in some way, disempowering men. When one woman empowers another woman, it shows them how they too can empower themselves by learning from other experiences in life.

Not only in India but across the globe, women empowerment is dependent to a great extent on numerous variables that encompass geographical settings both urban as well as rural areas, social status such as caste and class, educational status and age factors. However, women encounter differentiation in most sectors like education, economic opportunities, health and medical assistance political participation, which demonstrates that there are substantial gaps between strategy advancements and real exercise at the community level. Women are key drivers of economic growth. Various steps should be taken to dismantle stereotypes about gender equality, gender identity, gender roles and gender expressions that are underpinned by patriarchal social norms.



In terms of dignity and rights, all human beings are born free and equal. There is no denying the fact, that women are known for delivering multiple roles effortlessly per day and thus, are considered to be the backbone of every society. Despite so many women leaders empowering the nation, many leaders face a heightened risk of violence. As rightly said, "Courage doesn't grow overnight. It can be a long process." As rightly quoted, "Courage doesn't grow overnight. It can be a long process."

A woman has the quality to collect all her NOs. It's okay for a woman to not only hear the word NO and be refused but also, it's okay to not get what one wants on the first try. But the perspective on the NO changes the attitude and therefore the outlook on the outcomes. Despite so many women leaders empowering the nation, many leaders face a heightened risk of violence. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Freedom cannot be achieved unless the women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression." Behind every woman who can do anything is a man telling her that she can't. Remember, a woman's and girl's empowerment cannot be achieved until gender gaps are eliminated. A woman should not be scared to raise her voice and seek help. Even if it seems impossible, there is always a way out.

(The writer is an educator)

Off-budget borrowings
are unhealthy in nature

UTTAM GUPTA

The Union Government wants to 'pre-pay' the remaining off-budget borrowings of Rs 170,000 crore over a reasonable period of time



Off-budget borrowings or extra-budgetary resources (EBRs) - as these are called in budget parlance - are those borrowings that are raised by public sector undertakings (PSUs) and other agencies of the government such as Food Corporation of India (FCI), Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Hudco), Power Finance Corporation (PFC), NABARD etc to fund its schemes for which repayment of entire principal and interest is done from the Union Budget. The Centre had EBRs close to Rs 670,000 crore by the end of 2020-21.

If all obligations about such borrowings are met by the Union government then why does it not take these on its balance sheet (BS) instead of riding piggyback on its agencies/PSUs? The reason is by not borrowing itself and hence not reflecting on its BS, it can show a lower fiscal deficit (FD) to the extent of EBRs. This is an unhealthy practice as artificially lowering the FD, breeds complacency regarding efforts needed to maintain fiscal discipline. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and the 15th Finance Commission had red-flagged the EBRs and had urged the Centre to come clean on these.

In the Budget for 2020-21, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman candidly acknowledged their existence and mentioned these in an annexure. But, mere mention in the budget documents is of no use unless EBRs are reflected in Union's BS and FD captures all borrowings of the Centre including EBRs. It should also commit not to take recourse to such borrowings in future.

While presenting the revised estimate (RE) for 2020-21 and budget estimate (BE) for 2021-22, Sitharaman did precisely this. Of the Rs 670,000 crore outstanding EBRs as of March 31, 2021, it brought about Rs 500,000 crore into the BS. A big slice of this Rs 427,000 crore was the loans raised by the FCI towards food subsidy arrears from 2016-17 to 2020-21 from the National Small Saving Fund (NSSF). The balance was



SINCE FISCAL CALCULATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH BE OF RS 197,000 CRORE AGAINST A MUCH HIGHER LIKELY ACTUAL, THE GOVERNMENT WON'T BE ABLE TO RELEASE ALL SUBSIDY DUES OF FCI. THIS COULD LEAD TO A REPEAT OF WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE 2020-21

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views are personal)

mainly towards fertilizer subsidy arrears. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), around 820 million beneficiaries receive food grains, primarily wheat, rice and coarse cereals, at the heavily subsidized price of Rs 2, Rs 3 and Rs 1 per kg, respectively, which is a fraction of the cost of procurement, handling and distribution. The task is performed by the FCI et al on behalf of the Government, which reimburses the shortfall in realization from sale vis-à-vis the cost to the former as food subsidy.

Pending its receipt, the FCI manages its costs by availing cash credit from a consortium of Banks, short-term loans (up to 90 days), ways and means advance (WMAs), etc. The costs associated with such financing including interest costs and service charges etc are also included in the food subsidy. As a normal practice, the Centre is expected to release all of the subsidy dues by the end of the relevant financial year. But, before 2020-21, this wasn't happening.

The Government was invariably keeping a portion of the reimbursement amount due to the FCI pending year after year. The extant method of accounting expenses on a cash basis, i.e., when actual payments are made, enabled it to do this. This forced the FCI to borrow the "unpaid amount" from the NSSF - an undesirable and unconscionable practice. Small savings need to be deployed in avenues that generate returns, not for meeting revenue expenses. Since 2016-17, when the FCI started borrowing from the NSSF, as of March 31, 2020, it owed a staggering Rs 300,000 crore to the Fund.

Together with Rs 127,000 crore borrowed during 2020-21, this went up to Rs 427,000 crore. At the year's

end, this entire amount was transferred to the books of the Centre and fully paid from the appropriation made in the RE. During 2021-22, FCI raised around Rs 61,000 crore from the banks which was paid by the Centre at the year's end.

During 2022-23, initially, the FCI had intended to raise around Rs 87,500 crore from the banks which was eventually scaled down to Rs 55,000 crore. The Centre extinguished this liability at the year's end. Unlike in the past (before 2020-21), there wasn't any need for the FCI to carry on with the load on its books. But, things could be different during the current year.

During 2023-24, as per the government's assessment, the FCI may have to borrow a whopping Rs.145,000 crore to meet its working capital requirements. This is to be expected as this year's allocation for food subsidy at Rs 197,000 crore is Rs 90,000 crore less than the RE for 2022-23 at Rs 287,000 crore. While, the cut may be due to the discontinuation of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana or PMGKAY (under it, free food was supplied to all the 820 million beneficiaries under NFSA) from January 1, 2023, two other decisions increase the subsidy requirement.

First, from January 1, 2023, the government merged the free part of PMGKAY with the regular food security scheme under NFSA, which meant that instead of Rs 2, Rs 3 and Rs 1 per kg for wheat, rice and coarse cereals beneficiaries were paying earlier, now they pay 'nil'. Second, this free food scheme (albeit under NFSA) which was to cease on December 31, 2023, will now continue till June 30, 2024, thus leading to higher payments during the last three months i.e. January 1-March 31, 2024 of the current FY.

Since fiscal calculations have been made with BE of Rs 197,000 crore against a much higher likely actual, the government won't be able to release all subsidy dues of FCI. This could lead to a repeat of what happened before 2020-21.

In fertilizers, before 2020-21, a large chunk of subsidy payments to manufacturers and importers - being the excess of the cost of supply over the low price they are asked by the Centre to sell to farmers - were kept pending. During 2020-21, in the RE it gave Rs 67,000 crore to clear all the arrears from previous years. In the succeeding two years, it paid the entire subsidy dues from the budget. However, the scenario during 2023-24 could be different.

For the current year, BE for fertilizer subsidy is Rs 175,000 crore which is Rs 80,000 crore less than RE for 2022-23 at Rs 255,000 crore. Even though international prices of fertilizers and raw materials used in their production are significantly lower than last year, we have to keep our fingers crossed. This is all the more because Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya has indicated that around Rs 46,000 crore more would be needed over and above the BE.

The impending excesses in food and fertilizer subsidy payments from the BE could lead to slippages in the FD target. But, the government doesn't want that to happen. So, we could see a return of EBRs. As for the intent of the government to clear the remaining EBRs of Rs 170,000 crore (these are mainly the bonds issued by Hudco, Nabard etc. to raise funds for its projects for irrigation, housing etc.), this would also lead to further slippage in FD. So, the talk of extinguishing remaining EBRs is plain rhetoric.

Preventing 'Duck Walk' in old age is crucial for mobility

The waddling gait of the elderly can be avoided through a combination of weight reduction and targeted exercises, leading to an active lifestyle

As individuals age, a condition known as 'Duck Walk' or waddling gait can occur due to knee malalignment caused by osteoarthritis. This condition often leads to individuals walking with a distinctive gait resembling that of a duck. However, in the early stages of osteoarthritis, there are conservative methods that individuals can employ to prevent or delay the progression to an advanced stage. Let us delve into some detailed information about the exercises that can help individuals prevent the progression of 'Duck-Walk' due to advanced osteoarthritis and maintain normal mobility even when they age.

First and Foremost is Weight Reduction: One of the most effective



ADITYA JAIN

(The writer is a Senior Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon- Trauma and Arthroscopy, Primus Super Speciality Hospital)

ways to prevent or slow down the progression of 'Duck-Walk' is through weight reduction. By maintaining a healthy weight, the force exerted on the knees is reduced, resulting in a decreased likelihood of deformity progression. Incorporating a balanced diet and regular exercise can help individuals achieve and maintain a healthy weight, which is beneficial for overall joint health.

Exercises to Avoid 'Duck-Walk' in Old Age**a. Prone Leg Hangs:**

This exercise involves lying in a prone position on a bed with the knees positioned at the edge of the table and a rolled towel placed underneath for support, allowing the lower part of the legs to hang in the air but straight in align-

**b. Core Abdomen Strengthening:**

Strengthening the core and spine muscles is essential for maintaining proper posture and stability. By engaging in exercises that target the

abdomen and lower back muscles, individuals can improve overall hip and thigh muscle strength, which directly impacts walking ability.

c. Quadriceps Strengthening:

Strong quadriceps muscles at the front of the thigh play a crucial role in maintaining proper knee kinematics. Exercises such as leg extensions, and lunges can help strengthen the quadriceps and provide better support for the knees.

d. Hamstring Strengthening:

The muscles at the back of the thighs, known as the hamstrings, are vital for maintaining balance and stability during walking. Strengthening these muscles through exercises like leg curls and bridges can improve overall leg strength and reduce the likelihood of a

waddling gait.

e. Vastus Medialis Oblique (VMO) Strengthening:

The VMO muscle, located on the inner thigh, plays a crucial role in knee stabilization. Exercises like leg presses, step-ups, and inner thigh squeezes can target and strengthen the VMO, helping to alleviate knee malalignment.

Exercise Precautions

While exercise is essential for preventing 'Duck Walk', it's important to avoid certain positions and exercises that may exacerbate knee pain or discomfort. Squatting and cross-legged sitting should be avoided, as they can place excessive stress on the knees. It is always recommended to consult with a healthcare professional or physical therapist before starting any exercise

program. By diligently practicing weight reduction and engaging in targeted exercises, individuals can potentially avoid or delay the progression of osteoarthritis of the knee. Prevention is always better than cure.

