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NEW DELHI, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2023; PAGES 12-13



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DHARMA splits INDIA

DEEPAK K JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the INDIA Opposition bloc's ambitious meeting ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in the Hindi heartland of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh amongst others, the remarks by the DMK in Tamil Nadu that 'Sanatan Dharma must be eradicated' have given enough fuel to the BJP and simultaneously shaken up the Opposition consolidation in which the DMK is a major stakeholder.

On Monday, several Union Ministers as well as the BJP intensified its attack on the Opposition over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks, asking the Congress if the INDIA bloc had met in Mumbai to target the religion and stressed that they should not play with Hindu sentiments. Stalin has rubbished the genocidal claim and said his speech had pointed to social evils. The BJP also sought to know why the top leaders from the coalition — Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Nitish Kumar, Sharad Pawar, Arvind Kejriwal — were silent on the issue that has hurt billions of people owing allegiance to the ancient religion of the universe. Another major constituent of the INDIA alliance, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), too differed from the DMK and said, "India is a country that believes in unity in diversity."

However, Stalin's critical



A BJP delegation led by Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva submit a letter to TN House Resident Commissioner against DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin for his comments against 'Sanatan Dharma', at Tamil Nadu Bhawan in New Delhi on Monday. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

remark got affirmation from his alliance colleagues, Congress leader and a Minister in Karnataka, Priyank Kharge who is also son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram, son of former Home Minister P Chidambaram.

While Priyank said any religion that does not give equal rights is not a religion and "is as good as a disease", Karti said Sanatan promotes caste and division which is not good. Amid different voices within the

Congress and the INDIA bloc, the grand old party in its official statement said it respects all religions and stressed that others also have the freedom to express their views.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal hit out at the Opposition parties and asked the Congress if the INDIA bloc had met in Mumbai to finalise its agenda against Sanatan Dharma and how to finish it off across the country. Another Union Minister Prahlad Patel alleged that the attack on

Sanatan Dharma was part of a conspiracy hatched during the Opposition parties' meeting in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the leaders of the 'ghamandia gathbandhan (arrogant alliance)' seem to be competing with each other to "abuse Indian civilisation, its core belief and the Hindu dharma". Pradhan also recalled as a how before 2014 the Congress and Opposition parties mentioned "safron terror-

ism" though none had till that time ever referred to "pink, blue or magenta terrorism". Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad recalled how the British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak declared that he is a Sanatani.

In his address at a meeting of the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association in Chennai on Saturday, State Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin alleged that 'Sanatan Dharma' is against equality and social justice, and that it should be eradicated. Likening Sanatan Dharma to coronavirus, malaria and dengue, Udhayanidhi said such things should not be opposed but destroyed.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said while the Congress' stand is clear, every other political party has the freedom to express its own view. "Actually, our view is very clear - 'Sarvadharmasambhava' (equal respect to all religions) is the Congress ideology. But, you have to understand that every political party has its own freedom to state their views," he said. "We respect everybody's beliefs," the Congress leader said in a way supporting the DMK. Congress leader and former Union Minister Karan Singh, however, termed the DMK leader's statement as "preposterous" and "most unfortunate". "Crores of people in this country follow, to a lesser or greater extent the tenets of Sanatan Dharma. Besides, the greatest Sanatan

Dharma temples in the world are in Tamil Nadu — in Thanjavur, in Srirangam, in Thiruvannamalai, in Chidambaram, in Madurai, in Suchindram, in Rameshwaram and many more," Singh said in a statement.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said every religion has separate sentiments and India is about unity in diversity. "I have high regards and respect for the people of Tamil Nadu and South India. But my humble request is respect all, as every religion has separate sentiments. India is a secular and democratic country," she said.

About Stalin's comment, Mamata termed him a junior leader who may not know about it. "From my side, I am not clear about why and on which grounds he has made his comments. I feel that each and every religion should be equally respected... I respect Sanatan Dharma and we derive our learnings from the Vedas," she added. Mamata said the West Bengal Government gives pension to Hindu priests. "We have so many temples across the country. We visit temples, mosques and churches. We should not be involved in any matter which might hurt a section of people," she stressed.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi on her part attacked the BJP, accusing it of showing "fake concern" over Sanatan Dharma for its politics and termed it as hypocrisy.

Delhi ready for G20

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the G-20 Summit here next week, the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday began a 10-day exercise along its northern borders with China and Pakistan to secure the airspace and check any rogue drone or aircraft sneaking into the Indian territory to spoil the spirit of the mega event.

Nearly 70 VIP aircraft, including Air Force One carrying the US President, will land at the Palam Technical airport of the IAF here for the G20 Summit. Four other airports around the national Capital have been designated as reserve airports for any contingencies, officials said.

The exercise styled as Trishul (trident in English) will run until September 14

in the regions of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab, sources said. The drills will include fighter jets, transport aircraft and helicopters. The IAF has deployed a battery of airborne early warning systems and air defence missile systems at vital locations to keep an eye in the sky, officials said. Sources said the Army along with the IAF, Delhi Police and paramilitary forces, will deploy anti-drone systems to prevent aerial threats, while 400 fighters will remain on standby. The northern

regions of the nation will remain under vigilant surveillance through the utilisation of the Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS).

The four other airports earmarked as reserve are Lucknow, Jaipur, Amritsar and Indore, sources said. PK Mishra, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, and Delhi's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena oversaw the arrangements at Palam Technical Airport.

The four reserve airports were identified at a high-level meeting with officials from the Union Home Ministry, Intelligence Bureau, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the Central Industrial Security Force and the Delhi Inter-national Airport Limited.

The Air Traffic Control has been directed to be on high alert and monitor all flights entering Delhi. In case of any emergency situation, flights will be diverted to any of the four airports that are part of the contingency plan, the sources said.

The VIPs will land at the technical airport but aircraft and private jets carrying them will be parked at the Delhi airport. Special arrangements have been made to park the Air Force One and a few other important aircraft at the Palam Air Force Station.



Biden disappointed by Xi's absence at G20

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON/BEIJING

Looking forward to his visit to India this week, US President Joe Biden has said he is "disappointed" that Chinese President Xi Jinping will not attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

China on Monday officially announced that President Jinping will not attend the G20 conclave and the delegation will be led by Premier Li Qiang.

Interacting with reports late on Sunday in Washington, Biden said, "Yes, I am," when asked whether he was looking forward to his visits to India and Vietnam. He expressed his disappointment over President Xi Jinping not attending the summit in New Delhi. "I am disappointed, but I am going to get to see him," Biden said in response to a question. He, however, did not say when that meeting may take place.

Biden will travel to India on September 7 to participate in the G20 Summit and will have a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 8 on the sidelines of the high-profile event.

On Monday Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in Beijing that at the invitation of the

Government of the Republic of India, Premier of the State Council Li Qiang will attend the 18th G20 Summit to be held in New Delhi, India on September 9 and 10. Mao did not provide any reason for President Xi's absence from the high-profile conclave hosted by India for the first time.

The spokesperson said China looks forward to the G20 New Delhi Summit reaching a consensus on tackling challenges in the economy and development, conveying confidence to the outside world and promoting shared prosperity and growth.

"I have made the announcement just now and shared with you the information I have," she said in response to a question about why President Jinping is not attending the G20 Summit in India.

"I already covered this. The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. China attaches high importance to and actively participates in G20 activities," Mao said in response to another question about the President skipping the Summit.

The G20 is an important forum for international economic cooperation. China has all along attached great importance to and taken an active



part in G20 events, Mao said. "During this year's G20 Summit, Premier Li Qiang will share China's views and propositions on G20 cooperation, and promote greater solidarity and cooperation among G20 countries and joint response to global economic and development challenges," Mao said.

"We are ready to work with all parties to make the G20 Summit a success and contribute to the steady recovery of the global economy and sustainable development," she added. In response to a question by China's official media, Mao said as the world econo-

my experiences more downward pressure and challenges grow for global sustainable development, it is important that the G20, being the premier forum for international economic cooperation, strengthen partnership and rise up to the big challenges facing global economy and development so as to contribute to world economic recovery and growth and global sustainable development.

"We hope the New Delhi Summit will form consensus on that, send out a message of confidence, and promote shared prosperity and development," the Foreign Ministry spokesperson added.

President Jinping is also skipping the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and East Asia summits in Jakarta this week. Premier Li will be representing China at the ASEAN Summit in Indonesia.

In its capacity as the current president of G20, India is hosting the annual Summit of the influential grouping in New Delhi on September 9 and 10. Biden, along with more than two dozen world leaders, is scheduled to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi that is being hosted by Prime Minister Modi.

The world leaders, who

have already confirmed their participation in the upcoming G20 meet, include French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. However, Russian President Vladimir Putin has already conveyed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi his decision not to attend the summit in person. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will represent the country at the Summit.

Modi will hand over the baton of the G20 Presidency to Brazilian President Lula on September 10. Brazil will formally assume the G20 Presidency on December 1.

The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union.



DELHI DECKS UP FOR G20: Fountains and statues of all shapes and sizes, street art depicting Indian history, mythology, art and culture, and a variety of plants have been installed all over the national Capital as the city is all set to roll out the red carpet for the G20 Summit. The impressive lion statue has been installed at the airport road. PTI

ISRO countdown voice for Chandrayaan bids farewell

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Nalvarmathi, the unsung heroine of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is no more. Though she remained away from the media glare, Valarmathi was famous among space-faring nations across the world which used to monitor the launch of ISRO space missions from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota.

Valarmathi's voice reverberated across the globe as she performed the final countdown to the launch of each space mission. The last time she was heard was during the launch of the Chandrayaan 3 mission from SDSC as she lent her voice to the countdown from the Mission Control Room. The 64-year-old, who was

an electronics and communication engineer and had headed the ISRO's first-ever indigenously-developed Radar Imaging Satellite Project, bade farewell to her friends and colleagues on Sunday following a massive cardiac arrest.

Her voice was synonymous with the countdown and excitement of the blasting off of each launch vehicle of ISRO. Though she never put any extra effort to create any emotions, people who gathered at the SDSC used to be in a trance as Valarmathi took control of the countdown to the launch. It is doubtful whether there are any scientists who could generate the kind of anticipation and excitement that Valarmathi created with her voice.

"Hers was the voice of the space missions. I do not know

of any other persons among us who could do the countdown announcement with the kind of elan which she did," said Dr R Purushothaman Nair, former ISRO senior scientist who had worked with her during the launch missions.

The credit of breaking the barriers of a field till then dominated by males goes to none other than Valarmathi, said A Subramanian, who headed the successful Space Capsule Recovery mission of the ISRO.

G Madhavan Nair, former chief of ISRO, choked with emotion when asked about Valarmathi. "She was a scientist/engineer with a difference. Valarmathi could take up any project which even the bravest of men would think twice or thrice about before taking up," he said. The lady engineer



File photo of ISRO's 'voice' N Valarmathi

was to ISRO what Melville De Mellow and Surajit Sen, the pioneer newscasters were to the All India Radio. "She had that captivating voice. Though she was unaware of it, the voice and diction with which she performed the countdown and

the post-launch counting was unique," said Madhavan Nair.

The Tamil Nadu Government under J Jayalalitha had honoured Valarmathi with the first-ever Abdul Kalam Award in 2015 for her contribution to the

field of engineering and technology. "Hers was the voice of ISRO and we will definitely miss her," said Nair.

Monday was a day of sorrow and joy for ISRO. While it lost Valarmathi, it had yet another breakthrough in the Chandrayaan Mission. ISRO on Monday said the Vikram lander successfully underwent a hop test when it made the soft-landing again on the lunar surface. On command it (Vikram lander) fired the engines, elevated itself by about 40 cm as expected and landed safely at a distance of 30 to 40 cm away, ISRO said in an update on 'X'.

Noting that the Vikram lander exceeded its mission objectives, ISRO said the importance of the exercise was that this 'kick-start' enthruses future sample return and

human missions. "All systems performed nominally and are healthy. Deployed Ramp, ChaSTE and ILSA were folded back and redeployed successfully after the experiment," the space agency added.

After that the ISRO scientists switched off the lander Vikram and Pragyan. S Somanath, ISRO chairman had told reporters last Saturday after launching the Aditya spacecraft that the Chandrayaan 3 payloads would be switched off to save energy and extend the life of its battery. But the important news from ISRO is that the space scientists have mastered the knowhow and technology to bring back to Earth samples collected from the lunar surface in its future missions.

"The temperatures could

go up to -200 degree Celsius on the lunar surface soon. The payloads may not be able to withstand extreme temperatures while they are still powered on.

"Therefore, the payloads have been switched off and will be powered on only after conditions are conducive for them to work again," the ISRO Chairman had said.

Scientists at ISRO said that after the Chandrayaan 3 Mission landed on the lunar surface on August 23, Vikram and Pragyan performed all their planned experiments within one lunar day or approximately 14 earth days and finally after a hop test, have been put on sleep mode.

They said all the operations are being performed as scripted by the mission heads and managers.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to participate in 'G20'

PIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will travel to New Delhi to participate in the G20 leaders summit. This will be Yellen's fourth visit to India in 10 months.

According to the Treasury Department, Yellen will focus on strengthening the global economy and supporting low- and middle-income countries by advancing efforts on debt restructurings, the evolution of multilateral development banks (MDBs), and building International Monetary Fund trust fund resources during the

The Treasury said Yellen also will rally America's G20 allies to maintain economic support for Ukraine and increase costs on Russia over Moscow's continuing war in Ukraine. This includes supporting the G7-led price cap on



Russian oil exports and efforts to strengthen global food security in the face of restrictions on Ukrainian grain exports. At the same time, the Treasury said Yellen would work to deepen U.S. bilateral ties with India, viewing the country as an alternative to China for US investment and supply chains.

Meanwhile, reports have emerged that Chinese President Xi Jinping is likely to skip the G20 Summit. A report by Reuters said China is reluctant to confer influence on its southern neighbour that boasts one of the fastest-growing major economies. The report

added that Premier Li Qiang is expected to represent Beijing at the Summit. "China doesn't want India to be the voice of the Global South, or to be that country within the Himalayan region to be hosting this very successful G20 summit," Farwa Aamer, director of South Asia Initiatives at the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has already said he will not be travelling to New Delhi and will send Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov instead. Putin on Monday however said that the grain deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea won't be restored until the West meets its obligations to facilitate Russian agricultural exports.

