

**WORLD 5**

RUSSIA THWARTS UKRAINIAN  
ATTACK ON CRIMEA BRIDGE

**MONEY 6**

WINDFALL PROFIT TAX ON  
CRUDE OIL CUT

**SPORT 8**

AUSTRALIA BEAT SOUTH  
AFRICA IN SECOND T20I



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## ADITYA BASKS IN THE SUN

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA

India's maiden solar mission Aditya L1 — on Saturday set off on a 125-day journey to the Sun in its attempt to study various elements relating to Earth's nearest star, after being put into the orbit by a PSLV rocket that touched a new technical milestone in the launch vehicle segment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and its scientists on the successful launch of the country's first solar mission. "Our tireless scientific efforts will continue in order to develop better understanding of the universe for the welfare of entire humanity," he said on "X".

The spacecraft, after traveling about 1.5 million km from the Earth over 125 days, is expected to be placed in a Halo orbit around the Lagrangian point L1 which is considered closest to the Sun.

Among others, it will send pictures of the sun for scientific experiments. According to scientists, there are five Lagrangian points (or parking areas) between the Earth and the Sun where a small object tends to stay if put there. The Lagrange Points are named after Italian-French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange for his prize-winning paper — "Essai sur le Probleme des Trois Corps, 1772."

The Sun is a giant sphere of gas and Aditya-L1 would study



ISRO's launch vehicle PSLV-C57 rocket carrying India's first solar mission, 'Aditya-L1', lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Saturday PTI

its outer atmosphere. Aditya-L1 will neither land on the Sun nor approach it any closer, ISRO said. The objectives of the Aditya-L1 mission includes study of the coronal heating, solar wind acceleration, Coronal Mass Ejections (CME), dynamics of solar atmosphere and temperature anisotropy.

Following Saturday's launch Aditya-L1, weighing about 1,480.7 kg, stays in Earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it undergoes five

manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey towards the Sun.

Project Director Nigar Shaji said, "I am extremely happy that Aditya L1 has been injected into the precise orbit flawlessly by PSLV as always. And Aditya L1 solar panels are deployed and it is being normal," she said.

Once Aditya L1 is commissioned it will be an asset to heliophysics of the country and even to the global scientific fraternity, Shaji added.

Upon arrival at the L1, another manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 to an orbit around the point, which is a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun.

The spacecraft spends its whole mission life of five years orbiting around L1 in an irregularly shaped orbit in a plane roughly perpendicular to the line joining the Earth and the Sun, ISRO said.

The strategic placement at the L1 Lagrange point ensures the spacecraft can maintain a

constant, uninterrupted view of the Sun. This location also allows the satellite to access solar radiation and magnetic storms before they are influenced by Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere, the space agency informed.

Additionally, the L1 point's gravitational stability minimises the need for frequent orbital maintenance efforts, optimising the spacecraft's operational efficiency. Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from the Earth, directed towards the Sun, which is about 1 per cent of the Earth-Sun distance.

It carries seven scientific payloads to carry out the study.

The Visible Emission Line Coronagraph, which studies the solar corona and dynamics of Coronal Mass Ejections (CME), will be sending 1,440 images per day to the ground station for analysis on reaching the intended orbit.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who witnessed the launch from the Mission Control Centre (MCC) here, dubbed it as a "Sunshine moment" for the country.

"Congratulations! The Aditya-L1 spacecraft has been injected in an elliptical orbit of 235/19,500 km which is intended very precisely, by the PSLV, a very unique mission mode here, with the upper stage of the PSLV taking two burn sequences for injecting the primary satellite for the first time," ISRO Chairman S Somanath said from the MCC.

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## G20 full dress rehearsal: Anti-terror plan in place

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As scheduled for September 8 to 10, the Delhi Police conducted full dress rehearsals, escorting convoys from various parts of the National Capital to the New Delhi district. The rehearsal timings were from 8.30 am to 12 pm, 4.30 pm to 6 pm, and 7 pm to 11 pm. The police will hold three additional rehearsals on Sunday as well, from 8 am to 9 am, 9.30 am to 10.30 am, and 12.30 pm to 4 pm.

To prevent any untoward incidents, the anti-terror crack force National Security Guard (NSG) conducted surprise searches at different locations in the national capital during the full dress rehearsals. NSG will deploy its anti-drone teams to neutralise and counter rogue drone threats during the G20 Summit, while also stationing its aerial insertion teams around the summit in the event of any terror contingencies. NSG has been integrated into the security plans by the Delhi Police and it will provide anti-terror backup teams that will be fully equipped and stationed at strategic locations as well as at the venues where the important heads of states will be staying.

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) commandos, deployed as Close Protection Team in the security of G20



Security officials stand guard as a convoy moves past during full dress rehearsal for the upcoming G20 Summit in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

guests too conducted a security drill.

Visuals from the rehearsals show that traffic was briefly affected when the convoys were moving. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based cameras, software alarms, and drones are being used to monitor the movement and ensure foolproof protection at the summit's venues. The police advised people to follow real-time traffic updates on the 'G20 Virtual Help Desk' for route suggestions when commuting to/from the airport, railway stations, or bus terminals.

During the convoy rehearsals, traffic was restricted at various locations, including Sardar Patel Marg-Panchsheel Marg, Sardar Patel Marg-Kautilya Marg, Gol Methi roundabout, Mansingh Road roundabout, C-Hexagon, Mathura Road, Zakir Hussain

Marg-Subramaniam Bharti Marg, Bhairon Marg-Ring Road, Satya Marg/Shantipath roundabout, Janpath-Kartavyapath, Barakhamba Road red light, Tolstoy Marg, and Vivekanand Marg, among others.

The full convoy rehearsals were carried out in the Pragati Maidan area, officials said.

In view of the dress rehearsal, commuters have been advised to use metro services instead of using roads to commute during the day. "Advisories have been issued as traffic will be restricted for some time during the full convoy rehearsals today (Saturday) and tomorrow (Sunday). Our effort is to not let traffic movement get affected much," said Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) SS Yadav in a statement to the media.

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## Balasore train tragedy: Signal engineers, technician charged

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday filed a chargesheet against three railway officials before the court of Special Judicial Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, in an on-going investigation of a case related to train accident at Bahanaga Bazar Railway Station, Balasore in Odisha, in June. Nearly 300 people were killed and 1,000 were injured in the horrific triple train crash.

The three officials named in the chargesheet included Senior Section Engineer (Signal), Incharge, Balasore Arun Kumar Mahanta; SSE (Signal), Soro, Md Amir Khan, and Technician, Balasore, Pappu Kumar, officials said.

"They have been charged for offences relating to culpable homicide not amounting to murder and causing disappearance of evidence with common intention under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and endangering safety of persons travelling by railways by wilful act or omission under the Railways Act, 1989 and endangering safety of passengers travelling by railways by wilful



act or omission," the CBI said in a statement.

The chargesheeted officials were earlier arrested on July 7 and are presently undergoing judicial custody.

"Based on evidence adduced during investigation of the case, commission of offences under sections 304 (Part II) of IPC (Culpable Homicide not amounting to murder), 34 read with 201 of the Indian Penal Code (causing disappearance of evidence of the offence with common intention) and 153 of Railways Act, 1989 (Endangering safety of persons travelling by railways by wilful act or omission) were made out against the said accused. Accordingly, a chargesheet has been filed against them," the agency said.

The CBI had registered

the case on June 6 following the request of Ministry of Railways, consent of the Odisha Government and further orders from Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in connection with the train mishap involving Coromandel Express, Yashwantpur-Howrah Express and a goods train at Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha on June 2, 2023.

The case was earlier registered at Balasore GRPS, GRP Cuttack (Odisha) vide GRPS Case No.64 dated June 3 regarding the said mishap.

Further investigation has been kept open on aspects of larger conspiracy and for possible involvement of others, the agency added.

The train accident took place near the Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore in which 300 people were killed, 287 on the spot or brought dead to hospital and six succumbed to injuries later in hospitals.

The accident involved three trains — the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express and a stationary goods train.

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## Modi-Biden bilateral dialogue on Sept 8

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden will have a bilateral meeting here on September 8 on the sidelines of the G20 summit and are expected to review the status of the robust bilateral ties.

Announcing Biden's schedule, the White House said late Friday he will travel to India next week to participate in the G20 Summit and will have a bilateral meeting with Modi on September 8 on the sidelines of the historic meeting.

India, president of the G20, will host global leaders for the Summit scheduled to take place on September 9 and 10 in New Delhi.

During the Summit, Biden will commend Modi for his leadership of the G20, the White House said.

Modi is also likely to have bilateral meetings with other global leaders on the sidelines of the two-day Summit.

French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese premier Fumio Kishida and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, have confirmed their participation in the G20 Summit.

"On Thursday (September



7), the President will travel to New Delhi, India to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit. On Friday, the President will participate in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the White House said.

On Saturday (September 9) and Sunday (September 10), the President will participate in the G20 summit, where he and G20 partners will discuss a range of joint efforts to tackle global issues, including the clean energy transition and combating climate change.

They will also mitigate the economic and social impacts of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine, and increase the capacity of multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, to better fight poverty, including by addressing global challenges, the White House said.

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

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. The members represent about 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade and about two-thirds of the world population.

Biden will then travel to Hanoi, Vietnam on September 10. "While in Hanoi, the President will meet with General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and other key leaders to discuss ways to further deepen cooperation between the US and Vietnam," it said.

## Leaders' absence from global meets common

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

In light of recent media reports that some heads of state/government may skip the G20 Summit in India next week, sources have shed light on the longstanding trend of some heads of state occasionally missing such global gatherings. It has been emphasised that there exist diverse reasons behind leaders' non-participation in these summits, and the circumstances vary from year to year.

According to these sources, a review of the attendance records at the G20 Summits since their inception in 2008 reveals a recurring pattern. Out of the 16 physical G20 summits held between 2008 and 2021, there have been six instances when one country was represented below the Head of State or Head of Government level, occurring in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, and 2017. Furthermore, there were five instances when two countries were represented below this level, occurring in 2010, 2014, 2015, 2018, and

2019. The sources stress that these trends are not necessarily indicative of any issues with the host country.

Moreover, the sources highlighted that even during the 2021 G20 Summit in Italy, where there were no significant geopolitical or health-related impediments to leaders' attendance, six countries were represented below the Head of State or Head of Government level. This situation underscores the multifaceted demands placed on leaders in the modern world, making it challenging for every leader to attend every global summit.

A notable point of reference was the 2020 G20 Summit hosted virtually by Saudi Arabia. It was underscored that such variations in attendance levels have occurred over the years, with leaders occasionally opting not to participate or sending representatives.

As the world prepares for the 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi, India, it is expected to witness historic levels of participation.

## 'One Nation, One Election' panel gets down to work

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The Ram Nath Kovind committee, formed by the Centre to explore the feasibility of "One Nation, One Election" for holding the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections simultaneously, has reportedly initiated this task by currently studying the Election Commission (EC) suggestions on the same and a Department-related Parliament Standing Committee on Law and Personnel report on the "Feasibility of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies" in December 2015. This report had cited the suggestions made by the poll panel.

As part of the Kovind committee, the Centre appointed

eight members on Saturday. According to sources, Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and former member of Parliament Ghulam Nabi Azad are part of it. Other members include former Finance Commission chairman NK Singh, former Lok Sabha Secretary-General Subash Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve, and former CVC Sanjay Kothari. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will attend the meetings as a special invitee, as per the Government notification.

The election watchdog had suggested that India adopt the "One Nation One Poll" model. In the event of a vacancy caused by a collapse of the Government either at the Centre or State, it would have

to be filled by an alternative Government for the remainder of the five-year term. This can happen either by the Opposition proving its majority through a vote of confidence or by mid-term polls to elect a Government for a partial term, as stated by the EC.

"The terms of all State Legislative Assemblies should also normally come to an end on the date on which the term of the Lok Sabha is expiring. That may also mean, to begin with as a one-time measure, that the term for the existing Legislative Assemblies will have to be either extended beyond five years or curtailed so that fresh elections can be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha election," the report of the Parliamentary panel said based on the poll panel's advice.



Proposing amendments to the Constitution, the EC suggested that the term of the Lok Sabha would normally commence and expire on a particular date (and not on the date on which it completes five years from the date of its first sitting). The period for the general election to constitute the new House should be so determined that the Lok Sabha could commence its term on

the predetermined date.

The poll panel had also suggested that in case the dissolution of the House cannot be avoided, then fresh elections can be held if the remainder of the term is long. In such a case, the term of the House should be for the rest of what would have been the original term. To avoid the premature dissolution of the Lok Sabha, any no-confidence motion against the Government should "necessarily include" a further "confidence motion" in favour of a Government to be headed by a named individual as the future Prime Minister, and voting should take place for the two motions together, the EC had said while sharing its suggestions on simultaneous polls.

The reports also said if the remainder of the term of the

Lok Sabha is not long, there could be a provision for the President to carry out the administration of the country on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers to be appointed by him/her until the next House is constituted at the prescribed time. It had suggested a similar arrangement for State legislative Assemblies. If no party is able to form a Government after elections, and another poll becomes necessary, the term of the House in such case after the fresh election should be only for the remainder of what would have been the original term, as suggested by the poll panel.

Similarly, if a Government has to resign for some reason and an alternative is not possible, then provision can be

considered for a fresh election if the remainder of the term is a comparatively longer period, and in other cases, rule by the Governor or President's Rule.

The EC said two windows of one-and-a-half months each may be fixed for holding all by-elections that become due in a particular year. As an alternative, the EC said provisions to have all elections falling due in a year together in a particular period of the year can be considered. In this arrangement, the advantage would be that the general elections to various Legislative Assemblies falling due in a year will be held together and not at different periods in the year. In the year in which the Lok Sabha election is due, all the Assembly elections of that year may also be held, the poll panel said.

The EC also pointed out several difficulties that might be encountered in conducting simultaneous elections. The main issue highlighted by it was that the simultaneous conduct of elections would require a large-scale purchase of Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines. For conducting simultaneous elections, the Commission expects that a total of Rs 9284.15 crore will be needed for the procurement of EVMs and VVPATs. The machines would also need to be replaced every 15 years, which would again entail expenditure. Further, storing these machines would increase the warehousing cost, as cited by the standing committee based on EC's inputs.



# No Question Hour in Special Parl session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The five days special session of Parliament from September 18-22 would be without Question Hour, Zero Hours or private members' business.

As the President of India through a gazette notified the convening of the Special session, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha secretariats said on Saturday mentioned the session will have five sittings and members will be informed about the provisional calendar separately.

Members are informed that the Thirteenth Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha will commence on Monday, the 18th September, 2023," the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a bul-



letin on Saturday. "Members are informed that the Two Hundred and Sixty First Session of the Rajya Sabha will commence on Monday, the 18th September, 2023," the Rajya Sabha secretariat said.

On Thursday, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi had announced a "special session" of Parliament for five days from September

18, but kept the agenda for it under wraps, triggering speculation. Sources in the Government said that the Central government Ministries and Department officers from Joint Secretaries to Secretaries have been asked to stay in national Capital and no engagements to be made outside their departments and that leaves should be avoided.

# Jet Airways founder Naresh diverted loan from Canara Bank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the arrest of former Jet Airways chairman Naresh Goyal under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act in the Rs 538 crore Canara Bank fraud case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said the total non-performing asset (NPA) against the Group is to the tune of about Rs 6,000 crore.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR registered by CBI against Jet Airways (India) Ltd (JIL), Naresh Goyal and others, alleging therein offences of cheating, criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and criminal misconduct committed by them. In the FIR, it is alleged that Goyal in connivance with the other accused persons cheated Canara Bank by siphoning off bank funds with



the help of its subsidiaries by showing bogus expenses, and illegally diverting the loan proceeds as indicated by the E&Y's Forensic Audit Reports and thereby caused a loss to the tune of Rs 538.62 crore to the Canara Bank, the ED said in a statement.

The total NPA of the group is much more and similar modus operandi has been used to cause the NPA, the agency alleged. The ED said the company cause NPA to the tune of Rs 1,636.23 crore to the State Bank of India, Rs 1,084.44

crore to Yes Bank, Rs 956.11 crore to Punjab National Bank, Rs 594.43 crore to IDBI Bank, Rs 543.61 crore to Canara Bank, Rs 529.05 crore to ICICI Bank including ICICI-UAE, Rs 266.12 crore to Bank of India, Rs 171.74 crore to Indian Overseas Bank and Rs 169.73 crore to the Syndicate Bank. The total outstanding NPA against the Group is Rs 5,951.46 crore.

The ED had conducted searches on July 19 at multiple locations, including the Chartered Accountants and consultants to whom large payments had been made by JIL over the years and which were red flagged in the forensic audit reports, the ED said.

ED collected a large amount of incriminating documents and Goyal was summoned on two occasions, but failed to appear before the ED.

# Modi expresses confidence in people for support to BJP in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took aim at the Congress governments in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and expressed confidence the BJP will win people's support in the coming assembly polls in the two states.

Home Minister Amit Shah released the BJP's 'arop patra' (charge sheet) against the Congress government in Chhattisgarh, accusing it of indulging in scams and loot, and committing atrocities against the people of the state.

Modi said on X, "People's 'arop patra' against the Chhattisgarh government exposed the state's poor condition in every field. The BJP is committed to including the Dalits, tribals and deprived in



the mainstream of development." BJP president J P Nadda was in Rajasthan to launch his party's parivartan sankalp yatra. Reacting to this, Modi said, "Not only the BJP, but people too have decided to usher in a change in this land of the brave in Rajasthan. I am confident that this parivartan sankalp yatra will further boost the aspirations of people in the state." Both the state are expected to hold assembly polls in November-December.

# Ministry to launch 'U-WIN' portal soon for immunisations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Learning lessons from the Co-WIN portal launched for Covid-19 vaccine management system during the pandemic, the Union Health Ministry will soon roll out 'U-WIN' portal, for maintaining an electronic registry of routine immunisations.

The U-WIN programme has been designed to digitise the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and it is presently being run in a pilot mode in two districts of each state and Union Territory.

The platform will be used to register and vaccinate every pregnant woman, record her delivery outcome, register every newborn delivery, administer birth doses and all vaccination events thereafter, official sources told.

U-WIN, which will replicate Co-WIN, was launched on January 11 in 65 districts across the country. Vaccination records under UIP are being maintained manually as of



now. So this will do away with the hassle of keeping a physical record. It will enable the digitisation of session planning, and updating vaccination status on a real-time basis, an official said. Enlisting various issues in the present system, he said that for instance, multiple vaccines and doses lead to difficulty in monitoring and individual tracking.

"There is also lack of awareness among beneficiaries about sessions, location and date, especially in urban areas and iniquity in immunisation coverage in states/UTs."

Besides, another major issue is that immunisation at private health facilities is not recorded, the official explained.

In contrast, the U-WIN is going to be the single source of information for immunisation services which will record pregnancy details and outcome, newborn registration and immunisation at birth.

There will also be live updating of vaccination status, delivery outcome, and planning of RI (routine immunisation) sessions. "There will be digital registrations of all pregnant women and newborns for individualised tracking for vaccination, reminders for upcoming doses and follow-up of dropouts.

# 7-minute cancer treatment jab elicits mixed reactions in India

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As cancer patients in England has become the first in the world to benefit from a jab that can be administered in seven minutes, doctors in India have elicited mixed response with some saying that the seven minutes jab is just about a route and not the treatment outcome.

Nevertheless, all agreed that the development brings renewed hope and accessibility to patients battling with cancer. Dr Prashant Mehta, Professor in the Department of Medical Oncology/Hematology and Bone marrow transplantation at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Faridabad explained that this modified formulation of an existing immunotherapy drug, Atezolizumab (Tecentriq, ROCHE) can be administered over 7 minutes instead of the usual 30-60 minutes required to administer the



intravenous formulation making it suitable for outpatient administration. "Although this may be good news for some patients, the overall access to immunotherapy drugs in India is very poor (probably less than 3%) due to the high cost.

The subcutaneous product will make maintenance treatment simpler but will not make much of a difference during the initial 4-6 cycles when the cancer is given alongside intravenous chemotherapy.

"Also, Tecentriq as of now is a less commonly used immunotherapy drug, with Merck's Keytruda and BMS Opyta having a much higher usage because of broader set of

indications, evidence and guidelines," emphasized Dr Mehta. Dr Parveen Jain, Senior Consultant, HOD - Oncology, Aakash Healthcare was of the opinion that the introduction of the seven-minute jab is "a game changer for thousands of cancer patients because the traditional intravenous method of administering the drug can be challenging for many patients due to difficulties in accessing veins in addition to being time taking."

Since, this innovative under-the-skin injection method expedites and simplifies the process taking only seven minutes, it brings renewed hope and accessibility to patients battling with cancer, he said. "This also means that now more people can access treatment for cancer without the hassles of long and painful IV sessions," Dr Jain said.

But Dr Praveen Bansal, Director- Medical Oncology,

Asian Hospital, Faridabad did not seem much impressed as he said, "well there is some confusion about this which I want to clarify.

The news is about a drug, Atezolizumab, which is also known by the name Tecentriq. We have been using this drug for years in India in the treatment of cancers such as bladder, breast and Lung.

"This is a good drug which works by boosting a patient's immune system to fight the cancer cells and we get good results out of it.

"However, one must understand that the new development has nothing to do with this treatment or the outcome of the treatment. "It is only about the way this drug is to be administered to the patient. Earlier we were doing it by the intravenous method, but this new method would make it possible to administer this drug through an 'under the skin' injection," he added.

# ED raids WB firm, UK concerns penalised for 'slamming'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Saturday it recently raided a Kolkata-based company that allegedly ran an unauthorised call centre and the sister companies of which were penalised in the UK for "slamming", an illegal act of switching a consumer's telephone service provider without his consent.