Preventing 'Duck Walk' in old age is possible through a combination of weight reduction and targeted exercises. In some cases, offloading braces can be beneficial for individuals experiencing 'Duck Walk.' These braces redistribute the weight and provide support to the affected knee, relieving pressure and reducing the waddling gait. By taking proactive steps to maintain joint health and mobility, individuals can enjoy an active and independent lifestyle as they age.

Polls closed for S'pure Presidential election Indian-origin ex-min in race

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Voting in Singapore's first contested presidential election since 2011 closed on Friday, a closely-watched three-way race in which former minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam is seeking to become the next Singapore-born Indian-origin head of the state.



The voting process was "very fast". He said he decided to cast his ballot at a late hour after hearing that his friends encountered queues in the morning. The polls ended with over 2.7 million voters casting their ballots.

Madam Halimah Yacob was the only eligible candidate and she was sworn in after the Nomination Day on September 13, 2017. Halimah decided not to seek a second term.

The three candidates for the 2023 presidential election are former senior minister Tharman, former chief investment officer with the Government of Singapore Investment Corp (GIC), and former chief of the NTUC Income, a state-owned union-based insurance group, Tan Kin Lian.

Putin, Erdogan to meet amid efforts to repair Ukraine grain deal

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin will host Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi on Monday, the Kremlin announced.

However, Russia pulled out of the deals earlier this year, claiming that its conditions hadn't been met. On Thursday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov hosted his Turkish counterpart for talks in Moscow.

The agreement had allowed Ukraine to ship almost 33,000 tons of grain at a time of growing global hunger.

United Nations (AP): The United Nations chief sent Russia a new proposal aimed at getting its grain and fertilizer to global markets in hopes of reviving the deal that allowed Ukraine to ship almost 33,000 tons of grain at a time of growing global hunger.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent Russia a new proposal in hopes of reviving the deal but it didn't satisfy Moscow's demands, Lavrov said then.

Lavrov said he had given Ankara a list of actions that the West would have to take in order to resume Ukrainian grain and fertiliser shipments.

The agreement had allowed Ukraine to ship almost 33,000 tons of grain at a time of growing global hunger.

UN chief sends Russia new proposals to revive Black Sea grain deal

United Nations (AP): The United Nations chief sent Russia a new proposal aimed at getting its grain and fertilizer to global markets in hopes of reviving the deal that allowed Ukraine to ship almost 33,000 tons of grain at a time of growing global hunger.

from three Black Sea ports. A separate memorandum between the UN and Russia pledged to overcome obstacles to Moscow's shipment of food and fertilizer to world markets. The deal followed Russia's Feb. 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine which sent global food prices skyrocketing because the two countries are major "breadbaskets" for the world.

Russia reports three more drone attacks

Moscow (AP): Russian officials said on Friday that air defences intercepted drones heading toward three of the country's western regions, while satellite images indicated that a major drone barrage earlier in the week destroyed at least two Ilyushin Il-76 military transport planes at a Russian air base.

Moscow airports briefly halted flights but no major damage or injuries were reported, according to Russian authorities.

Drones aimed at targets inside Russia — and blamed by Moscow on Ukraine — have become almost a daily occurrence as the war has entered its 19th month and Kyiv's forces pursue a counteroffensive.

Kyiv officials normally neither claim nor deny responsibility for attacks on Russian soil.

Nobel body reverses invitation policy

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The Nobel Foundation that administers the prestigious awards, has reversed its invitation policy and invited Russia, Belarus and Iran, as well as the leader of a far-right Swedish party, who had previously been banned.

Vidar Helgesen, the executive director of the private foundation said in a statement that there was a global trend in which "dialogue between those with differing views is being

reduced." To counter that, he said, "we are now broadening our invitations to celebrate and understand the Nobel Prize and the importance of free science, free culture and free, peaceful societies."

The foundation said that invitation for the 2023 events was extended to all countries with diplomatic missions in Sweden and Norway and parties "that have parliamentary representation via democratic elections," adding that "this common approach promotes opportunities to con-

vey the important messages of the Nobel Prize to everyone, and in future this practice will be common to the entire organisation."

Last year, the diplomatic envoys of Russia and Belarus were barred from attending the glittery prize ceremonies and banquets, which always take place on December 10, because of the war in Ukraine, and the ambassador of Iran was also excluded because of "the serious and escalating situation" in the country.

'Russia-China alliance biggest threat since WWII'

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The United States House Foreign Affairs chair said Friday that a partnership of the Russian and Chinese leaders worried him, adding, "We have never seen a threat this large-scale to Europe and the Pacific, I would argue, since World War II."

The alliance of Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin "provides a very big challenge I think for the free world in this great power competition that we

find ourselves in," said Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, during a visit to Sweden.

Earlier in the year, the Biden administration warned Xi's government of unspecified consequences if it supports the Kremlin's war effort in Ukraine. A United States intelligence report said Beijing possibly provided equipment used in Ukraine that might have military applications.

The report cited Russian customs data that showed Chinese state-owned military contractors supplied navigation equipment, fighter jet parts, drones and other goods, but didn't say whether that might trigger U.S. retaliation.

China has stepped up purchases of Russian oil and gas,

which helps Putin's government offset lost sales after the United States, Europe and Japan cut off most purchases of Russian energy. Beijing can do that without triggering Western sanctions on its own companies, but Washington and its allies are frustrated that it undercuts economic pressure on Moscow.

China rejects Western trade and financial sanctions on Russia because they weren't authorized by the United Nations Security Council, where Beijing and Moscow have veto power. However, China has appeared to avoid directly defying those sanctions.

McCaul, who was part of a U.S. Congressional Delegation visiting Sweden and met with Swedish Foreign Minister

Tobias Billstrom, said he expects the Nordic country to join NATO by October.

Long-neutral Sweden applied for NATO membership together with neighbouring Finland in 2022. New entries must be approved by all existing members, and as NATO leaders met for a summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, Sweden was missing the green light from two: Turkey and Hungary.

Finland, which shares a 1,340-kilometer (832-mile) border with Russia — more than doubling the size of NATO's border with Russia — became the 31st member of the world's biggest military alliance in April. But it wasn't until a NATO summit in July that Turkey's president agreed to send the accession documents to the Turkish Parliament for approval, something he had

refused to do for more than a year.

By having Finland and Sweden in NATO, "I think it's been will achieve the exact opposite effect that Mr. Putin wanted to achieve, and that was to weaken and divide NATO," McCaul said.

With the two Nordic neighbours in NATO, the alliance has "never been stronger and more united."

The visiting U.S. Congressional Delegation also included Gregory Meeks, D-N.Y.; Ann Wagner, R-Mo.; Gerry Connolly, D-Va.; Madeleine Dean, D-Pa.; Thomas Keane, R-N.J.; and Bill Huizenga, R-Mich. After Stockholm they were to travel to the Netherlands for bilateral meetings with Dutch government officials and members of parliament, among others.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THAT MY CLIENTS (1) Shri Delp Kumar Gupta and Shri Sudhir Kumar Gupta, both sons of late Shri G.K. Gupta, resident of D-501, Maurya Apartments, I.P. Extension, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092. Presently at: 306, Nilgiri Nagar, Indraprastha Ghazibad, U.P.-201014, hereby revoke the General Power of Attorney executed by them in FAVOUR OF Shri Rajeev Gupta son of Late Sh. J.P. Gupta, resident of 152, Sarita Vihar, Delhi-110092 with respect to properties bearing No. 140, Katra Mashroo, Darbhanga Kalan, Delhi-110008; and One Room admeasuring 9' x 21' forming part of Flat No. KD/77, Pitampura, New Delhi with immediate effect. My clients will not be responsible or held liable if any individual deals with the above mentioned person who claims to be my clients' attorney even otherwise they have no power to sell the property of my clients

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Kamlesh Aggarwal is the owner of Entire Second floor (said floor) built on Property No.346-A, admeasuring 106.87 sq. yds. total admeasuring 215 1.5 sq. yds. out of Khata No.1471/624 min built on Plot No. 103, situated in the area of Village Chandrawali alias Shahdara, in the abadi of Bholu Nath Nagar Gali No.12, R.S. Block Jhandpore Road, Ilaaz Shaikhan, Delhi. vide Sale Deed dated 18.06.2009, bearing Doc. No.7143. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said floor/property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said floor/property. If anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of above owner to the said floor/property, as well as mortgage, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Kirpal Singh is the owner of Property Bearing No. 76/3, On Plot No. 349, 349, New No. WZ-76/3, Area Measuring 76.6 Sq.Yds., Situated in the area of Village Keshopur in the Abadi of Guru Nanak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, vide Relinquishment Deed dated 13.07.2022, Doc. No. 8652. All persons are hereby informed that Sarabjeet Kaur / Mr. Kirpal Singh want to mortgage the said property and intend to obtain a loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner to the said property, its mortgage, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Balvinder Kumar Verma having address at Flat No 405 Plot No Gh7 Sec 47, Green Wood Housing Society, Gurugram with Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at Ground Floor, Unit No 2 & 3, Block-C, Vatika Business Park, Sohna Road, Gurugram-122018 remains un-operated for the last 3 years.

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Ajit Kumar having address at H No 2253 Badshahpur, Nr Mata Mandir, Gurgaon, 122001 with Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at Ground Floor, Unit No 2 & 3, Block-C, Vatika Business Park, Sohna Road, Gurugram-122018 remains un-operated for the last 3 years.

ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Registered Office: A-104, Third Floor, Okla Industrial Area Phase - II, New Delhi-110020. Phone: 011-45025469, email: atul.addi@gmail.com, addilind@gmail.com. Website: www.addiindustries.com. INFORMATION REGARDING 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING (VC) / OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM), RECORD DATE AND FINAL DIVIDEND.

NOTICE

Locker hired by Ms. Mini Sharma having address at- 329 Espace Nirvana Country, Sector 49 Gurugram with Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at Ground Floor, Unit No 2 & 3, Block-C, Vatika Business Park, Sohna Road, Gurugram-122018 remains un-operated for the last 3 years.