Putin made the statement after talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who along with the UN brokered the deal seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in Africa, the Middle

East and Asia. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on.

But Russia refused to extend the deal in July, complaining that an agreement promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honoured. It said restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade even though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

Putin said that if those commitments were honoured, Russia could return to the deal "within the nearest days". He also said that Russia is close to finalising an agreement to provide free grain to six African countries. The Russian leader added that Russia will ship 1 million metric tons (1.1 million tons) of cheap grain to Turkey for processing and delivery to poor countries.

All eyes on Dhupguri today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Come Tuesday Dhupguri a sleepy town of North Bengal in Jalpaiguri district goes to a keenly watched Assembly by-election — a tri-cornered contest with the Trinamool Congress, BJP and Congress-backed CPI(M) taking on each other.

The BJP which had post 2016 carved out a good support base in the 6 districts of north-eastern Bengal had won the Dhupguri seat in 2021 Assembly elections. The sitting BJP legislator's untimely death necessitates this election.

The by-polls turn out to be a litmus test for all the three groups for three reasons. The TMC which is the State ruling party had conceded this seat to the BJP in 2021 but has gained back quite a ground in the recently held panchayat elections when the party regained most of the panchayats.

It is another matter that the panchayat elections witnessed massive violence and booth-capturing. "If the elections are held in a peaceful manner then the voters may take revenge for the vote loot that



took place during the panchayat elections," said a local professor adding however that the TMC has a good organizational base in the region. Besides, the popularity of Mamata Banerjee and her party has dipped quite a bit in the past more than a year in the wake of the recruitment scam that burst in the face of her government.

The multi-crore recruitment scam in education, fire brigade, forest, municipal and other sectors seem to have alienated the youth a great deal particularly at a time when the State has not only been witnessing a steady flight of capital but no new job-creating investment forcing large number migrant workers to go to other states for jobs. According to a latest report, while the State had about 5 lakh

migrant labourers in 2011 when the TMC came to power defeating the Left Front today after 12 years the State has 21 lakh migrant workers. For the BJP however the situation is slightly better mainly for two reasons: firstly they have the support of Anant Maharaj the tallest (tribal) Rajbangshi leader of the region. BJP recently nominated Maharaj to Rajya Sabha — a factor that could draw the 60 percent Rajbangshi votes towards the saffron outfit. Secondly they have a good RSS back-up in the region.

However the main drawback for the BJP is the steep price rise and the too-and-from journey from the party to the TMC almost on a yearly rate. "Today the common man is so much confused about which leader is in which party on a given day that they have to get regular google updates... even their topmost leader Suwendu Adhikari is a TMC groomed man who as a senior and powerful member of Mamata Banerjee Cabinet till early 2021 cannot completely absolve himself from charges of corruption... besides he is himself named in the Narada pay-

off case," said a local school teacher. For the Left on the other side the polls are important not because they are the favourites in the match but because they are being rated as the dark horse. In 2016 while they polled about 70,000 votes in 2021 their votes migrated to the BJP and they could manage only 5 percent votes. The Left has for long been leading a movement for Dhupguri to be made a Sub-division which can work in their favour, sources say.

And though Abhshek Banerjee in a recent rally promised to upgrade Block into a Sub-division locals have been giving the credit to the CPI(M). "The challenge before the Left is to increase their vote percentage by maximum... they have drawn huge crowds and the people generally vouch for their honesty but they only lose out on their winability chances... going by number of people they have drawn in meetings you can say that they have a good chance... but even if Left manages to get 20-25 percent vote then it would be a source of threat for both

Maratha quota feud reaches flashpoint

MVA DEMANDS SHINDE, 2 DCMS' RESIGNATIONS

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maratha reservations issue has again reached a flash point over the lathi-charge on the agitators in Jalna district, with the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) demanding the resignations of chief minister Eknath Shinde and his deputies over the failure to handle the Maratha quota crisis and the Maratha Kranti Morcha threatening to continue their agitation till the issue was resolved.

Three days after the police lathi-charged the protestors demanding Maratha reservations in Jalna injuring several of them, the Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP (Ajit Pawar) government remained on the defensive, as the Opposition MVA, led by Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray pilloried former

chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnis, who is currently deputy chief minister, for his failure to deal Maratha issue.

Not in a mood to accept the assurances by chief minister Eknath Shinde that his government was committed to giving reservations to Marathas in education and jobs, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole on Monday charged that the BJP was not interested in providing reservations to Maratha community.

"If he BJP genuinely wishes to grant reservation to the Maratha community, it should place the issue in the upcoming special session of the Parliament and do justice to the entire Maratha community," Patole said. The Maratha quota issue should be seen in the context of the fact that a five-judge bench of the Supreme court had in April this year refused to re-examine the apex court's order of May 2021 by which it had declared a Maharashtra law

to grant reservation to Marathas "unconstitutional".

On May 5, 2021, the SC had set aside the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act on various grounds, which include breaching of the 50 per cent quota rule. Singling out Fadnis for a vicious attack, Uddhav said: "We had all thought that Fadnis had expertise in the matters relating to the Maratha reservations. He has proved to be a misfit.

We the MVA government had brought about the Maratha reservations law. After the Supreme Court rejected SEBC Act, why Fadnis could not take up the matter with the Centre and prevailed upon it to promulgate an ordinance and the parliament would have later enacted it?"

"Chief Minister Shinde, deputy chief ministers Fadnis and Ajit Pawar are trying to underplay the issue by claiming that they did not order the police to resort to lathi-charge

What happened to special camps held six months ago for Kashmiri migrants: BJP

PNS ■ JAMMU

A former Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) and a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Girdhari Lal Raina Monday asked the UT administration, "What happened to the Special Camps for Kashmiri Migrants organized six months ago?"

Expressing pain and anguish over the lack of seriousness in the UT administration, Raina said a special governance camp for Kashmiri Migrants had been inaugurated at Jagti Colony in February 2023, yet there is no movement forward in this regard.

Raina said 12 day-long similar camps were organized at six different locations across the Jammu region to ensure 100% saturation of Social security schemes for Kashmiri migrants with a lot of fanfare and publicity. Raina also recalled, "Various departments put up their stalls at the camp including the facilities for enrolment

of youth for self-employment, skilling and up-skilling. Thousands of displaced youth visited these camps and registered themselves under different schemes for self-employment, skilling, and up-skilling". "There were a large number of other particularly differently-abled individuals who submitted for extension of social security/welfare schemes to them for which they are eligible," Raina added.

Former MLC further added that even a substantial number of youth sought benefits of sports promotion schemes, which are not extended to them. It was claimed that the directive was to organize such special governance camps to ensure saturation of social security schemes, self-employment, and skilling. However, unfortunately, no action seems to have been taken after the conclusion of these camps. The situation even after six months is where it was before these camps were organized, said GL Raina.

Didi calls ED harassment a political vendetta

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday slammed the BJP Government for using the central agencies to settle political scores. Addressing a gathering of businessmen Banerjee said how the Centre was using the Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation to tame down its political opponents.

"Sometimes some people are being harassed... Though I have not taken a cup of tea from anyone in my life they are harassing me... even my family is being harassed... Even if you purchase a cup and dish or a window or some furniture they will send ED to investigate... this is clearly a politics of vendetta," Banerjee said alleging how her family members were being raided of late. The Chief Minister's hard-hitting statements came within weeks of an ED raid on the premises of Leaps and Bounds, a company of which her nephew



and Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has been a director. Already a former senior official of the same company is presently in jail for his alleged connections with a cash-for-job scam. Speaking about the alleged political vendetta, Banerjee asked the businessmen not to be worried. "Do not worry because you still have the courts that still take judicious decisions... if you are harassed then please go to court," Banerjee said adding political revenge would continue. "This trend will continue nonstop till this political vendetta is over," Chief Minister said. A number of senior politicians including ministers, MLAs and top government

functionaries including a sitting vice chancellor have landed in jail in connection with recruitment scams, cattle smuggling. Very recently the Calcutta High Court has also ordered investigation into municipal services recruitment scam following which the ED has sent notices to a number of municipalities to explain their mode of appointments since 2014.

Leveling counter allegations of political vendetta Bengal BJP leader and MP Dilip Ghosh said the Chief Minister herself had practiced political vendetta on the opposition. "Hundreds of our workers have perished and many have fled the State due to the political persecution that her party has practiced... and if she talks about harassment then one must say the Bengal businessmen are more harassed by TMC goons than anyone else... the businessmen are fed up with protection money (Tola Baji) that has to be given to 'TMC goons,' he said.

कार्यालय नगर परिषद कोलारस जिला शिवपुरी (म.प्र.)
Email Id: cmokolaras@mpurban.gov.in
क्र./न.प./2023/964 कोलारस, दिनांक :- 25.08.2023
// ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //

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अध्यक्ष मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर परिषद कोलारस

Police case filed against EGI chief over Manipur riot reports: Biren

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday said that a police case has been filed on the basis of a complaint against the president and three members of the Editors Guild of India (EGI) for a report critiquing media coverage out of Manipur, and accused them of trying to "provoke clashes" in the state.

A second FIR was also registered against the four members of the EGI, with additional charge of defamation. The Editors Guild, in a report

published on Saturday, had slammed the internet ban in the state as being detrimental to media reportage, criticised what it termed as one-sided reporting by some media outlets and claimed there were indications that the state leadership "had turned partisan" during the conflict period.

The Press Club of India joined a number of bodies in condemning the filing of the case against the EGI fact finding team and termed it as "a strong-arm tactic by the state government which amounts to intimidation of the apex media

body of the country". Singh claimed at a press conference here that at a time when many have been killed and left homeless, the EGI published a "totally one-sided" report without understanding the complexity of the crisis faced by Manipur, the background and the history of the state.

"The state government has filed an FIR against the members of the Editors Guild who are trying to create more clashes in the state of Manipur," Singh told a press conference.

Space startups went up from 4 to 150: Jitendra

PIONEER NEW SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday said that the successful launch of Chandrayaan 3 has sparked global aspirations in Indian students. Singh said, this is all the more evident that after the opening up of the Space sector by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2020, the number of Space Startups sky-rocketed from merely 4 to 150 Startups and most of them being led by science students,



researchers and entrepreneurs. Dr Jitendra Singh was addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Science 20 (S20) Conference under the aegis of G20 on the topic "Disruptive Science for Innovative and Sustainable Development", at

Amity University, Noida. "It is the hard work and determination of scientists, researchers and scholars that India is now ranked amongst top 3 nations in terms of publications and 9th in terms of Patents.

India's Global Innovation index has also seen significant improvement in the past years moving up the ladder from 81st position to 40th position," Singh said who hold portfolios of Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

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

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. LBGHZ0002865036 & LBGHZ0002891317, Name of the Borrower/Co-borrower **SUMAN SINGHAL/ MOHIT SINGHAL** Demand notice dated **December 17, 2021** published in News paper **Pioneer (Hindi)** dated **February 08, 2022**. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and Name of borrower mentioned in as **SUMIT SINGHAL** instead of **SUMAN SINGHAL**. We therefore, request you to please read the same as **SUMAN SINGHAL**. All other details mentioned in the said Notice dated will remain same. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to you in this regard.

Date: **September 05, 2023**
Place: **Delhi/NCR**
Authorised Officer **ICICI Bank Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Sunneeta Devi Gupta D/o Chhaki Lal Gupta who is purchasing the Property No. J-31, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds. out of Khara No. 672, situated at village Ghokha Gujran, Khadar, in the abadi of J-Block, Jai Prakash Nagar, Ghosia, Ilasa, Shandara, Delhi-110053, from Mrs. Beena Sharma W/o Mr. Pramod Kumar, who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Notarized Agreement to Gift dated 16.01.2023 & Notarized Family Will Deed dated 16.01.2023, which is executed by Mr. Tushar Sharma S/o Mr. Pramod Kumar, and same to be financed & mortgaged by Unmeed Housing Finance Private Limited. That the (1) Death Certificate of Mr. Saundagar Mai S/o Mr. Shyam Dass, executed 24.05.2022 & (2) Surviving Member Certificate (SMC) of Late Mr. Saundagar Mai, is Lost/ Misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give the public notice that, if any Person having any type of claim /right/title/interest/ creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucern Legal LLP Plot no.136, (Basement) Uday Park New Delhi-110049, Contact# 011-49446316

PD (149) C

One ultra shot, two security personnel hurt in Reasi encounter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A terrorist was killed while two security personnel including a jawan of the Indian army received injuries during an ongoing encounter in the Gali Sohah area of Tuli in the general area of Chassana, Reasi district on Monday.

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu range Mukesh Singh Monday said, "The encounter was launched in the Gali Sohah area of Tuli in Chassana, Reasi on the basis of inputs developed by the police teams about the presence of terrorists in the area".

Singh confirmed so far one terrorist had been neutralized while one jawan of the Jammu and Kashmir police also received injuries during the exchange of fire.



Meanwhile, Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt Col Suneel Bartwal in his brief statement said, "One terrorist was killed and one jawan of the Indian army and one JKP personnel received injuries in the ongoing encounter". The police and army teams have plugged in possible exit routes to prevent the escape of another holed-up terrorist in the area.

HC reserves verdict on removal of Mathura's Shahi Idgah mosque

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Monday reserved its judgment on a PIL seeking "removal" of Mathura's Shahi Idgah mosque which the petitioner claimed was built on the Krishna Janmabhoomi or the birthplace of Lord Krishna.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Pritynker Divaker and Justice Ashutosh Srivastava reserved judgment after hearing the PIL filed by Mahesh Maheshwari. The high court on August 23 had adjourned hearing in the case till September 4. The PIL has sought the removal of the Shahi Idgah mosque, alleging it was built on the site of the birthplace of Krishna.

The petitioner has asked for the land to be "handed over to the Hindus and a proper trust be formed to build a temple on Krishna Janmabhoomi land". In an

interim plea, the petitioner also sought permission for Hindus to worship at mosque on certain days of the week and during festival of Janmashtami (Lord Krishna's birth anniversary celebrations), till the disposal of the petition.

Lord Krishna was born in karagar (prison) of king Kans and the place of his birth lies beneath the present structure raised by the Shahi Idgah Trust, the petitioner alleged.

The petitioner also prayed for a court-monitored excavation of the "disputed structure" by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). A "mosque is not an essential part of Islam", the petition said, and hence, the "disputed land should be handed over to Hindus for exercise of their right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion under Article 25 of Constitution".