The searches were carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on August 31 at 11 premises of Kunal Gupta, the owner and director of Met Technologies Private Limited. The ED probe found that the representatives of the company targeted

gullible residents in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia through "bogus" technology support offers, "deceptive" website sales and "sham" loan offers via counterfeit mobile apps, "coercing" the victims into making substantial payments, the agency said in a statement.

Gupta, it said, had established companies in the UK, the US and Australia. It is also gathered that two of his UK-based companies have been levied huge penalties by Ofcom, the telecom regulator of the UK, for slamming, which is the illegal practice of switching a consumer's telephone service provider without consent," the ED said. The "laundered" money was funnelled into the hospitality sector — hotels,

clubs and cafes — and this was a ploy to legitimise illicit funds, the agency added. The money-laundering case stems from an FIR lodged by the Bidhannagar Police, which unearthed an illegal call centre being run by the company at Saltlake in Kolkata by engaging in "fraudulent" activities both domestically and internationally.

The call centre was sealed by the police, the ED said. A significant number of property deeds of suspected persons both within and outside India as well as electronic devices and other documents of "incriminating nature" were seized, it said, adding that money was laundered through "high-value illicit cash transactions".

# Infants born during Covid show fewer types of bacteria in gut: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A team of developmental psychologists have found that infants who spent most of their first year during the Covid-19 pandemic have fewer types of bacteria in their gut than infants born earlier.

The findings, published in Scientific Reports, showed that infants whose gut microbes were sampled during the pandemic had lower alpha diversity of the gut microbiome, meaning that there were fewer species of bacteria in the gut.

The infants had a lower abundance of Pasteurellaceae and Haemophilus — bacteria that live within humans and can cause various infections - and significantly different beta diversity, which tells us how similar or dissimilar the gut microbiome for two groups may be, said the researchers from the New York University.

They said in their study that the differences may have been influenced "by the social changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, with infants potentially experiencing more time at home, less time in day-care interacting with other children, increased hygiene in the environment, changes to diet and breastfeeding practices, and increased caregiver stress..."

"The Covid-19 pandemic provides a rare natural experiment to help us better understand how the social environment shapes the infant gut microbiome, and this study contributes to a growing field of research about how changes to an infant's social environment might be associated with changes to the gut microbiome," said Sarah C. Vogel, the article's co-lead author and recent doctoral graduate from NYU Steinhart's Developmental Psychology programme.

For the study, the team compared stool samples of two socio-economically and racially diverse groups of 12-month-olds living in New York City that were provided before the pandemic (34 infants) and between March and December of 2020 (20 infants).



The team says that while speculating on the health implications of gut microbiome differences should be done with caution, gut diversity has been linked to health outcomes across the lifespan.

"In adults we know that lower diversity of the microbiota species in the gut has been linked to poorer physical and mental health," said Natalie Brito, Associate Professor at NYU Steinhart. "But more research is needed on the development of the gut microbiome during infancy and how the early caregiving environment can shape those connections."

## कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण शाखा, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, डीडीहाट, पिथौरागढ़

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 2531/निविदा/314 दिनांक : 01.09.2023

### ई-निविदा सूचना

अध्यक्ष उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम, देहरादून की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम तथा उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से जल जीवन मिशन (द्वितीय चरण) के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के (टू-बिड) अन्तर्गत स्रोत, पाईप लाईन, जलाशय एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- कार्य का नाम:- 1. मेतली पयोगो पार्ट-1
- ई-निविदा पोर्टल में प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 07.09.2023 अपराह्न 3:00 बजे।
- निविदा ऑनलाइन करने की अन्तिम तिथि:- 21.09.2023 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे।

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## कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, निर्माण मण्डल, उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, पिथौरागढ़

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 2199/निविदा/331 दिनांक : 01.09.2023

### ई-निविदा सूचना

अध्यक्ष उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम, देहरादून की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम तथा उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से जल जीवन मिशन (द्वितीय चरण) के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के (टू-बिड) अन्तर्गत स्रोत, पाईप लाईन, जलाशय एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- कार्य का नाम:- 1. मेतली पयोगो पार्ट-2
- ई-निविदा पोर्टल में प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 07.09.2023 अपराह्न 3:00 बजे।
- निविदा ऑनलाइन करने की अन्तिम तिथि:- 21.09.2023 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे।

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# Fatalities normal if animals sent to new environment: Namibia envoy

PTI ■ KOLKATA

High-Commissioner of Namibia to India Gabriel Sinimbo on Saturday said that the deaths of several cheetahs brought from his country and South Africa to Madhya Pradesh are "normal" as the project involves introducing animals to a new environment.

He also expressed hope that the felines will be able to fully adapt to India's environment. Since March this

year, altogether nine of the 20 cheetahs brought from the two countries died. "When you are introducing animals to a new environment, there could be some challenges like fatalities. It's a part of any project of this nature," Sinimbo said.

Under the Project Cheetah, a total of 20 radio-collared animals were imported from Namibia and South Africa to the Kuno National Park in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh and later four cubs

were born to Namibian cheetah 'Jwala'. Out of these 24 felines, nine including three cubs have died.

"It's a novel project advocated by the honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reintroduce the large cat species and Namibia is quite pleased with this initiative, given our relationship of supporting each other," Sinimbo said. The last cheetah death, the ninth one at the KNP, was reported on August 2.

# Balasore train tragedy...

From Page 1 In July, a high-level inquiry by the Railways had revealed "wrong signalling" to be the main reason for the Balasore train accident and flagged "lapses at multiple levels" in the signalling and telecommunication (S&T) department, but indicated the tragedy could have been averted if past red flags were reported.

The independent enquiry report submitted by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS) to the Railway Board said notwithstanding the lapses in signalling work, remedial actions could have been taken by the S&T staff if "repeated unusual behaviour" of switches connecting two

parallel tracks were reported to them by the station manager of Bahanaga Bazar, the spot of the accident. The report also suggested that the non-supply of station-specific approved circuit diagrams for the works to replace the electric lifting barrier at level crossing gate 94 at Bahanaga Bazar station was a "wrong step that led to wrong wiring."

It had said a team of field supervisors modified the wiring diagram and failed to replicate it. The report also said there was a similar incident on May 16, 2022 at Bankranayabaz station in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway, on account of wrong wiring and cable fault.

# Full dress rehearsal: Anti-terror...

From Page 1 "We have shared the travel guidelines with all the media houses. Newspapers have also published our releases, and necessary information is also being shared on our social media handles.

The focus is to ensure that the impact on the movement of traffic is kept at a minimum... I would urge residents to check traffic guidelines on our official website before stepping out," Yadav added. On Sunday, traffic regulations will be in place at Mahatma Gandhi Marg, IP Flyover, Rajghat Chowk, Shanti Van Chowk,

# ADITYA BASKS IN THE SUN

From Page 1

The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope payload images the Solar photosphere and Chromosphere in near Ultraviolet and also measures the solar irradiance variations.

The Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX) and Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) payloads study the solar wind and energetic ions as well as the energy distribution. The Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer and the High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HELIOS) study the X-ray flares from the Sun over a wide X-ray energy

range. The Magnetometer payload is capable of measuring interplanetary magnetic fields at the L1 point. The Science payloads of Aditya-L1 are indigenously developed with the close collaboration of various centers of ISRO.

Union Minister Singh, who holds the Science and Technology portfolio, said "while the whole world watched this with bated breath, it is indeed a sunshine moment for India." "Thank you Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making this happen by opening up new vistas for India's space sector and telling us sky is not

the limit," he said. He also thanked the PM for giving the confidence, courage and the conviction to reach out to the stars and to discover the mysteries of the universe beyond. The other space agencies that have already launched solar missions are the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Japan's JAXA, the European Space Agency (ESA).

The Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S) was successfully launched by National Space Science Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), in 2022.

Saleem Garh Bypass, Bhairon Road, Ring Road, Mathura Road, Shershah Road, C-Hexagon, roundabouts at Mansingh Road, Gol Methi, Teen Murti, Yashwant Place, Brig Hoshiyar Singh Marg, and Tolstoy Marg.

Commuters can take Ring Road, Ashram Chowk, Sarai Kale Khan, Delhi-Meerut Expressway, Noida Link Road, Pusta Road, Yudhister Setu, ISBT Kashmiri Gate, Ring Road, and Majnu Ka Tila for the north-south corridor, according to the advisory.

Railway Station and Old Delhi Railway Station. The use of private vehicles, auto-rickshaws, and taxis for traveling to the airport will also be allowed, it said.

The traffic police warned that commuters might experience more than normal traffic on these roads and junctions and advised people to plan their journeys in advance to avoid these roads during the specified time slots.

Responding to a query regarding entry into Delhi from the Delhi-Meerut expressway around 1 pm on Sunday, the police said, "Delhi Traffic Police has introduced its G-20 Virtual Help Desk for

real-time traffic updates during the G20 Summit and suggesting routes for commuting to/from the Airport, Railway Stations, ISBTs, etc. The same can be accessed by clicking on the link <https://traffic.DelhiPolice.Gov.In/dtpp20info>."

DTC and cluster bus services would remain unaffected in most parts of the national capital. However, there might be diversions on certain road stretches in the New Delhi district depending on the real-time traffic situation, it added. Earlier, on August 23, Delhi traffic police authorities carried out a full-dress rehearsal on selected routes.





Security personnel stand guard for the upcoming G20 Summit in New Delhi on Saturday



Security personnel stand guard during full dress carcade rehearsals for the upcoming G20 Summit, in New Delhi on Saturday



A convoy moves past on Man Singh Road during full dress carcade rehearsals for the upcoming G20 Summit, in New Delhi on Saturday

# Huge Nataraja statue being installed at G20 venue

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A specially-designed 28-foot-tall Nataraja statue — possibly to be the world's tallest, is being installed in the campus of Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the upcoming G20 Summit. The actual height of the statue is 22 feet and it is placed on a six-foot pedestal, adding up to 28 feet. The statue is made of eight metals — gold, silver, lead, copper, tin, mercury, zinc and iron.

Sources said this statue was made using the ancient lost-wax technique of metal casting that was used for making the famed Chola bronzes. The final touches to the unpolished Nataraja statue is being given in the national capital and the deadline to install it at the venue is September 4. The statue is brought to Delhi in a truck from Tamil Nadu.

According to officials, the

19-tonne artefact was made by Srikanta Stapathi, along with his brothers Radhakrishna Stapathi and Swaminatha Stapathi, sons of legendary sculptor Devasenapathy Stapathi in Tamil Nadu's Swamimalai district.

To ensure a smooth and uninterrupted passage, the ministry has sent messages to all state authorities and their respective toll plazas on the vehicle's route. The artefact has travelled through the cities of Hoskote, Devanahalli, Kurnool, Adilabad, Nagpur, Seoni, Sagar, Lalitpur, Gwalior and Agra, among others. The 'Nataraja' statue symbolises Lord Shiva as the 'lord of dance' and his cosmic power of creation and destruction. "We are installing the tallest-ever statue of Nataraja, in the campus of Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 Summit," sources said.



"We are showcasing Panini's 'Ashtadhyayi' in the object of cultural significance category and the lost-wax process is one of our five sub-missions in the intangible heritage category, and the 'Nataraja' statue has been made using this technique," another source said.

According to sources, the statue was made using the ancient lost-wax technique of

metal casting. The clay that is used to make the statue is available on a stretch of the Cauvery River that runs through Swamimalai. After allowing the clay to dry, the whole mass is heated. The melted wax is then filled with molten bronze.

In this metal casting process, molten metal, usually bronze, gold or silver, is poured into a mould made using wax

or any resin-like material. Once the metal cools and solidifies, the wax model is melted and drained away.

During the ninth meeting of the G20 coordination committee to review G20 preparations, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary P K Mishra Wednesday took stock of the arrangements and also reviewed the installation progress of the Nataraja statue at the venue.

The exhibition of physical and digital artefacts under the 'Culture Corridor' will be spread over a 10,000 sq ft area in the hallway skirting the summit room, with a huge immersive zone planned in an alcove with a mega screen display, the sources said.

On the opening day of the summit, a 'Culture Corridor' envisioned by the Ministry of Culture will also be unveiled at Bharat Mandapam.

The concept of the 'Culture Corridor' is about "bringing the best and the most valuable artefacts" from all the 29 countries in one space which will then signify the essence of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -- the theme of the G20, a senior official said. Besides, the corridor would also signify that "culture unites all", he said.

'Culture Unites All' was the sub-theme of the Culture Working Group of the G20 under India's presidency. As part of the 'Culture Corridor - G20 Digital Museum', artefacts in physical and digital formats sourced from all G20 members and invited countries, will be exhibited on the same floor where the leaders' meetings will take place, and they will walk through this "cultural corridor" while moving into and out of the summit room, according to sources.

## IN BRIEF

### TP-DL RECEIVES 3-YEAR-EXTENSION FROM DSIR

New Delhi: Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd (Tata Power-DDL) has received a three-year extension till 2026 from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) for its in-house R&D unit. In a statement Tata Power-DDL said it has received the renewal of recognition for its smart grid lab as the "in-house research and development (R&D) unit" for the next three years by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR).

### GARENA ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF FREE FIRE INDIA

New Delhi: Garena, a Singaporean global online games developer and publisher, has announced the launch of Free Fire India, available for download exclusively in India from September 5 in Noida. Garena said Free Fire India incorporates unique content and features to encourage a safe, healthy and fun gameplay experience.

### SACHDEVA FOR POWER TO UNAUTHORISED COLONIES

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva has urged the Power Minister Atishi and the MCD Commissioner to allow proper electricity connections to the occupants of all properties booked for alleged unauthorised constructions. Sachdeva has said that a nexus of ruling party Councilors, Power Discom officials and MCD engineers is exploiting people seeking electricity connection. Sachdeva has said that for last several years the private power discom officials of BSES & NDPL have been trying to extort hefty amounts from people alleging that their premises is booked for unauthorised construction or alleging that their property's height is above permissible limit.

## G20 posters depicting Indian heritage put up around India Gate circle

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Huge thematic posters bearing the G20 logo and depicting the cultural heritage of India have been put up on streetsides around the India Gate Circle ahead of the grouping's Summit in New Delhi. Recently, fountains along these streets to enhance the look and feel of the area which forms the heart of the city.

Each poster dotting the streetsides facing the iconic landmark bears the G20 logo, the theme of India's presidency of the grouping -- 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future' -- and an image depicting a cultural element of the country, a dance form or festivals of India.

So, while one poster depicts 'bhanga' dance, other portrays a Rajasthani artist carrying a musical instrument. Another one depicts a Bengali woman celebrating Durga Puja, while the other shows a musical group, with members wearing traditional Indian dress are depicted playing western instruments.

The G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled to be held from September 9-10 at a newly built international convention and exhibition centre -- Bharat Mandapam -- at Pragati



Maidan. G20 thematic posters have also been put up along a stretch of Mathura Road facing the new complex.

Mathura Road has also been decked up with huge decorative G20 logos and posters have also been put up in advertisement spaces at bus shelters.

Thematic murals and posters have already been installed in several parts of the city to mark the G20 Summit.

Many government complexes, public buildings and offices have already displayed posters, banners and standees in their premises, bearing the logo, and the theme of the G20 under India's presidency -- 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

The Delhi Metro has

developed a pedestrian plaza with aesthetic landscaping outside the Supreme Court metro station located near the venue where the G20 Summit will take place next week.

Besides, thematic murals have been painted on the walls of the station's building depicting the G20 logo, famous monuments and maps of member nations.

On a wall next to a staircase ramp leading to the concourse of the station, a mural depicts the G20 logo and the theme of India's presidency of the grouping. Noted landmarks from India and other G20 member countries have also been depicted and these include Taj Mahal (India), London Bridge (the UK), Leaning Tower of Pisa (Italy), Eiffel Tower (France) and Christ the Redeemer (Brazil).

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal attended only one meeting on the G20 preparations, but no other Minister of

## Fountains not Shivilings, intricate art pieces: LG

STAFF REPORTER/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

As New Delhi prepares to host the prestigious G20 Summit, the national Capital finds itself engulfed in a unique controversy over artistic fountains designed in the shape of a Shiviling, a sacred symbol in Hinduism.

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, sought to clarify that the fountains were not Shivilings but rather intricate art pieces crafted by a talented artisan from Rajasthan. His statement carried a message of inclusivity, acknowledging India's diverse spiritual beliefs.

"What they are calling a Shiviling is the imagination of the sculptor. It is fine if they see god in it, but I see it as a piece of art. I cannot comment on others' opinions. I don't think there is any controversy," Saxena said. He added that India is a country where it is believed that every particle has god in it, where rivers are worshipped and trees are tied "rakhis".

Saxena said the preparatory work for the G20 summit in Delhi would have taken lesser efforts had the city Government worked throughout the last nine years.

"Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal attended only one meeting on the G20 preparations, but no other Minister of



the AAP Government did so," he said.

"The work done in the last two months has proved that if they (AAP) had worked all through nine years, the efforts required would have been lesser," Saxena said when asked about the role of the Delhi Government in the preparations for the G20 summit.

Replying to a question on why Delhi Government Ministers were not seen at the meetings for G20 preparations and whether they were invited to such deliberations, the LG said, "Kejriwal attended one G20 meeting but after that, no one (AAP Ministers) came. I believe we should work together, but I have no grudges."

"Their (Ministers) thinking is different," he said on being asked about the synergy between the AAP Government and him in handling the preparatory work. "I saw some Ministers inspecting roads in

the last few weeks, but I never saw anyone doing it in the last one year," Saxena added.

"The important thing is that such a big event is being held in Delhi. So it needs to be appreciated rather than being complained about that it will affect businesses.

"The delegates of 40 countries arriving in the city itself will boost business in Delhi," he said. "Ninety-eight per cent works have been completed and final touches will be com-

pleted by this evening. The heads of several nations are coming to India. We have a foolproof security plan," he said.

Talking about the administrative and political challenges faced by him in supervising the preparation works for the Summit, he said that Delhi is a complex city with multiplicity of agencies. "There was a need for good leadership, who can lead from the front, which I have tried to do."

## AAP leaders dismiss LG charges of Mins attending just one G20 preparatory meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders on Saturday dismissed Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's allegation that AAP Ministers attended just one G20 preparatory meet. Dismissing Lt Governor's allegations, Delhi Minister Atishi said "had he involved us in preparations, we would have done better". Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that a "sin" has been committed by installing 'shivilings' as fountains in a public space, and Lieutenant Governor should apologise to the nation for the act.

Atishi said the AAP dispensation asked for Rs 927

crore from the Centre for the G20 preparations but did not get a single penny. However, she insisted now is not the time for a credit war.

"This is not the time to say this is their work or this is our work. It is a matter of pride for the country that we are hosting the G20 Summit. I feel that if we work together, it will be good for the country," Atishi said.

"Till date, the Centre has not given us a single penny for G20. We had asked for Rs 927 crore but we did not get anything. We didn't make it an issue thinking it will reflect poorly on our country. The BJP and the LG are saying they have

done everything. This shows their arrogance. The public works department minister added.

Atishi countered the statement saying, "It is very surprising he is saying this. As the PWD minister, I was never called for any meetings or inspections. He didn't call the mayor during meetings or inspection of MCD areas.

"Had he called, I would have definitely gone. Officers would tell us about the meetings and we would give them permission. I was never invited for any meetings or inspection. We have made full efforts. All our officer have been on the job," she said.

## 6-year-old girl sexually assaulted by senior student in school bus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A six-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by a senior student inside a school bus in northwest Delhi's Rohini area. The accused has been apprehended and further investigation is underway, a senior police officer said.

Earlier in the day, the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued a notice to the Rohini deputy commissioner of police, seeking information about the action taken in connection with the alleged sexual assault of the minor girl on a private school bus.

Police on Wednesday got information regarding the incident of molestation of a minor



girl, a senior police officer said. "The father of the victim, in his written complaint, alleged that his daughter had been molested in the school bus by a boy," the officer said.

"A case under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 228A (disclosure of identity of the victim of certain offences) of the IPC and 10/21 of the POCSO Act has been registered at Begumpur police station," the officer said.

## DDCD VP appointed without due diligence by AAP: Govt Services dept

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's services department in its review report found that the appointment of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) worker Gopal Mohan as Vice President of the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDCD) was not only without due diligence but also were granted pay scales equivalent to Secretary to Government of India without express justification/approval.

In its review report regarding withdrawal of pay by non-official Members of DDCCD at par with Secretary to Government of India, the services department has sent a detailed note to Principal Secretary (Finance) saying the fixation of his salary in the category/equivalent to the Secretary to government of India without any justification or clear approval by Competent



Authority that is Chief Minister.

"The intent, aims and objectives of the Commission were to be achieved by appointing persons of capacity/proven experience/ability equivalent to the level mentioned in the notification of 2016", the report said. Mohan was drawing salary Rs 3,80,250 per month till July 2023. Apart from salary their perks also includes travel in first class by Air and other

facilities of this nature.

The report said it is not understood as to how the Pay and Accounts Officials of Planning Department/DDCCD had started preparing the bill of these three non-official Members

Muralidharan, Vijaya Chandra Vupputuri and Gopal Mohan also does not mention about their pay.

"As per Cabinet Decision, the Chief Minister has to determine in the first instance whether the honorary position of this member so appointed will be given pay of Secretary to Government of India or as determined. One of the choices have to be decided which was not decided on the file.

This being so, there arises no question of non-official members getting salary equivalent to salary of Secretary to Govt. of India. When there is an option to exercise as to whether the pay should be Secretary to Govt. of India or as determined. This question or option was never exercised either by beneficiaries i.e. honorary members or by the Chief Minister," Special Secretary (Services) YVJ Rajasekhar

said in its review report.