NOTICE

Locker hired by Mr. Gaurav Locker/Ms. Somya Madan having address at-B-504 Parsunath Greenvile, Opposite Omax Gurgaon, Mall Sector-48, Sohna Road with Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at Ground Floor, Unit No 2 & 3, Block-C, Vatika Business Park, Sohna Road, Gurugram-122018 remains un-operated for the last 3 years.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Anubhav Jain, Sh. Parveen Jain and Smt. Renu Jain W/o. Sh. Parveen Jain are the Title Holders in possession of Entire Second Floor Residential Property Bearing Plot No. 11, Block-B, Vatik Business Park, Sohna Road, Gurugram-122018, vide Sale Deed dated 18.06.2009, bearing Doc. No. 7143. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said floor/property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said floor/property. If anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of above owner to the said floor/property, as well as mortgage, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES LIMITED

CIN: U74899DL1927PLC000155 Registered Office: Hindustan Times House, 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001 Tel.: 011-66561206. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Saturday, the 23rd September, 2023 to Thursday, the 28th September 2023 both days inclusive for ascertaining the entitlement of the dividend to be declared in the 94th Annual General Meeting to be held at Hindustan Times House, 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001 on 29th September 2023.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Mr. Balvinder Kumar Verma within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Mr. Ajit Kumar within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m

NOTICE

Members who have shareholding in dematerialized mode are requested to notify any change in address and bank account details to their respective depository participants. Shareholders whose shareholding is in physical mode are requested to opt for the National Electronic Clearing System (NECS) mode to receive dividend on time in line with the Circulars. We urge shareholders to utilize the NECS for receiving dividends.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Mini Sharma within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Mr. Gaurav Locker/Ms. Somya Madan within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Salimuddin S/o. Late Sh. Abdul Aziz and Smt. Sholeha Begum W/o. Sh. Salimuddin are the Title Holders in possession of First Floor (Eastern Portion) Without Roof Rights of Freehold Built Up Residential Property Bearing Plot No. 11, Block-B, Vatik Business Park, Sohna Road, Gurugram-122018, vide Sale Deed dated 18.06.2009, bearing Doc. No. 7143. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said floor/property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said floor/property. If anybody has any objection/s on the ownership of above owner to the said floor/property, as well as mortgage, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Shri Prem Singh S/o Gopi Singh and her wife Smt. Yamuna Devi both resident of A-302, A block, New Ashok Nagar, near Shiv Mandir, Gali No. 23, Delhi - 110068 have severed all their relations with their son Mr. Sanjay Kumar, due to his bad habits and misbehaviour. Both of my above-named clients have disowned and disbarred his / her son from all their movable and immovable properties. My client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever for his deeds and acts herewith. Any one dealing with their son Mr. Sanjay Kumar will do so at his / her / their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Mr. Sanjay Kumar.

THE BIRLA COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING MILLS LIMITED

Regd Office: Mezzanine Floor, Hindustan Times House, 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110 001; CIN: L65100DL1920PLC009621, Phone:011- 66561206 Email: secretarial.hr@rediffmail.com or www.birlacotton.com. Notice is hereby given that the 127th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of the Company will be held on Friday, 29th September, 2023 at 11:30 A.M. at the Registered Office of the Company at Hindustan Times House, Mezzanine Floor, 18-20, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001 to transact the business set out in the notice convening the AGM.

FOR ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Date : 01.09.2023 Place : New Delhi Company Secretary, Membership No. 8991. For Addi Industries Limited Sd/- Taranjeet Kaur Company Secretary, Membership No. 8991

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT

Admission Notice for BPT, BMLT & B.Sc Medical (APB) Courses, session 2023. For vacant seats, fresh online applications through University website alongwith requisite registration fee are invited w.e.f 02-09-2023 to 06-09-2023 from eligible candidates for admission to Bachelor of Physiotherapy, Bachelor in Medical Laboratory Technology & B.Sc Medical (Anatomy, Physiology & Biochemistry) Courses, session 2023.

NOTICE

Locker hired by Ms. Vandana Sethi /Mr. Kuldeep Sethi having address at C-1021 Sector-49 Sainik Colony Faridabad 121001 with Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at 5E/1BP, Railway Road, NIT Faridabad Haryana - 121001 remains un-operated for the past 4 years.

NOTICE

Notice is further given that in compliance with the Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2014, the Company is pleased to provide its members the facility to exercise their right to vote at the AGM on the resolution mentioned in the AGM notice by electronic means. The facility of casting votes using an electronic voting system from a place other than the venue of the AGM ("remote e-voting") is being provided to the members by Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL). The notice of the meeting and instruction for remote e-voting have been sent to all members at their registered addresses.

verka

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34/A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66. Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop. e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items: Sr No, Name of Work/Item, Period/Tentative City. 1. For Verka Mohali Dairy, 02 No's (No. of vehicles may increased or decreased). 2. For Verka Lughiana Dairy, Half yearly & one time basis. 3. For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy, 01 no. 30000 lit to 50000 litr per day. 4. For Verka Patiala Dairy, Annual/03 tanker.

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED

CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779. Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi - 110091; Corporate Office: Block C, Sector 45, Gurgaon-122003. Tel. No: (+91-11) 49482870; Fax: (+91-11) 49482900. Email: info@kamaholdings.com website: www.kamaholdings.com. Notice is hereby given that Certificates pertaining to Shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company:-

NOTICE

All the 3 letters sent to Ms. Vandana Sethi /Mr. Kuldeep Sethi calling upon them to operate the locker has returned un-served and they are not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by Ms. Vandana Sethi /Mr. Kuldeep Sethi within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m

Pak EC to complete process of delimitation by Nov 30

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Pakistan's election commission on Friday announced that the delimitation of constituencies will be finalised by November 30 to ensure polls are held "as soon as possible", amid mounting pressure from political parties pressing for timely elections in the cash-strapped country.
The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said a date for the elections will be announced keeping in view the schedule for the delimitation process.
It said the purpose of squeezing the duration of the delimitation process after holding consultations with political parties.
"The purpose of reducing the time frame of delimitation is to hold elections as soon as possible," the ECP said in a statement.
General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan within 90 days after the dissolution of the National

Assembly, which was prematurely dissolved on August 9.
The previous government just days before the end of its term announced that the elections could take place only after a new census was completed and new constituency boundaries were drawn.
The move triggered fears that the polls meant to be held within 90 days may be delayed till next year as the delimitation process would take about four months to complete.
The ECP's announcement allays those fears that the elections which should be held by November 9 could be delayed for several months.
The ECP announced last month that it would complete the delimitation exercise by December 14 and elections would be held after that.
The decision to shorten the timeframe of the delimitation comes amid mounting pressure on the ECP from several political parties that pressed for timely elections.
The Constitution also pro-

vides that the ECP should complete the delimitation process within 120 days. The election body would be in violation of the Constitution if the elections are not held within 90 days or new electoral districts are not marked.
Apparently, it cannot meet both requirements at the same time unless it completes the process of delimitation in the shortest time and holds elections before November 9.
There is also a possibility of President Arif Alvi unilaterally announcing a date for polls.
Though opinion is divided on the issue of who is empowered to announce such a date after the latest tweaks on the law empowered the ECP to determine the date, experts still believe that Alvi has the power to announce the polls.
Separately, President Alvi would likely defy the opinions of the ECP and the law ministry as he was contemplating announcing the date for the next general elections, sources familiar with the development

told The Express Tribune newspaper.
According to the sources, the president might make the announcement as soon as he completes consultations with his legal aides.
The sources expected that the president would write another letter to the ECP, suggesting a date in November for the elections.
The sources said that President Alvi had been advised by his legal team that an act of Parliament could not override the provisions of the Constitution and that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) failed to produce Elahi in the court on one pretext or another despite strong orders issued by the Court, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.
"The LHC has ordered authorities to immediately release former Punjab chief minister Pervez Elahi," the report said.
Expressing displeasure over the NAB and the Punjab provincial government's conduct,

Court orders release of Imran's party president

PTI ■ LAHORE
A Pakistani court on Friday ordered the immediate release of the president of former prime minister Imran Khan's party, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, from the custody of the anti-graft agency in a corruption case, and warned it against arresting the former Punjab chief minister in any other case, according to media reports.
Justice Amjad Rafiq of the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the release of the President of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) failed to produce Elahi in the court on one pretext or another despite strong orders issued by the Court, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.
"The LHC has ordered authorities to immediately release former Punjab chief minister Pervez Elahi," the report said.
Expressing displeasure over the NAB and the Punjab provincial government's conduct,

Justice Rafiq remarked that the high court is being undermined.
"Stop playing ping-pong with the court," he said in the order and instructed an inquiry to be conducted into his arrest in violation of court orders.
Elahi, 77, is among several PTI leaders and workers who have been arrested amid the state's crackdown on the PTI leadership following the May 9 riots during protests over party chief Khan being whisked away by paramilitary personnel at the Islamabad High Court premises. He was first arrested on June 1 but was deprived of his freedom repeatedly and dragged in on several graft cases. The PTI president's most recent arrest, by the NAB on August 14, was in a case of allegedly receiving bribes/kickbacks in exchange for getting the "contracts of road schemes of Gujrat Highways Division awarded to favourite/hand-picked contractors. His custody was extended till September 2.
During the proceedings on Friday, Additional Advocate

General Ghulam Sarwar Nihang initiated his argument by stating that they could not obtain the court order passed to present Elahi in the court and then read a letter from the provincial caretaker government, wherein the court was informed that the armed forces and the Punjab Police were busy with anti-terrorism operations. He further said that armoured vehicles are also not available and added that the CTD had reported that there are threats to the lives of the politicians, including Elahi's.
Following the court's order, Elahi was released from the custody of NAB.
Talking to reporters after his release on Friday, Elahi held the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) responsible for the current state of the economy. "All of them have run off to London after ruining the economy," he was quoted as saying in a report by the Dawn news website. "They have kept me inside, I don't even know what is happening in the country," the PTI president added.

Thailand's king reduces prison term of ex-PM Shinawatra

Bangkok (AP): Thailand's king on Friday reduced the prison term of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra from eight years to a single year following the divisive politician's return from 15 years of self-imposed exile. The decision by King Maha Vajiralongkorn was published in the Royal Gazette, making it effective immediately. Thailand is a constitutional monarchy, giving the king the final word on pardons of convicted criminals.
The decree granting Thaksin, 74, royal clemency said the action was taken so he could use his knowledge and abilities to help the nation and its people. Deputy Prime Minister Wisanu Krea-ngam, who is also acting justice minister, said on Thursday he had received a letter from Thaksin requesting a royal pardon, mainly on medical grounds.
Thaksin was ousted as prime minister in a military coup in 2006 and accused of corruption, abuse of power and disrespecting the monarchy. He fled Thailand in 2008 when he faced prison time on charges he described as politically motivated.
By promoting populist policies and using his telecommunications fortune to build his own political party, he had been elected prime minister in 2001 and was reelected in 2005. Thailand's traditional royalist ruling class felt threatened by his popularity. His ouster set off years of sometimes violent confrontations between his supporters and opponents. Political parties with his backing continued to win elections, but were forced from power several times by the courts and the army, both bulwarks of royalism.
He returned to Thailand last week and was immediately sent to prison, but was quickly transferred to a hospital because of what was described as his frail health. The prison said Thaksin had high blood pressure and low oxygen, could not sleep well and felt tightness in his chest. It is widely believed that Thaksin returned out of hope that a new government friendly to him would reduce his sentence, and that he may have made a deal with authorities.