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Date: **05.09.2023**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Un-priced & Priced) is invited for the following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/RB/23-24/RS/SKS/SS/29	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF WI-FI NETWORK AT CORPORATE OFFICE OF BYPL, DELHI	1.06 Crore	2.12 Lakhs	26.09.2023 15:00 Hrs	27.09.2023 15:30 Hrs
CMC/RB/23-24/RS/SKS/SV/30	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF 11KV SMART PACKAGED SUBSTATION WITH 400KVA DRY-TYPE TRANSFORMER (PSS Type - 19)	1.10 Crore	2.20 Lakhs	26.09.2023 14:00 Hrs	26.09.2023 16:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1,180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -->Tenders-->BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -->Open Tenders.

Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC11525
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

MATRIMONIAL
Reputed well established Muslim Sunni Family based in UAE invites proposal for their daughter Age 37 Height 5.4", fair, beautiful, convent education. Looking for alliance (Health professional) who can relocate to UAE/UK. Uncle Contact # 9871269996

PD (150)C

Reputed well established Muslim Sunni Family based in UAE invites proposal for their daughter Age 39 Height 5.6", fair, beautiful, convent education. Looking for alliance who can relocate to UAE/UK. Uncle Contact # 9871269996

PD (151)C

Online delivery services prohibited during G20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All online delivery services—aside from medical deliveries—will be prohibited in the New Delhi district during the G20 Summit. "Cloud kitchen and food delivery or any commercial delivery like Amazon deliveries will not be allowed as we have stopped commercial services in New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). Online delivery services will not be allowed but medicine delivery will be allowed."



Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) SS Yadav said while addressing a press conference on Monday.

Ahead of the G20 Summit in Delhi, food delivery providers, restaurant chains, and food services businesses petitioned the government to permit deliveries as part of "essential services similar to the pandemic lockdowns."

App-based taxis will be allowed with passengers with valid ID card/tickets, said Yadav. Yadav further said essential services such as postal and medical services, sample collections by path labs will be

allowed throughout Delhi. He further made it clear that there are no changes in the traffic advisory issued by the police on August 25.

Valid permissions granted for essential services will be "honoured", he added. New Delhi will be regarded as a "controlled zone," according to a number of limitations and closures that have been issued

by the administration.

Yadav said that barring at the Supreme Court station, metro services will not be affected. "There might be closure of gates for 10-15 minutes at stations due to VIP movement and security restrictions. But apart from at Pragati Maidan (Supreme Court), metro services will not be affected at other stations," he added.

Yadav said people with hotel bookings in the New Delhi district and travelling from the airport or railway station will be allowed entry, subject to the production of boarding passes and booking documents. "There might be 10-15-minute delays due to security restrictions at that point but they will be allowed entry," he

added. The Special CP said that from 5 a.m on September 8 to 11:59 p.m on September 10 New Delhi district will be termed the "Controlled Zone 1".

Parts of North and Central Delhi, around Rajghat, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg and Shanti Van Chowk, will be treated as "Controlled Zone 2".

However, refuting the speculation of a lockdown in the city, the Delhi Police announced that there would be no lockdown during the G20 Summit.

"Dear Delhiites, don't panic at all! There is no lockdown. Just keep yourself updated with traffic information available on @dtpftraffic's Virtual Help Desk," the Delhi Police posted on X (formerly Twitter).



An artist paints graffiti at the Mandi House Metro Station ahead of the G20 Summit

Ranjan Dimri

4 heavy duty mobile dewatering trucks deployed for G20 Summit

Dewatering trucks borrowed from Ahmedabad deployed at ITPO, Rajghat to avert flooding/waterlogging due to rains

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to avert water logging and flooding related eventuality due to in case of heavy rains during the upcoming G20 summit, four heavy duty mobile dewatering trucks, specially borrowed from Ahmedabad, have been deployed at ITPO and Raj Ghat.



These vehicles equipped with high capacity suction pumps have been brought in by Delhi Fire Services (DFS) to deal with any contingency like the one recently, where the area in and around the Raj Ghat and ITPO were submerged after heavy rains, officials said here on Monday.

Delhi Lt Governor (LG) V K Saxena during his review meetings in run up to the G-20 Summit, had repeatedly stressed upon putting in place a comprehensive and fool proof contingency plan in and around the G-20 venues to deal with water logging in the city, in case it rains heavily during the event. On

Sunday, the LG accompanied Principal Secretary to the PM P.K. Mishra and personally inspected these vehicles stationed at ITPO.

Two such vehicles each have been deployed at Raj Ghat and ITPO and can be moved anywhere as per the requirement. Each of these vehicles is capable of high speed water suction at the rate of 10,000 liters per minute from a radius of 15 meter.

Once completely loaded with fuel, these vehicles can operate for 24 hours continuously.

These diesel run vehicles are equipped with BS-VI engines of 60 BHP capacity at 1500 RPM and are minimally polluting, both in terms of emission and noise pollution, being run at a noise level of 85dBA at 7m.

Delhi Fire Service will be procuring such vehicles on a permanent basis eventually.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Providing relief to commuters, Delhi Police has revoked its order from September 2, which stated that some metro station gates that open towards the VVIP route or venue of Summit will be closed from September 8 to 10. As per Delhi Police, train services will be available at all stations except Supreme Court Station, where the services will be affected. However, there may be temporary gate closures of 10-15 minutes at some stations due to VIP movements and security restrictions.

In a communication to the chief security officer of the Delhi Metro on Monday, police said they are withdrawing their request on "administrative grounds". "The request letter for the Closure of Gates of 39 Metro Stations which was made vide this office letter No. 2488/G-20 Cell/Metro, dated 02.09.2023 is hereby withdrawn administrative grounds," read another letter sent by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Metro) G Ram Gopal Naik, to the Chief Security Commissioner of Delhi Metro. In its first letter sent to the



Delhi on Saturday, the Delhi Police said that the gates of more than 20 metro stations, including three of Khan Market, two of Moti Bagh and five of ITO, are "required" to be closed to strengthen the security matrix from September 8 to September 10.

"As you are aware that the G20 Summit-2023 is around the corner and we are making all possible efforts to enhance the security matrix. Hence, in order to maintain foolproof security arrangements during the upcoming summit, it is required to ensure that the gate numbers of metro stations that open towards the VVIPs route/venue of summit/place of stay may be closed from September 8 to 10," the letter

In relief to commuters, police revoke order on closure of Metro gates along G20 VVIP route

SHO Daryaganj nixes order seeking closure of offices, shops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Station House Officer of Daryaganj police station has withdrawn an order asking offices, shops, vehicle parking, DTC depot. Etc in the area to remain shut during the G20 Summit.

According to the order, which was released on Sunday, all government/private offices, shops, commercial establishments offices, cinema hall, vehicle parking, banks and schools, DTC/Cluster bus depot located at Rajghat, Asaf Ali Road, JLN Marg, Netaji Subhash Marg Nishad Raj Marg, Dayanand Road, Kedarnath Marg, Padamchand Marg and Ansari Raod Daryaganj and within the jurisdiction of Daryaganj police station were to be kept closed on September 7 from 10 pm to



September 10 up to 10 pm for G20 Summit.

Later, the SHO issued another order on Monday cancelling the Sunday's order. An order regarding closing the all govt/private offices, shops, commercial establishments offices, cinema halls, vehicle parkings, banks and schools from 10 pm on September 7 to 10 pm on September 10 was circulated on Sunday.

It has been withdrawn on administrative grounds and it may be treated as cancelled, the latest order read.

35 fire tenders, 500 personnel to be deployed for G20 Summit: DFS

Fire department geared up to combat any fire-related contingencies during G20 Summit, says DFS director Garg



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Fire Service (DFS) Director Atul Garg on Monday said 35 fire tenders and 500 personnel will be deployed for the G20 Summit scheduled to be held here later this week.

Garg said the department is geared up to combat any fire-related contingencies during the summit. The DFS has also procured four special high-voltage water pumping machines to avoid any waterlogging in the Rajghat area if it rains, he said.

"Every department is preparing for the upcoming G20 meet. DFS is considered one of the most prominent departments, and the department has prepared itself to tackle any fire incident that may take place," according to Garg. As per the action plan, the DFS has divided the summit area into three prominent parts for deployment.

"First will be the meeting venue Bharat Mandapam, where all the delegates will gather for the meeting. The second area is where all dignitaries will stay (mostly all the prominent hotels of the city). And the third part includes the tourists' places where all dignitaries will

visit," Garg elaborated. The DFS has deployed 35 fire tenders for the G20 duties and a total of 500 people are assigned for the same.

"During the G20 Summit, all the holidays of the employees have been cancelled and they will be ready with advanced and new equipment. We have chalked out a proper plan so that we will also provide immediate help and respond to routine calls as well. We almost receive 100 fire calls in a day, we will manage them as well," he added.

The DFS had been conducting mock drills by the crew who are part of the assignment for a better understanding of how they will immediately take charge of any condition.

There will be six to seven members in every unit. "Units will be deployed at key locations and they will be prepared for any situation. From Delhi airport to every important location, we have also decided that these units will not be carrying out any bird rescue exercise," he added.

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 in New Delhi.

LG Saxena, Gadkari unveil 'Vighnaharta' statue at airport

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

People travelling from the Delhi airport will be able to see a life-size sculpture of Lord Ganesha that was unveiled here on Monday by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena as part of the beautification work for the G20 Summit.

Gadkari appreciated the efforts to beautify the tri-junction in front of the Dhaura Kuan Metro Station on NH-48 which is crossed by lakhs of travellers every day and said it was an appropriate location for installing the sculpture.

He congratulated the workers, officers and all others involved in the upgradation of the stretch of the road from Dhaura Kuan to IGI Airport. Named 'Vighnaharta' The sculpture will be visible to travellers to and from the IGI Airport, Gurgaon, Janakpuri, Delhi Cantonment and Dwarka.

"Undertaken as a part of the



larger exercise of beautifying and aesthetically upgrading the city in the run-up to the G-20 Summit, this life-size sculpture of 117x54x32 inch dimension has been sculpted by noted sculptor from Odisha, Dhruva Charan Swain," the official said. This statue was procured

after the Delhi L-G visited Odisha in June. There he scouted for and picked sculptures that include the 'Vighnaharta', the 'Yakshinis' installed at the Ulanbatar Marg and the Yakshini Chowk and the 'Konark Wheel' installed at Delhi Gate.

President Murmu inaugurates 12-foot Gandhi statue at Rajghat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday emphasised that the goal of world peace can be achieved through the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi as she unveiled a 12-foot statue of the Father of the Nation on the Gandhi Darshan premises at Rajghat.

Murmu also inaugurated the Gandhi Vatika where statues of Gandhi in different postures have been installed at Gandhi Darshan, close to the Rajghat memorial. "Gandhiji considered the whole world as a family," she said, adding that India is trying to promote global brotherhood, cooperation and peace and is leading the G20.

The president also expressed hope that foreigners participating in the G20 Summit will visit Gandhi Darshan and learn about Gandhi. Gandhi is an invaluable gift, she said and added that his values and ideals gave a new direction to the world.

"From South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela to (US) civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr to former US president Barack Obama accepted that Mahatma Gandhi's path of non-violence is the path of global development," she said during her address.

Murmu said the Gandhi statues at Gandhi Vatika will inspire the visitors, especially children. "The ideals and values of Babu (Mahatma Gandhi) are eternal. The goal of world peace can be achieved even now by following the path



shown by him," said the president.

She also urged everyone to make efforts so that every citizen, especially the youngsters and the children, read as much as possible about Gandhi and imbibe his ideals, adding the role of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and other such institutions become very important in this regard. Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena and Gandhi Darshan Vice-Chairman Vijay Goel were present at the programme.

DUSU poll for panel to be held on EVMs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Polling for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election will be held on electronic voting machines (EVMs) for the DUSU panel and on paper ballots for the college students' unions, according to a notice issued by the DU's chief election officer on Monday.

"This is to inform Principals/Directors/Heads of all colleges/institutes/departments affiliated with DUSU that EVMs would be visible only for DUSU 2023 elections. The college students' election will be held by paper ballots that have to be procured, printed and managed entirely by the college itself," the notice said.

The election to the students' body of the Delhi University is slated to be held on September 22, after a gap of four years. The DUSU election was last held in 2019.

The DUSU election could not be held in 2020 and 2021 because of COVID-19, while possible disruptions to the academic calendar pre-



vented its conduct in 2022.

According to the DU, September 12 is the last date for submitting nomination papers, scrutiny of the nomination papers and publication of the list of the nominated candidates. September 13 is the last date for withdrawal of nominations and publication of the final list of candidates.

The day classes will cast their votes from 8.30 am to 1 pm and the evening classes from 3 pm to 7.30 pm. The date for counting of votes will be announced later, the circular said.

Toilet complex caretaker found murdered in Anand Parbat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old DUSIB toilet complex caretaker was found dead with stab injuries on Monday morning in central Delhi's Anand Parbat area, police said, adding that the murder suspect has been nabbed.

The incident took place at Holi Chowk, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, they said.

According to the police, they received a PCR around 6 am regarding the incident.

The deceased was identified as Pappu, a resident of Shastri Nagar and native of Basti in Uttar Pradesh. He was working as caretaker of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB)



toilet complex, a senior police officer said.

The body carried stab injury marks. A police team, along with FSL and crime teams, rushed to the spot, inspected the spot and preserved pieces of evidence, the officer said.

The police are checking CCTV cameras of the area to

gather information about the incident and the culprits.

A suspect identified as Ankit, a resident of Baljeet Nagar, has been apprehended, police said.

Prima facie, it emerged that Pappu was in a live-in relationship with the suspect's sister, who had died by suicide about eight to nine years back.

By-elections to 7 Assembly seats across 6 States today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/ LUCKNOW/AGARTALA

Polling will be held on Tuesday for by-election to seven Assembly seats in six States, the first electoral test of the INDIA Opposition bloc against the BJP.

While the Opposition alliance is putting up a united front in Ghosi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand's Dumri, Dhanpur and Boxanagar in Tripura and Uttarakhand's Bageshwar, its constituents are contesting against each other in Dhupguri in West Bengal and Puthuppally in Kerala. Counting of votes will be held on September 8.

In Uttar Pradesh, Ghosi seat fell vacant after the resignation of Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA and OBC leader Dara Singh Chauhan, who rejoined the BJP.