Citing a three members committee report, the review report said the case of appointment Mohan is fascinating as it goes through series of deft moves apparently designed to provide him benefits. He is first appointed on April 10, 2015 as Advisor (Anti Corruption) to Chief Minister on co-terminus basis with the approval of the Lt. Governor on Rs. 1/- remuneration.

Thereafter, on August 07, 2015 he was moved from the responsibility of Anti Corruption Helpline In-charge to the position of Advisor (Public Grievances), which post was vacated by another person who was drawing a salary of Rs. 1,15,881/- per month. By this sleight of hand Mohan approved by Lt. Governor on an honorarium of Rs.1/- becomes an employee on a salary of Rs. 1.15 lakhs per

month without the approval of Lt. Governor.

After the above move to another position some strange things follow. The appointee issues a note (dated 21.07.2015) apparently on 01.10.2015 that he joined with effect from 21.07.2015 as Advisor (Public Grievances) though his appointment is approved by the Chief Minister only on 20.08.2015 and appointment order issued on 16.09.2015. Thus, he effectively overcomes the constraints of the low salary of Rs. 1/- per month by getting the pay of Rs. 1,15,881/- per month from a back date. The GAD also plays along by revising on 12.05.2016, seven months later, the date of approval of his appointment as 07.08.2015 which is the date on which the Principal Secretary to CM had moved the note for the change in his appointment.



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Pending as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Sheetal Joshi, Parvez Hasan, Flat C 1904, Tower H-3 Hasindas Ats, Indrapuram Ahinsa Khand, Ghaziabad- 201014, A/C:- LBDEL00002944957, LBDEL00002944955	Flat No-2203, 22nd Floor, Tower-ector, Known As 'Ajnara Gen-X' Project Situated At Free Hold Gh Plot No.6 In The Township Crossing Republik Village Dundahe, Ghaziabad	21/03/2023/ Rs.30,34,810.54/- Rs.7,09,360.54/-	03/01/2023
2.	Abhishek Magu, Anil Kumar Magu, J- 94 Ii Nd Floor, Saket Delhi 110017, A/C:- LBDEL00004416185, LBDEL00005113005, LBDEL00003145850	Property No-J 94, 1/2 Share of Entire 2nd Floor (Rear Side) Alongwith 11% Undivided Share in The Free Hold Land, Saket (Malviya Nagar Extension), Delhi- 110017	25/05/2023/ Rs.15,92,974.81/- Rs.2,29,574.84/- Rs.10,88,351.27/-	06/03/2023
3.	Mohd Yunus Raza, Mohd Shavez, Flat No 26a Pkt-A, Lig Dda Flat, New Zafraab, Shahdara, Delhi- 110032, A/C:- LBDEL00004380025, LBDEL00004984167	Property No B-64, (Plot No-b-64, Block-B) Third Floor With Roof Rights Block B, Dda Colony, New Jafraab illaqa, shahdara, Delhi	22/07/2023/ Rs.6,54,082/- Rs.10,93,460/-	03/08/2022
4.	Abhishek Tripathi, Manisha Tripathi, D-70 2nd Floor, Naraina Vihar, Delhi- 110028 A/C:- LBGUR00001975770, LBGUR00001979108	Flat/ Unit No. 802, Tower T-12 Spire Woods, Situated At Sector 103 Haryana Gurgaon- 122001	26/07/2023/ Rs.35,41,762/- Rs.1,73,396/-	09/12/2022
5.	Ashok Kumar, Harish Kumar Sharma, 1167 Gali No 22 Saheed Bhagat Singh, Colony, Karawal Nagar Dayalpur North East, Delhi- 110094 A/C:- LBDEL00005448346, LBDEL00005448345	Flat No. 511, 5th Floor, Tower H, Oxirich Sunskriti Phase II, Situated At Sector 33, Tehsil Tijara Bhiwadi, Rajasthan Alwar- 301001	26/07/2023/ Rs.18,05,893.76/- Rs.17,54,995.76/-	06/05/2023
6.	Kumar Prasanna, Yogendra Prasad, Flat No C 308 Vakil Whinemanding Ine R 1, Marsoor Post Kasaba Hobli Anekal, Bangalore- 562106 A/C:- LBDEL00004641720, LBNOD00005043843	Apartment No P 053, Ground Floor, Block G, Gaur City 2, 14th Avenue, Situated At Plot No. Gh-03 Sector-16C, Greater Noida Noida- 201307	26/07/2023/ Rs.36,45,571/- Rs.1,35,501/-	27/05/2023
7.	Manjul Mahour, Priyanka Kawal, Flat No-203 Tower 5 Tuscan Heights, Tdi Tuscan City Kundli Sonepat- 131023 A/C:- LBDEL000005159726, LBNOD00005155474	Flat No 3G/907, Tower 3G, 9th Floor (Without Roof Rights), Nilaya Greens, Situated at Khasra No. 1015, 1023/1, 1023/2, & 1023 min Village Morta, Raj Nagar Extension Ghaziabad- 201001	26/07/2023/ Rs.17,09,280/- Rs.15,77,897/-	02/03/2023
8.	Mukesh Gupta, Shobha Gupta, 537 Ground Floor Sanjay Enclave, Jahangirpuri Gik Depot Delhi- 110033 A/C:- LBDEL00004443273, LBDEL00005092862, LBDEL00005139602	Flat No. 373, Ground Floor Jagangir Puri, Sanjay Enclave Delhi- 110033	26/07/2023/ Rs.18,93,252/- Rs.5,06,620.7/- Rs.2,04,434/-	06/05/2023
9.	Sanasam Jacky Singh, Salam Sayalaxmi Devi, House No. 3185, se to for 46 Gurgaon, Gurgaon- 122001 A/C:- LBDEL00005203350, LBGUR00006432271, TBGUR00006429330	House Situated on Plot No. 3185, 2nd Floor, (Third Floor as per Occupation Certificate), Along with two car parking space on the still Floor, Urban Estate, Sector 46, Tehsil Wazirabad Gurgaon- 122001	04/08/2023/ Rs.11,22,32,622/- Rs.61,982/- Rs.21,13,533/-	29/04/2023
10.	Disha Magoo, Renu Magoo, D 316 Rail Vihar, Sector 45, NHPC Colony Faridabad- 121010 A/C:- LBFDB00003812448, LBFDB00005118445	Unit No. 110, 1st Floor Sadbhawna EWS CGHS Situated at Plot No. GH- 18, Sector 46 Tehsil Badkhal Faridabad- 121010	05/08/2023/ Rs.12,16,768/- Rs.3,53,934/-	24/05/2023
11.	Sonu Kumar, Shivani Kumari, Flat No- 1306, 1st Floor Pkt Gh-4, Upan Apartment Sector-28 Rohini, Delhi- 110042 A/C:- LBDEL00005748613, LBDEL00005756853	DDA Lig Flat No. 996, Third Floor, Block Gh-4, Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi	07/08/2023/ Rs.21,32,634/- Rs.88,649/-	06-04-2023
12.	Sirman, Raj Karan Dahiya, Nirmala, House No-105, Second Floor, Pocket-24 Sector 24 Rohini, Sangam Apartment North West Delhi, Delhi North West Delhi Delhi- 110085, A/C:- TBDEL00006330474, LBDEL00006337311, LBDEL00006337338	DDA MIG, Flat No.-105, Second Floor, Pocket-24, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi	07/08/2023/ Rs.34,59,289/- Rs.50,716/- Rs.1,20,043/-	05-04-2023
13.	Rohan Sahani, Ved Prakash, Lata, Meenakshi, Lata, Plot No 149 4th Floor, Block A, Sector 8, Dwarka Bagdola, South West Delhi, Delhi- 110077, A/C:- LBDEL00004965262, LBDEL00004961412	Plot No-149, 4th Floor, with roof Right, Block-A, Sector-8, Dwarka Residential Scheme, Dwarka, Delhi	09/02/2023/ Rs.10,17,380/- Rs.63,34,661/-	10-03-2022
14.	Rakesh Singh, Nisha Singh, No 439/1 Jasola Village, Near Fatima Church, Delhi 110025 A/C:- LBGUR00003337365	Flat No 215 A, Dda Lig Flats, Ground Floor, Pocket 12, Jasola, Delhi- 110025	13/05/2023/ Rs.39,12,309/-	03/02/2023
15.	Pradeep, Geeta, House No-963 Gandhi Colony Nit, Haryana Faridabad- 121001, A/C:- LBFDB00005510709	Flat No-803 T-7/ Tower A Lake View Apartment Sector-48 Faridabad- 121001	26/07/2023/ Rs.39,41,029/-	03/04/2023
16.	Kailash Prashad Pandey, Prabha Pandey, Flat No 004 Tower A-2, Gardenia Glory, Sector 46 Noida-201301 A/C:- LBDEL00002385771	FLAT No. A2-G004 Tower A2, Ground Floor Gardenia Aims Glory Situated at GH-01, Sector 46, G B Nagar Noida-201301	26/07/2023/ Rs.39,80,611/-	06/05/2023
17.	Krishna Kumar Tiwari, Tarkeshwar Tiwari, A 302 Exotica Estern Court, Crossing Republic Ghaziabad UP- 201010, A/C:- LBDEL00002378998	LIG Flat No 49, Second Floor, Block C5, Pocket- 3 Sector-34, Rohini Delhi- 110085	26/07/2023/ Rs.9,58,332.5/-	06/05/2023
18.	Madhu Kumari, Gaurav Kumar 477 First Floor 1 Sec, 16A Faridabad- 121006, A/C:- LBFDB00004937278	Flat No-F-508 5th Floor, Floridaa-Tower F Sector-82 Faridabad- 121006	26/07/2023/ Rs.17,22,837/-	06/05/2023
19.	Abhinav Jindal, Ramesh Gupta House N 7, Block A, Sector 19, Dwarka Delhi- 110075, A/C:- LBDEL00004404544	Plot No-7, Amberhai Sector-19, Dwarka Residential Scheme Dwarka Delhi- 110075	26/07/2023/ Rs.29,83,495/-	15/04/2023
20.	Jubair, Anisa, J 53 Mool Chand Colonyj 53 Mool Chand Colony, Adarsh Nagar, North West Delhi 110033, A/C:- LBGUR00005769003	Apartment No 12, 3rd Floor (Apartment No 312, Block F-II) Block F-II Southend Apartment, Charmwood Village Surajkund Road, Village Lakkarpur Faridabad- 121001	26/07/2023/ Rs.41,26,977/-	06/04/2023
21.	Girdhar Gopal Agarwal, Vinita Agarwal, 353, Abhinav Apartment, B-12, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi- 110096, A/C:- LBDEL00001192128	Flat No. BF- 43 Aditya City Centre, Situated at Plot No. 3, Vaibhav Khand Indira Puram Ghaziabad- 201014	10/08/2023/ Rs.3,02,259.32/-	08/05/2023
22.	Vikas Kumar Jain, Virendra Kumar Jain, C/o Shyam Stores, 8525, Khari Baoli Delhi- 110006 A/C:- LBDEL00000847384	F No - 108, Aman Castle, Plot No - 22 Vaishali Ghaziabad- 201014	10/08/2023/ Rs.8,36,530.93/-	10/04/2023
23.	K G Anand, K V Govinda Krishnan, 7E Pocket A 3 Mayur Vihar Phase 3, Vasundhara East, Delhi- 110096 A/C:- LBGHZ00002369039	Flat No Sepang- 1403 14th Floor, Oasis Grand Stand, Situated at GH-01, TS 01B, Sector 22 D, Yamuna Expressway, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida- 201301	10/08/2023/ Rs.11,06,302/-	03/05/2023
24.	Dhananjay Kumar, Chandra Shekhar Prasad, 249/20, Santi Nagar, Gurgaon- 122001 A/C:- LBDEL00002043180	Flat No 301, 3rd Floor (Flat No. 01, 3rd Floor, Block A, Manhar Garden) Block A, Manhar Garden, Harish Nagar Sikandra Bodla Road, Sikandra Agra- 282001	10/08/2023/ Rs.18,83,244/-	10/03/2023
25.	Anand Pradeep Kumar, N 25 Ground Floor, Chittaranjan Park, Delhi- 110019, A/C:- LBGUR00003228233	Apartment No 602, 6th Floor ILD Trade Center, Situated in the Revenue Village of Village Tikri Sec 47, Sohna Road, Haryana Gurgaon- 122001	10/08/2023/ Rs.57,87,834.33/-	04/07/2022
26.	Sanjay Pratap, Usha Mendiratta, 635 Housing Board Colony, Saraswati Vihar, Chakrapur Gurgaon- 122002 A/C:- LBDEL00001902960	Flat No-1702, Tower B3, 10th Floor, UP Country, Situated at TS-1, Sector 17A, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Gautam Budh Nagar Noida- 201301	04/08/2023/ Rs.7,61,329.1/-	07/12/2022
27.	Seema Singh, SRC Technosoft Private Limited, Ravindra Pal Singh, Ga-018 P-6 Pocket Ntps Sas Ltd, Greater Noida Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida-201308 A/C:- LBDEL00004218515	House No. GA-018, at Plot No. 3 Builders Area, Sector P-6 GB Nagar Greater Noida 201307	04/08/2023/ Rs.45,59,886/-	06/04/2023
28.	Sanjay Pratap, Usha, 635 Housing Board Colony, Saraswati Vihar Chakrapur, Gurgaon- 122002, A/C:- LBDEL00002055213	Flat No. 1207, Tower C1, Golf Village, in project called Golf Country, Situated at TS-5, Sector 22D, Yamuna Expressway, Gautam Budh Nagar Noida- 201301	04/08/2023/ Rs.8,80,617.82/-	07/12/2022
29.	Vijay Kumar, Kiran, 58C Second Floor, Lig Prasad Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005 A/C:- LBDEL00004858772	DDA MIG Flat No. 276, Third Floor, Prasad Nagar (With Terrace Roof Rights) Delhi- 110005	04/08/2023/ Rs.75,31,683/-	01/06/2023
30.	Miriya Cheema, Anila Bhatia Cheema, B-38 Green Woods City, Gurgaon, Sec-45 Gurgaon- 122001 A/C:- LBGUR00002191149	Flat No 8072, 7th Floor Type A, Tower-8, ATS Triumph, Situated at Sector-104 Gurgaon- 122101	04/08/2023/ Rs.2,47,94,973.85/-	03/06/2022
31.	Jaya Pandey, Ravi Shankar Pandey, B-74 1st Floor Ramprastha Colony, Ghaziabad- 201011 A/C:- LBDEL00002033375	Flat No 1402, 13th Floor, Tower - A, Kingswoods Court, Situated at Plot No GH 06, Crossing Republik, Dundahe Ghaziabad- 201001	04/08/2023/ Rs.13,57,896.9/-	03/06/2022
32.	Hardeep Singh Johar, Damandeep Kaur, 1032 The Great Lyaalpur, Housing Society Ph I Sec 10, Dwarka, Delhi- 110075 A/C:- LBGUR00002087904	Flat No-1181, 18th Floor, Type-B, Tower1 ATS Triumph, Sector 104 GURGAON 122001	04/08/2023/ Rs.1,77,72,057/-	03/07/2022
33.	Pankaj Bahuguna, Shivani Bahuguna, E 45 TE Bock 3rd Floor, Sec 1 Rohini Delhi- 110085 A/C:- LBDEL00002049284	Unit No- H3-504, 5th Floor, Tower-H3, Eldaco Hillside, (Nic/M), Neemrana, Plot No Gh-12-238, Alwar	07/08/2023/ Rs.18,95,978/-	02/05/2023
34.	Ankan Suri, Sushma Suri, X 141, DLF Capital Green, Shivaji Marg, Karam Pura Delhi- 110015 A/C:- LBDEL00005310910	Plot No- C-192, Entire Basement And Entire Ground Floor, Greater Kailash Part 1, Delhi (Along with space of two car parking, space for one utility & common W/C in the still area and also two servant quarters in the rear portion of the still area.)	07/08/2023/ Rs.2,03,00,993.45/-	06/05/2023
35.	Sanjay Gulati, Ritu Gulati, H. No. 39 Krishna Market, Ft Kalkaji, Delhi- 110019 A/C:- LBDEL00001992997	Flat No 1702, 16th Floor, Block-C, Type-E, Logix Blossom Zest, Plot No GH02, Sector- 143, Noida	07/08/2023/ Rs.18,87,219.9/-	30/05/2023
36.	Vikas Verma, Nameesha Verma, D-40 Sector 40 Noida- 201301, A/C:- LBNOD00002841292	Flat No 1602, 16th Floor, Tower-C, TGB Neelgagan, Plot No. 3/ Gh-05, Siddarth Vihar, Nhd-24, Ghaziabad	07/08/2023/ Rs.18,88,731/-	30/05/2023
37.	Rakesh Kathuria, Ekta Chopra, 4 National Park, Lalpat Nagar IV, Delhi- 110024, A/C:- LBDEL00001999476	Flat No-T-F/0608, 6th Floor, Paras Dew's, Sector-106, Dwarka Expressway, Gurgaon, Haryana	07/08/2023/ Rs.51,81,177/-	11/05/2023
38.	Sumit Kumar Mishra, Vibha Devi Mishra, H No 123, First Floor Block I, Dakshin Puri, Delhi- 110062, A/C:- LBDEL00002094431	Flat No 430, 4th Floor, Block-B, Manhar Garden, Near Harish Nagar, Sikandra Bodla Road, Agra	07/08/2023/ Rs.24,16,442.16/-	11/05/2021
39.	Ritesh Kumar Bhatia, Vinod Kumar Bhatia, 13814 Rock Terrace Centreville, Virginia Usa, Virginia- 20110, A/C:- LBNOD00002024084	Flat No LD00150401, 4th Floor, Kove, Tower-LD1 15, Jaypee Greens Sports City, Sector-25, Special Development Zone Greater Noida.	08/08/2023/ Rs.37,06,139/-	11/05/2023
40.	Uday Kumar, Minu Kumari, S 231 School Block, Shahpur Delhi, Shahpur Delhi- 110092, A/C:- LBDEL00002901155	Flat No. A- 1/14, 1st Floor, Tower A, Himalaya Pride, Plot No 10b, Techzone IV, Plot No. 10/B, Greater Noida, Noida A/C:-	07/08/2023/ Rs.32,16,281/-	21/05/2023
41.	Persis Solomon Ismael, Asha D Singh, Corona Gracieux Apartment, C 801 Tower, 8 Th Floor, Sector 76 Kharki Dola, Gurgaon- 122004, A/C:- LBGUR00002415972	Unit No G-57, Ground Floor, Block C, Spaze Business Park, Sec 66, Gurgaon	07/08/2023/ Rs.11,20,213/-	08/05/2023
42.	Shyju Madangopal Nair, Kavita Shyju Nair, 203/A Sai, Jyot Chs Cabin, Road Bhayandar E Thane-401105, A/C:- LBDEL00003127276	Flat No-T9-501, 5th Floor, Tower-9, Sunworld Arista, Plot No Gh 01/C Sector 168, Noida	07/08/2023/ Rs.77,51,318/-	02/05/2023
43.	Virendra Kumar Upadhyay, Preeti Upadhyay, Rampur Jaunpur Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh- 222125, A/C:- LBDEL00005671345	Flat No. 402, 4th Floor, Tower T9, Aagman-2, Mujeeri, Sector-70, Faridabad, Haryana	07/08/2023/ Rs.17,88,370/-	30/05/2023
44.	Suman Chawla, Manoj Kumar Chawla, 151 Geeta Apartments Block 17, Geeta Colony East Delhi, Delhi, 110031 A/C:- LBDEL00004364956	Flat No 602, 6th Floor, Tower CS-7, Supertech Capetown, Plot No Gh-01/A, Sector-74, Noida.	07/08/2023/ Rs.41,98,924.46/-	06/05/2023
45.	Tailendra Talukdar, Kabita Barman, Banglow No P1 224B Type 4 Office, Colony Lumding Assam 782447, Post Khanapara PS Dispur, Guwahati- 781022 A/C:- LBNOD00005265860	Plot No-652, Block-B, Sector-22D, Greater Noida, Noida	07/08/2023/ Rs.15,42,152/-	06/05/2023
46.	Nafeesh Khan Mansoori, Mansoori Boud Solid And Sports Pvt Ltd, Sajida Begum, B-604, Meenakshi Appt. Sector-P7, Surajpur, UP Greater Noida- 201306, A/C:- LBDEL00005181909	Plot No T5, Sec Village TugalPur/ Haldona (KP-1), (5/6% Village Abadi) Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida	07/08/2023/ Rs.1,10,40,786.86/-	03/06/2022
47.	Arvind Kumar, Koshal Mishra, House No-1161, Maruti Kuni, Bhandsi, Gurgaon Haryana - 122102, Gurgaon- 122102, A/C:- LBGUR00004409300	Shop No G-070, Ground Floor, Rof Galleria, Sector 102, Gurgaon	07/08/2023/ Rs.17,00,780/-	06/04/2023
48.	Namr Kishore, Ashu Ratra, Flat No 102 Sector 93A, Supertech Emerald Court, Noida- 201304, A/C:- LBNOD00001957480	Unit No- KR10030901, Kristal Court, Tower-3, Wishtown Noida, Jaypee Greens, Expressway Sector-128, Noida, A/C:-	07/08/2023/ Rs.25,27,176/-	02/05/2023
49.	Amitesh Raj, Nisha Kumari, 128 Pragati App's., Paschim Puri, Near Paschim Puri Gurudwara, New Delhi Delhi- 110063 A/C:- LBNOD00001410410	Flat-No- S-3, II Nd Floor, With Roof Right, Plot No-6/ 95, Sector-6, Residential Colony, Vaishali, Ghaziabad	06/01/2023/ Rs.7,96,919/-	10-11-2022

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

Date : September 02, 2023  
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

# India should pursue gender agenda at G20: Patricia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India should pursue with vigour the G20 agenda and make sure that gender parity and gender inclusive approaches are woven into everything, according to Commonwealth General-Secretary Patricia Scotland.