Sri Lanka ends fuel rationing imposed at peak of eco crisis

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka has formally announced an end to the fuel rationing scheme imposed one year ago during the height of the unprecedented economic crisis, a senior minister said on Friday, hinting at an improvement in the island nation's economy. Energy minister Kanachana Wijesekera said the QR-based fuel rationing system, imposed in August 2022, when Sri Lanka plunged into its worst economic crisis since 1948, would be discontinued from Friday. Under the rationing system, registered consumers at filling stations were guaranteed a weekly quota. Sri Lanka announced its first-ever sovereign default in April 2022 and faced its worst economic crisis in history due to a shortage of foreign exchange reserves.
The unprecedented forex shortages meant that the imports of fuel and essentials became harder, causing miles-long queues. More than 20 people died from exhaustion at fuel queues when the rationing began. The QR-coded rationing system came into effect in August last year. It was priced to be an instant success, with queues disappearing with the demand dropping. The authorities then blamed stockpiling as the reason for long queues leading to an unscrupulous black market. Cash-strapped Sri Lanka was then solely dependent on Indian supplies of fuel through an Indian credit line. The Indian credit lines for fuel and essential imports provided relief to the public protesting against the government for its mishandling of the nation's economy.

Expecting USD 60-70 bn foreign investment in 3-5 years: Kakar

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Claiming that "there was a huge appetite for investment in Pakistan," Interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said an estimated USD 60-70 billion foreign investment was expected in the country over the next three to five years. The investment was expected under the government's new initiative of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), a civil-military joint initiative launched by the previous government, Kakar told journalists.
"There are also pledges and promises of additional investments the country can receive totalling nearly the same amount... we have to design and submit the diversified projects," he said, adding, "There was a huge appetite for investment in Pakistan."
According to some esti-

mates, he said, Pakistan has mines and minerals worth USD 5-6 trillion. The reserves at Reko Diq in Balochistan alone have a worth of USD 700 billion, he said, adding, "We are moving towards realizing this potential." The caretaker prime minister said there was a plan to exploit the vast potential in the agriculture sector. He also talked about the potential in the IT sector and defence production. Kakar said the SIFC has also developed a website where updated information is available about current joint ventures, as well as where the potential for future investments lies.
The initiative would help to realise the potential in areas such as mines and minerals, agriculture, Information Technology and defence production. "We took the initiative of SIFC to realise this potential and we are going in the right direction as far as scientific

methods and financial models are concerned," he said.
He highlighted that Pakistan had huge land that could be used for agricultural purposes and could serve half of the Asian population's food requirements. He rejected the impression that there was a shortage of water to irrigate the barren land across the country.
The core responsibility of the caretaker government was to facilitate elections across the country, he said and declared, "But, the government would also try to improve the taxation mechanism and address other economic challenges." Asserting that the economic migration was not a new phenomenon and that people were leaving the country for a better future, Kakar said, "They would also contribute to Pakistan's economy in future. Therefore, it should not be considered a brain drain."



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, center, speaks with German astronauts Matthias Maurer, right, and Alexander Gerst inside a model of the Columbus module at the Neutral Bouyancy Facility during a visit to ESA's European Astronaut Centre (EAC) in Cologne, western Germany, on Friday. AP/PTI

Pope arrives on first Mongolia visit

Ulaanbaatar (AP): Pope Francis arrived in Mongolia on Friday morning to encourage one of the world's smallest and newest Catholic communities.
It's the first time a pope has visited the landlocked Asian country and comes at a time when the Vatican's relations with Mongolia's two powerful neighbours, Russia and China, are once again strained.
Francis arrived in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar after an overnight flight passing through Chinese airspace, affording the pontiff a rare opportunity to send a note of greetings to President Xi Jinping.
Vatican protocol calls for

the pope to send such greetings whenever he flies over a foreign country.
In his message to Xi, Francis expressed "greetings of good wishes to your excellency and the people of China."
"Assuring you of my prayers for the wellbeing of the nation, I invoke upon all of you the divine blessings of unity and peace," Francis said.
Despite strains in the relationship, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the greeting showed "friendliness and goodwill."
"China is willing to continue to walk in the same direction with the Vatican, conduct

constructive dialogues, enhance understanding, accumulate mutual trust, and promote the process of improving the relationship of the two sides," Wang said at a daily briefing.
Upon arrival, Francis, who uses a wheelchair, was met on the tarmac by helmeted honor guards along with Mongolia's foreign minister and was offered a taste of dried yoghurt from a woman in traditional dress, in a sign of welcome.
He made no public comments. Along with priests and others gathered on the tarmac, several dozen watched his arrival from the airport terminal.

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by **Mr. Arjun Grover/Ms. Sangeeta Grover** having address at **C-957 2nd Floor Sainik Colony Sector - 49, Faridabad Haryana 121001** with Branch of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **5E/18P, Railway Road, NIT Faridabad Haryana - 121001** remains un-operated for the past 4 years.

All the 3 letters sent to **Mr. Arjun Grover/Ms. Sangeeta Grover** calling upon them to operate the locker has returned unserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Mr. Arjun Grover/Ms. Sangeeta Grover** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m**

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by **Ms. Poonam Devi/Mr. Inderjeet** having address at **H No 294 A Block SGM Nagar NIT Faridabad 121001 Haryana** with Branch of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **5E/18P, Railway Road, NIT Faridabad Haryana - 121001** remains un-operated for the past 5 years.

All the 3 letters sent to **Ms. Poonam Devi/Mr. Inderjeet** calling upon them to operate the locker has returned unserved and they are not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Ms. Poonam Devi/Mr. Inderjeet** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m**

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by **Ms. Sushma** having address at **5 M 7 NIT, FARIDABAD 121001 Haryana** with Branch of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **5E/18P, Railway Road, NIT Faridabad Haryana - 121001** remains un-operated for the past 5 years.

All the 3 letters sent to **Ms. Sushma** calling upon her to operate the locker has returned unserved and she is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Ms. Sushma** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m**

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker hired by **Ms. Usha Marwaha** having address at **C/O Urastan Metal Industries Plot No 125 DLF Area Phase 1 Faridabad 121003 Haryana** with Branch of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.** situated at **5E/18P, Railway Road, NIT Faridabad Haryana - 121001** remains un-operated for the past 7 years.

All the 3 letters sent to **Ms. Usha Marwaha** calling upon her to operate the locker has returned unserved and she is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker is not operated by **Ms. Usha Marwaha** within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on **November 30, 2023 at around 12 p.m**

CORRIGENDUM Dated 31st August, 2023

No. SS/CW/Tender/23-24/510/2023/134 In continuation to the tender No. SS/CW/Tender/23-24/510/2023/130 dated 19th August 2023 published in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in. It is for information of the intended bidders that, the following works group are re-arranged due to administrative reasons:

Originally published as:

Sl	Name of work	Approximate value of work (in lakh)	Time of completion (in month)	Earnest Money Deposit		Tender fee (in Rs.)
				General (in Rs.)	Reserved category (in Rs.)	
Group-59	Construction of additional classroom in the following schools: Dakhin Borchala High School under Dhekiajuli block - (4nos.) Missamari Hss under Dhekiajuli block - (3nos.) Narengkhali Hss under Dhekiajuli block - (4nos.) in Sonitpur district	Rs. 196.90	6	393800.00	196900.00	3938.00
Group-60	Construction of additional classroom in the following schools: Rangagora Hs School under Dhekiajuli block - (3nos.) Singri Hss under Dhekiajuli block - (4nos.) Surjodoi Hs under Gabharu block - (3nos.) Thelamara Hs School under Gabharu block - (4nos.) in Sonitpur district	Rs. 250.60	6	501200.00	250600.00	5012.00

The re-arranged group is to be published as:

Sl	Name of work	Approximate value of work (in lakh)	Time of completion (in month)	Earnest Money Deposit		Tender fee (in Rs.)
				General (in Rs.)	Reserved category (in Rs.)	
Group-59	Construction of additional classroom in the following schools: Missamari Hss under Dhekiajuli block - (3nos.) Narengkhali Hss under Dhekiajuli block - (4nos.) Surjodoi Hs under Gabharu block - (3nos.) Thelamara Hs School under Gabharu block - (4nos.) in Sonitpur district	Rs. 250.60	6	501200.00	250600.00	5012.00
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Other terms & conditions of the tender will remain same

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha Assam,
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2495/23/ 2-Sep-2023

MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED
CIN : L67120DL1982PLC047890
Regd. Office : 10-A, UNDER HILL LANE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054
Contact No. : 011-47087300, 011-23930655,
E-mail id : mymoneyviews@outlook.com, www.mymoneyviews.com

INFORMATION REGARDING 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED

Members are requested to note that the Thirty Second (32nd) Annual General Meeting (AGM) of My Money Securities Limited ("the Company") will be held on Saturday, 30th September, 2023 at 05:00 P.M. (IST) through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means (VCOAVM) to transact the business as set out in the Notice convening the 32nd AGM.

The 32nd AGM will be held in compliance with the MCA General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08 April 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13 April 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated 06 May 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13 January 2021, Circular No. 19/2021 dated 08 December 2021, Circular No. 21/2021 dated 14 December 2021, Circular No. 2/2022 dated 05 May 2022 and Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 2022 respectively, relevant provisions of the Companies Act 2013 and the rules made thereunder and SEBI Circular dated May 12, 2020, SEBI Circular dated January 15, 2021, 13 May 2022 and 5 January 2023 read along with the applicable provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) 2015 (collectively referred to as "Circulars").

In accordance with the aforesaid Circulars, the Notice and Annual Report will be sent only through electronic mode to those members, whose email addresses are registered with the Company/RTA or with the respective Depository Participants. Members may note that the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report 2023 will also be available on the Company's website (www.mymoneyviews.com), the website of the stock exchange (www.bseindia.com), and NSDL (agency for providing remote e-voting facility) at the AGM i.e. www.evoting.nsdl.com. The instructions for joining the AGM and the manner of participation in the remote electronic voting or casting vote through e-voting system during AGM shall be outlined for reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act. Members who have not registered their e-mail address are requested to register the same in respect of shares held in electronic form with the Depository through Depository Participants (DPs) and in respect of the shares held in physical form by sending e-mail/writing to the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agents ("RTA"), Mas Services Limited, T-34 2nd Floor Okhla Industrial Area Phase II New Delhi 110020. Members are also requested to update their other details like PAN, Bank Details etc. through DPs or RTA.