While the ruling BJP-led NDA has fielded Chauhan,



Samajwadi Party candidate Sudhakar Singh has got the support of the Congress and Left parties. Chauhan was a minister in the previous BJP government headed by Yogi Adityanath. He had resigned from the Council of Ministers on January 12, 2022 and switched to the SP.

Campaigning has been high-pitched as both sides are aware that it is a litmus test for the opposition unity and a

victory could set the trend in their favour for the Lok Sabha polls next year. In the 543-member Lok Sabha, Uttar Pradesh has 80 MPs.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led the BJP's charge. Interestingly, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who had skipped campaigning for the other two prestigious bypolls in Rampur and Azamgarh last year, addressed an election meeting in Ghosi.

He said the election would bring a change in the country's politics.

The Dhupguri assembly constituency in north Bengal is witnessing a three-cornered contest among the TMC, BJP and the Congress-supported CPI(M). While the TMC had won the seat in 2016, it was snatched by the BJP in 2021. In Dhanpur and Boxanagar assembly seats in Tripura's Sepahijala district, Chief Minister Manik Saha led the party's campaign from the front.

Tipra Motha, the main opposition, and Congress have stayed away. The Tripura Pradesh Congress on Sunday urged people to vote for opposition bloc INDIA candidates in the two seats.

BJP's Tajfajal Hussain, who unsuccessfully contested the Assembly election in February, will take on CPI(M)'s Mizan Hussain in minority-dominated Boxanagar constituency,

still considered the Left party's stronghold. Dhanpur, once a strong bastion of the communists, is heading for a direct fight between BJP's Bindu Debnath and CPI(M)'s Kaushik Debnath.

The international border has been sealed to prevent any intrusion from Bangladesh as both constituencies share a boundary with the neighbouring country, a senior police officer said, adding that there will be adequate security to ensure peaceful voting.

In Jharkhand's Dumri, INDIA bloc candidate Bebi Devi is locked in a direct contest with NDA candidate Yashoda Devi. The seat has turned out to be a prestigious one for both alliances amid Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) claiming that the INDIA bloc will begin its victory journey from Dumri, while the NDA exuded confidence that it is all set to snatch the seat from JMM.

Newly constituted CWC to hold first meeting on Sept 16

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the newly-constituted Congress Working Committee (CWC) will be held in Hyderabad on September 16 while the extended working committee meeting will be held the following day and will be attended by all CWC members, PCC Presidents, CLP leaders and Parliamentary Party office-bearers.

AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal on Monday said Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has called for a crucial meeting of the newly constituted CWC in Hyderabad. A rally has also been scheduled to take place near Hyderabad, during which the party will unveil its promises and guarantees for the upcoming assembly polls in Telangana.

Kharge also constituted the party's Central Election Committee with 16 members including himself and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The develop-



ment comes ahead of key assembly elections in states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The panel discusses and finalises the list of candidates for all parliamentary or state elections, including bypolls. The other members of the election committee include leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, and veteran party leaders Ambika Soni and Madhusudan Mistry.

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister T S Singh Deo, former Union minister Salman Khurshid and Lok Sabha MP from Telangana Uttam Kumar

Reddy, besides Karnataka minister K J George, are also members of the key panel. Former Uttarakhand Congress chief Pritam Singh, Bihar MP Mohammed Jawed and Rajya Sabha MP Ameer Yajnik, besides former MP P L Punia and Madhya Pradesh Congress leader Omkar Markam, have also been included as members of the all-important panel.

Kharge had last month reconstituted the CWC, retaining the old guard, giving space to the young and including prominent G23 group leaders such as Shashi Tharoor and Anand Sharma, in the 84-member top decision-making body of the party.

Clear mandate awaits BJP in Assembly polls, Congress has no CMP: MP CM

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ BHOPAL

Asserting that a slew of financial benefits and increased job reservation for women in Madhya Pradesh by the BJP Government are not 'revadis' but genuine efforts to institutionalise "women empowerment" in the State, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said a "clear mandate" awaits BJP in the forthcoming Assembly polls as the Congress has no Common Minimum Programme (CMP).

On the question whether the State may go to polls with "collective leadership" rather than projecting a chief ministerial face, he said, "Why not (collective leadership)?"

Speaking to The Pioneer at his picturesque 'Shyamla Hills' residence at Bhopal, Chouhan said, "There is fighting within the Congress, the Modi

wave has hit the State and the Congress is staring at defeat."

Busy with his 18-day 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' criss-crossing the poll-bound State Assembly, the Chief Minister said, "Vikas aur jan kalyan hi ek mudda BJP ka hai chunav main (We will fight the election on the issue of welfare and progress)."

Madhya Pradesh along with Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram, is going to polls in the next two-months as Assemblies in these States will be completing their term by December 17.

Asked whether the Congress model of development and freebie template in Karnataka may work for the Opposition party in Madhya Pradesh, too, Chouhan said, "No model will work. The Congress does not have a CMP."

He said the Congress is "stooping too low in its elec-

tion campaign and making wild charges (of corruption) as they know they will not win the poll."

"The Congress is a den of brokers... The Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate recovered crore rupees from their leaders", he said.

On the question of the chief ministerial face in the BJP and whether the party would go for 'collective leadership' in MP like in Karnataka, he said, "Yes, why not...we are not bothered about CM face, we are focused on serving people."

Asked about many Congress leaders crossing-over to the BJP and many in the saffron party feeling insecure on this account, the Chief Minister said, "The Congress did not fulfill many promises that's why Scindia and other leaders came to us." He said



none in the BJP is feeling insecure or threatened by those who have come from other parties.

The Chief Minister said the party will fare much better this time round including in the Gwalior-Chambal region. Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia who hails from Gwalior has since joined the BJP. In 2018 Assembly poll, Chouhan said, "The BJP got

1,000 more vote than Congress...seats main ham kam thay."

On the spate of women-oriented schemes announced by his Government relating to girl-education, providing financial aid for 'Kanya vivah', 50 per cent reservation to women in local election units in the state, 50 per cent reservation in teaching jobs and giving property rights to them, the Chief Minister said "These are not revadis or freebies but real empowerment of women and an authentic step to give women their rights on a equal footing with men."

"And why not women given more powers...do they not deserve to reach their heights...?", he sought to ask.

"Maine 30 per cent reservation Mahilaon ko zidpurvak diya...aaj betiyan command kar rahin hain...", he said.

The Chief Minister said "today we signed an MOU that toll tax counters would be run by women."

Detailing women-centric schemes, he said one percent reduction in stamp duty for registering property in the name of woman has shown results "with 45 per cent women in the state owning properties."

He said these welfare measures have improved the sex-ratio with the state "registering 956/1000 daughters in the state." "We are aiming that women earn minimum of Rs 10000 monthly and we are moving towards this target...and this is not revadi...," said the 64-year-old four-time Chief Minister of the state.

Chouhan did not give his views on the issues of one nation one election and women reservation in the Lok Sabha and state Legislatures as

also on the implementation of Uniform Civil Code, saying "party ke vicar mere vicar hain".

Showering praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Chouhan said "Modi changed agenda of Indian politics, there is a big change now".

"Pahle apne ko Hindu kahna apradh tha, Ram aur Ram Setu ko kalpnik batate thay, ab Congress bhi raste main hain, usko lagta hai agar Hindu hith ki baat nahi boli to nukshan ho jayega...", the Chief Minister said hitting-out at the "double-faced politics" of the opposition party.

Quizzed on him currently taking a hard-line even though he was earlier known as a soft-liberal politician, Chouhan said "when I started as CM, the state was infested with dacoits...I finished them in six-month,

also ended Naxalism." Main janata ke saath soft houn...dusht ke Saath dusht..." The CM said as he got up to attend to his next party programme awaiting him.

On the last question whether he has ambition to play a bigger role at the national level, Chouhan waved-off saying "main Arjun ki Tarah chidiyah ki aankh.. Madhya Pradesh.. dekh rahan hun."

Chouhan's popular 'Ladli' schemes for women and girls under different nameplates have earned him affectionate acronym 'Mama'.

Last month, financial aid given to women in the 'Ladli Behna' scheme was raised from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month. The Chief Minister also announced 35 per cent reservation for women in government jobs and gas cylinders to them for Rs 450.

EU will raise rights violation in J&K during G20: Kashmir Council EU head Ali Raza

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The head of the separatist Kashmir Council EU, Ali Raza Syed on Monday claimed in Brussels that the European Union will raise the issue of so-called rights violation in Jammu and Kashmir during the G20 Summit here.

Syed, part of the Pakistani deep state, buttressed his claim by quoting the purported recent statement of the European Union Vice President and Foreign Minister Joseph Borrell about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Syed is suspected to be a sympathizer of the Uyghur terrorists of Xinxiang in China as part of the larger agenda of the Pakistan army-ISI (Inter-Services) combine to fleece Beijing in the garb of securing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from the Baloch nationalists.

According to Kashmir Media Service, in response to



a joint letter from a group of members of the European Parliament, Borrell expressed concern on the "situation" in the Valley.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the European Union has also reportedly said that he will share the concerns with the Indian counterparts on appropriate occasions. He also holds positions at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

He claimed that while detailing the various occasions in the letter, it has been said that the issue of Kashmiri human rights leader Khurram Pervaiz in Jammu and Kashmir

was also raised during the discussions on human rights with India.

Borrell, according to the Kashmir Council EU, said that although a delegation of the European Union will represent the Union at the G-20 summit, the minister is claimed to have asserted that the incidents of human rights violations should be recognized by international human rights organizations.

There should be an immediate and transparent comprehensive investigation as per the rules and regulations. However, he said, we continue to encourage India and Pakistan to find a lasting solution to the Kashmir dispute through positive dialogue and involving the Kashmiri people as far as possible. A durable solution to the Kashmir conflict will have a major positive impact on the peace and security situation in the entire South Asian region, claimed the separatist outfit based in Brussels.

NIA special court holds ISIS sympathisers guilty of murder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Lucknow Special Court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday held two accused guilty of killing a retired School Principal in fulfillment and furtherance of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) agenda by spreading fear and terror among the people.

The NIA Special Court held the accused guilty under section the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to murder, criminal conspiracy and common intention besides the relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Arms Act, the NIA said in a statement.

The quantum of sentence against the accused, Atif Muzaffar and Md Faisal Khan, both residents of Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, will be pronounced on September 11. The victim, Ram Babu



Shukla, retired as Principal of Kanpur-based Swami Atmaprakash Brahmachari Junior High School in Kanpur, was killed on October 24, 2016 while he was returning home on a bicycle.

He was attacked by the accused near village Pyondi in Kanpur.

The anti-terror agency had filed a chargesheet against the two accused on July 12, 2018 after elaborate investigations, which revealed that the men had been radicalised by the ISIS ideology and were out to kill people whom they believed to be disbelievers (Qafirs).

A third accused,

Mohammad Saifulla, had died in an exchange of fire with the Anti-Terrorist Squad of Uttar Pradesh on the night of March 7, 2017.

Investigations by NIA revealed that the accused were operating under the influence of ISIS, a proscribed terrorist organisation. They had conspired to carry out terrorist activities (Jihad) in India by targeting non-Muslims through violent acts.

"In furtherance of their conspiracy to promote the ISIS ideology and agenda, they murdered Shukla to strike terror and alarm in the minds of the common people," the NIA said.

The case was initially registered as Case No. 884/2016 dated October 24, 2016 at Chakeri police station, Kanpur Nagar.

The NIA had taken over the case from the Uttar Pradesh police in November 2017 after registering the case.

High Court grants bail to former Amrapali Group CMD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court granted regular bail to former chief managing director (CMD) of Amrapali Group Anil Kumar Sharma in a case alleging that he cheated homebuyers. In an order passed on September 1, Justice Vikas Mahajan said even though allegations against him are serious but he has undergone half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for the offences under the offences he has been charged with.

"The allegation against the petitioner may be serious but they do not warrant the invocation of an exception carved in the first proviso to Section 436A CrPC, to continue the detention of the petitioner for a period longer than one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for Section 420 IPC, when notably it is not a case of the prosecu-



tion that the petitioner has in any way been responsible for the delay of trial," the Court said.

Justice Mahajan further noted that as many as 50 witnesses have been cited by the prosecution in this case and it is going to be a long trial. No useful purpose will be served in keeping the petitioner in judicial custody, the Court concluded.

The Court, therefore, granted him bail subject to furnishing a bond of ₹1 lakh. The case relates to development of Amrapali Silicon City in Sector 76, Noida. The FIR was registered on complaint of one Anubhav Jain who bought 26 flats in Tower G-1 of the project.

ED seizes ₹2.32 cr, gold from Raj in money laundering case linked to fraud in Centre scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has seized unaccounted cash of Rs 2.32 crore and a 1 kg gold bar worth Rs 64 lakh after it conducted searches in multiple cities of Rajasthan in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the execution of the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission scheme.

The raids were launched on September 1 at various premises located in Jaipur, Alwar, Neemrana, Behror and Shahpura, the ED said in a statement.

The money laundering case stems from a Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) FIR, which alleged that Padamchand Jain, pro-

prietor of Shree Shyam Tubewell Company, Mahesh Mittal, proprietor of Shree Ganapati Tubewell Company and others were involved in "giving bribes" to public servants in order to obtain illegal protection, obtaining tenders, getting bills sanctioned and covering up irregularities in respect of work executed by them in respect of various tenders received by them from the public health and engineering department (PHED).

"The suspects were also involved in the purchase of stolen goods from Haryana for using the same in their tenders/contracts and had also submitted fake work completion letters from IRCON to get PHED contracts," the agency alleged.

SC asks Lone to file affidavit owing allegiance to Constitution of India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked National Conference MP Mohd Akbar Lone to file an affidavit swearing allegiance to the Constitution of India and accepting the country's sovereignty unconditionally, after the 'Pakistan zindabad' slogan that he allegedly raised in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2018 kicked up a massive row. Lone, the lead petitioner challenging the abrogation of Article 370 that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, will file the affidavit by Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who represented him in the matter, told a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY

Chandrachud. The senior lawyer said he will not represent Lone if he does not file the affidavit as sought.

"He is an MP of Lok Sabha. He is a citizen of India and sworn to his office by the Constitution. He accepts the sovereignty of India," Sibal told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant. Earlier in the day, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre, told the bench that the central government wanted Lone to apologise for raising 'Pakistan zindabad' (long live Pakistan) slogan in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2018.