In an interview with PTI, she highlighted the alarming gender disparities in the impacts of climate change, with a special focus on India's efforts to address this pressing issue. Scotland also shed light on the disproportionate burden borne by women and girls and emphasized the urgent need for action, with a particular spotlight on India.

She said. She said the Commonwealth "would strongly encourage India to do is to pursue with vigour the G20 agenda and make sure that gender parity, gender inclusive approaches is woven in to absolutely everything".

Scotland pointed to a recent series of natural calamities in India as a stark example of this inequality. "It's scary to see the number of landslides and the droughts and all of it happening in rapid succession," she said. She noted it is "wholly unacceptable" that they should suffer disproportionately. India, a country grappling with a series of climate-induced

calamities including landslides, droughts, and extreme weather events, exemplifies this issue, Scotland said. "India really is reflective of all of it because India has the island states, the large states, and one of the states in India is the same size as Nigeria, and you've got the coastal states," she said. Scotland commended India's unique position within the Commonwealth, which mirrors its diverse culture and vast geographical representation. India's proactive efforts to address gender disparities in the context of climate change serve as a model for other nations grappling with similar challenges, she said. "India has the Commonwealth window in the UN fund, and we've used that Commonwealth's window for Barbados and for the Bahamas." Furthermore, India leads the Commonwealth Finance Minister's working group, advocating for gender considerations in international financial insti-

tutions, she added. Scotland elaborated upon the steps that the Commonwealth have taken to ensure gender considerations are embedded in its initiatives, fostering a comprehensive approach to addressing gender disparities.

These efforts encompass addressing violence against women, eliminating discriminatory laws, and promoting gender equality within climate commitments. Practical tools, such as the Climate Finance Access Hub and the Commonwealth Universal Vulnerability Index, aim to address gender disparities effectively.

"We've embedded in all of these tools the issue of gender parity, gender equality, so it's not talk, it's actually giving our countries the mechanisms that they can use, the tools they can use to make sure that the unfairness, that the lack of parity that we have now is addressed," Scotland said.

# Rajasthan Govt took prompt action on woman paraded naked: Priyanka

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of a tribal woman allegedly stripped and paraded in a village in Rajasthan, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the State Government took prompt action to arrest the criminals and announced to punish them after trial in a fast-track court.



The Congress general secretary hoped that the victim will get justice at the earliest and the perpetrators of this dastardly incident will be punished severely.

tribal woman was allegedly stripped naked and paraded in a village in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district, police said on Saturday. The incident, caught on camera, was widely criticised by various political leaders. In a post in Hindi on X, Priyanka Gandhi said it is very important to take prompt and strict action in incidents of crimes against women and punish the criminals.

Seven people have been arrested and four others detained after a 21-year-old

SC grants bail to chief of Christian Hospital Society in conversion case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has granted interim protection from arrest to the chairman of Broadwell Christian Hospital Society in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district in a case of alleged forceful religious conversion.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala also issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government on the appeal filed by Mathew Samuel and others challenging an order of the Allahabad High Court which refused to quash the proceedings in the FIR filed against them by the state police.

"Issue notice on the Special Leave Petition as well as on the Interlocutory Application for directions. In the meanwhile, no coercive action shall be taken against the petitioners in connection with FIR Nos 224/2022, 54/2023, 55/2023 and 60/2023, registered at Police Station Kotwali, District Fatehpur, UP," the bench said. Senior advocate CU Singh, appearing for the petitioners, sought a stay on the investigation with respect to the FIRs, alleging abuse of the criminal justice process. The HC had earlier refused to quash the proceedings against Samuel and others in the FIR filed against them by the state police.

Uttar Pradesh Police registered FIRs against Samuel and others under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 as well as the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021 after receiving complaints of mass religious conversion.

# NIA arrested 2 persons for harbouring ultras in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday said it has arrested two persons for harbouring the terrorists who had killed five innocent civilians in Dhangri village of Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir in January this year.



The duo, Nisar Ahmed alias Haji Nisar and Mushtaq Hussain, were formally arrested by the NIA on Thursday in the case. They were produced before NIA Special Court, Jammu on Friday and were sent to 12-day NIA custody. Incidentally, both the accused were currently lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu in another case, regis-

tered at Police Station Gursai, Mendhar, Poonch. On January 1, 2023, five persons were killed and others seriously injured in an attack by unknown terrorists.

The case was initially registered at Rajouri police station under Indian Penal Code sections relating to murder, attempt to murder, grievous hurt and criminal conspiracy besides relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act besides Sections of the Arms Act. Earlier the NIA had taken over and re-registered the case on January 13.

Investigations revealed that both the arrested accused persons were involved in harbouring the terrorists who had carried out the shocking killings of the civilians.

They had provided logistics support to the terrorists for more than two months and had sheltered them in a hideout, which was constructed by the arrested accused persons on the directions of Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) handlers namely Saifullah al-Sajid Jutt, Abu Qatal alias Qatal Sindh and Mohd. Qasim," the NIA said in a statement.



# Russia thwarts Ukrainian attack on Crimea bridge

AP ■ KYIV

Russia said on Saturday its forces destroyed three Ukrainian naval drones being used in an attempt to attack a key bridge linking Russia to Moscow-annexed Crimea, forcing its temporary closure for a third time in less than a year.

One naval drone was destroyed late Friday and two others early on Saturday morning, according to Russia's Defence Ministry. There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials. A key supply route for Kremlin forces in the war with Ukraine, the Kerch bridge has come under repeated attack since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

An explosion in October, which Russian authorities said was caused by a truck bomb, left three people dead. A further attack on the bridge in July, killing a couple and seriously wounding their daughter, left a span of the roadway hanging perilously. The bridge connecting Crimea and Russia carries heavy significance for Moscow, both logistically and psychologically, as a key artery for military and civilian supplies and as an assertion of Kremlin control of the peninsula it annexed in 2014.

On Saturday afternoon, one civilian was killed and



two wounded during shelling of Russia's Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, Belgorod Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said. Two Ukrainian drones attacked the region's Valuysky district, causing minor damage to a private home and car, while another drone was intercepted by Russian air defense in the Grayvoronsky district.

A woman was also wounded Saturday during shelling of a village in the neighbouring Kursk region, also bordering Ukraine, regional Gov. Roman Starovoi said. He blamed Ukraine for the shelling.

Ukrainian authorities, which generally avoid commenting on attacks on Russian soil, didn't say whether they launched the attacks. Drone strikes and shelling on the Russian border regions are a regular occurrence.

Meanwhile, four people were wounded in the Ukrainian shelling of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, Moscow-installed mayor Aleksei Kulemzin said Saturday. Donetsk is the regional capital of the eastern Ukrainian province of the same name, which was among the

four Ukrainian provinces illegally annexed by Russia in September. The city came under the control of Russia-backed separatists in 2014.

The Ukrainian military said in a regular update Saturday that over the previous 24 hours Russia had launched four missile strikes and 39 airstrikes, in addition to 42 attacks from multiple rocket launchers. One person was killed and two were wounded during shelling of Ukraine's southern Kherson region on Saturday, according to Gov. Oleh Prokudin. Farther north,

## Putin deploys ICBM

Moscow (AP): The head of Russia's Roscosmos space agency said Friday that the country has deployed an advanced intercontinental ballistic missile that President Vladimir Putin once said will make Russia's enemies "think twice."

Agency head Yuri Borisov said Sarmat missiles have been placed on combat duty, according to Russian news agencies. Further details were not reported.

The Sarmat is one of several advanced weapons whose development Putin announced in 2018. The silo-based missile, capable of carrying

multiple nuclear warheads, is intended to replace the R-36 ICBMs that are known by the NATO reporting name of Satan.

The Sarmat reportedly has a short initial launch phase, allowing little time for surveillance systems to track it.

In 2022, about two months after sending troops into Ukraine, Putin said the Sarmat would "reliably ensure the security of Russia from external threats and make those who, in the heat of aggressive rhetoric, try to threaten our country, think twice."

Kryvyi Rih Mayor Oleksandr Vilkul said the anti-aircraft defence in the central Ukrainian city, which is President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown, had successfully thwarted a strike, without specifying the nature of the attack.

UK military officials said Saturday that Russia risks splitting its forces in an attempt to prevent a Ukrainian breakthrough in Ukraine's south. According to British intelligence, Ukrainian forces continued to take offensive action on the Orikhiv axis in southern

Ukraine, with units reaching the first Russian main defensive line. Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said on Friday that Kyiv's troops were advancing in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will host Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks next week, the Kremlin announced on Friday, just over six weeks after Moscow broke off a deal brokered by Ankara and the UN that allowed Ukrainian grain to reach world markets safely despite the 18-month war.

# Nobel Foundation withdraws invitation to Russia, Belarus, Iran

Stockholm (AP): The Nobel Foundation on Saturday withdrew its invitation for representatives of Russia, Belarus and Iran to attend this year's Nobel Prize award ceremonies after the decision announced a day earlier "provoked strong reactions."

Several Swedish lawmakers said Friday they would boycott this year's Nobel Prize award ceremonies in the Swedish capital, Stockholm, after the private foundation that administers the prestigious awards changed its position from a year earlier and invited representatives

of the three countries to attend, saying it "promotes opportunities to convey the important messages of the Nobel Prize to everyone." Some of the lawmakers cited Russia's war on Ukraine and the crackdown on human rights in Iran as reasons for their boycott.

Belarusian opposition figure Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on Friday called on the Swedish Nobel Foundation and the Norwegian Nobel Committee not to invite representatives of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko's "illegitimate regime to any events."

# Differences with Trump 'very small': Ramaswamy

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Indian-American Vivek Ramaswamy has acknowledged that there were some 'very small' differences between him and former US president Donald Trump but they were 'deeply aligned' on policy issues, 90-plus per cent of the way," The Hill newspaper quoted Ramaswamy as saying on Fox News.

"There are some small differences. I would rescind affirmative action. I would militarise the southern border instead of just building the wall. I would shut down the US Department of Education, not just put a good person, (former Education Secretary) Betsy DeVos, on top to reform it," Ramaswamy said. Trump, 77, has lavished praise on the 38-year-old Indian-American presidential contender Ramaswamy, calling him a 'smart, young guy' days after he caught the attention of the American media following

his maiden Republican presidential primary debate on August 23.

Trump, the frontrunner in the nomination race, made the remarks on Tuesday, after he was asked whether he's considering a 'Vice President Ramaswamy'.

During the interview on Friday, Ramaswamy said that he supports Trump's policies. Ramaswamy has effusively praised Trump throughout his campaign, promising to pardon the former president of any potential convictions on his first day in the White House.

"I think we have an opportunity to reunite this country around our shared ideals, and that will allow me to take the America First agenda even further than Donald Trump did, by building on what I think is a very good foundation that he laid," Ramaswamy said.

Pakistan's business community on Saturday observed a shutter-down strike across the country to protest against the inflated electricity bills and rising inflation.

Rightwing Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and traders' groups gave the call for protest and they got support from lawyers.

Commercial activities were halted in Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar, as well as in other cities, while public transport was largely off the main roads.

In Karachi, the Tajir Action Committee (TAC) on Friday gave the government 72 hours to reduce high electricity bills and withdraw the recent hike in petrol prices.

It warned that if the government failed to fulfil its demands, there would be a prolonged strike of 10 days.

# Strike in Pak over inflated power bills

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

# Braverman orders review into impartiality within UK's police

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

London (PTI): UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman on Saturday ordered a review into activism and impartiality in the country's police forces as she called on officers to focus on tackling crime rather than being involved in political matters.

The 43-year-old Indian-origin Cabinet minister has commissioned His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to undertake a review of the extent to which involvement in political activities may be impacting the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of operational policing in England and Wales, by influencing policing policy, priorities and practice. The UK Home Office said the country's policing model expects that the police should, at all times, adopt a position of political neutrality.

"The British people expect their police to focus on cutting crime and protecting communities - political activism does not keep people safe, solve crimes or support victims, but can damage public confidence," said Braverman. "The review I've commissioned will explore whether the police getting involved in political-contentious matters is having a detrimental impact on policing. I will leave no stone unturned in ensuring policing acts for the benefit of the British public," she said.

In a letter to police chiefs, the minister praised forces for their hard work and dedication, noting the extraordinary levels of bravery and commitment officers up and down the country show. However, she highlighted cases where she believed public confidence had been damaged by police engaging in contentious issues. This includes policing gender-critical views on social media, conduct at political marches and officers taking the knee during the Black Lives Matter protests.

# Tharman surprised by 'high degree of endorsement'

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Amid pouring congratulatory messages, Singapore's President-elect Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Saturday said he was surprised by "such a high degree of endorsement," and that he was very serious about wanting to fulfil the mandate given by the people.

Singapore-born Indian-origin candidate in a predominantly Chinese multi-racial Singapore, 66-year-old Tharman won the presidential election with a massive vote share of 70.4 per cent in the early hours of Saturday. This is the first contested presidential election since 2011.

Speaking to journalists at his first doorstep interview since the official result was declared, Tharman said, "I did not expect such a high degree of endorsement, which also means there was a fair number of people who would normally not vote in favour of the ruling party, who decided that this was not a political election, this is not a General Election. And they decided to vote for me, and I think that's also very encouraging."

Describing the result as "remarkable unity" from Singaporeans, the economist-turned-politician said he thinks Singaporeans have been very sensible in the way they voted. "I think it's also interesting that Singaporeans, whom I believe want a non-partisan President... They do not think that having been a member of a political party or even being a member of Cabinet should diminish a person's ability to be non-partisan," Channel News Asia quoted the former deputy prime minister and senior minister as saying.

"It all depends on the individual, the character of the person, the reputation of the person, and the ability to reach across all the boundaries you can think of in Singapore. That's always been my orientation.

"So, I think it's a very interesting lesson that Singaporeans do not think that my political service all these years was a disadvantage," Tharman also said he is looking forward to meeting outgoing President Halimah Yacob and asking her for advice.

"She has served Singapore remarkably well. I admire her equanimity, her poise, the dignity with which she's held the Presidency," he added.

"One of the first things I want to do is sit down with her and get her thoughts and advice coming from the last six years. I'm not going to rush the process, but I'm very serious about wanting to fulfil the mandate that's been given to me by the people."

President Halimah completes her six-year term on September 13.

Meanwhile, congratulatory messages have been pouring in from world leaders. In a statement dated September 1, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said, "The United States and Singapore share a longstanding and robust partnership built on a foundation of mutual respect, shared values and common interests. "We look forward to working closely with President-elect Shanmugaratnam and the people of Singapore to further strengthen the enduring bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two nations," The Straits Times quoted the senior US official as saying.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Vishwajit Singh Jadhav... My Client, SMT SHAINALI BEGUM... Public Notice: My Client, SMT SHAINALI BEGUM...

PUBLIC NOTICE: My Client, SMT SHAINALI BEGUM... Public Notice: My Client, SMT SHAINALI BEGUM...

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER: SSA-22020/3/2022-ALTSC-SSA/269074/2023... Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19.

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER: SSA-15015/39/2023-Establishment-SSA/1267759/2023... Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilpara, Guwahati-19.

GOLDEGE ESTATE & INVESTMENT LTD. CIN: L70101DL1992PLC047541... NOTICE TO MEMBERS: The Notice is hereby given that:- 1. The 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Thursday, the 28th day of September, 2023 at 12:00 Noon through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM)...

# WORLD BRIEFS

3 ARMENIA SOLDIERS KILLED BY AZERBAIJAN YEREVAN: Armenia's defence ministry said three soldiers were killed on Friday in firing from Azerbaijan as tensions between the two countries persist. The ministry initially reported four soldiers were killed and one wounded, but later said one of those believed to have died was resuscitated. The ministry said Armenian positions were hit near the settlements of Sotk and Norbak, which are about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from the border. Azerbaijan's defence ministry in turn said Armenian forces in the area had been firing on positions in Azerbaijan and that Armenia was bringing more troops to the area. Azerbaijan and Armenia fought a six-week fullscale war in 2020 that ended with Azerbaijan regaining many areas that had been under the control of ethnic Armenians backed by Armenian forces since 1994.

FIVE WOMEN TERRORISTS ARRESTED IN PAK LAHORE: In a first, police in Pakistan's Punjab province arrested five women terrorists belonging to the Islamic State (ISIS) militant group, authorities said on Saturday. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police said it arrested the five women from Lahore and Sheikhupura after receiving a tip-off. Weapons, cash, banned literature and cell phones were recovered from them, it said in a statement. "The women are active members of Daesh (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) and involved in terror activities in the country," the statement said. The arrested militants have been identified as Aiman, Javeria, Sadia, Faiza and Fakhra. Terrorism cases have been registered against them. They have been shifted to an undisclosed location for further investigation.

PAK ARMY MAJOR KILLED IN RESTIVE NORTHWEST PESHAWAR: A Pakistan Army Major and a soldier were killed in a gunbattle with militants during an intelligence-based operation in the restive northwest tribal district bordering Afghanistan, the army said on Saturday. The incident happened two days after nine soldiers were killed in a suicide attack by the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terror group in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The clash occurred in Miran Shah in North Waziristan tribal district on Friday when the forces engaged in an operation on a tip-off, said Inter-Services Public Relations, the army's media wing. According to the statement, the army was attacked by the militants which led to an intense exchange of fire between the two sides, killing a Major and a soldier.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार पत्रांक- 231 / सैतकै / 2023-24 दिनांक- 02.09.2023 पुरान अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना नगर निगम हरिद्वार द्वारा निगम क्षेत्रांतर्गत अपर जोन (वार्ड सं-1 से 9 व 32 से 53 ) में कडा सडान व परिवहन एवं सोर्स सेवोयोगन आदि अन्य कार्या हेतु ई-निविदा (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) प्रक्रिया को माध्यम से www.uktenders.gov.in पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

Delton Cables Limited CIN: L31300DL1984PLC004255 Regd. Office : Delton House, 4801, Bharat Ram Road, 24, Darya Ganj, New Delhi -110002 Website : www.deltoncables.com, E-mail: cs@deltoncables.com

(For the attention of Equity Shareholders of Delton Cables Limited) Notice is hereby given that the Fifty Eighth (58th) Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Delton Cables Limited will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) to transact the business(s) as set forth in the AGM Notice dated August 11, 2023 without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue, in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended from time to time, read with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020, Circular No. 39/2020 dated June 15, 2020, Circular No. 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, Circular No. 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021, Circular No. 20/2021 dated June 08, 2021, Circular No. 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, Circular No. 19/2021 dated December 08, 2021, Circular No. 21/2021 dated December 14, 2021, Circular No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and Circular No. 10/2022 and 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 (collectively referred as "MCA Circulars") and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide its Circular No. S/SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2023/4 dated January 5, 2023 (collectively "SEBI Circulars") issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

All Members are informed that: a. the remote e-voting shall commence on 27.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M.; b. the remote e-voting shall end on 29.09.2023 at 5.00 P.M.; c. the cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote through remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM is 23.09.2023; d. any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes Member of the Company after e-mailing of Notice by the Company and holding physical/demat shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on toll free no. 1800 22 55 33. The same procedure may be followed by Members holding shares in Demat/Physical mode who have not registered/updated their Email IDs with verification details such as folio no., DP ID/Client ID, PAN (scanned copy), demat account statement; e. the remote e-voting shall end at 5.00 P.M. on 29.09.2023 and thereafter shall be disabled by CDSL. Once the vote on a Resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; f. the e-voting facility will be available during the AGM also for the Members who have not cast their vote through remote e-voting. Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also participate in the AGM through VC/OAVM Facility but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again; g. only a person, whose name is recorded in the Register of member or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM; h. Mr. Vaibhav Sharma, Proprietor of M/s Vaibhav Sharma and Associates, Company Secretaries (COP No. 10831) has been appointed as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner; i. if a person is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then existing user ID and password/PIN for casting vote is to be used. If a Member forgets password, the same is to be reset by using "Forgot User Details/Password" option available on www.evotingindia.com. The AGM Notice and Annual Report will be available on the websites of (i) the Company at www.deltoncables.com and (ii) CDSL at www.evotingindia.com (iii) Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com. In case of any queries before or during the AGM, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Members and e-voting user manual available at the www.evotingindia.com, under help section or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com. All grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dahi, Manager, (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futrex, Mafatlal Mills Compound, N. M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call toll free no. 1800 22 55 33.



# Windfall profit tax on crude oil cut

## Levy on diesel, ATF exports hiked

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has cut the windfall profit tax on crude oil produced in the country while the levy on exports of diesel and ATF has been hiked, an official notification said.

The tax, levied in the form of special additional excise duty or SAED, on domestically produced crude oil was reduced to Rs 6,700 per tonne from Rs 7,100 a tonne.

SAED on the export of diesel was increased to Rs 6 per litre from Rs 5.50 a litre and on jet fuel or ATF to Rs 4 per litre from Rs 2, the notification said.

SAED on export of petrol will continue to be zero. The new tax rates came into effect from Saturday, the order dated September 1, said.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1 last year, joining a growing number of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel.

A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was also



Levyed.

The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

A windfall tax is levied on domestic crude oil if rates of the global benchmark rise above USD 75 per barrel. Export of diesel, ATF and petrol attract the levy if product cracks (or margins) rise above USD 20 per barrel.

Product cracks or margins are the difference between crude oil (raw material) and finished petroleum products. International crude oil prices averaged USD 86.43 per barrel in August, up from USD 80.37 in the preceding month and USD 74.93 a barrel in June.

The levy on domestic crude oil dropped to nil in the first half of April as interna-

tional crude oil prices fell but was back in the second half in step with a rise in rates.

Levy on diesel became nil in April but the levy was brought back in August. Levy on ATF became nil in March and was brought back in second half of August.

The export tax on petrol was scrapped in the very first review.