Members holding shares in physical form or demat form, who have not registered their e-mail addresses with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent ("RTA") or Depository Participants can obtain the Notice of the 32nd AGM and Annual Report 2022-23 and for can attend the AGM through VCOAVM by sending an email to evoting@nsdl.co.in or Company's email id mymoneyviews@outlook.com. The Company will provide the facility to its members to exercise their rights to vote by electronic means both through remote e-voting and e-voting at AGM. The instructions on the process of e-voting, including the manner in which the members holding share in Physical form or members who have not registered their e-mail address can cast their votes through e-voting will be provided as a part of the Notice of 32nd AGM.

Members are requested to read carefully all the notes set out in the Notice of 32nd AGM and in particular the instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting votes through remote e-voting and e-voting at the time of AGM.

This advertisement is being issued for the information and benefit of all members of the Company in compliance with the MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars.

By order of the Board
For My Money Securities Limited
Sd/-
Vikas Seth
Managing Director

Place: Delhi
Date: 01.09.2023

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995
Regd. Off: NS-52, Khasra No-33/21, Ranaj Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Jark Park Bus Stand, New Delhi -110043 Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.superiorfinlease.com>; Phone No.: +91-9953798335

NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ATTENTION OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY IN RESPECT OF INFORMATION REGARDING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, 2023 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING (VCO) / OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL MEANS ("OAVM")

1. Shareholders may note that the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through Video conferencing (VC)/Other Audio-visual means ("OAVM") on Friday, 29th September, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. IST in compliance with General Circular numbers 20/2020, 14/2020, 17/2020 and all other applicable laws and circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), to transact the business that will be set forth in the Notice of the Meeting.

2. In compliance with the above circulars, electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM will be sent to all the shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depository Participant(s). The notice of the AGM will also be made available on the Company's website, at <http://www.superiorfinlease.com>, BSE website, at <https://www.bseindia.com/> and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited, website at <https://www.mseil.in/>.

3. Manner for registering email addresses:

- In case shares are held in Physical mode, please send a request to the Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company i.e. Skyline Financial Services Private Limited ("RTA") at info@skylinefin.com providing folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self-attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAR (self-attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address.
- In case shares are held in dematerialized mode, please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address and bank account details in your demat account, as per the process advised by your DP.

4. Manner of casting vote through e-voting:
Shareholders will have an opportunity to cast their vote remotely on the business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system. The manner of voting remotely for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses will be provided in the Notice to the shareholders which will also be made available on the website of the Company.

5. The Notice of the AGM will be sent to the shareholders in accordance with the applicable laws on their registered email address in due course.

For Superior Finlease Limited
Sd/-
Pragati Agrawal
(Company Secretary)

Date : August 31, 2023
Place : New Delhi

Moody's raises India's growth forecast to 6.7 per cent for 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Friday raised India's growth projection for 2023 calendar year to 6.7 per cent citing upside to growth performance helped up robust underlying economic momentum.

In the Global Macro Outlook 2023-24 (August update), Moody's said strong services expansion and capital expenditures have propelled India's 7.8 per cent real GDP growth in the second (April-June) quarter from a year ago.

"Given the robust underlying economic momentum, we also recognise further upside risk to India's economic growth performance, Moody's said while raising its 2023 calendar year growth forecast for India to 6.7 per cent, from 5.5 per cent.

The global rating agency, however, lowered 2024 growth forecast to 6.1 per cent from 6.5 per cent, citing a high base of 2023.

India's monsoon season which runs from June to



October could also see below average rainfall, resulting in higher food prices. As of August 29, the India Meteorological Department has estimated a 9 per cent rain deficiency across the country.

If El Niño this year proves to be particularly strong in the second half of 2023 and early 2024, agricultural commodity prices could shoot up, Moody's added.

The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee left the repo rate unchanged for a third time in August.

The recent uptick in food price inflation and uncertain El

2023 and 2.1 per cent in 2024, from 2.7 per cent in 2022".

With regard to growth in China, Moody's said the economy is facing "considerable growth challenges, causing us to cut our 2024 growth expectations. We have lowered our growth expectation for 2024 to 4 per cent from 4.5 per cent".

"This expectation assumes a stabilization and turnaround of economic indicators with modest support from authorities. We recognize, however, that there are significant downside risks to growth and that policy measures may prove inadequate to prevent further deterioration," Moody's added.

Economic activity in the first half of 2023 outpaced our expectations in multiple countries, including India, Moody's said. Moody's had last month affirmed India's sovereign rating at 'Baa3' — the lowest investment grade.

Earlier this year, Moody's had projected economic growth in 2023-24 fiscal (April-March) at 6.1 per cent, lower than 7.2 per cent clocked in 2022-23.



'93 per cent of ₹2,000 notes returned to banks'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said that as much as 93 per cent of Rs 2000 currency notes that were in circulation on May 19 — the day when the currency was withdrawn from circulation — have been returned to banks. According to the data received from the banks, the total value of Rs 2000 banknotes received back from circulation is Rs 3,32 lakh crore up to August 31, 2023, it said in a statement.

"Consequently, Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as at the close of business on August 31, 2023 stood at Rs 0.24 lakh crore. Thus, 93 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have since been returned," it said.

Data collected from major

banks indicates that out of the total banknotes in Rs 2000 denomination received back from circulation, about 87 per cent is in the form of deposits and the remaining around 13 per cent has been exchanged into other denomination banknotes.

The Reserve Bank of India had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023.

The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.62 lakh crore on March 31, 2023, had declined to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business on May 19, 2023. RBI requested the members of the public holding the high-value banknote to utilise the remaining period until September 30, 2023, to deposit and/or exchange them.

Investments via P-notes rise to ₹1.23 lakh crore in July-end

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes rose to close to a six-year high at Rs 1.23 lakh crore in July-end, making it the fifth consecutive monthly increase, on the back of stable macroeconomic fundamentals.

The amount has reached the highest level since December 2017 — when investment through the route stood at Rs 1.25 lakh crore, data with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed.

The latest data includes the value of P-note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities.

Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.

They, however, need to go through a due-diligence process. According to Sebi data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets — equity, debt,

and hybrid securities — stood at Rs 1,22,805 crore at the end of July as compared to 1,13,291 a month earlier.

In comparison, investment through the route was Rs 1,04,585 crore in May-end, Rs 95,911 crore in April-end, Rs 88,600 crore in March-end, Rs 88,398 crore in February-end and Rs 91,469 crore in January-end.

The growth in P-notes generally aligns with the trend in FPI flows. When there is a global risk to the environment, investment through this route increases, and vice-versa.

Market analysts said one of the prime factors for the growth in P-notes investments is the stable Indian economy amid an uncertain global macro backdrop. Additionally, the slowdown in the Chinese economy has led investors to shift their focus towards India.

Of the total Rs 1.22 lakh crore invested through this route till July, Rs 1.13 lakh crore was invested in equities, Rs 9,531 crore in debt and Rs 299 crore in hybrid securities.

GST collection rises 11 per cent to ₹1.59 lakh crore in August on improved compliance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections grew by 11 per cent to over Rs 1.59 lakh crore in August on the back of improved compliance and reduced evasion.

The gross GST revenue collected in August 2023 is Rs 1,59,069 crore of which Central GST is Rs 28,328 crore, State GST is Rs 35,794 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 83,251 crore (including Rs 43,550 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 11,695 crore (including Rs 1,016 crore collected on import of goods).

"The revenues for the month of August 2023 are 11 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenue from import of goods was 3 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transactions

(including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection was over Rs 1.43 lakh crore in August 2022. Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said GST collections have grown more than nominal GDP growth rate in the April-June quarter despite no increase in tax rates.

"This is because of better compliance and improved tax collection efficiency," Malhotra said, adding tax evasion and avoidance too have been low.

KPMG Partner and National Head Indirect Taxes Abhishek Jain said with the approaching festive season GST collections are expected to be better in the coming months.

Rupee settles flat at 82.70 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

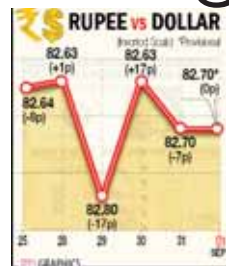
The rupee ended on a flat note at 82.70 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday as surging crude oil prices dented the investor sentiment.

The domestic currency, however, found support from positive sentiment in equity markets on the back of robust macroeconomic data.

According to a survey released on Friday, manufacturing activities in India gained momentum in August as new orders and output increased at the quickest rates in nearly three years.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 58.6 in August from 57.7 in July.

The latest government data released on Thursday showed India



recorded GDP growth of 7.8 per cent during the April-June period of 2023-24, the highest in the past four quarters, retaining its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 82.58 and touched the lowest level of 82.76 during intra-day trade. The Indian currency finally settled flat at Thursday's closing level of 82.70 (provisional) against the greenback. The American currency stayed firm tracking cues from positive GDP numbers in the US while forex traders awaited employment and manufacturing growth numbers.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said: "We expect rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on rising US dollar and surge in crude oil prices. However, rise in risk appetite in global markets may support rupee at lower levels."

Sensex, Nifty rally around 1 per cent on strong macro data, global cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex on Friday rallied around 556 points, logging its best single day in two months, while Nifty closed above the 19,400 level on value-buying in power, metal and oil stocks following strong domestic macro data and global cues.

The BSE barometer closed higher by 555.75 points or 0.86 per cent at 65,387.16 with 26 of its constituents ending in the green.

The index opened higher and later touched a high of 19,435.30 in day trading. It touched a low of 64,818.37.

The broader Nifty spurred by 181.50 points or 0.94 per cent to close at 19,435.30. As many as 44 Nifty stocks advanced while six declined.

NTPC was the lead gainer among Sensex stocks, rising by 4.84 per cent.

JSW Steel (3.37 per cent), Tata Steel (3.33 per cent), Maruti (3.24 per cent), Power Grid (3.07 per cent), IndusInd Bank (2.95 per cent), Bajaj Finance (2.12 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (2.22 per cent) were among major gainers.

On the other hand, Ultratech Cement, Sun Pharma, Nestle and L&T were the losers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "Domestic markets made significant gains, buoyed by favourable global cues, a higher-than-expected domestic manufacturing PMI, and positive GDP growth data."



Religare Broking Ltd, said. In the broader market, both BSE Midcap and SmallCap rose by 0.75 per cent each.

All the sectoral indices except for healthcare closed with gains.

BSE Metal rose the most by 3.32 per cent, followed by Utilities by 3.09 per cent, Telecom (2.73 per cent), Power (2.73 per cent), Oil & Gas (1.85 per cent), Auto (1.58 per cent), Commodities (1.57 per cent), Energy (1.48 per cent) and IT (1.02 per cent).

Healthcare declined 0.6 per cent. Overall market breadth was positive as 2,183 stocks advanced, 1,479 stocks declined and 124 stocks closed unchanged. As many as 281 stocks hit their 52-week high levels while 22 scrips traded at 52-week lows.