Lone has to state that he owes allegiance to Constitution and apologises for raising slogan on floor of House, the law

officer said, while pointing to matter having been brought to court's notice by a Kashmiri Pandit group.

NGO 'Roots in Kashmir', which claims to be a group of Kashmiri Pandit youths, has questioned the credentials of Lone, claiming he was a supporter of secessionist forces. The moment bench re-assembled in the post-lunch session, Justice Kaul pointed to Sibal that lawyers for respondents (those supporting abrogation of Article 370) have submitted that what Lone allegedly said was "not in sync". Sibal said, "I'm not concerned with that. If he has said it, in what circumstances, is it recorded, you ask him for an affidavit. I won't stand for him in this court, if he doesn't file an affidavit."

MoS Defence hails Navy's high operational tempo to secure seas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Minister of State for defence Ajay Bhatt on Monday commended the Navy for maintaining a high operational tempo in ensuring secure seas for national security and prosperity and praised the force for the efforts invested towards indigenisation and innovation towards becoming a fully Aatmanirbhar Force by 2047. It was exemplified during the recent launch of indigenous stealth frigates Vindhyagiri and Mahendragiri.

He made these comments here while interacting with the Navy top brass here on the first day three-day second edition of the Navy Commanders' conference.

The ongoing and planned indigenous projects of the



Indian Navy utilising niche technologies in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Tactical Communications, Combat Management Systems, Cyber Security, Underwater Domain Awareness and Combat Platform Integration, were showcased at the conference.

In addition, the newly designed uniform items being introduced in Service for enhanced comfort, hygiene and functionality, viz. high absorption T-shirts, camouflage cap and jacket, high ankle shoes, and National Civil Dress

for Messes and functions were displayed on the sidelines of the conference.

Bhatt also released the Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan (MIPP) 2023-37, IRS Rules and Regulations Handbook, Family Logbook, and Electronic Service Document Project during the event.

The MIPP aims to synchronise and enmesh the infrastructure requirements of the Navy, over the next 15 years, through a comprehensive Perspective Plan model. The Plan Document is aligned with the government's vision on creation of sustainable infrastructure, and encompasses salients for compliance with broader policy directives on PM Gati Shakti Project, Disaster Resilience, Transition to Net Zero, among others.

Legislative Council asks VDA to inform it on pending cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council Salil Vishnoi asked the Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) to inform the committee in writing within a month about the action taken against the officers in relation to some pending cases. He was presiding over a review meeting of the committee formed to curb the irregularities prevailing in the development authorities, Awas Vikas Parishad, zila panchayats and nagar nigams (municipal corporations) at Circuit House here on Monday.

Vishnoi also instructed the VDA to take action against the concerned employees for illegal construction within a month and to inform the committee. In the meeting, information regarding matters related to the Housing and Urban Planning Department of VDA was presented before the committee by the VDA Secretary Sunil Verma. The committee directed the VDA to hold talks with public representatives on the 2031 Master Plan. Committee member Pawan Chauhan suggested building complexes on the vacant land of old cinema halls. The committee asked for maintenance of parks and making them free from encroachment. In reply, the VDA Secretary said that the authority has improved many parks apart from making arrangements for open gyms.

The committee instructed the VDA Secretary to give a beautiful look to Ravidas Park. It also raised the matter relating to an illegal colony on 6.05 acres near Chandua Satti and in reply, the VDA informed that action is being taken in this direction and it will be completely removed soon. Expressing displeasure over no action being taken till now in the proceedings related to illegal occupation and construction in Ramnagar's Bhatti since



Legislative Council Committee holding a review meeting in Varanasi on Monday.

2020 despite an assurance, the Committee directed the VDA to take action against the concerned employees and also to inform the committee. In the case of demolition proceedings in Habibpura of Chetganj, the VDA said that it would be removed soon.

The committee expressed displeasure over construction being done on 1.33 acres in Banaras Club without getting the map approved. It also expressed anguish over no action being taken yet despite depositing Rs 1.5 crore as mitigation amount and directed the concerned officers for immediate disposal.

The committee said that as Varanasi is the parliamentary constituency of the Prime Minister, a large area of land should be identified to establish a new city.

In reply, the VDA Secretary said that the place is being identified along the Ring Roads. The committee also took cognizance of the illegal construction being demolished and wanted information as to what action was taken against the VDA personnel under

whose protection such illegal constructions were done. In reply, the VDA Secretary said that six junior engineers (JEs) have been suspended and action and transfer proceedings have been taken against many employees.

On being informed about making two screen cinema halls and shopping complexes in place of closed single screen old cinema halls, the committee directed that if shopping complexes are built in place of such closed cinema halls, then the system of the city will improve.

Raising the issue of Shivaji Nagar Colony, MLA Saurabh Srivastava said that many hotels and illegal constructions were built overnight there but no action was taken by the VDA. He also raised the issue of keeping a close watch on the attempts of illegal encroachment on the 40 year old park in Saket Nagar of Naria and emphasised on its conservation.

When the Municipal Commissioner (MC) Shipu Giri raised the issue of irregularities in the sewerage line on

Sigra- Mahmooorganj Road, the committee asked the District Magistrate (DM) and MC to inspect the spot and take action against whoever has committed the irregularities and get the sewer line rectified. Commenting on the slow progress of VDA, the committee said that VDA has not developed any colony in the last 20 years while the country is looking towards Varanasi. When Vishnoi asked for information about the drains falling into the river Ganga, the DM S Rajalingam gave the details about the same and the meeting also talked about the illegal encroachment of the Assi river. The Chairman ordered a notice in the absence of the regional pollution officer from the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by committee members Manvendra Singh, Hansraj Vishwakarma, Ashok Dhawan, Pawan Singh Chauhan, Rakesh, Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP) S Chinappa, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal and senior officers from various departments.

PVVNL Director reviews progress of billing work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Director (Commercial) of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PVVNL) reviewed the progress of billing work in Urban Electricity Distribution Division (UEDD) Chetmadi. He also checked the beat-wise progress of billing work, distribution of electricity bills to the customers etc. During his inspection, the Director (Commercial) directed the Discom Head of billing company Manoj Tripathi to ask the meter readers to provide beat-wise bills under the concerned scheme. He also instructed the same billing company officer to take action against the meter readers involved in providing wrong electricity bills to the customers.

Besides, the Director (Commercial) also checked the quality of door-to-door billing work. He interacted



with the power consumers of Indra Nagar Colony and listened to their complaints and grievances relating to power bills. He also encouraged them to get their power related details through mobile phones under the 'Phone Ghumao Abhiyan'. He also instructed the power department officers to make the 'Phone Ghumao Abhiyan' a success and make their sincere efforts to achieve the monthly target of power revenue realisation during September.

During the inspection, the Director (Commercial) was accompanied by Chief Engineer (Commercial) Sanjay Verma, executive engineers Arun Yadav and Ashok Sharma, SDO Sunil Kumar and many others.

Director (Commercial) interacting with power consumers in Indra Nagar Colony in Varanasi on Sunday.

Blood donation camp held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark its 118th Foundation Day, the Bank of India (BoI) is organising various social programmes under Bank Foundation Week which began on Sunday with the blood donation and free health check-up camp at the zonal office in Mahmooorganj here. The week-long programme will conclude on September 8. The bank will celebrate its 118th Foundation Day on September 7.

The Zonal Manager Rajesh Robert and sub-zonal manager Satya Prakash informed that besides the bank staff, the health of customers was also examined by a team of doctors in the free health check-up camp, while the bank staff donated blood in the blood donation camp. The bank will honour the principals and teachers of government and aided schools on September 5 under the Bank Foundation Week, they informed, adding that the daily use commodities



The blood donation camp held by Bank of India as part of week long programmes under 118th Bank Foundation Day.

and items related to the education would be distributed among the inmates of Kashi Orphanage and Old Aged Home on September 6.

The sweets will be distributed among the police personnel at police station praising their good jobs besides planting 118 saplings on September

7, they informed, adding that the customer public relation day will be held and closing function of Bank Foundation Day will be held on September 8 in which a few customers would also be honoured.

The Executive Director (ED) of BoI M Kartikeyan and General Manager (GM)

Vishwajeet Mishra will also join the programme in a day during the week long programme to boost the morale of the employees, they informed, adding that the ED would also inaugurate the loan distribution camp to distribute loan to beneficiaries under the government's scheme.

Advocates boycott judicial work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The advocates boycotted the judicial work at Allahabad High Court as well as in the District Court in protest against the alleged lathicharge on the lawyers by the Hapur police. The strike call was given by the UP Bar Council and the Allahabad High Court Bar Association. The advocates staged a demonstration at different gates of the High Court, while an effigy of the UP DGP was also torched in front of the main gate.

They demanded stern action against the police personnel involved in Hapur lathi charge, withdrawal of cases against lawyers and implementation of the Advocates Protection Act.

The district court lawyers also boycotted judicial work and took out a procession to lodge their protest.

The advocates had gone on a flash strike on August 30 to condemn the Hapur incident. The litigants had to face a tough time owing to the advocates' strike.

DUPED: A retired army man was deprived of gold chain and rings in Georgetown area by four thugs who intro-



Advocates burning effigy of DGP at Allahabad High Court gate

duced themselves as police personnel.

Raj Kumar Shukla, an ex-army man who resides in Daraganj, left for Civil Lines on his bike and took the route of Sangam petrol pump-Georgetown police station to reach the destination. He was stopped by four persons near Pepsi agency. They introduced themselves as police personnel, and said that Raj Kumar had

jumped police barrier. They threatened Raj Kumar and asked him to show his identity card.

After checking his ID, the thugs asked Raj Kumar to remove gold chain and ring and keep them in the pocket because chain snatchers are active in the city. In the mean time another person was stopped and asked to do the same. When Raj Kumar

removed his chain and ring, he was offered a paper to wrap the valuables.

The thugs extended help in wrapping the chain and ring and let Raj Kumar go. When he reached his destination, Raj Kumar unwrapped the paper found that the chain and ring were not there.

An FIR had been lodged at the Georgetown police station in this connection.

Cleanliness awareness rally held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On the third day of IFFCO cleanliness fortnight, a cleanliness awareness rally was organised under the leadership of Sanjay Kudesia, Senior Executive Director (Unit Head) at IFFCO Phulpur Colony.

Sanjay Kudesia said the objective of this rally is to follow the cleanliness rules throughout the year. A large number of IFFCO employees, women and children participated in it whose specialty was that plastic was not used at all. Instead of water bottle, paper glass was used.

This was followed by the event in which senior officials did the cleaning work in the guest house. JGMs respectively AP Rajendran, PK Singh, Sanjay Bhandari, PK Patel, Ratnesh Kumar, HoD Human Resources Shambhu Shekhar, Officers' Association President and PRO Sonu Tiwari, Employees' Union President Pankaj Pandey, Anil Kumar Singh, AK Dwivedi, Vandana Shukla and a large number of IFFCO officers, employees, women and children attended and made the programme suc-



cessful. **UNEARTHED:** A hookah bar was unearthed by the police in Kareli area. One person has been arrested in this connection while the house owner is absconding.

The police recovered a number of hookahs, besides

tobacco mixed intoxicants from the spot.

This hookah bar was being run in the basement of a house in GTB Nagar Kareli. A sign board saying "Shop is available for rent" was put up at that house owned by Maksood Ahmad. On information when

the police raided the place, Mohammad Afzal was enjoying hookah there. The arrested person told the police that the hookah bar was run by him and the house owner. The house owner and one more person are under police scanner.

2 couples reunite

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under Project Milan programme two couples reunited through the Family Counselling Centre located at Police Lines on Sunday. The couples were living separately due to misunderstanding over trivial issues. The police had sent the cases to the family counselling centre and after separate sittings the couple agreed to live together. Incharge of the centre sub-inspector Shashi Tiwari, constable Pinki Jaiswal and counsellor Dr Krishna Singh and others were present.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY: Former MLA Bhagwati Prasad Chaudhary while addressing 118th birth anniversary ceremony of former union minister late Kamalapati Tripathi as the keynote speaker in Kamalapati Udyan on Sunday claimed that the Congress is not only a political party which fought for freedom and ruled the nation but an ideology devoted to the development of the country. Remembering the remarkable works of late leader as CM of the state as well as a union minister Chaudhary said the devotion to the nation was so high that in young age Tripathi jumped into the freedom struggle and after independence worked for the backward districts, including Sombhadra, Chandauli and Mirzapur. He said Tripathi was a visionary leader who worked in all directions aiming at overall development of the country. He said that it will be a real tribute to the leader if we follow the path shown by him. Congress leaders paid tribute to the leader by garlanding his statue. Kamlesh Dubey, Rajendra Vishwakarma, Santosh Sharma, and others were present.

ABVP's remarkable journey commended

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the world's largest student organisation, marked a historic milestone by celebrating its 75th foundation anniversary with an event titled 'Amrit Mahotsava Samaroh.' The event took place at the Preetam Das auditorium of Motilal Nehru Medical College here. The occasion witnessed an impressive gathering, in which more than 850 members were present, including a significant contingent of 500 esteemed ex-workers from 12 districts. The chief speaker, National Organising Secretary of ABVP, Ashish Chauhan, commended ABVP's remarkable journey and its global impact on humanity over the past 75 years. The ABVP has authored a golden chapter in

the annals of global student movements. The presence of numerous former ABVP workers today is a testament to their dedication and enduring legacy of the organisation. The ABVP is the resonating voice of India's youth and stands as the world's largest student organisation. As ABVP celebrates its 'Amrit Mahotsav' with immense pride and looks ahead to the 'Amrit Kaal', it is evident that the organisation's impact on the student community remains as vital as ever. With over 45 lakh student members globally, ABVP continues to shape the future of Indian youth.

He also announced ABVP's upcoming 69th national convention in Delhi on December 1, 2 and 3 which will be attended by 8,000 workers.

Chauhan emphasised ABVP's unwavering commit-

ment to student interests and its non-partisan approach to advocacy.

Vice-Chancellor of Rajju Bhaiyya University, Prof AK Singh, who attended the event as the chief guest acknowledged ABVP's transformation into a formidable organisation, attributing its growth to years of dedicated struggle. He highlighted the invaluable presence of former workers, whose experience continue to inspire and guide the current generation.

ABVP state secretary, Atendra Singh, reiterated organisation's commitment to learning from past struggles while moving steadfastly forward.

The event was an uplifting gathering of ex-workers fostering a platform for sharing memories and imparting wisdom to the current cadre.