Crude oil pumped out of the ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuels like petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates the world's largest single-location oil refinery complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nujara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country.

# Commerce Ministry recommends anti-dumping duty on imports of Chinese glass



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry has recommended anti-dumping duty of up to USD 243 per tonne of import of Chinese glass used in home appliances with a view to guard domestic players from cheap inbound shipments from the neighbouring country.

The finance ministry will take a final decision on imposing the duty.

Following a complaint by a domestic player, the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has investigated alleged dumping of 'toughened glass for home appliances having thickness between 1.8 MM to 8 MM and area of 0.4 SqM or less' originating in or exported from China.

Federation of Safety Glass, an association of safety/specialty glass processors, had filed an application to initiate the anti-dumping investigation.

The applicant has alleged that dumping of the product is

impacting domestic industries.

In its findings after concluding the probe, the DGTR said that the product was exported to India at a price which is below the normal level and that has resulted in dumping which has impacted domestic makers.

"Accordingly, the authority recommends imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on the imports... For a period of five years," according to the DGTR notification.

The recommended duty ranges between USD 41.8 per tonne and USD 243 per tonne.

Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

As a countermeasure, they impose these duties under the multilateral regime of the Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO). The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

# Uday steps down as MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Uday Kotak, the founder and promoter of Kotak Mahindra Bank, has resigned as Managing Director and CEO of the private sector lender three months ahead of Reserve Bank's deadline.

He has ceased to be the Managing Director & CEO of the bank, with effect from September 1, 2023, on account of his resignation considered at the bank's board meeting held on Saturday.

Kotak, whose holding in the bank stands at 26 per cent, has become a non-executive director of the bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a regulatory filing on Saturday.

As per the regulatory mandate restricting a managing director and chief executive's term to 15 years, the board of the bank had earlier this year decided to appoint Uday Kotak as the non-executive director after his current term ends in December.

As an interim arrangement, Dipak Gupta, the Joint Managing Director, will carry out the duties of the Managing Director & CEO until December 31, 2023, subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and the members of the bank, it said.

Taking to microblogging site X formerly Twitter, Kotak said, "Succession at Kotak Mahindra Bank has been foremost on my mind, since our Chairman, myself and Joint MD are all required to step down by year-end. I am keen to ensure smooth transition by



sequencing these departures. I initiate this process now and step down voluntarily as CEO."

The bank awaits RBI approval of the proposed successor who would take charge from January 1, 2024, Kotak, who has been MD and CEO of the bank since its inception, said.

"As Founder, I am deeply attached to brand Kotak and will continue to serve the institution as Non-Executive Director and significant shareholder. We have an outstanding management team to carry the legacy forward. Founders go away, but the institution flourishes into perpetuity," he said.

A long time ago, he said, "I saw names like JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs dominate the financial world and dreamed of creating such an institution in India. It is with this dream that I started Kotak Mahindra 38 years ago, with 3 employees in a 300 sqft office in Fort, Mumbai. I have deeply cherished every bit of this memorable journey, living my dream."

Kotak Mahindra Bank is

now a pre-eminent bank and financial institution, created on the basic tenets of trust and transparency, he said.

"We have created value for our stakeholders and provide over 1 lakh direct jobs. An investment of Rs 10,000 with us in 1985 would be worth around Rs 300 crore today. I am confident that this Indian-owned institution will continue to play an even more important role in India's transformation into a social and economic powerhouse," he said.

Kotak Mahindra Bank is among the few large private sector banks to have prominent promoter shareholders.

Kotak, in a handwritten message to the bank's Chairman Prakash Apte attached on X, said it is now time to move on and the decision to resign three months ahead of the expiry of his term is with the view to sequencing this process from a transition and stability perspective.

Incidentally, the term of the bank's Chairman is also coming to an end on December 31, 2023.

**ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED**  
CIN: L74899DL1976PLC008036  
Regd. Office: Unit No 8, Ground Floor, Pocket M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076  
Website: www.rotaindia.co.in Email: info@rotaindia.co.in Phone: 011-47366600

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 48th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Rotographics (India) Limited ("the Company") will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") (the "Meeting") as per provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made thereunder and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") circular dated April 8, 2020 and April 13, 2020 and May 5, 2020 and Jan 13, 2021 and May 5, 2022. (Collectively referred to as MCA circulars) and SEBI circular dated May 12, 2020, Jan 15, 2021 and May 13, 2022. To transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM. Electronic copy of the Notice of the AGM along with Annual Report and Accounts for the Financial Year 2022-23 (the "Annual Report") of the Company has been sent electronically to the members to their registered mail address with the Depositories/ Company. These documents can also be downloaded from the Company's website [www.rotaindia.co.in](http://www.rotaindia.co.in) and the website of the Stock Exchange where shares of the Company are listed i.e. **Bombay Stock Exchange** at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com). Members holding share either in physical or demat form, on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, 22nd September, 2023 shall cast their vote electronically through the electronic voting system of NSDL at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

Members are hereby informed that:

- The business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through remote e-voting or by e-voting system at the AGM.
- The remote e-voting period shall commence on Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. and ends on Thursday, 28th September, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The cut-off date for the remote e-voting process is Friday, 22nd September, 2023.
- The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 23rd September, 2023 to 29th September, 2023 (both days inclusive).
- The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL beyond 5:00 p.m. on 28th September, 2023 and once the votes, on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The facility for e-voting will also be made available during the AGM, and those members present in the AGM through VC/OAVM facility, who have not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting, shall be eligible to vote through the e-voting system at the AGM. The members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM through VC/OAVM facility but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again. Only persons whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or e-voting at the AGM.
- Any Person, who acquires shares and become members of the Company after dispatch of Notice of AGM but before cut-off date of Friday, 22nd September, 2023 may obtain their USER ID and password for remote e-voting by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in), [info@skvlinertat.com](mailto:info@skvlinertat.com) or [info@rotaindia.co.in](mailto:info@rotaindia.co.in).
- The detailed procedure for remote e-voting before and during the AGM is provided in the Notes to the Notice of the AGM.
- Members who need assistance before or during the AGM, can contact NSDL on [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) / 022 - 4886 7000 and 022 - 2499 7000 or send a request to Mr. Abhishek Mishra National Companies Depositories Limited at the designated email id: [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in)

By Order of the Board of Directors  
For Rotographics (India) Limited  
Sd/-  
Sakshi Jain  
Company Secretary

Date: 02/09/2023  
Place: New Delhi

**Rungta Irrigation Limited**  
CIN: L74899DL1986PLC023934  
Registered Office: 101 Pragati Towers, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008, India  
Tel: +91-11-40453330/40453331/40453332. Contact Person: Mrs. Ayushi Vijay, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Email ID: [cs@rungtairrigation.in](mailto:cs@rungtairrigation.in); Website: [www.rungtairrigation.in](http://www.rungtairrigation.in);

### NOTICE OF THE 39th AGM AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 26th Day of September, 2023 at 01:00 PM (IST) THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING (VC)/ OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM) to transact the business as set out in 39th AGM Notice in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder, read with MCA/SEBI Circulars without physical presence of members at common venue. In compliance with the circulars, the Notice of virtual AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 has been sent by email to all those members who have registered their email addresses with the Company or their respective Depository Participants which was completed on 02.09.2023. The e-copy of the notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the FY 2022-23 of the Company will be available on the website of the Company at [www.rungtairrigation.in](http://www.rungtairrigation.in) and on the website of the BSE Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com). The company is providing e-voting facility to its members holding shares as on Tuesday, 19th September, 2023 being cut off date, to exercise their vote at the ensuing AGM. The members may cast their vote by using an electronic voting system from a place other than that of the venue of meeting (e-voting). The company has engaged NSDL to provide remote e-voting facility. The details pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules thereof are as under:

- E-voting period commences on Saturday, 23rd September, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. and ends on Monday, 25th September, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.
- The voting through electronic means shall not be allowed beyond 05:00 P.M. on 25th September, 2023.
- The businesses set out in the notice of AGM, may be transacted through e-voting or e-voting facility at the AGM.
- The share transfer book of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, 20th September, 2023 to Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of the Annual General Meeting.
- The facility of joining the AGM through VC/OAVM shall 30 minutes before and after the scheduled time of the commencement of the Meeting and will be available for members on first come first served basis.
- The voting right of members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid up equity share capital of the company as on the cut-off date i.e. 19th September, 2023. Any person who becomes the member after dispatch of notice of AGM and holding shares as on cut-off date i.e., 19th September, 2023, may obtain the login ID and Password by sending a request to [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or [cs@rungtairrigation.in](mailto:cs@rungtairrigation.in). Members are requested to login at <https://eservices.nsdl.com/> by using the request login credentials. The link for electronic participation through VC/OAVM during the meeting will be available in shareholder/members login portal where the EVEN of the Notice of the AGM. If you have any queries relating to remote e-voting, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the Downloads section of <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com>
- In case of any query or grievance pertaining to e-voting and attending the AGM through VC/OAVM, Members may contact Amit Vishal, NSDL, Trade World-A Wing, Kamala Mills Compound Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013. Email: [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in), Toll free no: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 224430. Further, Members may also contact with Mr. Punit Mittal, General Manager, Beetal Financial Computer Services Pvt. Ltd, RTA at [beetalita@gmail.com](mailto:beetalita@gmail.com) or on telephone No. 011-29961281-283, 26051061-064. For details relating to remote e-voting, please refer to the Notice of the AGM. If you have any queries relating to remote e-voting, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the Downloads section of <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com>
- Mr. Nakul Prasad Singh, a Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. A55529), Proprietor, M/s. NPS & Associates has been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
- The results shall be declared not later than forty-eight hours from conclusion of the meeting by posting the same on the website of the Company ([www.rungtairrigation.in](http://www.rungtairrigation.in)), and by filing with the BSE Ltd.
- A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his/her right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting.
- Members who have not registered their email-id are requested to register the same by following the procedure given below:

**Physical Holding** Register/update the details in prescribed Form ISR-1 and other relevant forms with Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, BEETAL Financial & Computer Services Pvt Ltd.  
Members may download the prescribed forms from the Company's website at <https://www.rungtairrigation.in/investor-information/download-category/kyc-compliance-for-shareholders/>

**Demat Holding** Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP. Please also update your bank detail with your DP for dividend payment by NACH if declare by company in future.

All shareholders/members attending AGM through VC or OAVM, who wish to speak or pose questions shall register themselves and send their queries, if any, on or before 25th September, 2023 with their name, DP ID and Client ID / folio number, PAN, mobile number & number of shares and subject line should be Speaker Registration of Rungta Irrigation Limited at the e-mail id of the Company i.e. [cs@rungtairrigation.in](mailto:cs@rungtairrigation.in)

For Rungta Irrigation Limited  
Sd/-  
Ayushi Vijay  
Company Secretary  
M. No.: A55529

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 03.09.2023

# Mindspace REIT acquires 0.24 mn sq ft leasable office space in Chennai for ₹181.6 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mindspace Business Parks REIT on Saturday said it has acquired 0.24 million square feet of leasable office space in Chennai for Rs 181.6 crore as part of its expansion plan.

This strategic acquisition helps Mindspace REIT consolidate its ownership in the project.

In a regulatory filing, the company said it has concluded a successful acquisition of around 0.24 million square feet of leasable area at Commerzone Porur in



Chennai for Rs 181.6 crore.

Mindspace REIT, through its asset special purpose vehicle (SPV), now owns 100 per cent of the project with a total leasable area of about 1.1 million square feet.

The name of the seller was not disclosed.

With this acquisition, Mindspace REIT's total leasable portfolio area grows from 32.1 million square feet to 32.3 million square feet.

The deal was funded through debt.

Vinod Rohira, Board Member, K Raheja Corp Investment Managers Pvt Ltd, Manager to Mindspace REIT, said, "This strategic acquisition aligns perfectly with our overarching strategy to exercise complete and comprehensive control of our assets, enabling holistic planning and decision-making across the portfolio."

The quality office property, located in one of the prominent micro-markets of Chennai, is currently occupied by marquee global MNCs as well as domestic clients,

and this acquisition provides us with enhanced leasing options, he added.

Mindspace Business Parks REIT, sponsored by K Raheja Corp group, was listed on the Indian bourses in August 2020.

The REIT owns office portfolios in the Mumbai Region, Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai. The pro-forma portfolio has a total leasable area of 32.3 million square feet comprising 26.1 million square feet of completed area, 2.5 million square feet area under construction and 3.7 million square feet of future development.

**SUNLOC**  
**SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpuraj, New Delhi-110049  
CIN: L24302DL1973PLC189662/Email ID: [info@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:info@sunilhealthcare.com) Web: [www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com)  
Tel: +91-11-49435555/00, Fax: +91-11-43850087

### NOTICE OF THE 49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT 12:30 P.M./IST THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING ("VC") OR OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS ("OAVM"), E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 49th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Company will be held on Wednesday, the 27th September, 2023 at 12:30 P.M./IST through Video Conferencing (VC)/ other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) for which Registered office of the Company at 38E/252A, Vijay Tower, 3rd floor, Panchsheel Commercial Complex, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049, shall be deemed as the venue for the meeting to transact the businesses as set out in the AGM Notice. Pursuant to General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April, 13, 2020, 20/2020 dated May, 05, 2020, 02/2021 dated January, 13, 2021 and subsequent circulars issued in this regard, the latest being 2/2022 dated May 5, 2022 and General Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and circular nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May, 13, 2022 and SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated January 05, 2023 issued by SEBI ("Circulars") Companies are permitted to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conferencing (VC) / other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), without physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In compliance of the aforementioned circulars, Electronic Notice of AGM along with the explanatory statement as per section 102 of Companies Act, 2013, and procedure of Remote E-Voting/ E-voting, attending of the meeting through Video conferencing details, Annual Report for Financial year 2022-23 etc. has been sent electronically on Saturday, September 02, 2023 to all the members at their email address whose email IDs are registered with Company/RTA/Depository Participant (DP). Further, the same are also available on Company's website <https://www.sunilhealthcare.com/annual-reports>, website of Stock Exchange i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), and the website of Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. i.e. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in> Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended from time to time, Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 and the Secretarial Standard on General Meeting issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, members of the Company have been provided with the facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be considered at the 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) by electronic means through e-Voting services. The company has engaged services of Linkintime India Private Limited for availing of Instavote platform for casting the vote through "remote e-voting" / e-voting.

- The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, the 20th September, 2023, may cast their vote electronically on the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic InstaVote platform of Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd: <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>
- Pursuant to SEBI circular dated December 9, 2020 on e-Voting facility provided by Listed Companies, Individual shareholders holding securities in demat mode can vote through their demat account maintained with Depositories and Depository Participants only post 9th June, 2021. For detail Remote E-Voting Procedure, please refer Note no. 20 of the Notice of the 49th AGM.
- The members may note that:
- The remote e-voting period will commence at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, the 24th September, 2023 and will end at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, the 26th September, 2023 and thereafter e-voting module shall be disabled by E-voting agency.
  - Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the shareholder, the shareholder shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
  - The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on cut-off date of Wednesday, 20th September, 2023.
  - Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, 20th September, 2023, may obtain the login ID and password by following the instructions of Remote e-voting given in Note no. 20 to the Notice of AGM.
  - A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting / voting at the Annual General Meeting through e-voting.
  - A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again at the AGM.
  - Mr. Tara Chand Sharma, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No.5749 and CP no is 4078) and Proprietor of M/s. Jain Sharma & Associates, Company Secretaries, Jaipur has been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
  - In case shareholders/ members holding securities in physical mode/ Institutional shareholders have any queries regarding e-voting, they may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and InstaVote e-Voting manual available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, under Help section or send an email to [enotices@linkintime.co.in](mailto:enotices@linkintime.co.in) or contact on : Tel: 022 - 4918 6000. The Member may also contact at [delhi@linkintime.co.in](mailto:delhi@linkintime.co.in), [cs@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:cs@sunilhealthcare.com) or to our RTA at [rtat@alankit.com](mailto:rtat@alankit.com) or [lalitap@alankit.com](mailto:lalitap@alankit.com).
  - For details instruction of e-voting and attending meeting through VC or OAVM, the members are requested go through the notice of the meeting (especially note no.21).

Notice is further given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain close from Thursday, 21.09.2023 to Wednesday 27.09.2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

By Order of the Board  
For SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED  
Sd/-  
SATYENDU PATNAIK  
COMPANY SECRETARY & COMPLIANCE OFFICER  
F736  
Place - New Delhi  
Dated- September 02, 2023

Regd. Office:  
38E/252A, Vijay Tower, Shahpuraj, New Delhi-110049  
CIN No: L24302DL1973PLC189662  
Phone No: +91-11-49435555/00 Fax no 011-43850087  
Email ID: [info@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:info@sunilhealthcare.com)  
Web: [www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com)

# Vizag Steel Plant logs highest ever monthly sales of value-added steel in August



PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM,

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL) or Vizag Steel Plant logged its best ever monthly sales of value-added steel products in August since inception at 1.57 lakh tonne, said an official on Saturday.

In August, the steel plant sold 99,000 tonne of rounds (steel variety), which is the best ever sales milestone for this variety, and also logged similar performances in the sale of wire rod coils (79,000 tonne), rebars (2 lakh tonne) and structurals (46,000 tonne).

"The sales volume of 1,57,000 tonne of value-added steel achieved in August 2023 by RINL is the best ever monthly sales of value-added steel sales for any month since inception," said the official in a press release.

Including value-added steel products, Vizag Steel Plant achieved overall sales of Rs 2,502 crore in August 2023, which is 39 per cent higher than Rs 1,806 crore logged in the corresponding period last year.

Besides August highlights, the steel plant located in the port city of Visakhapatnam achieved the highest cumulative sales volume of value-added steel products for the five-month period of April-August of the current financial year at 5.57 lakh tonne, he release said.

# Biocon acquires Eywa Pharma's US-based plant for \$ 7.7 mn



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Biotechnology major Biocon on Saturday said its unit has acquired Eywa Pharma Inc's oral solid dosage manufacturing facility in the US for USD 7.7 million (over Rs 63 crore).

Biocon Generics Inc has acquired Eywa's ranbury-based plant effective September 1 2023, the Bengaluru-based company said in a statement.

The facility is acquired for a total consideration of USD 7.7 million, it added.

As part of the acquisition, the existing workforce of the facility will transition into Biocon Generics Inc.

The facility has the potential for capacity expansion of up to 2 billion tablets/capsules per year.

"The acquisition of this US FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) approved facility, our first in the US, will complement Biocon's existing manufacturing capabilities and strengthen our foothold in the US," Biocon Managing Director and CEO Siddharth Mittal said.

The acquisition will also enable the company to add oral solid dosage capacities for new products earlier than originally planned and ensure continuity of supply through the diversification of manufacturing infrastructure, he added.



# Djokovic pulls off US Open escape

AP ■ NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic rallied from two sets down against compatriot Laslo Djere to avoid his earliest US Open exit since 2006 on Friday, while Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff closed in on a blockbuster clash.

Djokovic tapped into his unrivalled powers of recovery to reach the last 16 and keep alive his quest for a record-extending men's 24th Grand Slam crown with a 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win over the 32nd-seeded Djere.

"It was one of the toughest matches I've played here in many years," said Djokovic.

After coasting through two rounds, Djokovic risked failing to make the second week in New York for the first time since losing to Lleyton Hewitt in the third round as a teenager 17 years ago.

An inspired Djere broke in the opening game en route to bagging the first set and did so again midway through the second set to put the 28-year-old in sight of an improbable victory.

But Djokovic showed why he will reclaim the world number one ranking after the tournament, displaying his trademark resilience to wriggle his way out of a two-set hole for the eighth time in his career at a Grand Slam.

The only other time he escaped such a predicament at the US Open came when he won the first of his three titles in 2011 after saving two match points against Roger Federer in the semi-finals.

Djokovic revealed he had given himself an angry pep talk in the locker room after falling two sets behind.

"I did a little pep talk in the



mirror," he said. "I laughed at myself because I was so pissed off with the way I played, to try and lift my spirits up."

"I've done it a few times before in my career and it hasn't worked but tonight it did and I'm grateful."

The 36-year-old Serbian star goes on to face 105th-ranked Croatian qualifier Borna Gojo for a spot in the quarter-finals.

## SWIATEK DOMINATES

The in-form Gauff, coming off titles in Washington and Cincinnati, also had to dig deep to withstand Belgium's Elise Mertens as the 19-year-old American fought her way to a 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory.

"A win is a win, it doesn't matter how you get it done," said Gauff. "If anything the three-setters show everybody else I'm not going down without a fight."

Mertens fended off a pair of break points in the sixth game of the first set and then broke twice in succession to surge ahead.

Gauff, taken the distance in the opening round, held off a barrage of break points early in the second set before swinging the momentum in her favour as Mertens began to falter.

She finished off in style by winning 10 games on the

bounce to book a fourth-round meeting with Caroline Wozniacki, moving her one win away from a possible blockbuster quarter-final with Swiatek.

The Pole briefly put sentiment to one side as she demolished 145th-ranked Slovenian qualifier and close friend Kaja Juvan 6-0, 6-1 in just 49 minutes.

"I didn't like the fact that I was kind of winning with my

best friend," said top seed Swiatek. "It was like playing against a sister because I've known her for so long."

Swiatek is bidding to become the first woman to successfully defend her US Open crown since Serena Williams won a hat-trick of titles from 2012-2014.

She next faces 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, who beat Bernarda Pera in three sets.

Former world number one Wozniacki, playing her first Grand Slam in over three years, kept her fairytale US Open return going with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 win over Jennifer Brady.

Romania's Sorana Cirstea defeated fourth seed and last year's Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4. She will face Swiss 15th seed Belinda Bencic in the last 16.

Czech 10th seed Karolina Muchova moved on courtesy of a 7-6 (7/0), 6-3 win over Taylor Townsend.