In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5 per cent, France's CAC 40 edged up nearly 0.1 per cent while Germany's DAX was little changed. Gains in US futures supported the positive sentiment. Dow futures was up 0.3 per cent and S&P 500 futures rose 0.2 per cent.

Among Asian markets, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.3 per cent, South Korea's Kospi added 0.3 per cent and the Shanghai Composite added 0.4 per cent.

Global oil price benchmark Brent Crude futures surged 1.26 per cent to USD 87.92 per barrel.

On Thursday, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers of domestic equities as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,973.10 crore, as per exchange data.

Amazon excited about India; sees huge headroom for e-com market growth: Country Head



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce giant Amazon is "excited" about India market, charged by digitisation, economic growth and younger demographics, its country head Manish Tiwary has said asserting that the runway on e-commerce opportunity in the country "is huge" going forward.

In an interview with PTI, Tiwary, who is the Country Manager Consumer Business at Amazon India, spoke about "a very clear calendar" for making business here profitable, and assured that the company is on track with its 2025 targets.

Amazon, which recently marked its 10-year journey in India and has a 100 million-plus customer base, still considers it 'day zero' here, given a massive runway for growth in this largely under-penetrated market.

The company is committed to tapping the market potential and bringing new innovations to the fore, he said.

Tiwary described India's e-commerce market as "exciting and attractive" and went on to say that "headroom is not a challenge for this industry, at least for the next few decades" so long as the focus is on getting the "customer and seller basics" right. "Worldwide for us...India continues to be a very exciting market...So worldwide Amazon is very focused and continues to be super excited with

India," he pointed out. Amazon's optimism about India e-commerce prospects is backed by the pace of economic growth, digitisation, mobile and internet penetration, and most recently the 5G adoption.

"I can't think of too many markets of this size which can have this kind of potential," he said.

Asked about the path to profitability and steps taken towards that goal, Tiwary said just as with any business, the company has a certain timeframe in which it expects to turn profitable on various markers.

"The good news is, India business is meeting all those relevant markers on profitability as we go along," he said, explaining that the company undertakes continuous review of its portfolio.

Based on such portfolio assessment, it doubles down on ideas that work well and slowly withdraws from those that don't. "As far as the core profitability is concerned, we are very happy with how we are meeting the markers on that journey...Let me assure you there's a very clear calendar on how we plan to make this business profitable," he said.

A surge in online users and smartphone penetration alongside rising household incomes has fuelled a meteoric growth of India's e-commerce sector. As per FIS' 2023 Global Payments Report released earlier this year, India's e-commerce market is projected to grow to USD 150 billion in 2026 from USD 83 billion in 2022. According to a Redseer report, Indian e-commerce is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27 per cent to reach USD 163 billion by 2026, nearly three times the growth of the overall retail market.



Mahindra sales rise 19 per cent to 70,350 units in August

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Friday said its total automotive wholesales increased by 19 per cent to 70,350 units in August.

The company's total dispatches to dealers stood at 59,049 units in August 2022.

The Mumbai-based auto major's passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market rose by 25 per cent to 37,270 units last month as against 29,852 units in August last year, the auto major said in a statement.

"We clocked our highest-ever SUV domestic sales of 37,270 (units) in a month with a growth of 26 per cent...While demand for our key SUV brands continue to be strong, we are keeping a close watch on the availability of semiconductors and select parts, for sustained and smooth scale up," M&M President, Automotive Division Veejay Nakra said.

The company reported a 17 per cent year-on-year decline in exports at 2,423 units in August.

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED

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BSE Trading Symbol: COSCO

INFORMATION REGARDING 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE ("VC")/OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL MEANS ("OAVM")

44th Annual General Meeting: Shareholders may note that the 44th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through VC/OAVM on Saturday, 30th September, 2023 at 12:00 Noon (IST), in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules issued thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circulars Nos. 20/2020 dated 5th May, 2020, 10/2022 dated 28th December, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") and Circulars Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated 13th May, 2022, SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated 5th January, 2023 issued by SEBI, along with other applicable Circulars issued in this regard by the MCA and SEBI, to transact the business(es) that will be set forth in the Notice of the AGM.

In compliance with the above Circulars, the Company will be sending electronics copies of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 to all the shareholders whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent/Depository Participant(s) ("DP"). The Notice of 44th AGM Notice and Annual Report for the Financial year 2022-23 will also be made available on the Company's website www.cosco.in, on the website of the Stock Exchange BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com where the equity shares of the Company are listed. And AGM Notice will also be available on the website of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com

Remote e-Voting Information Remote e-Voting facility ("remote e-Voting") is provided to the shareholders to cast their vote on restrictions which are set out in the Notice of the AGM. Shareholders have the option to either cast their vote using the remote e-Voting facility prior to the AGM or e-Voting during the AGM. Detailed Instructions for remote e-Voting/e-Voting during the AGM will be provided in the Notice of the AGM to the shareholders of the Company.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") for Shareholders and e-Voting user manual for shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on nos. 022-4886 7000 and 022-2499 7000 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mahatre, Senior Manager, NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in

Shareholders who wish to register their e-mail address and/or update bank account mandate to receive company communication/dividend, are requested to please follow the following instructions:

For Shares held in electronic mode	Register/update the details in your demat account, as per the process advice by your DP; and
For Shares held in Physical form	Register/update the details in the prescribed FORM ISR-1 with Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company M/s Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., Pursuant to the SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD-PoD-1/P/CIR/2023/37 dated 16th March, 2023 the Company has sent letters to the shareholders holding shares in the physical form to furnish the KYC details which are not registered in their respective folios.

Further the shareholder can also access the relevant forms on Company's website at https://www.cosco.in/investors/holder-of-physical-securities.

This notice is used for the information and benefit of all the members of the Company and is in accordance with the applicable circulars of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Place: Delhi
Date: 31st August, 2023

For Cosco (India) Limited
Sd/-
Devinder Kumar
Managing Director and CEO

SRF LIMITED

Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091
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E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	SRF0048200	ANIL AGARWAL	1130417	310197798-8037	240
			90100543-44	9984470-529	60
2	SRF0028155	ARCHANA ANIL SARMALKAR ANIL DHANAJI SARMALKAR	363707-10	16950007-42	36
			512707-10	24969799-834	36
			648221-23	43207837-916	80
			747057	61801344-45	2
			774551-52	65086541-43	3
3	SRF0049182	HAKIM SINGH CHANDELE PRABHA CHANDELE	1128505	309477234-8105	872
			90061318	8782982-3017	36
			90187722	14853945-69	25
			654802-09	43383667-894	228
			146311	5842646-61	16
4	S 0007056	SHIRIN SEN	490994-97	24575440-68	29
			977073	18605623-26	4
			1125956	308414290-485	196
			379688-90	17210094-150	57
			528688-90	25229886-942	57
5	SRF0041590	CHITRA KHILNANI	1128585	309506030-885	856
			90087107-09	9572888-985	100
			1129028	309666814-7413	600
			378635-37	17191745-819	75
			527635-37	25211537-611	75
6	SRF0040664	S GANESH KUMAR S KAMAKSHI	378635-37	17191745-819	75
			90196353	15171660-709	50
			90085263-265	90085263-105	100
			90196353	15171660-709	50
			90196354	15171710-59	50
7	R 0004538	RAMNI BHALLA	49948	2701678-700	25
			76470	3560716-23	8
			141393	5727470-85	16
			1124758	308044746-69	324
			90035546	7436562-93	32
8	S 0002715	RAM KAKKAR	144321	5805518-35	18
			339349-50	16507100-114	15
			488349-50	2452892-906	15
			976882	18600122-57	36
			90038499	7540830-65	36
9	SRF0040665	K SUNDARARAJAN	90173149	13045930-69	40
			90173149	13045930-69	40

Any person having any claim/objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for SRF LIMITED
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram
Date: 01-09-2023

RISING STAR PALMER PERFECT FOR CHELSEA PROJECT, SAYS POCHETTINO



AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino said new signing Cole Palmer fits perfectly into the Blues' "project" to invest heavily in young players after joining from Manchester City on Friday in a deal worth an initial £40 million (\$50 million). Palmer has agreed a seven-year contract with Chelsea, who have a club option of a further 12-month extension, and could pay City an extra £2.5 million in add-on clauses.

City were keen to keep Palmer, but the size of Chelsea's offer eventually persuaded them to cash in on a rising star who was keen for more regular first-team opportunities. The 21-year-old's arrival takes Chelsea's spending on players to over £1 billion in little over a year since a consortium fronted by LA Dodgers co-owner Todd Boehly took control of the club. Much of that has been spent on tying down highly-rated prospects to lengthy contracts as Boehly bets on

beating the market in the long run. "I think he's a fit for the project," said Pochettino. "He's a young, talented player. He decided to come because he expects to play maybe more and be important here. "But that's not the most important thing. The most important is that he sees Chelsea as a project for him, and to improve his game, and to be more involved every single game. "The quality is there, there is great potential. Now he needs to settle here and prove

and show that he's better than his teammates and that he deserves to play. He has to fight for his place. "Do something special" Palmer scored in both the Community Shield and UEFA Super Cup last month as Riyadh Mahrez's departure from City looked to have opened the door to more first-team minutes under Pep Guardiola. But the winger said he believed Chelsea would provide him with the platform to develop.

"I'm excited to get started and it feels great to sign," said Palmer, who could make his debut at home to Nottingham Forest on Saturday. "I've joined Chelsea because the project here sounds good and because of the platform I will have to try to showcase my talents. It is a young and hungry squad and, hopefully, we can do something special here."

Palmer is the 12th player to be signed by Chelsea since the end of last season, with his arrival coming after Pochettino stated he was keen to sign another forward. A graduate of the City academy, he established himself as a regular in Guardiola's squad last season, making 25 appearances in all competitions as City won the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.