Prof Chaudhary bags award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prof Anand Chaudhary of Department of Rasa Shastra and Bhaishajya Kalpana, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has been conferred 'Vaidya Sunder Lal Joshi Memorial Research Award 2023' on Prof Anand Chaudhary in the 17th Self Dependent Day and 7th International Ayurveda Seminar of Maha Gujarat Ayurveda Medical Society, Nadiad on Sunday for his research on Quality, Safety, Effectiveness and Standardisation of Ayurveda Medicine especially Herbo mineral preparations since last 25 years.

Prof Chaudhary had dedicated this award to his research team at Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and

Researches in Ayurveda, Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar (2000 to 2006) and at Banaras Hindu University (2007 to till date). Prof Chaudhary had emphasised that Research is a Team work.

Many dignitaries like Prof SN Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, MAM University, Nadiad, Dr Mukul Patel, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, Prof Anup Thakar, Director, Institute of Teaching and Research on Ayurveda, Jamnagar, Prof Kalapi Patel and Prof Upendra Jhala were present on the occasion.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Resuscitation

Kota has turned into the suicide capital for students; efforts are now being made to check the menace

Kota is renowned as the "coaching capital" of India for IIT-JEE, NEET and other high-stakes competitive exams but it has of late earned the dubious distinction of being the "suicide capital" for students. Home to hundreds of institutes that prepare aspirants for entrance exams to prestigious engineering and medical colleges, the city is known for its rigorous academic environment. However, underneath the surface of this educational hub lies a grave concern --- the alarming number of student suicides. Kota's coaching institutes have become synonymous with a high-pressure, competitive atmosphere. Every year, thousands of students from across India flock to this city in pursuit of their dreams of securing admission to top engineering and medical colleges. The intense competition, coupled with long hours of study and relentless pressure to perform, creates a pressure cooker environment. The students are constantly under pressure to crack their exam as a lot rides on their success --- parents' money, social reputation and their personal stakes. The primary cause of suicides among these students is the overwhelming academic pressure. The relentless quest for success in highly competitive exams often pushes students beyond the brink of their capabilities. The fear of failure and parental expectations adds to the burden, leading to stress and anxiety. Most students who come to Kota are far away from their home and families. Lack of a support system can make them vulnerable to depression and suicidal thoughts. The coaching institutes in Kota are primarily focused on academic excellence and often neglect the mental wellbeing of their students.



Recognising the gravity of the situation, several initiatives and measures are now being undertaken to address the issue of student suicides in Kota. The Kota police has launched a campaign called 'Darwaze Pe Dastak' wherein wardens have to make a routine knock on each student's door around 11 pm, ask them if they are okay, notice their activities and keep a vigil just to ensure that there are no signs of stress, depression or abnormal activity. Besides, ceiling fans in hostels have been refurbished with springs. Apart from these measures on the ground, the real remedy can be found only by creating awareness and inculcating a system where students can seek counselling and help, if need be. Some coaching institutes have started offering counselling services to their students. Open communication between parents and students can go a long way in reducing academic and peer pressure. We had front-paged an article on the issue a few days ago. It is crucial for society, educational institutes and parents to work collaboratively to create an environment where students can pursue their dreams without sacrificing their life. The battle against student suicides in Kota is ongoing but with increased awareness and concerted efforts, there is hope for a brighter and less stressful future for these young lives. After all, their life is far more precious than a mere job. As they say, no failure is final until you give up!

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PICTALK



Students celebrate teacher's day with a 'rangoli' of former president Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, in Moradabad

India to become a space superpower

Our lunar and solar missions were carried out using indigenous technologies at highly competitive rates

The kingmakers of the next century will be those who make a presence in other celestial bodies in outer space. The successful launching of Chandrayaan-3 followed by the launch of Aditya L1 made India a leading player in space research and exploration. We are on the list of select countries that have made their scientific presence both on the moon and sun explorations. Our first solar mission Aditya-L1 lifted off from the launch pad at Sriharikota on 2nd September at 11:50 IST and will travel 1.5 million km (932,000 miles) from the Earth, before reaching the designated Lagrange point (L1) after 135 days, if everything goes as planned. Lagrange Points, named after the French mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange is a spot where the gravitational forces of the Sun and the Earth cancel each other out, allowing a spacecraft to "hover". Lagrange points are used in space exploration and astronomy because they provide stable positions where spacecraft and observatories can maintain a consistent relative position concerning



multiple celestial bodies.

This stability is particularly valuable for missions that require continuous observations of distant objects, such as telescopes studying the cosmos or spacecraft monitoring the Sun. There are five Lagrange points in the Earth-Sun system, among them L1 is close to Earth and allows for an unobstructed view of the Sun without being hindered by eclipses or occultation. This will allow scientists to study solar activities and their impact on space weather in real-time. Once the Aditya spacecraft reaches the L1 parking area, it will be able to orbit the Sun at the same rate as the Earth. The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), a joint NASA-European Space Agency mission that launched in December 1995, is already positioned at L1. The Aditya L1 is equipped with seven payloads, namely the Visible

Emission Line Coronagraph, Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope, Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer, High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer, Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment, Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya, and Advanced Tri-axial High-Resolution Digital Magnetometers. The seven scientific instruments carried in the orbiter will observe and study the dynamics of the turbulent star sun. Four of them will view the Sun directly, while the other three will carry out in-situ measurements to explore the nature of the space weather that the Sun generates in interplanetary space. The payloads of Aditya L1 are anticipated to offer vital data for comprehending the phenomenon of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activity, as well as their features. The solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CME) can affect our planet Earth. Intense CMEs that hit our planet, for example, trigger geomagnetic storms that can disrupt satellite navigation and power grids. India currently has more than 50 satellites in orbit, which provide a variety



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

of important services to the country, including communication links, weather data, and forecasting pest infestations, droughts, and impending disasters. According to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), approximately 10,290 satellites remain in Earth's orbit, with nearly 7,800 of them functioning. Space weather has an impact on satellite performance. Solar winds or storms can destroy satellite equipment and potentially bring power grids down. Knowing about the Sun's activities, such as solar wind or a solar eruption, a couple of days ahead of time will allow us to relocate our satellites.

This will help to extend the life of our space satellites. Both our lunar and solar missions were carried out using indigenous technologies. The impetus given to space research in recent years, especially by PM Narendra Modi needs to be lauded.

(The writer is a science communicator and an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore)

Despite challenges, Opp'n unity holds

The Opposition has managed to cobble up a formidable alliance, though several issues are yet to be settled, including seat sharing

The newly formed Opposition alliance I.N.D.I.A. took a positive step last week in cementing a solid coalition in Mumbai. This decision was made during their third meeting, preceded by two previous conferences in Patna and Bengaluru. Their goal is to replicate the 1977 or 2004 scenario where the weaker Opposition won against the ruling dispensation.

Representatives from 28 political parties gathered for a two-day meeting on Thursday and Friday in Mumbai. Sixty-three attendees discussed a shared campaign strategy and ways to counter the NDA.

Following the meeting, the alliance declared they would participate in the election "together to the best of their ability." They will begin organizing state seat-sharing arrangements immediately, using a "collaborative spirit of compromise." Additionally, they aim to hold public rallies nationwide as soon as possible. A 13-member coordination was also set up.

The Opposition leaders realise there are many obstacles to overcome, both internal and external. The coalition faces a challenge in negotiating seat-sharing with regional parties. The I.N.D.I.A. team faces the difficult task of overcoming inherent contradictions among coalition partners. They must agree on a give-and-take policy for seamless seat allocation and collaborate at the grassroots level. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi acknowledged it.

For example, in Delhi and Punjab, Congress and AAP are political rivals, while Trinamool Congress, the Left parties, and Congress share common interests in West Bengal. The Left and Congress also have a shared stake in Kerala. Mamata Banerjee suggested releasing the bloc's manifesto by October 2nd, while Arvind Kejriwal proposed finalizing the seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha elections by the end of next month.

The main thing is to boost the morale of its workers, which has been affected by the BJP's ten-year tenure. Many are unwilling to



endure another five years in the political wilderness. Therefore, choosing the most suitable candidate and reaching a consensus on specific seats is crucial. The give-and-take policy can help in this regard. It is also vital to ensure the victory of their candidate and the commitment of everyone in their group, including ground-level workers. These workers are confused about how to support a party they have been fighting against till yesterday. There are other issues which are yet to be decided. The coalition must identify a viable candidate to challenge Modi and develop a new narrative. There is yet to be a consensus on the convenor or the Prime Ministerial face.

In all these, Congress remains the only pan-national Party in the block. Despite experiencing a decline in strength over the past decade, the Congress Party remains the only political entity with nationwide appeal. In the 2019 general elections, the Congress won 52 seats and came second in 196 seats. They received over 12 crores of votes, while the combined opposition bloc received less. Any change in their fortunes could significantly impact the country's politics.

The Congress and BJP are facing a direct contest in one-

IN DELHI AND PUNJAB, CONGRESS AND AAP ARE POLITICAL RIVALS, WHILE TRINAMOOL CONGRESS, THE LEFT PARTIES, AND CONGRESS SHARE COMMON INTERESTS IN WEST BENGAL

third of the Lok Sabha seats. The Party still holds a significant amount of influence in Punjab, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland, which together account for 155 Lok Sabha seats. One significant concern is when the next elections will take place. The BJP may be hesitant to call for early general elections due to their previous experience. In 2004, they were expected to win, but the Congress-led UPA, surprisingly defeated them. The BJP has a strong presence in the Hindi heartland but has yet to make substantial progress in the South, with 129 seats up for grabs.

However, some opposition chief ministers, such as Nitish Kumar, Mamata Banerjee, M.K. Stalin, and Arvind Kejriwal, speculate that the 2024 Lok Sabha elections may occur sooner. It could coincide with the upcoming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Mizoram, and Telangana. Additionally, the B.J.P. has advocated the 'one nation -one election' idea. There is no confirmed news on whether the Lok Sabha elections will be advanced. Neither the B.J.P. nor the Election Commission has provided any indication.

The final decision rests with Prime Minister Modi, known for making unexpected choices.

The BJP considers Modi to be their lucky charm. The Party governs ten states, and four states with the coalition lead the N.D.A. coalition with over 55% of the seats in the Lok Sabha. Modi aims to take advantage of the Opposition's chaos to win a third term. The BJP has made thorough preparations for every conceivable situation. It has mobilized around 40,000 booth workers to cover 100,000 booths across all 543 parliamentary constituencies.

The ruling Party keeps its plans secret and aims to reduce the Opposition's influence while maintaining its strength. This includes neutrality with parties like BJD, YSRCP, and BRS. Their ultimate objective is to prevent funds from flowing to the opposing side while getting more funds for BJP.

The next few months will see feverish activities in both camps. Modi's popularity, BJP's financial resources, and strong organization may still give the ruling Party an edge. Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, and Mizoram could be a trailer of what's to come.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE

Sir — Implementing simultaneous elections in India presents a formidable challenge. This ambitious endeavour mandates constitutional amendments with a two-thirds majority in Parliament and ratification by at least half the states. Crucial articles like 83, 85(2)(B), 174(2)(B), 356, and 75(3) need adjustments, which is complex due to opposition across various states.

Furthermore, the Representation of People's Act, of 1951, requires modifications. Overcoming logistical hurdles, such as ensuring an adequate supply of EVMs and deploying polling and security personnel, adds another layer of complexity. While progress has been made in these areas, the path to simultaneous elections is far from straightforward, demanding careful deliberation and cooperation at various levels of government.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

MARATHA RESERVATION

Sir — The demand for reservations is not new in the country. Every community has been seen taking to the streets for reservations to improve the future lives of their families. Jalna is smoldering under the Maratha reservation movement. Police attacked protesters demanding reservation led by Manoj Jarang. The demand for the Maratha reservation was rejected by the Supreme Court in 2021.

The Maratha Reservation Bill was passed in 2018. Provision was made to give 16 per cent reservation in educational institutions. Medical students went to Mumbai High Court against this bill. To reduce it in 2019, the court argued that if the limit of 50 per cent reservation is crossed then it is a violation of the orders of the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney case and the Mandal Commission case. 52 per cent reservation is already being practised in Maharashtra. Scheduled Tribe 7.5 per cent, Other Backward Class 27 per cent and Other 2.5 per cent are applicable, but the Maratha

Teacher's day



Happy teachers day (on Sept 5th). This is the birthday of S. Radha Krishnan (SRK: 1888 to 1975), the first Vice President of India. Height of coincidence is, Mother Teresa (teacher of kindness and nobility to all) departed to God's abode on this auspicious day (in 1997). It is a record that till today only 2 vice-presidents completed 2 terms (SRK and Hameed Ansari). That shows SRK's acceptability to all due to his friendly and joyful success solutions finding personality. Later on he went on to become 2nd president of India (for one term of 5- years). Any human is luckier with a parent as a school-teacher. Even

Queen Elizabeth - II invited school teachers on her birthday. That elucidates the happy - building - role of teacher - architects in the lives of citizens.

Mahatma Gandhi said parents are the first teachers of a child. Hence parents and teachers should regularly discuss ways and means to make education easy and enjoyable with lesser syllabus, exams relevant to the syllabus covered, build on strengths, suitability, stamina, likes, have harmony in educational institutions (by giving choice of selection of subjects to the student).

The relationship between teachers and students must be a mutually respectable one. Not cheap jokes, defence - offence, revenge - avenge, abuse, punishments etc.

We request modern era educational institutions to regularly train (the quadra of) teachers, parents, all - employees and students .. on harmony, peaceful coexistence, happy development management and joyful success solutions... (NOT harm, scapegoat, blame game, devilish nature, brokerage, time pass to others).

Madhu Nirviti PS | Secunderabad

community has come out on the streets demanding reservation and non-compliance with the order of the Supreme Court.

N Ashraf | Mumbai

SHINING BRIGHT

Sir — It refers to "Shining bright." After the stupendous success of Chandrayaan-3, our space agency has launched another ambitious project Aditya L1 Solar. It means this was also being prepared along with Chandrayaan-3. We should all pray and hope that it will be able to successfully study and analyse the outer layer of the Sun.

It should also send images for Research and development on solar particles etc. What makes this project all the more appreciable is the fact that payloads have been indigenously developed. Hope after the moon, the sun will also bless ISRO for its successful mission. After this other space agencies should be eager to

collaborate with ISRO for bigger missions in future. ISRO has arrived. This is indeed a matter of great pride for the country that we have managed to undertake these big ticket project. What is most striking is that ISRO has managed to do it on a shoe string budget, a fraction of cost that would take NASA to do the same project.