She will meet China's Wang Xinyu who battled into the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time by coming from a set down to oust Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova.

## STRONG HOME INTEREST

Ninth seed Taylor Fritz led a quartet of American men through to the last 16 seeking to become the host nation's first male Grand Slam champion since Andy Roddick here in 2003.

Fritz crushed Czech qualifier Jakub Mensik 6-1, 6-2, 6-0. Mensik was the youngest man to reach the US Open third round since 1990 and celebrated his 18th birthday on Friday.



## Wozniacki 'not surprised' by US Open 2023 run

VAP ■ NEW YORK

Caroline Wozniacki said she always believed she could return to the top level after reaching the last 16 of the US Open on Friday in her first Grand Slam appearance in over three years.

The former world number one kept her fairytale comeback run in New York going with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 win over Jennifer Brady, setting up a potential meeting with the in-form Coco Gauff.

Wozniacki retired after the 2020 Australian Open to start a family, and the mother-of-two is playing just her third event since returning to the tour in Montreal last month.

"Honestly, not really (smiling)," she responded when asked if she was surprised by her level at a tournament where she first reached the fourth round as a teenager in 2008.

"I guess I always had the belief in myself. It takes a little time just to get back into the match rhythm."

"All of that I knew, knowing what I've experienced throughout my career, I knew where I was at. Obviously day by day I feel like I'm getting a little bit better," she continued.

"Would I have been surprised had I lost in the first round? No. Would I be surprised if I keep winning? Also no."

Wozniacki, who was handed a wild card into this year's tournament, trailed Brady by a set and a break but won 12 of the final 14 games.

"If I play my best tennis, I know I'm tough to beat. Someone really has to play well," said the Dane, a US Open finalist in 2009 and 2014.

"At this point I'm just happy to be in the fourth round, and anything can happen from now on, as well."



## Heidenheim hold stunned Dortmund

AP ■ BERLIN

Promoted Heidenheim claimed their first points in the Bundesliga on Friday, coming from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Borussia Dortmund after a controversial and bizarre late penalty decision.

Dortmund looked in full control early, taking a commanding lead just 15 minutes with a goal from Julian Brandt and an Emre Can penalty.

The home side wasted several chances to land a killer blow and allowed Heidenheim back into the game, Eren Dinkci scoring a stunner early in the second half to give the visitors hope.

Heidenheim equalised from the spot late in the second half, Tim Kleindienst scoring after a long VAR delay.

Having originally awarded a penalty which was overturned by VAR for offside, the referee approached the box and again overturned the decision, sending

Kleindienst to the spot. Dortmund protested but the goal stood, continuing a worryingly poor start from last year's runners up, who now have one win and two draws in the league this season.

"We pretty much beat ourselves in the second half" Brandt told DAZN.

"We conceded two goals after safely having possession of the ball. We urgently need to protect the ball -- goals like that break our necks."

Dortmund manager Edin Terzic refused to blame the late controversy, telling DAZN "we completely gave the game away... you have to say that we beat ourselves today."

His Heidenheim counterpart Frank Schmidt credited his side's fightback.

"We were 2-0 behind after 15 minutes and I think everyone thought it was over, but then we took risks and provoked mistakes -- you can say we should have won."

## West Ham ruin Luton's homecoming

AP ■ LUTON

West Ham ruined Luton's homecoming to Kenilworth Road as David Moyes' men moved to the top of the Premier League with a 2-1 win on Friday.

Set among rows of terraced houses, Luton's 11,000 capacity home since 1905 had to undergo significant development to comply with regulations to host matches in England's top flight.

That led to the postponement of their home fixture against Brighton last month.

The Hatters have risen from the fifth-tier National League to the Premier League in just 10 seasons.

But on the field, Luton are struggling to come to terms with the leap in quality as they remain without a point after three games.

West Ham, by contrast, are flying despite the loss of former captain Declan Rice to Arsenal for an initial £100 million.

Jarrod Bowen scored the winner as the Hammers claimed their first trophy in 43 years by lifting the Europa Conference League in June.

The England international has kicked on to start the new campaign in fine form as he became the first West Ham player to score in three consecutive top-flight away games in nearly 100 years.

Bowen was picked out by Lucas Paqueta's teasing cross eight minutes before half-time



and his header from close range had too much power for Thomas Kaminski.

The visitors had a second goal after the break narrowly

ruled out for offside as Emerson fired home from Michail Antonio's lay-off.

James Ward-Prowse's impressive start to his West

Ham career has masked the departure of Rice.

The former Southampton skipper now has a goal and three assists in three appearances as his corner was powerfully headed in by Kurt Zouma five minutes from time.

Luton had failed to muster a single shot on target until stoppage time, but set up a grandstand finish when Mads Andersen headed in their first Premier League goal from open play.

Ward-Prowse then escaped huge shouts for a Luton penalty when a corner came off the midfielder's arm.

But West Ham held on to move one point ahead of Manchester City at the summit ahead of the champions' clash with Fulham on Saturday.

## Marseille squander lead in draw with 10-man Nantes

AP ■ PARIS

Marseille went top of Ligue 1 on Friday despite throwing away an early lead to draw 1-1 away to a Nantes side who played more than 80 minutes down to 10 men.

Ismaila Sarr gave Marseille a fourth-minute lead at the Stade de la Beaujoire, smashing in after a Vitorino shot had been parried by home goal-

keeper Remy Descamps. The outlook seemed bleak for Nantes when they had Bastien Meupiou sent off in the ninth minute for pulling down Sarr and denying the Marseille player a clear run at goal.

It was a nightmare moment for the 17-year-old Meupiou on his senior debut for Nantes.

However the home side

drew level six minutes before half-time as Egyptian international Mostafa Mohamed controlled the ball in the box with his back to goal before swivelling to volley in on the turn.

Nantes remain without a win this season while Marseille are unbeaten after four games and are a point clear of Monaco at the top of the standings ahead of the rest of the weekend's matches.



## Spain sports court opens Rubiales probe

AP ■ PARIS

Spain's sports court agreed to investigate Luis Rubiales for forcibly kissing a Women's World Cup player as the scandal-hit football chief insisted he would defend himself to "prove the truth".

The government lodged a complaint against Rubiales through the state-run National Sports Council (CSD) exactly a week ago, accusing him of "very serious" offences.

But in agreeing to take the case, the Administrative Tribunal for Sport (TAD) said it considered the behaviour in question "serious", falling short of the government's characterisation of Rubiales' actions.

Had the court accepted the "very serious" qualification, it would have allowed the Sports Council to suspend

the 46-year-old head of the Spanish football federation (RFEF) for the duration of the case.

Rubiales has already been suspended by world governing body FIFA for 90 days while it decides on disciplinary measures after he forcibly kissed midfielder Jenni Hermoso on the mouth after Spain won the Women's World Cup final in Sydney on August 20.

Sports Minister Miquel Iceta said CSD would "ask the court to temporarily suspend Rubiales from his duties until the case against him has been definitively resolved".

"The Sports Council and the government believe the RFEF president's actions should be classified as a very serious abuse of authority which damage the image of Spanish football," he told a news conference.

# Barcelona sign Felix and Cancelo on loan

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona signed Atletico Madrid forward Joao Felix and Manchester City defender Joao Cancelo on loan until the end of the season, the Spanish champions said on Friday.

Barcelona and Atletico Madrid have reached an agreement for the loan of player Joao Felix until June 30, 2024. There is no option to buy," said the Catalan club in a statement, before then announcing Cancelo's arrival.

Barcelona loaned winger Ansu Fati to Brighton and defender Clement Lenglet to Aston Villa earlier Friday to help create room to accommodate their new arrivals on the wage bill and register the players with La Liga, who

have strict financial fair play rules.

The Catalans also sold winger Ez Abde to Real Betis for 7.5 million euros (\$8.1 million), keeping an option to buy him back and 50 percent of the value of his next sale, and loaned defender Eric Garcia to Girona.

Felix became one of the most expensive players in history when Atletico Madrid signed him from Benfica in 2019 for 126 million euros (\$136 million) at just 19 years old.

The Portuguese forward, 23, failed to find consistent form in the Spanish capital and Atletico loaned him to Chelsea last season, where he also struggled.

Felix has spoken out about his desire to play for Barcelona in the past.



## Greenwood moves to Getafe from Man United

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Spanish team Getafe signed striker Mason Greenwood from Manchester United on loan on Friday, they said in a statement, despite him having faced allegations of abuse involving a young woman.

Greenwood had been suspended since January 2022 by the Premier League side over the allegations but prosecutors dropped charges including attempted rape and

sexual assault in February. "Getafe have reached a deal with Manchester United for the arrival of Mason Greenwood on loan for a season," said the Madrid side in a statement.

Last week United and Greenwood mutually agreed the striker would leave Old Trafford.

"The move enables Greenwood to begin to rebuild his career away from Manchester United," said the Red Devils in a statement.

"The club publicly expresses their gratitude to the player for the financial effort made (to join) and his desire to wear the Barca shirt," added Barcelona.

Atletico said Felix has signed a two-year contract extension, until 2029.

Barcelona then confirmed the arrival of Cancelo on loan from Manchester City, also with no option to buy.

The club needed a specialist right-back, using central defender Jules Kounde in that position for the majority of last season.

Cancelo, 29, fell out of favour at Manchester City last season, joining Bayern Munich on loan in January.

Barcelona have had a busy transfer window, signing Ilkay Gundogan, Oriol Romeu and

Inigo Martinez, while Ousmane Dembele, Franck Kessie and others departed.

## MUANI JOINS PSG

Paris Saint-Germain completed the signing of France striker Randal Kolo Muani from Eintracht Frankfurt in the biggest deal to go through on transfer deadline day in Europe on Friday.

The 24-year-old forward, who hails from the Paris suburbs, had been a target for PSG all summer and the club confirmed shortly after the transfer window closed that he had signed a five-year contract at the Parc des Princes.

Media reports in France said the Ligue 1 champions had agreed a fee totalling 90 million euros (\$97m) to complete the signing.



# Ishan, Hardik take India to 266

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

The wonderful rescue act of Hardik Pandya and Ishan Kishan helped India overcome a fiery opening spell from Shaheen Shah Afridi to post a healthy 266 against Pakistan in their Asia Cup match here on Saturday.

Kishan (82 off 81 balls) and Pandya (87 off 90 balls) kept Pakistan bowlers at bay with a 138-run fifth wicket stand off 141 balls to give their side a fine chance to make a winning start to the tournament.

They joined forces after Pakistan pacers Afridi, who accounted for Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli early, and Haris Rauf combined to reduce India to 66 for 4 in 14.1 overs.

In a sense, it was a rather unfamiliar job for both Pandya and Kishan, who generally love to give a wallop to the bowlers.

But the conditions at Pallekele, which always had a lick of drizzle, and a high-octane bowling attack meant that the Indian pair would have to curb their shot-making instincts.

They had to be precise in the selection of each shot, and needed to be extra patient.

Afridi (4 for 35) tailed the ball in, Naseem Shah tested their awareness outside the off-stump and Rauf (3 for 58) pounded in those heavy balls, but the Indian duo soaked in all those tough moments.

The boundaries and big shots were not easy to come by but Pandya and Kishan pushed the board ahead with singles and their 50-run partnership came in just 52 balls.



Pandya was happy to play the sidekick role to Kishan during their fifth wicket alliance that was worth 138 runs. This was the first time the left-hander was batting below the No.4 slot in his career, and he didn't show any signs of nerves. That Pakistan captain opted to

give a longer spell to his spinners - Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Agha - also played its part in Kishan getting settled in the middle.

Kishan brought his 50 in a mere 54 balls and he could have easily converted it into a three-figure score.

But his attempt to play a big pull off Rauf ended in the hands of Babar inside the circle. However, his innings might have eased some worries in the Indian camp about a wobbly middle-order in the absence of KL Rahul.

Once Kishan departed, Pandya took charge of the Indian innings

and slammed spinner Nawaz for a massive six over mid-wicket.

However, Afridi returned to snap his stay. The left-arm pacer rolled his fingers to deliver a slower ball and Pandya just prodded it into the hands of Salman at extra cover.

From thereon, a few beefy

blows by Jasprit Bumrah carried the side past the 250-run mark. Just after the end of the Indian innings, another spell of steady downpour started.

## NEAR-EMPTY STANDS

A cricket match involving India and Pakistan is not just about top-

quality cricket, but it is also about roaring fans giving the stadium the atmosphere of a Roman colosseum.

But the Pallekele Stadium was cocooned in a rather serene ambience on Saturday, as India and Pakistan faced each other in their Asia Cup 2023 Group A match.

There were fans - the flag-waving, cheering, applauding kind. But not in numbers that often electrify the venue, despite India batting first.

There were several empty spaces in the stands and on the grass banks here, something one will not see during an Indo-Pak cricket clash.

"The tickets are not fully sold, as you can see. In fact, the sale of tickets was on even yesterday evening at Kandy and Colombo. There were not many takers for the top-end tickets in the Grand Stand," an SLC official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The lowest denomination of tickets was USD 20 (Approximately LKR 6400) in the beginning but it was later slashed to LKR 1500, and LKR 2560 if purchased for both the India matches involving Pakistan and Nepal.

But still there was no real rush for the tickets, and some fans were quite chuffed about it.

"Tickets were readily available. In fact, I got the ticket yesterday in Colombo. We thought tickets will not be available because it is an India vs Pakistan match. But we are not complaining. After all, we can watch an India vs Pakistan match without the frenzy that we often have to go through in India," said Varun Ghosh, who runs his business in Colombo.

The officials too have been left a trifle disappointed.



## Marsh, Short power Aussies to T20I series win over SA

AP ■ DURBAN

Matthew Short and captain Mitchell Marsh powered Australia to a series-clinching eight-wicket win over South Africa in the second Twenty20 international at Kingsmead on Friday.

Seamers Sean Abbott and Nathan Ellis took three wickets each as South Africa were restricted to 164 for eight after being sent in.

It was nowhere near enough as Short (66) and Marsh (79 not out) took Australia to victory with 31 balls to spare. The pair put on 100 for the second wicket off 47 balls.

Abbott, who took three for 22, was named man of the match.

"The pitch probably suited the bowlers tonight. A lot of credit has to go to the batsmen, it wasn't easy for batting," he said.

Marsh played his second unbeaten innings after scoring a career best 92 not out in his

side's 111-run win in the first game at the same venue on Wednesday.

He made his runs off 39 balls with eight fours and six sixes.

Opening batsman Short hit seven fours and four sixes off 30 balls in his second international match.

"A series win in South Africa isn't easy to come by," said Marsh. "All our bowlers were fantastic."

Temba Bavuma gave South Africa a fast start, scoring 35 off 17 balls, before he was Abbott's first victim.

South Africa lost four wickets for ten runs in 17 balls, including a double-wicket maiden by Ellis, as they slumped to 46 for four. Ellis finished with three for 25.

Captain Aiden Markram hit 49 and put on 51 for the fifth wicket with Tristan Stubbs (27) in a partial recovery by the hosts.

The third and final match is also in Durban on Sunday.

## Bangladesh face Afghanistan in do-or-die match

PTI ■ LAHORE

Bangladesh would look for inspiration from skipper Shakib Al Hasan to produce a much-improved batting effort when they take on Afghanistan in their must-win second Group B match of the Asia Cup here on Sunday.

It was a below-par batting performance that let Bangladesh down in their tournament opener against Sri Lanka in Pallekele as they could only manage 164 after opting to bat.

Barring Najmul Hossain Shanto, who was the lone warrior with a 122-ball 89, no other Bangladeshi batter could come up with substantial runs

and support him.

Much was expected from the experienced Shakib but he failed to deliver.

But come Sunday, Shakib has to shoulder the responsibility and be the anchor man in the middle-order for Bangladesh.

Having said that, Bangladesh would need a strong start from young openers Mohammad Naim and Tanzid Hasan.

Veteran wicketkeeper batter Mushfiqur Rahim too has to share the responsibility with Shakib.

On the bowling front, Taskin Ahmed looked impressive but Shoriful Islam lacked the sting.



Shakib, however, was right on the money with the ball, picking up two wickets for 29 runs from his 10 overs and he would like to continue the momentum.

With such a low score to defend, it was a Herculean task for Bangladesh bowlers and Mustafizur Rahman, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Mahedi Hasan

could not produce the fire against the Lankans.

Afghanistan, on the other hand, head into the tournament on the back of a 0-3 ODI series loss to Pakistan. But they would take heart from the fact that they had won a three-match ODI series against Bangladesh 2-1 in June-July this year.

Afghanistan, however, lost the preceding two-match T20 series against Bangladesh 0-2.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz has been in great form in ODI cricket of late. He hit centuries against both Pakistan and Bangladesh in the ODI series they played recently.

Besides, off-spinner Mujeeb ur Rahman has been a consist-

ent wicket-taker for Afghanistan and can prove to be a lethal weapon for them.

Having lost captaincy recently, Afghanistan's star leg-spinning all-rounder Rashid Khan would also be eager to prove a point in the Asia Cup.

It would test character for batter Hashmatullah Shahidi, who will lead Afghanistan in the Asia Cup.

While Shahidi, Ibrahim Zadran, Gurbaz, Najibullah Zadran and veteran Mohammad Nabi would be key for Afghanistan in the batting department, the bowling unit will be on the shoulders of Rashid, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb and Noor Ahmed.

## Mohun Bagan, East Bengal to fight it out for Durand Cup title

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The stage is set for the year's biggest face-off in Indian domestic football as fierce rivals Mohun Bagan Super Giants and East Bengal FC lock horns in the grand finale of the Durand Cup here on Sunday.

It will be a battle of nerves and emotions between the two giants at the Salt Lake Stadium, as fans of both teams get ready to paint the stadium in green and maroon and red and gold.

The clash would be a repeat of the 2004 Durand Cup final, which East Bengal won 2-1.

The Red and Gold brigade has won the tournament on 16 occasions, sharing the record with the Mariners.

While East Bengal last won the tournament in 2004, the last title that it had won was back in 1988, the IFA Shield, which is an U-19 event now.

As for its performance in the tournament this year, it has played five matches and stayed unbeaten, winning four and drawing one.

While it drew against Bangladesh Army 2-2 in the group stage, it beat Mohun Bagan (1-0) and Punjab FC (1-0) before getting the better of Gokulam Kerala (2-1) in the quarterfinal and getting past



NorthEast United 5-3 on penalties in the semifinal after the scores read 2-2 in regulation time.

Ahead of the final, although coach Carles Cuadrat was happy with his side's winning streak lately, he was worried by the margin of victories.

"We can see that most games have been won by narrow margins. On some instances, it has been a penalty that opens the door for the victory.

Mohun Bagan's last Durand Cup title win came way back in 2000, and they must be desperate to end a 23-year-long wait.



## NRAI names teams for Asian Games, Asian Shooting C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A 33-member Indian shooting team will take part in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, beginning September 23, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) said on Saturday.

The NRAI also announced on the day a 35-member team for the Asian Championships in Changwon, South Korea, which will be held from October 22 to November 2.

The competition assumes significance as a total of 24 Paris Olympics quota places are there to be won, two in each of the 12 individual Olympic events across the three disciplines of rifle, pistol and shotgun.

India will feature in all 16 events, including four mixed team events in the Asian Championships and will also be fielding four additional shooters -- Rudranksh Patil, Mehuli Ghosh, Sift Kaur Samra and Rajeshwari Kumari -- who will compete for ranking points only.

These four shooters have already secured Paris quotas and are ineligible to win quotas as a result.

The shooting squad has so far won seven quota places for the Paris Games and will look to pick up their first quotas in pistol and skeet events at the Asian Championships, besides filling their remaining berths in the rifle and trap disciplines.

## Eng crush Kiwis in 2nd T20I

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Harry Brook could hardly be doing any more to convince England to take him to the Cricket World Cup.

Brook smashed 67 off 36 balls, teaming up with Jonny Bairstow, 86 not out off 60, to help England post a total of 198-4 that proved too much for New Zealand in the second Twenty20 of the four-match series on Friday.

The New Zealanders were dismissed for 103, losing by 95 runs in Manchester to fall 2-0 behind in the series.

Brook starred in the first T20, too, when he hit 43 not out off 27 balls in England's seven-wicket win in Durham on Wednesday.

Dovetailed with his stun-



ning performances in the latest edition of The Hundred, Brook is delivering quite the riposte across the shorter formats to being left out of England's pro-

visional 15-man squad for the 50-over World Cup in India starting next month.

England selectors preferred other batters in the middle

order because of the versatility they provide - No. 3 Dawid Malan can also open, Liam Livingstone offers spin bowling - but Brook is putting up a

strong argument.

England must submit its final squad on September 28 so there's still time for the selectors to change their minds.

Brook whacked five sixes along with his five fours as part of a devastating 131-run partnership with Bairstow for the third wicket that saw New Zealand's bowlers sent to all corners of Old Trafford.

Bairstow bludgeoned four sixes and eight fours while Moeen Ali and Jos Buttler also cleared the rope to help set an imposing target.

In the reply, Tim Seifert was the top scorer with 39 off 31 balls and Atkinson had 4-20, the best figures for an England player on his T20 debut.

The third T20 takes place at Edgbaston on Sunday.

## Ferguson to captain NZ in Bangladesh

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Seamer Lockie Ferguson will captain New Zealand for the first time on the international stage during their three-match 50-overs tour of Bangladesh, his team was announced on Saturday.

The 32-year-old will skipper the Black Caps in Bangladesh at the end of September following their current white ball games in England.

"Lockie is an experienced bowler and this is an opportunity for him to really lead from the front with not just the bowling group but the team as a whole," said

head coach Gary Stead.

He will lead against Bangladesh with New Zealand's regular one-day captain Kane Williamson and stand-in skipper Tom Latham both absent.