Man Utd sign Turkey keeper Bayindir, loan Reguilon from Spurs

AFP ■ LONDON

Manchester United signed Turkey goalkeeper Altay Bayindir from Fenerbahce and secured the loan of Sergio Reguilon ahead of the transfer deadline on Friday. The Red Devils' business may not be over with reports they could also land Moroccan midfielder Sofyan Amrabat on loan from Fiorentina before the end of the day. Bayindir joins in a deal worth a reported £4.3 million (\$5.3 million) to back-up United's first-choice keeper Andre Onana following Dean Henderson's move to Crystal Palace this week. When Bayindir makes his United debut, he will become the first Turk to play for the Old Trafford outfit. "It is a huge honour to join Manchester United and

become the first Turkish player to represent this incredible club," Bayindir said. "I have a passion for success, and I will give everything to help this special group of players to achieve our ambitions. Bayindir has made 166 appearances in his career, with 53 clean-sheets. He joined Fenerbahce from Ankaragucu in 2019 and was a key player last season as they won the Turkish Cup and finished second in the Super Lig. Bayindir's arrival completes a close-season of change in the United goal-keeping department. David de Gea, who made 545 appearances in 12 years with United, left the club after failing to agree a new contract. Onana joined from Inter Milan for £47.2 million, joining forces with United boss

Erik ten Hag, who also coached the Cameroonian at Ajax. "Now we have the keeper group fully there," said Ten Hag. "I think we have a very good keeper group with the arrival of Altay." Reguilon's arrival from Tottenham provides emergency cover at left-back with Luke Shaw and Tyrell Malacia both sidelined by injury. The Spanish international joined Spurs from Real Madrid in 2020, but fell down the pecking order at Tottenham and spent last season on loan at Atletico Madrid. "He's a very experienced player, played for big clubs, played already a lot of games in La Liga, Premier League, so, yes, I think very good background," said Ten Hag on Reguilon, who could be thrown in for his debut away to Arsenal on Sunday.

Medvedev muscles into US Open third round

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Daniil Medvedev recovered from a mini meltdown to beat Australia's Christopher O'Connell 6-2, 6-2, 6-7 (6/8), 6-2 and reach the US Open third round. The third seed and 2021 champion looked to be cruising into the last 32 in New York for the seventh year running after moving a break up in the third set against his 69th-ranked opponent. But O'Connell hit back and then saved two match points in the tie-break as Medvedev grew increasingly rattled, the Russian double-faulting twice to send the contest to a fourth set. In a sign of Medvedev's fraying nerves he called the doctor out after the third set, sarcastically replying "Yeah, I lost the set" when asked if he was experiencing any symptoms. Medvedev regrouped and surged 4-1 ahead, saving three break points in the seventh game as O'Connell received treatment to his knee, before finally sealing victory past 1am local time Friday.



"Tough match. I don't know why but one moment in the match he decided to play much better. I don't know why was the reason, but it became much tougher for me," said Medvedev. "I had opportunities in the third (set) and I managed to use them in the fourth. "You kind of don't know when you get frustrated, you never know you could be. I felt today maybe it helped me a little bit." He next plays Argentina's Sebastian Baez, the world number 32 and winner of 12 matches in a row following his titles at Kitzbuehel and Winston-Salem.

Flu-hit 'zombie' Jabeur into US Open third round

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Ons Jabeur overcame a bout of flu that has left her feeling like a "zombie" to battle into the third round of the US Open on Thursday. The Tunisian fifth seed has struggled to produce her best form since arriving in New York, having been laid low by illness which struck on the eve of the tournament. After finding it difficult to breathe during her opening round victory on Tuesday, Jabeur once again found the going tough on Thursday, labouring to a 7-6 (9/7), 4-6, 6-3 victory over Czech teenager Linda Noskova. Jabeur, chasing a maiden Grand Slam after losing back-to-back Wimbledon finals last year and this season, as well as finishing as a runner-up at last year's US Open, revealed after her win that she has been ill for most of the past week. "I've been sick since I think Thursday," she said. "I'm taking a lot of medicine. I'm doing everything I can with my team trying to recover. "Honestly, they have amazing doctors here, so they've been helping me. Every day I'm there. Basically took every



medication they have. "We try to manage what my health is right now. I'm glad it was two matches, two tests for me. I was trying to push myself to see what I can do, getting out of the comfort zone kind of. "Hopefully will continue in a better shape and feel better for the next match." Jabeur said she had been refreshed by a well-deserved holiday after Wimbledon, but admitted: "I'm a zombie because I have a flu. "I took vacation after Wimbledon. I think that really helped me kind of take a sec-

Tearful Isner signs off with US Open loss

AFP ■ NEW YORK

John Isner brought the curtain down on his tennis career Thursday in a five-set loss to fellow American Michael Mmoh in the second round at the US Open. The 38-year-old Isner surrendered a two-set lead as world number 89 Mmoh saved a match point and came back to win 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 7-6 (10/7) in just under four hours. "It's tough," said an emotional Isner, who buried his head in his towel while soaking up the adulation of the Grandstand crowd. "This is why I've worked as hard as I have my whole life, to play in atmospheres like this. Of course I don't win them all, as we know. "Just like today, to play in front of this crowd, to have the support I have, is pretty special. "So thank you" The big-serving Isner, who famously took part in the longest tennis match ever played at the 2010 Wimbledon Championships, announced last week his plans to retire after the US Open.



Hey Jude! Alcaraz marvels at 'one of the best' Bellingham

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Carlos Alcaraz is not letting the defence of his US Open title get in the way of following his beloved Real Madrid -- and new signing Jude Bellingham's red-hot form for the Spanish giants. World number one Alcaraz esed into the third round in New York on Thursday with a 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) win over South Africa's Lloyd Harris. He is aiming to become the first man to defend the US Open crown since 2008, when Roger Federer hoisted the trophy for a fifth consecutive year. None of that has stopped him keeping an eye from afar on the early-season fortunes of Madrid, who lead La Liga after three games -- largely thanks to the goalscoring exploits of

Bellingham. "I'm really happy to watch him play in Real Madrid," said Alcaraz of the England star signed from Borussia Dortmund for over 100 million euros (\$110 million) this summer. World number one Alcaraz eased into the third round in New York on Thursday with a 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) win over South Africa's Lloyd Harris. He is aiming to become the first man to defend the US Open crown since 2008, when Roger Federer hoisted the trophy for a fifth consecutive year. None of that has stopped him keeping an eye from afar on the early-season fortunes of Madrid, who lead La Liga after three games -- largely thanks to the goalscoring exploits of

Lyon engulfed in crisis ahead of clash with PSG

AFP ■ PARIS

Once France's top club, Lyon are in full-blown crisis on and off the pitch coming into this weekend's clash with reigning Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain. Title-winners seven years in a row from 2002 to 2008, OL have finished outside the European qualifying spots in both the last two seasons and their start to this campaign has been their worst in 31 years. After losing their opening two matches, Laurent Blanc's side played out an insipid goalless draw in Nice last weekend without suspended star striker Alexandre Lacazette. Scorer of 27 league goals last season, Lacazette will

again be banned against PSG, but that is almost the least of Lyon's problems. American businessman John Textor bought the club midway through last season from long-serving president Jean-Michel Aulas, via his company Eagle Football. But French football's financial watchdog, the DNCG, imposed restrictions on Lyon's spending over the summer, hampering the club's ability to sign much-needed players. Things took a further turn this week when Aulas filed a complaint against Textor for slander. Speaking in a video conference with several French media on Tuesday, Textor accused Aulas of "hiding" the reality of the club's financial situation at the time of the takeover.



Aulas denied those allegations through his company Holnest, which asked a commercial court in Lyon to block 14.5 million euros (\$15.7m) it claims it is owed from the club's accounts. Holnest retains a minority share of under 10 percent in the club, which Aulas says Textor's company had agreed to acquire. "Aulas has managed to have our accounts frozen for a week in the middle of the transfer window," Lyon's executive president Santiago Cucci complained to AFP. "He has placed the whole club at risk in order to defend his own interests." "It is sad but I am not doing this against the club, but rather against the person, John Textor with Eagle, who bought the club," Aulas told AFP.

The off-field theatre left Lyon with little room for manoeuvre in the transfer market ahead of the summer window closing late on Friday. Lyon have managed to sign promising Ghanaian forward Ernest Nuamah from Danish side Nordsjaelland, but only because Belgian side Molenbeek -- another of Textor's clubs -- bought the 19-year-old and then loaned him to France. Meanwhile, Lyon's promising France Under-21 international forward Bradley Barcola was set to complete a move to PSG before the window closed in a deal worth a reported 50 million euros including bonuses. That would give Luis Enrique's PSG extra ammunition in attack as they look to build on their 3-1 win over

Lens last weekend, when Kylian Mbappe scored twice on his first start this season. Player to watch: Folarin Balogun The 22-year-old USA striker has returned to Ligue 1 after joining Monaco this week from Arsenal for a fee that could eventually rise to 40 million euros according to reports. Balogun opted to come back to France, where he starred last season on loan at Reims, after realising that he was unlikely to feature regularly under Mikel Arteta at Arsenal. Monaco will hope he can fire them back into the Champions League after the principality club missed out on European football altogether this season. He could make his debut on Saturday against Lens.

Task cut out for Rohit, Gill and Kohli against Pak's pace trio

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Virat Kohli won't mind an encore of that magical moment against Haris Rauf while Rohit Sharma would be ready with his answers for Shaheen Shah Afridi's banana inswingers in India's 'battle royale' against Pakistan, which will be more than just a World Cup dress rehearsal.

The Asia Cup has returned to the 50-over format to facilitate an ideal match preparation for five of the six participating teams but for organisers and the fans India versus Pakistan is not just another game, it is 'The Match'.

Kohli's lofted check-drive off Rauf under Melbourne skyline last year during the T20 World Cup became a part of Indian cricket fans' muscle memory while Pakistanis rejoiced when Rohit failed to negotiate a lethal tailing-in delivery from Shaheen and was caught plumb.

Such performances help players grow into legends and Saturday's Asia Cup game will be another opportunity for cricketers from both the sides to emerge as heroes.

However with steady rain predicted in the hilly Kandy region on Saturday, an anti-climax to a mouth-watering clash can't be ruled out.

The Indian team, which is yet to fit-in all the jigsaw puzzles will be hoping that their 'holy trinity' of skipper Rohit, peerless Kohli and his heir apparent Shubman Gill is ready to fight fire with fire against Shaheen, Rauf and the feisty Naseem Shah.

Overcast conditions and a bit of nip in the air is all that Shaheen and Naseem would need during the opening Powerplay to unsettle the Indian top three.

Especially Gill, who doesn't have a pronounced feet movement against pacers and uses his hands more with a technique that is more about beside the line of the ball rather than behind the line.



The puzzle surrounding Indian and Pakistani middle-order assumes significance.

India's concern is accentuated primarily by the absence of KL Rahul, who will miss at least the first two Asia Cup games.

India might have decided to field wicketkeeper batsman Ishan Kishan in the middle-order against Pakistan but they are still undecided about his slot - No. 4 or No. 5 but mostly the latter position.

Kishan's inclusion will certainly give the Indian batting unit a bit of variety for him being a left-hander.

But the Jharkhand

stumper has never batted at No. 5 in his India career and his average in middle-order is a meagre 22.75.

So, he will have to cope with demands of that slot like maximising the run-making opportunities as he might not get too many overs to bat.

On the other hand, Pakistan does not have any injury concerns but they are one of the most undercooked ODI sides at the moment.