Besides, unlike the US space program India's space program is purely for scientific exploration. While the US proved a strategic point in the cold war era by sending Apollo missions, India has been doing such mission only for its people and scientific discovery. Those who question these projects fail to acknowledge that such missions have helped our farmers and industrial workers alike. Kudos to ISRO for its commendable work!

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

LIFE LESSONS OF BHAGAVAD GITA

Lord Krishna imparts invaluable guidance on leading a purposeful, spiritually enriched life



RADHANATH SWAMI MAHARAJ

In Shrimad Bhagavad Gita which is a 700-verse interaction between Lord Krishna & Arjuna, Universal Teacher Lord Shri Krishna has enlightened us with life goal irrespective of caste creed or sect

Dharma (Duty and Righteousness): One of the central themes of the Bhagavad Gita is the importance of fulfilling one's duty or dharma. Arjuna faces a moral dilemma on the battlefield and seeks guidance from Lord Krishna. Krishna emphasizes the significance of performing one's duty without attachment to the results, as it upholds the cosmic order and maintains the harmony of society.

Detachment and Non-Attachment: Lord Krishna advises Arjuna to perform his duty without being attached to the outcomes. This lesson teaches the importance of detachment from the fruits of one's actions, emphasizing that the pursuit of success and happiness should not be the sole motivation for action.

Self-Realization: Lord Krishna encourages self-inquiry and introspection. He teaches that the true self, the Atman, is eternal and beyond the physical body. By understanding one's true nature, individuals can overcome fear, sorrow, and ego.

Yoga and Meditation: Lord Krishna discusses various paths of yoga, including Karma Yoga (the yoga of action), Bhakti Yoga (the yoga of devotion), Jnana Yoga (the yoga of knowledge), and Dhyana Yoga (the yoga of meditation). These paths offer different ways to attain spiritual growth and self-realization.



Equality and Non-Discrimination: Lord Krishna underscores the idea that all individuals are equal and that one should treat everyone with respect and compassion, regardless of their social status, caste, or background.

Resilience and Courage: Arjuna is counselled by Lord Krishna to be brave in the face of challenges and to stand up for what is right. This lesson emphasizes the importance of resilience, courage, and not succumbing to adversity.

Control of the Mind: Lord Krishna teaches the importance of controlling the mind, which can be tumultuous and unsteady. Practising mental discipline and mindfulness can help overcome distractions and lead to better decision-making.

Surrender to the Divine: Lord Krishna encourages surrendering one's ego and will to the divine or cosmic forces. This surrender is not a sign of weakness, but rather a recognition of the interconnectedness of all things and a way to find inner peace.

Balance in Life: The concept of balancing various aspects of life is emphasized by Lord Krishna in Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. Balancing one's material and spiritual pursuits, as well as managing responsibilities and self-care, are important for leading a harmonious life.

Continuous Self-Improvement: Lord Krishna teaches that growth is a continuous process. It encourages individuals to constantly improve themselves intellectually, morally, and spiritually.

Compassion and Service: Lord Shri Krishna in Shrimad Bhagavad Gita promotes compassion for all beings and highlights the importance of selfless service to others as a way to contribute positively to society.

Lord Shri Krishna endeavours to impart invaluable guidance through Shrimad Bhagavad Gita on leading a purposeful, spiritually enriched life. The teachings offered therein encapsulate a treasure trove of lessons, applicable to individuals, parents, siblings, friends, partners, and leaders. In these teachings, one can discern a wealth of wisdom waiting to be embraced and integrated into our lives.

(The author is the Spiritual Guru of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

The workforce will require upskilling

Digital transformation and automation require upskilling and those who do, will be the best fit for the industry in the time to come



DINESH SOOD



The world has been captivated by the remarkable journey of Chandrayaan-3 to the lunar south pole. India's triumphant moon landing underscores the significance of blending basic scientific expertise with ingenuity and pursuing ambitious objectives despite prior setbacks. This accomplishment showcases the potential of the Indian workforce and their determination to surpass their limitations. We can draw valuable lessons from this moonshot success and apply them to improve the skills of workers in other fields of employment. Like Chandrayaan-3, we must strive for innovative skills and push the limits of what can be achieved to attain success.

Both employers and employees need to establish their ambitious objectives, known as "moonshot goals." These goals should challenge us to push past our limitations and strive for something that may seem impossible. Accomplishing such goals requires a combination of skill and attitude, and requires meticulous planning and execution. By setting moonshot goals, India can prepare itself to become a global leader in skilled workforce.

To empower the world's largest workforce with essential skills for the long term, a moonshot effort is required. The economy is rapidly changing, and technological advancements are accelerating at an even faster pace. In today's globalized world, the demand for a skilled workforce is constantly growing. However, many companies and employees are struggling to keep up with the changing needs of the present and the future, hindering their ability to thrive.

The skills gap is a significant problem, with a staggering 58% of employees requiring new skills to perform their jobs with excellence, according to Gartner. Upskilling, the process of expanding an employee's skill set, is a crucial solution to this global challenge. The World Economic Forum (WEF)

released a report in 2021 highlighting the economic imperative of upskilling. The report argues that embarking on an upskilling revolution is critical for entrepreneurs. This allows employees to immerse themselves in the future of work, stay ahead of the competition, and help grow the economy by trillions of dollars.

In recent years, India has been making efforts to shift from a labour-based economy to one that focuses on honing skills. The World Bank recently gave a nod to a \$250 million Skill India Mission Operation. This initiative aims to enhance the marketability of short-term skill development programs lasting anywhere from three to twelve months. By 2025, it is expected that 70% of India's population will reach working age. However, there is uncertainty regarding whether they will be able to secure employment. It is crucial to provide skill development training to the younger generation as it is essential for the nation's growth. Failing to do so could pose a significant challenge to India's demographic advantage. Unfortunately, Skill India has not been able to achieve the expected success due to a lack of training infrastructure and insufficient private-sector involvement.

Skill India Mission and skill development of the new generation is a national need, important to building a strong foundation of 'Aatam-Nirbhar Bharat'. Under the aegis of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' every youth is likely to be empowered with skill wings from school time to achieve a successful career. Skilling India's youth should

undoubtedly be a high priority. However, government initiatives to improve India's skilling track record have not been very satisfactory yet. An analysis by the Sharda Prasad Committee on Skill India Reforms (2016) found that skill development courses often offered limited value to their employment opportunities.

While some skilling schemes have since been restructured, the problem has not been fully addressed. For instance, when the government introduced the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana (GKRY) in 2020 to address skilling and unemployment issues that emerged in the wake of reverse migration, it did not pan out as anticipated. Many reports suggest that GKRY's market demand-driven skilling initiatives were not successful; they did not reach the intended beneficiaries. This hints at a systemic problem that affects the talent ecosystem in India.

The number of skilled and certified workers is not meeting the demand, causing a significant imbalance. The International Labor Organization (ILO) predicts that by 2030, India could face a shortage of about 29 million skilled employees. Currently, there is a shortage of skilled workers in companies, while there are many educated individuals in the country who are unemployed. Unemployment is a significant problem that can be reduced by enhancing people's skills.

India is expected to contribute 25% of the global workforce in the next few years. Failure to skill, re-skill and up-skill our young population will prevent us from fulfilling our global responsibilities. Regular global skill gap assessments are nec-

essary, and recruitment patterns need to shift from "degree-based" to "skill-based." To address these issues, the National Skills Universities Bill 2015 proposes the establishment of National Skills Universities (NSU).

Organizations can also benefit from upskilling their employees, but the highest return on investment is achieved when priority areas and skills are identified based on company goals and vision. Company leaders should prioritize skills that will have the biggest impact and focus on upskilling employees in those areas.

■ Upskilling can lead to increased employee engagement and retention by providing growth opportunities for employees within the company. This can prevent employees from leaving their roles due to a perceived lack of career advancement.

■ By investing in upskilling, companies can also save significant costs associated with employee turnover. On average, it costs around a third of an employee's annual salary to replace them when they leave a company.

■ As a recruiting tool, companies can provide growth opportunities to attract job seekers. 86% of employees consider job training essential. A culture of learning can boost morale, teamwork, and satisfaction. According to PwC data, 77% of workers want to upskill. Upskilling employees can help them advance in their careers and increase professional development. Digital transformation and automation require upskilling to meet these challenges. Employees who upskill can improve their ability to perform better in their roles and increase their confidence in their abilities.



BY INVESTING IN UPSKILLING, COMPANIES CAN ALSO SAVE SIGNIFICANT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EMPLOYEE TURNOVER

(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation; views are personal)

Mountains are a fragile ecosystem, need care & upkeep

Applying a scientific understanding of mountain geology with local ecological wisdom is the way to preserve the hills and protect the life that thrives there

The increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters in the mountains of India are worrying. This has been caused by a rapid increase in housing, hospitality and connectivity projects. Creating infrastructure in our mountains requires a completely different approach to study, scale and speed of engineering interventions.

Hilly regions are an ecosystem in themselves. Their characteristics and life cycles are determined by slopes. Slopes are determined by an interplay between the underlying rock and the agents of nature acting on them, like rivers, glaciers and biota. Like the flooding of rivers into floodplains and again receding into their channels, mountains are built up tectonically



SAURAV PANDEY



KISHLAY MISHRA

(Pandey is an IAS officer while Mishra is an advocate in Delhi; views are personal)

(Himalayan belt) and then eroded back into residual hills (like much of the hills in the Deccan region) in a cyclical process. This is led by processes of slope decline and slope retreat. This geomorphological cycle is very long and hardly perceptible. A detailed scientific slope analysis has not been a part of big infrastructure projects in our hilly regions. This has disrupted and accelerated the slope cycle and has led to man-made floods, landslides and soil erosion.

The tectonic belt of the Himalayan range is very active. Cutting off the rocks across the ridges and through the valleys causes sharp changes in the slopes and the ecosystem that depends on it. Slope steepening directly causes rockfalls

and landslides. Moreover, the accompanying deforestation causes soil erosion and impacts the water run-off, water percolation, and stream channels. Subsurface water-logging over impermeable rock strata leads to the downward flow of land-mass in various forms such as soil creep and mudflow, changing the slope characters even more.

Cutting-edge technology is required to study the short and long-term impacts of changes made in the structure of the mountains. Planning based on the watershed as a unit will help make small engineering interventions coupled with local wisdom. This will reduce the scale of damage and allow time for the ecosystem to readjust. Mapping of different layers of rock structures, their

orientation, the nature of the soil of the connecting valleys and the impact of each geomorphological agent are essential aspects of building safe and sustainable infrastructure in the mountains. Available technology includes GIS-based vulnerability mapping, remote sensing and other expert geological techniques. These scientific aspects must be incorporated in policy and legal frameworks that govern disaster-resilient infrastructure and disaster management in the country, especially in hill states.

It is pertinent to note that there is no legal vacuum when it comes to the construction in fragile areas. Constructions in fragile areas are guided by different master plans, such as the Draft Development Plan for Shimla, Manali and

Dalhousie Planning Areas. The Bureau of Indian Standards has already researched and presented techniques of construction in hilly areas of India. Though legislation for such areas is one of the many ways to guide construction, the law does not operate in isolation. There is a need for decentralised and informal mechanisms to harness local wisdom through social influence and persuasion to bring in the acceptability of set standards. While the state will mostly deal with community spaces, for private space it has to be the prerogative of the local community to promote construction that does not jeopardise the ecosystem of hilly regions. The participative approach must draw its inspiration from

Article 48A of the Indian constitution where a directive asks the state for the protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding forests and wildlife individuals shall draw inspiration from Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution which makes protection of the natural environment a Fundamental Duty.

Hill stations get overcrowded during certain months of the year, leaving a long-lasting environmental impact on the ecosystem of that region. Such population pressure is both seasonal and general. This implies that parts of hilly regions are operating beyond their carrying capacity. For example, Shimla was originally built for a population of only 25000 people but now holds a population of 1,69,758

according to the 2011 census. There has to be a regulation setup for tourism purposes in peak season. Proper mapping of alternate routes, stricter permits based on capacity and encouraging eco-practices such as homestays, and car-pooling must be strictly incorporated in the regulation of tourist footfall and movement of vehicles in peak tourist seasons.

Our mountainous regions have been "cul-de-sacs" for most of its history where lack of development and connectivity have created regional imbalances vis-a-vis plains. With progressive realisations of the rights of people to better governance and development, we must employ science and wisdom together; so that our mountains thrive.

Putin: There will be no new grain deal

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that the grain deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea won't be restored until the West meets its obligations to facilitate Russian agricultural exports.

Putin made the statement after talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who along with the UN brokered the deal seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on.

But Russia refused to extend the deal in July, complaining that an agreement promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honoured. It said restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade even though it has shipped record amounts



of wheat since last year.

Putin said that if those commitments were honoured, Russia could return to the deal "within the nearest days".

He also said that Russia is close to finalising an agreement to provide free grain to six African countries. The Russian leader added that Russia will ship 1 million metric tons (1.1 million tons) of cheap grain to Turkey for processing and delivery to poor countries.

Since Putin withdrew from the grain initiative, Erdogan has

repeatedly pledged to renew arrangements that helped avoid a food crisis in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

A lot is riding on the talks for the world food supply, and beforehand analysts predicted Putin would drive a hard bargain.

"My gut feeling is that Putin recognises the leverage he has by using food as an economic weapon, and thus will fight for all he can get in terms of concessions on his wish-list," said Tim Benton, a food security expert at the Chatham House think tank.

Those may include Russia's grains, or fertilizer exports, or wider issues, he said.

Data from the Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul, which organised the Ukraine shipments, shows that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China, which received nearly a quarter of the food.

The meeting took place against a backdrop of Ukraine's recent counteroffensive against the Kremlin's invasion forces.

In the latest development, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov would be replaced this week.

The job requires "new approaches", Zelenskyy said, without elaborating.

Reznikov on Monday published a photo of his resignation letter. In addition to pulling out of the grain deal, Russia has repeatedly attacked the Odesa

region, where Ukraine's main Black Sea port is. On Monday, the Ukrainian air force said it intercepted 23 of 32 drones that targeted the Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk regions but did not specify damage caused by the drones that got through.