Williamson is recovering from a knee injury while Latham is among a group of senior players who will miss the games in Bangladesh to prepare for the 50-overs World Cup in India, starting in October.

Latham, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner and Tim Southee are all rested. Star bowler Trent Boult is in the squad for the ODIs.



"When a man wants to murder a tiger he calls it a sport. When a tiger wants to murder him he calls it ferocity"  
—George Bernard Shaw



India celebrates a boost in its tiger population due to "Project Tiger" but faces a crisis as 129 tigers have died in 2023 so far, the highest in a decade. Poaching, habitat loss, and conflicts with humans threaten these majestic predators, demanding urgent conservation efforts and protection measures, reports **ARCHANA JYOTI**

# INDIA'S TIGER TRIUMPH THREATENED



Just as India is revelling in its distinction of being home to 70 per cent of the world's tiger population, courtesy of the country's flagship conservation programme "Project Tiger", which has reported a rise in the felids' numbers from 2,967 to 3,167 over the past four years, there comes a note of caution from the conservation community.

Their concerns are valid. India has already lost a record-breaking 129 tigers this year, the highest mortality rate in a decade. Experts believe that the actual figures may be much higher than the officially reported numbers.

Organisations dedicated to wildlife protection, such as The Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), have documented 138 tiger mortalities in 2023 so far, including 37 cases of poaching and seizures. With four months left in the year, it is likely that the mortality count will continue to rise if the current trend persists.

Contrary to claims by wildlife officials that the deaths are concentrated in the early months of the year, 2023 has witnessed an average of 15 tiger deaths per month. In comparison, there were 121 tiger fatalities in 2022, compared to 127 the previous year. Aside from poaching, habitat loss, and direct or indirect conflicts with humans are also significant contributors to the decline of these majestic predators.

The wildlife authorities have consistently downplayed the severity of poaching, asserting that the rate of such incidents is not "alarming." They argue that given the abundance of endangered tigers in reserves, the deaths should not raise alarm bells. According to their perspective, predators typically live for approximately 12 years, and natural territorial battles ensure that only the fittest survive while the rest are naturally culled.

However, wildlife experts caution that this rationale, when coupled with complacency, may inadvertently contribute to poaching and exacerbate human-animal conflicts, posing a significant threat to the welfare of these magnificent big cats. They point out that

human activities exert immense pressure on the areas surrounding wildlife reserves, leading to the blockage of critical forest corridors in various parts of the country. This disruption in natural connectivity can have dire consequences for both tigers and their ecosystems.

Indeed, the signs are unmistakable. A compelling example comes in the form of a recent red alert order from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), a top-tier authority under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. Dated June 29, this order serves as a stark illustration. Its content is explicit: "This is an alert directed at the field directors of all tiger reserves and officials responsible for the peripheral areas of tiger reserves, including regions frequented by tigers."

According to the red alert, hunters/poachers are active around various tigers across India, but mainly the focus was on the six tiger reserves across India, including two of Madhya Pradesh and three districts of MP, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.

"The field directors of all tiger reserves and officials concerned may immediately intensify the patrolling, visit the identified sensitive areas, look for the suspected nomadic people in tents, temples, railway stations, bus stations, abandoned buildings, public shelter places, inform the officials of all the police stations concerned and sanitise aforesaid areas as a preventive measure," stated the order.

The red alert was issued following the seizure of certain tiger parts in the Northeastern States, said an official of the WCCB.

Just a few days later, a decomposed beheaded carcass of an adult tiger was found in Madhya Pradesh's Satpura Tiger Reserve. Two persons have been arrested in Betul in the State in this regard after they were found to be involved in beheading the dead tiger. This is just a tip of the iceberg.

Wildlife experts express concern over cases of dead tigers being discovered without their heads, claws,

whiskers, and teeth. These incidents are often linked to poaching, poisoning, electrocution, snaring, and shooting, with traffickers luring locals into tiger trapping for monetary gain.

A study "The Tide of Tiger Poaching in India is Rising! An Investigation of the Intertwined Facts with a Focus on Conservation," published last year on SpringerLink, based on an analysis of reports, paints a grim scenario. It highlights that there is high demand for tiger skin, claws, bones, and teeth, with nails and teeth being the most preferred items in local markets. Seized parts such as bones and flesh are predominantly found in the border States of the north and eastern States.

"The intensity of seizures is very high in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Assam. From our analysis, we predict four trade routes for the export of the seized parts: the Nepal-Bhutan border, Assam border, the Brahmaputra, and the Mumbai port."

The authors further note that "most of the seizures are based on information given to enforcement, and the convicts arrested are mostly tribes. The data clearly demonstrates that most seizures occur near the forest ranges and the arrested ones are tribes, when the tiger parts once handed over to the network are rarely seized."

The WCCB officials, while refusing to be named, admit that based on credible inputs received by the Bureau and revelations of the recent seizures the organised hunting gangs are seen active around various tiger reserves, especially Satpura, Tadoba, Pench, and Corbett. Amangarh, Pilibhit, Valmiki, Rajaji, and tiger bearing areas such as Balaghat district of MP, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur of Maharashtra.

On August 2, 2023, the WCCB made a significant breakthrough in the Gadchiroli tiger poaching case by apprehending Mishram Jakhad (81) a trader in tiger body parts, in Dwaraka.

Moreover, given that certain

pockets of tiger reserves have neared their carrying capacity, human-animal conflicts are bound to surge. "There is a greater need to decipher unnatural deaths and understand the root cause of those deaths to take mitigation measures like sensitising the community and more patrolling and intelligence while equipping the foresters with sophisticated weapons to match with those of poachers who are becoming more aggressive," agreed the officials. For instance, on June 17, a forester on patrolling duty was shot dead by armed poachers in Odisha's Similipal tiger reserve.

This was the second gruesome killing by the poachers in the reserve forest in less than a month. On May 23, the armed poachers also shot a forest guard dead in a similar fashion. The forest guards were allegedly confronted by a group of six armed poachers near Gamuchajharan beat camp under the Upper Barhakamuda range of Similipal south division at about 2.30 am.

Data available from the NTCA till August 28, 2023 reveals that if 65 big cats had fallen prey to poachers, accidents and man-animal conflict outside protected areas nearly equal number of predators died inside their protected habitat in territorial fights and due to old age, besides poaching.

Statewise, Madhya Pradesh which is home to the highest number of tigers in the country at 785, reported highest casualties at 32 closely followed by Maharashtra where 29 predators have perished till date. Maharashtra hosts 560 big cats. The two States accounts for total 62 predators' deaths, which is nearly half of the total deaths reported from across the country.

Along with Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which have reported bulk of India's rise in tiger numbers are also losing them at a higher pace.

Karnataka, which is home to 563 tigers, witnessed 15 tiger deaths while Uttarakhand home to roughly 44 tigers, too recorded

as many deaths.

The government's report too flags these concerns. India has 54 tiger reserves spread across 75,796 square kilometres. Approximately 35 percent of these reserves urgently require "enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction," says the All India Tiger Estimation quadrennial report. Sources said, the need of the hour is to implement enhanced conservation plans to mitigate man-animal conflicts, including the establishment of clear migration corridors for tigers to move between forests. Royal cats can cover vast distances in search of territory, provided these corridors are available.

Tiger Status Report 2022 by the NTCA pinpoints: One of the major challenges is aligning the aspirations of large-scale economic development while safeguarding forests and their wildlife and mitigating human-tiger conflict.

Climate change-related impacts on habitats and the loss of the quality of forests over time are other threats. Out of the approximately 400,000 square kilometers of forests in tiger states, only one-third are in relatively healthier condition. Another significant challenge is the illegal wildlife trade, says the report.

Echoing similar views researchers including George Nittu and Thekka Thumbath Shameer from Molecular Biodiversity Lab, Department of Zoology & Wildlife Biology, and Government Arts College in their study in SpringerLink sums up saying that, "We forget about the future threat of poaching because of the satisfactory increase in the number of individuals recorded in the most recent tiger census.

"...authorities should be more careful about protecting tigers from poaching and illegal trafficking. If that doesn't happen, many Indian tiger reserves will be like Sariska and Panna, which both had a lot of tigers killed."

(The writer is a Special Correspondent with The Pioneer)

WILDLIFE AUTHORITIES DOWNPLAY POACHING, BUT EXPERTS WARN OF ITS SEVERITY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN-ANIMAL CONFLICTS. THE SEIZURE OF TIGER PARTS HIGHLIGHTS A THRIVING ILLEGAL TRADE, WITH DEMANDS FOR SKIN, CLAWS, BONES, AND TEETH IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. THE GOVERNMENT'S REPORT CALLS FOR ENHANCED PROTECTION MEASURES AND MIGRATION CORRIDORS TO MITIGATE CONFLICTS AND POACHING THREATS. RESEARCHERS EMPHASISE THE NEED FOR CONTINUED VIGILANCE IN SAFEGUARDING TIGERS FROM POACHING AND TRAFFICKING TO PREVENT A DECLINE AKIN TO SARISKA AND PANNA RESERVES

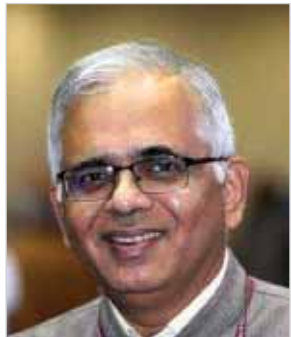




# SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU... BUT TOBACCO-FREE INDIA IS PRIORITY

The Union Health Ministry, on May 31st, introduced regulations mandating tobacco warnings on OTT platforms, which came into effect from September 1st. While the government is still in the process of addressing concerns raised by the OTT industry, nevertheless, those supporting the notification are against putting at stake the health and wellbeing of the younger generation--millennials and Gen Z just for the sake of tobacco glamorisation and making it appear "cool", the HEALTH PIONEER reports

**Dr. Shekhar Mande**, National President of Vigyan Bharati, an RSS-affiliated organization, and former Director General of the country's top premier research organization, CSIR emphasized that the critical importance of implementing tobacco warnings on Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms.



DR SHEKHAR MANDE

He asserted that the initiative is not only scientifically justified but also culturally necessary.

Dr. Mande, being scientist himself, emphasized upon the robust scientific evidence supporting tobacco control measures and their indispensable role in safeguarding citizens' health.

"Scientific research unambiguously underscores tobacco's detrimental health impact. Equally robust is the evidence supporting the efficacy of tobacco control measures. Embracing these measures is our collective responsibility to safeguard our citizens. The Government of India, driven by its commitment to citizen welfare, has taken a commendable step by introducing warnings on OTT content. In instances where tobacco-related scenes are depicted on OTT series or movies, health spots will reinforce the message of potential hazards," said Dr Mande.

To raise awareness about the ill effects of tobacco use, the Health Ministry on May 31, 2023 released new rules that require anti-tobacco warnings for smoking scenes on OTT platforms, like those for theatres and TV.



DR POONAM KHETRAPAL

Lauding the move, **Dr Poonam Khetrapal**, Regional Director, World Health Organisation South-East Asia Region, had said, "This demonstrates India's unstinted commitment to protect the health of people from the harmful effects



of tobacco." The WHO said India is the first and only country to mandate such ads for OTT platforms.

**Dr Priyank Kanoongo**, Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), agreed with Dr Mande's views and asserted that efforts to make tobacco use attractive on OTT platforms will not be permitted to succeed. The head of the top children right's body further announced that 10 lakh school



DR PRIYANK KANOONGO

students across the country will actively promote awareness in this regard.

He shared that distinguished educationists and public health experts have also lauded the introduction of tobacco warnings, highlighting

**The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) introduced regulations on World No Tobacco Day (May 31st), requiring OTT platforms to display warnings during scenes depicting tobacco consumption. These warnings serve as a stark reminder of the potential risks associated with tobacco use and also include the display of health spots and disclaimers.**

their pivotal role in safeguarding the health of children and youth.

Dr. Mande, the recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, India's highest science award chipped in maintaining that, "Scientific research backs this initiative, demonstrating how various entertainment platforms can inadvertently promote tobacco products."

Sharing their views at a webinar hosted by Tobacco Free India, a group of concerned citizens, Dr Mande and Dr Kanoongo were joined by speakers like Dr Uma Kumar from AIIMS Delhi, educationist Shyama Chona and Dr. Surekha Kishore, first executive Director of AIIMS Gorakhpur. The title of the webinar was "Countering Tobacco Glamorization for a Healthier Next-Generation." It was organized with an aim to examine the impact of tobacco imagery on young minds and the role of new regulations in addressing this concern.

According to the amended rules, every publisher of online curated contents displaying tobacco products or their use has to display anti-tobacco health spots, for a minimum 30 seconds each at the beginning and middle of the programme.

They have to display anti-tobacco health warning as a

prominent static message at the bottom of the screen during the period of display of the tobacco products or their use in the programme, and also display an audio-visual disclaimer on the ill-effects of tobacco for a minimum 20 seconds each in the beginning and middle of the programme,

Kanoongo voiced his strong support for the earliest possible implementation of restrictions on tobacco scenes on OTT platforms, underscoring the vulnerability of youth to the glamorization of tobacco. "Our young population remains especially vulnerable to the glamorization of tobacco. The Global Youth Tobacco Survey reveals that over half of students notice anti-tobacco messages in mass media. Our unwavering responsibility is to protect them from the harmful allure of tobacco."

**Dr. Surekha Kishore**, first executive Director of AIIMS Gorakhpur, too emphasizes the critical role of tobacco warning rules for OTT platforms. Highlighting the alarming statistics of tobacco-related deaths, she notes, "In India, around 1.35 million lives are lost to tobacco-related diseases every year. This staggering figure underscores the pressing need for unified efforts against the tobacco epidemic. In recent years, OTT



DR SUREKHA KISHORE

platforms have emerged as a powerful medium of entertainment for millions. Their responsibility cannot be underestimated. It's vital for the entertainment industry to embrace its role in shaping perceptions and influencing choices."



DR SHYAMA CHONA

Prominent educationist **Dr Shyama Chona**, recipient of India's highest civilian awards, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, said that when the question concerns the lives and health of millions of children, the OTT industry should prioritize children's future over profits. "It is the industry's responsibility to provide wholesome entertainment to its viewers, and they cannot shirk this responsibility."



DR UMA KUMAR

**Dr. Uma Kumar**, founder Head of the Rheumatology Department at AIIMS Delhi and recipient of the National Award for Science Communication by the President of India, says the comprehensive and immediate implementation of OTT regulations aims to do their bit to save the kids from deadly trap of killer tobacco.

She warned that 12-16-year-old adolescents who watched such scenes were 2-3 times more likely to try smoking.

"Such rules are need of the hour if we want to save our kids from the tobacco menace."

## NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK SEPTEMBER 1-7

### NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR HEALTHY YOU

Use millets and seasonal fruits & vegetables instead of food supplements for proper nutrition, says **Dr RP PARASHAR**,

During the last five to six decades, the nutritional value of natural food items has declined significantly. Processed food, fast food and canned food are becoming a part of our busy life but these are proving to be harmful for health. Such foods are not meeting the criteria of nutrition at all. The amount of nutrients in fruits, milk, cereals, dry fruits, pulses, fruits and vegetables, which used to be four to five decades ago, is constantly declining.

Due to the lack of nutrients in the food, not only our physical ability is being adversely affected, our immunity is also decreasing. Its clear impact is visible more on the health of children.

If you are not eating home-cooked food, it is more likely that your food may have high amounts of fat, sugar, salt and carbohydrates, but very little amount of minerals, vitamins and proteins. For good health all these elements should be present in a balanced quantity in our daily diet.

According to Ayurveda, a person should eat food according to his body constitution, age and season; so that the food eaten proves to be beneficial for health and gets digested easily. We should start our day with soup and juice instead of tea and coffee. We should never skip breakfast because the fire element in our body remains strong in the morning. Due to the predominance of fire element in the body, whatever we eat will be digested quickly.

That's why we use milk, fruits, sprouted grains and pulses in breakfast. One can use curd or buttermilk with lentils, rice, chapati and vegetables in lunch. It is better to mix the flour of other cereals, millets and pulses with wheat to make chapatis so that the food becomes more nutritious and digestible. Cereals and millets like grams, barley, oats, bajra, jowar, ragi, maize, etc. can be mixed with wheat.

People who are allergic to wheat should use millets instead of wheat. Due to the predominance of fire till afternoon, we can eat heavy foods in sufficient quantity. One can use curd or buttermilk till lunch. In the evening, juice, soup, milk, tea and coffee can be used along with fruits, poha, upma, peanuts, makhana and linseed seeds. By night time, due to predominance of phlegm in the body, the fire has slowed down, so light and digestible food should be taken for dinner.

In winter, use of mustard, bathua, fenugreek and gram greens provides good nutrition, while in summer, use of gourd, Zucchini, apple gourd, ivy gourd, pointed gourd, etc. also provides good nutrition. Spinach is a vegetable available throughout the year which contains minerals in sufficient quantity. Among fruits, pear, plum, peach, mango etc. should be used in summer season while grapes, sapota, orange should be used in winter season. Apple, banana,

pineapple can be used throughout the year. Children



DR R P PARASHAR Chief Medical Officer (Ayurveda), MCD

who do not like the taste of milk should be given mango shake or banana shake. Patients with lifestyle disorders like diabetes, obesity, anaemia, high blood pressure, calcium deficiency, kidney and heart diseases, are increasing due to insufficient intake of minerals and dietary fiber in the diet. Based on the nutritional and medicinal properties present in millets, they are being seen as the super food of the future.

Millets are important from the point of view of prevention of lifestyle related diseases, food security and nutrition. Keeping the above facts in mind, the government has declared this year as International Year of Millets.

Millets can play an important role in meeting the nutritional needs of the growing population, especially youth and children, and in preventing lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, hypertension, etc.

Minerals, vitamins, enzymes and fiber are found in higher amounts in coarse grains and millets as compared to wheat and rice. Minerals like calcium, beta-carotene, niacin, vitamin B-6, folic acid, potassium, magnesium, zinc etc. are found in abundance millets like jowar, bajra, ragi, kodon, sawa, etc.

Bajra or the pearl Millet keeps the stomach healthy and makes the bones strong. Due to its better digestion, weight also remains under control. A good amount of calcium is found in ragi or the finger millet and it is also beneficial for diabetics. Being a good source of calcium,

it strengthens the bones. Jowar or the Sorghum also keeps the weight under control and relieves constipation. Due to high level of calcium, it strengthens the bones. The iron present in it helps in curing anaemia. Vitamin-A and folic acid are found in maize. It benefits heart patients by reducing cholesterol.

Ragi has a high amount of calcium. Eating ragi is recommended for diabetic patients. Ragi is traditionally used in dishes like khichdi.

Food supplements available in the market can be harmful to health. So instead of food supplements, use coarse cereals and millets like jowar, bajra, ragi and seasonal fruits and vegetables to overcome nutritional deficiency.

## How little things can reduce hip fractures

Simple strategies to strengthen your bones, implemented by the whole community, not just those at higher risk, could lead to a substantial decrease in hip fractures, a new Australian study suggests. The HEALTH PIONEER shares the details

A hip fracture, particularly in the elderly, dramatically increases the risk of death. Around 37 per cent of men and 20 per cent of women die within one year of a hip fracture. It also causes significant pain and suffering, loss of mobility and independence, and increased healthcare costs.

Distinguished Professor Tuan Nguyen, a world-leading researcher in osteoporosis from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) who spearheaded the study, said it is important for people to take simple measures to improve their bone health, even if they don't

have osteoporosis, and even if the measures seem to have minor benefits to them.

"Osteoporosis is a disease characterised by weak and brittle bones caused by bone loss. Osteoporotic individuals have the highest risk of a hip fracture, and pharmacologic treatment can reduce this risk by around 50 per cent," said Professor Nguyen.

"However, the majority of hip fractures occur in people who do not have osteoporosis, so it is important for everyone, especially the elderly, to take action to improve their bone health. Bone mineral density is

modifiable, and even small improvements reduce the risk of a fracture.

"Bone health is affected by lifestyle factors such as smoking, physical activity and nutrition, including vitamin D and dietary calcium intake. Stopping smoking, maintaining moderate physical activity, and eating a healthy diet can all help reduce bone loss."

The study 'Prevention of hip fractures: trade-off between minor benefits to individuals and large benefits to the community' was recently published in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, with co-



authors from The Garvan Institute of Medical Research and UNSW Sydney.

The researchers analysed data from the Dubbo Osteoporosis Epidemiology Study, one of the longest running studies on osteoporosis in the world. It includes more than 3000 individuals over 60 years of age, who have been

tracked over time for fracture incidence and risk factors.

They found that between the first cohort in 1988-92 and the second in 1999-2001, bone mineral density increased by 3 per cent. During the same period, there was a 45 per cent decrease in hip fractures, a decline typically associated with a 10 per cent rise in bone mineral density.

British epidemiologist Geoffrey Rose postulated that a population-based measure bringing a small benefit to each individual can yield large benefits to the community. The current study supports

this axiom, by showing a small increase in bone density led to a substantial reduction in hip fractures.

Professor Nguyen draws a parallel with wearing a car seatbelt. "Wearing a seatbelt might bring little benefit to an individual because the probability of having a car accident is very low, but we know this simple action does save lives in the community."

"Some people who are following medication regimens or engaging in lifestyle modification programs and notice a slight change in bone mineral density might believe that these

measures hold little benefit for them. Nonetheless, even these minor effects can lead to a substantial reduction in fracture risk for the community," he said.

Epidemiologist and first author Dr Thach Tran said the study findings will be of interest to public health policymakers and medical professionals, as well as individuals who want to reduce their risk of a hip fracture.

"Our study suggests that population strategies focused on reducing risk in those at low or moderate risk are likely to be more effective than strategies

just focused on high-risk individuals," he said.