Since the 2019 World Cup, the 'Green Brigade' has played just 29 ODIs, whereas India have played 57 matches in the same period.

Pakistan have played 12 of

those 29 matches this year as well. While their top three consisting captain Babar Azam (689 runs), Fakhar Zaman (593 runs) and Imam-ul-Haq (361 runs) have fired more often than not this year, there is an issue from No. 4 to No. 6.

Usama Mir, Saud Shakeel and Agha Salman have been largely inconsistent barring the odd flicker, and they looked anaemic on the days when Mohammad Rizwan, who bats at No.4, fails.

Often, Pakistan required No. 7 Iftikhar Ahmed and No.8 Shadab Khan to add a bit of heft to their innings.

Iftikhar was promoted against Nepal and helped himself with an ODI hundred.

Shadab made a valuable 48 against Afghanistan last week while Pakistan notched up a nervy 1-wicket win at Hambantota.

Rizwan and Salman failed to get a sizeable score against Nepal in their Asia Cup opener at Multan a couple of days back as Pakistan rode on hundreds by Babar and Iftikhar.

While India and Pakistan are travelling on the same boat as far as their middle-order woes are concerned, the latter has a distinct advantage in the bowling department.

Of course, India have been bolstered by the return of Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna, and the pacers had also bowled intensely in the T20I series against Ireland recently.

But the Indian management will be keen to watch how they respond to the rigours of 50-over cricket. The think-tank might just prefer the experience of Shami in a needle match against Pakistan.

So, India's pace attack on the morrow could be Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj and Shami with Hardik Pandya giving them the fourth seamer option.

As impressive as they are on paper, the Pakistan pace troika of Shaheen, Naseem and Rauf is operating at a whole different level. They already have taken 49 wickets among themselves this year with Rauf leading the chart with 17 wickets from 10 matches.

If anything, it indicates a tough examination of the skills of Indian batsmen at the Pallekele stadium, where pitch offers a reasonable amount of help for the bowlers in the form of bounce and carry.

India will also have to keep a close on the selection in the spin department. Ravindra Jadeja's inclusion is certain and he could be coming in at No. 7. But that will leave India with four bowlers who hardly contribute with the bat.

India might think long before picking between left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav and left-arm spinner Axar Patel.

While Axar will give India the option of a bowler who can bat at No. 8, Kuldeep has better striking ability.

Kuldeep is India's highest wicket-taker in ODIs this year with 22 wickets in 11 matches, while Axar has just 3 scalps from 6 matches.

But Pakistan have been served well by leg-spinner Shadab, who has taken 11 wickets from 8 matches in 2023, while chipping in with the bat as well.



Seasoned Rohit leads strongest Indian team since 2011: Shastri

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

A seasoned leader like Rohit Sharma understands the 'terrain' of an Indo-Pak contest better than most but Babar Azam's unit won't be mere pushovers as it has managed to narrow the gap with the arch-rivals in the past few years, said former India head coach Ravi Shastri.

India and Pakistan will be meeting in an ODI game after four years when they face-off on Saturday.

"I would say India start as favourites. This is their strongest team since 2011, this mix of players. And a captain who is seasoned, who understands the terrain better than most," Shastri told ESPN Cricinfo on Friday.

"Having said that, Pakistan have narrowed the gap. Seven-eight years (ago), there was a gap if you looked at the strength of both teams and man to man. But Pakistan have narrowed it down. They are a very good side, so you have to be on top of your game."

While Indian teams during the last two decades have dominated the proceedings against the cross-border nation, the former head coach wants players not to over-hype the game in their minds.

"That's what's important, keeping calm and treating it as just another game. And not over-hype it in your mind that makes you think differently. Your game has to be the same as it would be in any other game. But because of that subconscious pressure, it's the mentally tough guys who normally get it right," he said.

Virat Kohli showed time and again how he lifts his game against Pakistan and Shastri feels that even if mentally tough guys go through a lean patch during the season, some of them find that competitive juice at the right time on biggest of stages.

"And never go by form before an India-Pakistan game, because the tough-minded, mentally strong guys might not have done much six months back, but come the India-Pakistan game, they will come (to the fore)."

"They know the importance of that game, they know where it can catapult them if they do well. Their juices will be fired up," Shastri said.

Shastri also praised Babar Azam's conversion rate in ODIs as the Pakistan skipper has an astounding 19 hundreds from 104 games.

"He (Babar) converts those 30s and 40s starts into hundreds," Shastri pointed out.

"And it is so important. We keep saying to go out there and face a number of balls, but if one of your top three gets a hundred, you get 300-plus."

Exercise caution against Afridi in first three overs: Hayden

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Former Australian opener Matthew Hayden wants India skipper Rohit Sharma to negotiate Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi's first three overs with "caution" to avoid a fate similar to the 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE.

Rohit was dismissed for a first-ball duck by a searing Afridi yorker which bent marginally inwards to beat the opener all ends up.

India suffered a humiliating 10-wicket loss in the group match and could never bounce back from the defeat in the 2021 edition.

Hayden felt a "conservative" approach against Afridi was the right way to handle the tall Pakistan quick.

"You've got to be conservative against Shaheen Afridi. Remember back to the (T20) World Cup (in the UAE in 2021) more recently. Shaheen was able to take early wickets," Hayden told Star Sports.

"We'll never forget that ball that he bowled to Rohit Sharma, so a little bit of caution against Shaheen Afridi. If it's swinging, look to play out those first three overs," Hayden advised the India skipper.

Virat Kohli, who was leading the side in 2021, was the highest run-getter for India scoring a 49-ball 57, coming in at his usual No.3 spot.

Terminating the clash of the arch-rivals as the "spiciest competition" in world cricket, Hayden also said India bat-



ters will also have to guard against the extra bounce the likes of Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah could generate.

"India is playing against Pakistan's pace trio. This is one of the spiciest competitions on the planet. We've got Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, and Naseem (Shah). Three very different types of bowlers and unique bowlers, which require unique plans from Team India."

"Firstly, the conditions here in Kandy tend to have quite a lot of bounce, so you've got to watch that out, especially Haris Rauf. He'll want to really hustle in and hit the top of off stump."

"And I think with Naseem, even though he will

shape the ball, Pakistan can be in a position to advance forward with India managing to take them out of play by aggressive plays against someone like Naseem," said Hayden.

Hayden, though said that putting Naseem under pressure early on could put India in a winning position.

"Put him (Naseem) under pressure, feel like you are in front of the game. All in all, though, I think it's going to be Team India that's going to win. I think they've got a deeper, classier batting lineup, and I think they've got form on the board as well."

Former India cricketer and coach Sanjay Bangar added that Virat Kohli would

be itching to have a go at the Pakistan team after his heroics in the 2022 T20 World Cup.

Chasing 160 in a group match at Melbourne, Kohli unleashed his full force to score an unbeaten 82 off 53 balls to help India defeat Pakistan on the last ball in an edge-of-the-seat thriller.

"Virat is ready for the greatest rivalry in world cricket. The last time these two nations played (2022 T20 World Cup), Virat came out with a special innings, and that shot versus Haris Rauf will be etched in the memories of cricket lovers for a long, long time."

"Now, what has Virat Kohli done in the last six to eight months? How has he come out of a little bit of a bad patch wherein he wasn't scoring big runs? But now he has got into that habit of scoring big runs again."

Bangar added Kohli's habit of allowing the ball to come to him will help him in a big way against the likes of Afridi.

"He is setting up really nice and early, staying still, allowing the ball to come to him. That is one aspect which is going to help him big time, especially against Shaheen (Afridi) because he gets the ball to swing in late."

"And if we are watching the ball, letting it come to you, you can actually play it down the ground or play it to mid-on or mid-wicket region; that is where his (Kohli's) strength is," said Bangar.

'Need to tick few boxes before ODI World Cup 2023: Rohit

PNs ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Cricket Team will eye solutions to many problems when they begin their Asia Cup 2023 campaign on 2 September, Saturday. Men in Blue Captain Rohit Sharma addressed the media in a customary press conference ahead of the IND vs PAK game on 1 September, Friday. The main concern for Rohit-Dravid-led India is that wicket-keeper batter KL Rahul remains unavailable for the Indo-Pak Clash, throwing a new crisis for the team to deal with.

The press conference was well-attended by the media, and Sharma's comments were widely reported. The match between India and Pakistan is one of the most anticipated matches in cricket, and Sharma's comments have added to the excitement surrounding the match.

The continental showpiece is a pivotal pit stop in India's road to the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023. The Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee will keep an eye on many Men in Blue players during the Asia Cup 2023 as they have to announce the ODI World Cup 2023 squad. Rohit will hope to have more clarity on a number of jarring issues as he heads into his maybe first and last World Cup as captain.

Since India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh's retirement, one of the biggest problems for India is their middle order and having part-time bowlers who can give few overs. However, Shreyas Iyer has shown good signs at No.4 but since his

injury, Men in Blue have struggled to score runs in the middle overs and with no Rishabh Pant this problem has been a major reason for their losses in big matches.

On the eve of the blockbuster Encounter, Indian captain Rohit Sharma addressed various topics. The Indian opener also expressed his thoughts that this Asia Cup 2023 is very important for his side as they want to tick a few boxes before the ODI World Cup 2023 in India. The Indian captain said, "We need to tick a few boxes before the World Cup, hopefully we can do that during the Asia Cup."



Since India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh's retirement, one of the biggest problems for India is their middle order and having part-time bowlers who can give few overs. However, Shreyas Iyer has shown good signs at No.4 but since his

Afghan's female cricketers plead with sport's world governing body

AP ■ BRISBANE

Just over two years ago, Firooza Amiri was an 18-year-old batter for the Afghanistan women's cricket team, ready to take on the world if given the chance.

But just like that, her world and that of millions of others in her country changed forever. Forced to flee with her family when the Taliban retook power in Afghanistan on Aug. 15, 2021, Amiri and her family first traveled to Pakistan and then were evacuated to Australia. She still lives in Australia, along with most of her 25 teammates.

Now, looking for their



place in international competition, they are pleading with the International Cricket Council and the Afghanistan cricket authorities to give them a place to play, despite the Taliban's ban on women in

sport and education.

"Yeah, unfortunately two weeks ago was the two-year anniversary of the Taliban and our BLACK DAY," Amiri said in a message to The Associated Press, accentuating two words

in capital letters. Amiri and her family were from the oasis city of Herat, then the third-largest city in Afghanistan with an estimated population of about 500,000. "It was a black day for me and all the girls of Afghanistan, the day our dreams were destroyed and all the efforts of many years of each of us were destroyed," Amiri told the AP. "When Herat fell, we decided to go to Kabul and reach one of the foreign embassies. When we arrived in Kabul, we saw that Afghanistan had fallen completely to the Taliban and all the people were going to the airport to be able to leave the country, we did the same."