"The findings also imply that the categorization of bone mineral density into osteoporosis or non-osteoporosis based on an arbitrary threshold is not an optimal approach for identifying people at high risk of fracture."

Hip fracture is the 10th most common cause of disability globally and there is a rising trend especially in the Indian subcontinent. In India incidence of hip fracture is 105 and 159 per 100,000 among men and women, respectively with 1-year mortality of 42%.



# Taiwan's inclusion in UN needed for global peace

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a reminder of how autocracies care little about causing death and destruction. The war is a gross violation of human rights and the principle of peaceful settlement of international disputes as codified in the United Nations Charter, which has helped maintain the rules-based international order and kept the world in relative peace since the end of the Cold War.

The war's humanitarian and economic fallout has also shown that in a globalised world crises cannot be contained within national borders. It is therefore imperative to deter similar threats to global security from happening elsewhere. Taiwan - a democracy that is home to over 23 million people and that I proudly represent - continues to confront enormous challenges posed by China.

Since the mid-20th century, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has vowed to take control of Taiwan and refused to renounce the use of force, despite never having ruled Taiwan. For decades, the people of Taiwan have remained calm in safeguarding the status quo of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. However, as China's economic and military might has grown stronger, it becomes increasingly aggressive in flexing its military muscles to intimidate Taiwan, thereby threatening our democratic way of life. This includes sending warplanes and ships across the median line of the Taiwan Strait and encroaching into our air defence identification zones. It has also intensified gray-zone tactics, such as disinformation and economic coercion, in an attempt to wear down our will to fight.

The PRC's expansionism does not stop at Taiwan. China's use of gray-zone activities in

the East and South China Seas are designed to expand its power and substantiate its hawkish territorial claims. In addition to signing a security agreement with Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, the PRC has been securing ports for future military use in the Indian Ocean. All of these manoeuvres are causing grave concerns that peace is becoming more difficult to maintain.

Ensuring peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is in everyone's best interest. Half of the world's commercial container traffic passes through the Taiwan Strait each day. Taiwan produces the majority of the world's semiconductors and plays a key role in global supply chains. Any conflict in the area would have disastrous consequences for the global economy.

In recent years, bilateral and multilateral forums have repeatedly emphasised that the peace and stability over the Taiwan Strait is indispensable to global security. While we can all agree that the war must be avoided, how to best do so requires inclusion, dialogue, and, most of all, unity.

The United Nations remains the best platform for global discourse. UN officials speak often of joint solutions, solidarity, and inclusion in tackling the pressing issues of our time. Taiwan is more than willing and able to take part in these efforts.

However, Taiwan continues to be excluded from the UN due to China's distortion of UN General Assembly Resolution 2758. This resolution neither states that Taiwan is a part of the PRC nor gives the PRC the right to represent the people of Taiwan in the UN and its specialised agencies. In fact, the resolution only determines who represents the member state China, a fact that the international community



and China itself recognised following the relevant vote in 1971. The subsequent misrepresentation of Resolution 2758 contradicts the basic principles upheld by the UN Charter and must be rectified.

The 78th session of the UN General Assembly, which will centre on the theme "rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity," is timely in light of a number of broad global challenges. For example, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were designed as

a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity. Yet the most recent SDG progress report showed that just 12 per cent of SDG targets were on track, while progress on 50 per cent has remained insufficient. And on more than 30 per cent, we have stalled or even regressed.

While there are no easy answers, the first step is dialogue. As a truly global institution, the UN can serve as a champion of progress. We call on the UN to uphold its principle of leaving no one behind

by allowing Taiwan to participate in the UN system, rather than excluding it from discussions on issues requiring global cooperation. A good first step would be to allow Taiwanese individuals and journalists to attend or cover relevant meetings, as well as ensure Taiwan's meaningful participation in meetings and mechanisms regarding the SDGs.

Ukraine's incredible bravery and resilience have inspired countries around the globe.

The war there has forged a new sense of togetherness in the world. Unity is crucial to pushing back against Russia's aggression and to preserving universal values, such as human rights and global peace, more broadly.

It is vital to make China and other authoritarian governments aware that they will be held accountable and to urge them to settle differences through peaceful means. Allowing Taiwan to meaningfully participate in the UN

system would benefit the world's efforts to address pressing global issues. This would also demonstrate the UN's determination to unite for global peace at a critical juncture when the future of the world is at stake.

We are stronger together. Now is the time to act on this fundamental principle by including Taiwan.

*{The writer is Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan)}*

**Taiwan remains excluded from the UN due to China's misinterpretation of Resolution 2758, which only designates representation for China, not asserting Taiwan as part of China. This misrepresentation contradicts UN Charter principles and requires correction, as recognised by the international community and China's 1971 vote**



JAUSHIEH JOSEPH WU

## PERSPECTIVE

# Most Taiwanese desensitised to Chinese threats

**Taiwan faces military threats from China while maintaining complex ties. Despite government efforts to boost defences, some are unfazed by the danger, torn between cultural and economic links to China and a Taiwanese identity. The future of Taiwan-China relations remains uncertain amid these nuanced perspectives**

As People's Liberation Army fighter jets from China sped toward Taiwan on Friday, life on the self-governing island carried on as normal. Andy Huang, a restaurateur in Taipei, said he has become desensitised to military threats from the mainland. "I've been hearing about China invading for 30 years," he said.

Taiwan's government is racing to counter China, buying nearly \$19 billion in military equipment from the United States, and extending military conscription for men to a year starting in 2024. But many on the island say they don't feel the threat.

That may be partly due to the nuanced views many Taiwanese hold of China. While polls indicate most people on the island reject reunification, many say they are attracted to their much larger neighbour's dynamic economy, and its shared language and culture. Others are simply numb to hearing about the threat in their backyard.

Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory, and its actions in recent years have led some to fear it is preparing to use force to try to take control of the island. Taiwan has been compared to Ukraine by American lawmakers and Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

The island's politicians have not been shy about sounding the alarm. "In order to keep the peace, we need to strengthen ourselves," Tsai said last month at a war memorial commemorating the last time Taiwan and China battled.

Members of the public don't feel that urgency.

Coco Wang is one of the many people who feel a connection to China without considering themselves Chinese. Her grandparents came to Taiwan among people fleeing



the 1949 Communist victory in the Chinese Civil War, which left rival governments ruling the mainland and Taiwan. Her grandparents kept in touch with relatives in China, and she remembers summers traveling through the country's rural areas with her parents.

She considers herself Taiwanese, but worked in Shanghai for a year before the pandemic and is thinking of going back.

The opportunities in China are so much bigger, she said. "There's this feeling that if you just go in and you really work

at it, then you can really achieve something," she said.

China is Taiwan's largest trading partner, receiving 39 per cent of the island's exports in 2022 despite new trade barriers imposed amid rising tensions. While Wang feels drawn to China, she acknowledged that it is not entirely possible to leave politics at the door when working there. Colleagues in Shanghai occasionally called her a "Taiwanese separatist."

She knew they meant it as a joke, but it made her uncomfortable. To herself, she thought: "We are already inde-

pendent. Taiwan is just Taiwan."

Her viewpoint is widely shared. Since polling began in the 1990s, majorities on Taiwan have said they favour the status quo, rejecting both proposals for unification with the mainland and a formal declaration of independence that could mean war.

But a closely watched poll question that asks people whether they consider themselves Chinese has shown the island's population growing further from the mainland, said Ching-hsin Yu, the head of

National Chengchi University's Election Study Centre. When polling began in 1992, over two-thirds of respondents said they were both Chinese and Taiwanese, or just Chinese. Today, close to two-thirds say they are just Taiwanese, while 30 per cent identify as both.

Those attitudes don't translate directly into views on relations with the mainland, Yu said, but among the majority who identify as Taiwanese there has been a subtle shift toward favouring the status quo for now, but with "eventual independence."

Huang, the restaurant owner, said he was taught in school that he was Chinese, but as an adult came to consider himself just Taiwanese.

His restaurant in Taipei, which specialises in Taiwanese cuisine, has a "Lennon Wall" dedicated to the now-banned Hong Kong democracy movement, decorated with hundreds of Post-It notes with messages from patrons.

Huang shut down in solidarity with protesters during Taiwan's Sunflower movement in 2014, when tens of thousands demonstrated against a

trade deal with China. He says the Chinese population is "brainwashed."

Personally, he wants independence now, but he also said he can wait until more of Taiwan's public is convinced.

Nor does he think much about war, he said. "Whether they attack or not, that's for China's leaders to decide; it's pointless for us to worry," said Huang.

For others, like Chen Shih-wei, cultural and emotional ties to China are very strong. Chen's family immigrated to Taiwan during the Ming dynasty, which ended in 1644, and he considers himself both Chinese and Taiwanese.

"I'm Chinese and I'm Taiwanese. This can't be separated," he said. "We've read the history, including the clan records, and we are clear that we came from the mainland, and came from people who had landed in Taiwan, and grew up here." Chen, who is from Taichung in central Taiwan, traveled to China many times as a young athlete, starting in 1990. On the mainland, he said, he encountered more similarities than differences. Chen is pro-reunification, but doesn't believe it will happen in his lifetime.

Chen now lives in Matsu, a group of Taiwanese-held islands that are closer to China than the island of Taiwan. He said he is somewhat worried about the prospect of conflict. "This is not what the public on both sides want to see," he said.

No one sees an easy way out of the accumulated antagonism of the past several years, whether military, diplomatic or economic. But Wang said the tensions are between the two governments, not between people. "Taiwanese and mainlanders are largely friendly to each other." AP



"IT IS INDEED A RADICAL ACT OF LOVE JUST TO SIT DOWN AND BE QUIET FOR A TIME BY YOURSELF"  
—JON KABAT-ZINN



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**



MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19  
Your wishes will manifest, although not quite as grandly as you hoped. You might sense a need to reduce your pace and could face some letdowns in romantic pursuits. An inclination may arise to prioritize spiritual growth over material gains. While your professional sphere thrives and your expertise becomes increasingly in demand, a personal setback may touch your life. However, the tide will shift in your favor soon. The support and love from your family will guide you towards new horizons and a brighter outlook. Expectant mothers may anticipate the birth of a son. A wave of happiness, positivity, and hope will encompass you. As the week concludes, a work-related trip might exhaust you, but you'll return more refreshed and at peace.  
**Lucky number** 17 | **Lucky colour** Mint  
**Lucky day** Friday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22  
This week begins with celebrations as a long-awaited wish comes to fruition, leading to gatherings and a relaxed atmosphere. However, some desires remain distant, and unexpected emotional situations or odd behaviors from someone close might leave you puzzled. But remember, every situation has its brighter side. Maintaining a positive attitude can guide you correctly. You'll find solace in spiritual practices, be it yoga, chanting, or delving into sacred texts. Visiting sacred places will rejuvenate your spirit. But as the week concludes, be cautious around a particular individual whose energy might seem off. Trust your instincts and proceed wisely. Navigating the ebb and flow of emotions will require inner strength. Stay anchored to your beliefs, and remember that every encounter offers a lesson or an insight.  
**Lucky number** 24 | **Lucky colour** Thursday  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21  
With abundant wealth, both material and of the heart, you exude generosity and possess the might to forgive. Many, especially women, find stability and pride in their endeavors due to your influence. You're open to supporting loved ones financially for noble causes. However, anxiety about the future might rob you of sleep, causing distress. Despite your material gains, you yearn for the love of those close to you and emotional fulfillment. Remember, life isn't always smooth; challenges arise, causing discomfort. By week's end, you emerge triumphant, mastering any situation. Harnessing both creation and destruction, you possess the wisdom to utilize these forces beneficially. Your resilience turns setbacks into victories. Ultimately, you shape your destiny, and everything aligns as per your will.  
**Lucky number** 12 | **Lucky colour** Teal  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20  
This week brims with promise. Dream ambitiously, for the dedication of recent times positions you for success. It's a moment to savor the rewards of your perseverance; indeed, you shine brightest now. Opportunities abound, potentially illuminating a radiant path ahead. However, by mid-week, the fiery drive that fuels your determination may wane, dwindling to a soft glow. Recognize the value of sharing tasks; delegating can ease your load. Be cautious about promising time to loved ones, as failing to fulfill such commitments might disappoint them. Remember, leaving tasks undone isn't your style. Pursue your desires, inching ever closer to your aspirations. Cherish each moment, understanding that highs and lows are part of the journey. Trust in your inner strength and intuition, guiding you toward the path best suited for you.  
**Lucky number** 23 | **Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Monday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22  
You have a sharp, analytical mind, making decisions with care and wisdom. This approach will allow you to handle complex challenges effortlessly, eliminating uncertainties. It's crucial to prioritize your health now. Seeking medical guidance early will be beneficial. If awaiting a judgment on an inheritance, resolution seems imminent. Legal outcomes will likely favor you. At work, be wary of office dynamics and steer clear of any political undercurrents. As the week concludes, you might feel mentally stressed. It's essential for women to be attentive to health issues during this time, specifically concerning blood pressure, menstrual irregularities, and eye-related concerns. Always remember, prevention is the best approach. Financial opportunities could emerge, so stay observant and ready to act. Maintain a balance in personal and professional relationships for harmony and growth.  
**Lucky number** 15 | **Lucky colour** Turquoise  
**Lucky day** Monday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19  
While you appear calm externally, intense emotions bubble beneath. You either suppress or overly express your feelings, causing potential confusion, particularly in romantic relationships. Swinging too much towards intensity might scorch you, while diving deep into emotions can be overwhelming. Seeking balance is crucial. By the time you recognize this, it might seem late. Misunderstandings with your partner are likely, potentially leading to strains or a break by week's end. This might bring feelings of guilt. Your reactions will be swift, pushing you towards an apology and a vow to better manage your emotional spectrum. Remember, it's never too late to change. Trust is the main thing that keeps relationships strong.  
**Lucky number** 26 | **Lucky colour** Lavender  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20  
A surge of self-assurance and optimism is on the horizon for you. Internal struggles and challenges, be they feelings of isolation, discrepancies in records, or health issues, may emerge. Nevertheless, by midweek, you'll muster the resilience to face and overcome these obstacles. Good news is forthcoming with potential career advancements, accolades, and increased recognition in sight. The unwavering support from loved ones will bolster your spirits. As you engage in discussions, expect your ideas to resonate and be embraced by peers and superiors. Should you face legal battles or office disputes, they're likely to tilt in your favor. The stars align in your favor, so make the most of this favorable phase. However, exercise caution, as letting arrogance or overconfidence dictate your actions could backfire.  
**Lucky number** 29 | **Lucky colour** Gold  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22  
A rewarding week lies ahead, with a whirlwind of blessings coming your way. In love, business, travels, or friendships, expect success and satisfaction. Everything seems to fall into place, making life feel more comfortable. The number 6 will be particularly significant for you this week, influencing your emotions, passions, and spiritual pursuits. You might encounter marriage proposals or plans solidifying a union. Long-awaited reunions with friends or partners are on the horizon. The allure of nostalgia might pull you back to cherished memories or even a trip to your hometown. Romantic escapades or leisure trips could be in store. As the week concludes, expect recognition for your efforts, leaving you feeling accomplished. Recent work-related travels will prove advantageous, possibly presenting lucrative job opportunities or increasing your standing and recognition.  
**Lucky number** 21 | **Lucky colour** Maroon  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18  
The week might begin on a challenging note with potential health concerns and unexpected expenses, leaving you wanting in financial rewards. However, as days pass, expect shifts in your professional sphere, breathing fresh energy into your tasks. You'll soon find yourself bursting with creativity, viewing situations from fresh perspectives. Challenges that seemed insurmountable before might now find resolutions, largely because you're making decisions with a clear mind, not letting emotions cloud your judgment. Your ability to deeply understand and empathize will shine, resulting in more clarity and insight. Stay vigilant, as deceit might be lurking in professional quarters. Familial ties strengthen with open conversations and collective decision-making. A matter concerning elderly family members may arise, emphasizing your role and responsibilities, showcasing the compassionate side of you.  
**Lucky number** 18 | **Lucky colour** Olive  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22  
You'll feel a wave of material contentment as finances flow in from multiple avenues. Success will crown your business and investment endeavors, and you might even launch a new project. However, the hustle could lead to exhaustion. By mid-week, you'll crave some alone time for introspection and rejuvenation. This brief pause will energize you, prompting you to tackle even more tasks than before. Your mind will remain active, pushing you to tick off tasks, even if your body craves rest. On the emotional front, you may face some setbacks. Feelings of love deprivation, a yearning for reconnection, and doubts about past decisions might weigh you down. Relying on the number five won't provide any solace during this time.  
**Lucky number** 1 | **Lucky colour** Magenta  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21  
You radiate satisfaction in your profession, showcasing a genuine contentment. Driven not just by personal gain, but also the financial well-being of your family, you actively engage in savings and investments. You're drawn towards bank deposits, financial schemes, and considering options like educational loans. Business travels seem on the horizon. With renewed vigor and enthusiasm, you embrace life, and your intuitive foresight expands your perspectives. Students preparing for interviews or exams are poised for success. As the week concludes, a sense of restlessness might emerge, prompting a reevaluation of certain life aspects. It's essential to refresh outdated beliefs, adopting progressive thoughts. If embarking on a new endeavor, ensure it's built on a solid foundation.  
**Lucky number** 28 | **Lucky colour** Amber  
**Lucky day** Friday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20  
This week centers on fertility and creativity. There's a strong indication of family expansion, perhaps through childbirth or conception. Your professional responsibilities are on the rise, yet they bring both emotional and financial satisfaction. You've mastered your career nuances and are now leveraging that knowledge to explore greater opportunities. While deeply invested in your endeavors, moments of nostalgia and memories from the past might briefly overshadow your busy routine. As the week closes, you'll be urged to strike a balance between intuition and wisdom. There will be a victorious resolution in the tug-of-war between your heart and mind. Relationships and spiritual fulfillment become paramount. You're poised as a guiding light, ever-ready to offer counsel and healing to those in need.  
**Lucky number** 12 | **Lucky colour** Coral  
**Lucky day** Monday

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Dhyana leads to cessation of unwanted thoughts

More the physical efforts better would be the fruits of action. Mind, on the contrary, becomes most creative when it is relaxed. This state is arrived at when one is in a state of 'Yoga'. Once mind becomes peaceful and relaxed, the thought process becomes easy and simple. It becomes free from any complexity, preconditioning or limitation. Unaffected by any internal or extraneous influences, one looks at issues in hand with an open mind. You then have a full hand view of whatever is explored, whence you intuitively get to the root of wherever attention is paid. Spontaneity becomes the rule of mind's game play. Also, one would be able to distinguish between "what one wants" and "what is right" and make most appropriate choices in life.

The process, however, is not easy, as it encounters lot of bottlenecks of its own making. Humans are thinking beings.

Nonstop they keep breeding and entertaining thoughts, be they in response to external stimuli, or the ones arising out of in-store impressions. Mind even flirts with assumed thoughts and keeps mulling over them. During the day, it is barely for 45 to 50 minutes of deep slumber at night that mind is at rest. Even during dream stage, mind keeps entertaining thoughts picked up during waking stage in recent or distant past. Not to say anything about waking state. Supposedly each being attends to around sixty to seventy thousand thoughts every day. Mind, in fact, is not at rest even while apparently idling. This human predicament is beautifully portrayed in a couplet by late *Maitihli Sharan Gupta*: "Koi pasa na rahne par bhi janman maun nahi rahata; Ap-apki surta hai waha ap-apko hi kahata." It means: "Even if nobody is around, mind is not at rest, it keeps listening and speaking to itself."

This, he wrote describing Lakshman's state of mind while guarding Lord Rama and his consort Sita sleeping at the dead of night in a fierce jungle, during their fourteen years of exile.

So, mind invariably remains loaded with a massive crowd of thoughts and feelings, ordinarily difficult to contend with. Out of them, some of the thoughts lead to action. Not all thoughts translate into action. The weaker ones die out. But every action is necessarily preceded by a thought. Thinking and feeling, as you are aware, hold the key to all actions on our part. Evidently, the character, content, and intent of the thoughts and feeling will define the quality of our efforts and fruits of actions thereto.

What if the thought-crowd occupying the mind becomes unruly, which is in evidence for a large majority? Mind becomes restive. It then unthinkingly wanders hither and thither, and usually



gets lost in the unwieldy thought crowd. It loses its sense of purpose and direction. Caught up in this bind, mind loses the sense of alert necessary to invoke one's faculty of discriminate intelligence for due diligence on account of attention deficiency.

The question now is: How to ensure picking up qualitative and well-intended thoughts, worthy of leading to happy

ending? It obviously calls for purifying our mind of all inconsequential and undesirable thought imprints. But for which, mind will be short of the where-withal necessary for meaningful application. The irony, however, is that a disorderly mind caught up virtually in an impregnable dense jungle of thoughts, hosting untamed wild thought-animals, by itself cannot find a way out. Even otherwise, standing on a plane, which hosts problems, it is not easy to find a way out.

Here comes the role of a Guru. He first enlightens you with your mirror image – the way your mind is inherently predisposed. He then makes you turn your attention inwards to figure out and acknowledge yourself the desire and mind trends, habits & attitudes, as well as virtues & attributes. He then shows the way forward to steer clear of the mental mesh and create ground for restoring orderly functioning of mind. Following

which, he leads you through a step-by-step process to acquire the state of 'Yoga'. You may then have access to the whole landscape of mind, which knows no limits.

There are numerous dhyana techniques in circulation across globe, lot many in circulation on U tube channels. But whatever method you use, the driving spirit of the concept of Yoga as suggested by its proponent sage Patanjali remains: "Citta vritti nirodha" which means cessation of all unwanted thoughts. To attain that state, Patanjali has offered eight-fold sutra – Yama; Niyama; Asana, Pranayama; Pratyahara; Dharana; Dhyana; and Samadhi.

*To be continued.....*

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