The Turkish president has maintained close ties with Putin during the 18-month war in Ukraine. Turkey hasn't joined Western sanctions against Russia following its invasion, emerging as a main trading partner and logistical hub for Russia's overseas trade.

Opening the talks, Putin mentioned various areas of bilateral cooperation, such as a proposed Russian gas hub in Turkey and the construction of the first nuclear power plant there, in which Moscow is actively involved.

NATO member Turkey, however, has also supported Ukraine, sending arms, meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and backing Kyiv's bid to join NATO.

Ukraine's defence minister resigns

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov submitted a letter of resignation on Monday after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he would be replaced and named his successor. Oleksii Reznikov's removal follows a scandal around the defense ministry's procurement of military jackets. It was not the first similar case during the ongoing war.

Zelenskyy made the announcement on his official Telegram account, writing that new leadership was needed after Reznikov went through "more than 550 days of full-scale war". He named Rustem Umerov, a Crimean Tatar lawmaker, as the new defence minister. "Reznikov was a good and prominent international negotiator, but it appears that there is chaos and disorder within the Ministry of Defense, which many deputies have taken advantage of, resulting in corruption scandals during the

war," said analyst Volodymyr Fesenko from the Kyiv-based Penta Center.

"All actions of the Ukrainian authorities are geared toward the interests of the war, and scandals and statements about Ukraine's slow counteroffensive in the face of very limited military resources compel Zelenskyy to be flexible and seek new personnel solutions."

Reznikov was appointed in November 2021, several months before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In his resignation letter, Reznikov pointed out that it had been "not an easy journey" from his appointment until today, but that he had been part of the process of persuading international donors to give Ukraine sophisticated weaponry, from "the categorical refusal to provide Ukraine with Stingers in November 2021 to the creation of an aviation coalition".

Drone attack on Myanmar police compound kills five people

Bangkok (AP): A drone attack on a police headquarters in a major border town in eastern Myanmar has killed at least five officials including a senior army officer and a district administrator, members of two emergency rescue teams and media reports said Monday.

The attack, carried out Sunday evening in two stages, is believed to be the deadliest aerial bombing targeting high-ranking security and administrative officials since armed resistance was launched more than two years ago against the military that seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The takeover was met with peaceful nationwide protests, but after security forces cracked down with lethal force, many local armed resistance groups were formed and loosely organised into what is called the People's Defence Force, or PDF. It's the armed wing of Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, which views itself as a country's legitimate administrative body.

The PDF has allied themselves with major ethnic guerrilla groups in border regions that have been carrying out armed struggle against the army for decades, seeking greater autonomy. Federal Wings, a resistance group that conducts drone warfare in cooperation with the People's Defence Force and its allies belonging to ethnic Karen armed groups, claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack in a statement posted Monday on their Facebook page. The group also said it learned that five people, including the battalion commander, had been killed. Lt. Col. Aung Kyaw Min, the temporary commander of a battalion based in Myawaddy township, and a traffic police officer died Sunday in a hospital after the attack, said two rescue workers, speaking on condition of anonymity because they feared arrest for disclosing the information. Myawaddy District Administrator Soe Tint, his aide-de-camp Tun Tun Nyein and a clerk died on the spot when drones dropped two bombs while they were inspecting the damage caused by a drone attack about an hour earlier, they said.

'No S African arms supplied to Russia' 'Russia has likely proposed N Korea to join drills with China'

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has said that an independent probe has found no evidence that the country supplied arms to Russia amid its ongoing conflict with Ukraine and these allegations have a "damaging effect" on the economy and the African nations standing in the world.

Addressing the nation on Sunday, Ramaphosa said statements from several quarters have used these allegations to cast doubt on South Africa's stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The allegations were first made in May by US Ambassador to South Africa Reuben Brigety during a media briefing at the US Embassy in Pretoria.

Brigety claimed that the US has information indicating that the Russian vessel Lady R had been loaded with weapons while it was docked at the naval base of

Simonstown on the South African coast late last year.

Amid increased tensions between the US and South Africa following Reuben's statement, the envoy later apologised after South Africa issued strong statements about not succumbing to US "bullying".

Ramaphosa established an independent inquiry headed by a retired judge to ascertain the veracity of the allegations, promising firm action if any wrongdoing was uncovered.

"The allegations levelled against our country had a damaging effect on our currency, economy and our standing in the world," Ramaphosa said as he shared some of the findings of the panel chaired by Judge Phineas Mojapelo.

The other members of the panel were Adv Leah Gcabashe SC and retired politician Enver Surty. "Following its investigation, the panel found no evidence that any cargo of weapons was loaded for export onto the ship Lady R. The panel found that there was no evidence to support the claim that the ship transported weapons from South Africa destined for Russia." The panel established that the ship docked at Simonstown to deliver equip-



ment that had been ordered for the South African National Defence Force in 2018 by Armscor, the country's arms procurement company," Ramaphosa said.

The president said in terms of the contract for the supply of the arms, neither Armscor nor the South African National Defence Force had any control over the means through which the supplier of the ordered equipment would transport them to South Africa. He said during the course of its work, the panel visited Simonstown naval base and obtained evidence under oath from nearly 50 people in every relevant component of government. More than 100 documents were

submitted to the panel for examination. Without referring specifically to Brigety, Ramaphosa said, "A number of entities and persons that had publicly claimed to have information on this matter were invited to make submissions to the panel, but many had either failed to do so or said they had no independent knowledge of the relevant facts." South Africa has clear laws that regulate the issuing of permits regarding the importation and exportation of conventional arms. All relevant permits had been obtained for the importation of the equipment that were delivered by the ship.

No permit was issued for the export of arms and no arms were exported. "Although the panel did not find any evidence of criminal conduct by any persons involved, it did make findings and recommendations with respect to the functioning of the National Conventional Arms Control Committee.

It also made recommendations about the improvement of communication between Ministers and government officials, including the adequacy of the relevant administrative processes.

'Russia has likely proposed N Korea to join drills with China'

AP ■ SEOUL

Russia has likely proposed that North Korea participate in three-way naval exercises with China, according to a lawmaker who attended a closed-door briefing with the director of South Korea's top spy agency on Monday.

The briefing came days after Russia's Ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, told Russian media that including North Korea in joint military drills between Russia and China "seems appropriate."

Matsegora added it was his own point of view and that he wasn't aware of any preparations, according to Russia's Tass news agency.

According to lawmaker Yoo Sang-bum, when South Korean National Intelligence Service Director Kim Kyu-hyun was asked about the possibility of such drills, he said Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu likely proposed holding trilateral naval exercises with North Korea and China

while meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in July.

Kim Jong Un invited Shoigu to a major military parade in Pyongyang in July while vowing to expand military cooperation with Moscow, which US officials say could involve North Korean supplies of artillery and other ammunition as Russian President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in his war against Ukraine.

Last week, the White House said Kim and Putin exchanged letters as Moscow looked to Pyongyang for more munitions.

Amid deepening tensions with Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, Kim Jong Un has been trying to boost the visibility of his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he seeks to break out of diplomatic isolation and have Pyongyang be a part of a united front against the United States.

Diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington

has stalled since 2019 over disagreements over the crippling US-led sanctions against North Korea and the North's faltered steps to wind down its nuclear weapons and missiles program.

In the briefing, the service director Kim Kyu-hyun also said that North Korea's recent testing activities suggest its warplanes were highly reliant on its tactical nuclear systems as its aims to achieve swift victory over the South if war breaks out, as its otherwise ill-equipped military would struggle to handle a prolonged war, according to lawmaker Yoo.

Kim has used the international focus on Russia's war on Ukraine to dial up his weapons demonstrations, which have included more than 100 missile launches since the start of 2022.

Kim's testing spree has been punctuated by verbal threats of pre-emptive nuclear attacks against South Korea and other rivals if the North perceives its leadership as under threat.

Public Notice
This is to inform General Public Notice that Ms. Simran Kaur acquired Ground Floor (Without Roof Rights) in Government Plot No. 34, area measuring 82.26 sq. mtrs. Situated at New Gupta Colony, Priya darshani Vihar, Part-2, Delhi 110009/9/16. Sale Deed Dated: 16.05.2023 registered as doc. No. 772/Secured by Mr. Rajesh Kumar Karla. Now Ms. Simran Kaur intends to sell the Ground Floor (Without Roof Rights), 'Said floor' built up property No. 34, area measuring 82.26 sq. mtrs. Situated at New Gupta Colony, Priya darshani Vihar, Part-2, Delhi 110009/9/16. Mr. Jitesh Parekh and further Mr. Jitesh Parekh has agreed to create a mortgage in respect of the said Floors in favour of our client IDFC FIRST Bank Limited. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any claim, title, interest and/or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching upon said property or part of the property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary disposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at the below mentioned address within 07 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 07 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client's in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhuwani/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Nehru Subhash Plaza, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT
Sadiq Road, Faridkot-151203 Ph: 01639-266232, 266236

Admission Notice for 3rd round MBBS/ BDS online counseling course under NEET UG-2023
Fresh online Applications alongwith registration fee @ Rs. 5000+18% GST (Rs. 5900) and Rs.2500+18% GST (Rs.2950/- for SC Candidates) are invited through University website from NEET UG-2023 Qualified Candidates w.e.f 05.09.2023 to 08.09.2023 for admission to vacant seats of MBBS/ BDS Courses. The candidate who have already registered during Round I to II (as per applicable rules) need not apply again.
Note: For detailed Schedule, vacant seat matrix and updates visit at www.bfuhs.ac.in

Superintendent (Admission/Registration)
Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot
nil/12/152/2023/27444 Dated CHD - 9/4/2023

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019
Uphokhta Nyay Bhawan
Through the Government Office Complex, INA, F-Block, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110023
Telephone No: 011-24608801-04
Fax No: 011-24651605
Email: ncdrc[at]nic[dot]in
Website: www.ncdr.nic.in

Consumer Case No. 78 of 2022
PRADEEP VERMA & ORS. ...Petitioner/Appellant
Versus
COLORS HOUSING SOCIETY & ORS. ...Opposite Party/Respondent(s)

Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd.
(An Establishment of Uttarakhand Government)
Oak Park House, Nainital -263001, Uttarakhand

Letter No. 2442/3-लेखी Date: 04.09.2023

E-Tender Notice
KMVN invites competitive e-bids from eligible bidders for Engagement of consultant for account and reconciliation work of all units including Head Office, consolidation of accounts and preparation of annual financial statements of KMVN for Financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 through Uttarakhand e-procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in. All the details including terms and conditions, eligibility etc. will be made available on www.uktenders.gov.in & www.kmvn.in from 05 Sep 2023. In case of any amendments in the above the same will only be published on the above mentioned websites.

MD KMVN Nainital

NOTICE
(Service By way of Publication of Notice)
Whereas, a Consumer Complaint No. 78 of 2022 has been filed by the Complainants namely Pradeep Verma & Ors. through its Counsel, Mr. Atul Kumar Singh, Advocate, Office at K.S. Law Office, F-150, GF, Sector-22, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Mobile-9555265566, before the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi. The Consumer Complaint relates to allegations of deficiency in services coupled with unfair trade practices and negligence acts of the Opposite Parties to act/perform in terms of housing scheme and welcome/ allotment letter duly executed between the parties from year 2014 to 2017. The above mentioned parties have been arraigned as Opposite Party(ies) in the Consumer Complaint, and it has been brought to the notice of the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission that the above mentioned Opposite Parties have remained unrepresented. And whereas, the Hon'ble National Commission vide its order dated 27.07.2023 has, inter alia, posted the case for hearing on the 03.01.2024 directing for substituted service of the hearing notice to the Opposite Party by way of publication in two newspapers one in English language and the other in Local Language. Accordingly, notice that the above captioned Opposite Parties are hereby directed to attend the hearing in the above Consumer Complaint listed on 03.01.2024 at 10.30 AM, in person or through an authorized representative / counsel, failing which, the case will be heard and determined ex-parte by the Hon'ble National Commission. Dated New Delhi, on this 09th August, 2023

Assistant Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Sunaina Magan & Priyanka Magan claims to be owner and in possession of Prop. No. 77, in Block-B, Sector-92, Noida, U.P. (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Mutation Letter dt 23.05.2023 issued by Noida on basis of NOC from Radhika Magan, K. Anita Magan, K. Sarvi Magan, being the surviving legal heirs of late Harish Magan & said Harish Magan was the owner of said property by virtue of Transfer Deed Dated 07.07.2011 bearing Doc No. 5390 & said Sunaina Magan & Priyanka Magan has agreed to sell the said Property to PREETI SINGH ARORA & SAID PREETI SINGH ARORA has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Sector 128, Noida, U.P., any person/s having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 14 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company LLP
Advocates and Solicitors
H. No. 2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19
Mobile No. 9818399999

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mr. Sayyad Ahmad Ala Zaidi intends to purchase & mortgage the Third Floor (with roof/terrace rights) of Property No. 15, admeasuring 100 Sq. Yds., situated at West Sagarpur, Village Dabri, Delhi with our client, against the financial assistance. Whereas, 1) Mr. Uma Shankar Goel & 2) Mr. Pradeep Solanki got the rights of the Said Floor by way of GPA/ATS/Will dt. 06-04-2021 and thereafter, they sold the same to Mr. Sayyad Ahmad Ala Zaidi by way of Sale Deed dt. 09-02-2023. Now, he intends with mortgage the same to Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited. If any person(s) having objection with regard to ownership/mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 07 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited will proceed with the mortgage process.

DEEPLYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn-II,
New Delhi-49 Ph: 011-40587824

Africa Climate Summit opens

AP ■ NAIROBI

The first African Climate Summit is opening with heads of state and others asserting a stronger voice on a global issue that affects the continent of 1.3 billion people the most, even though they contribute to it the least.

Kenyan President William Ruto's government and the African Union launched the ministerial session on Monday while more than a dozen heads of state began to arrive, determined to wield more global influence and bring in far more financing and support.

The first speakers included young people, who demanded a bigger voice in the process.

"For a very long time we have looked at this as a problem.

There are immense opportunities as well," Ruto said of the climate crisis, speaking of multibillion-dollar economic possibilities, new financial structures, Africa's huge mineral wealth and the ideal of shared prosperity.

"We are not here to catalog grievances," he said. And yet there is some



Delegates are seated during the official opening of the Africa Climate Summit at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya on Monday.

frustration on the continent about being asked to develop in cleaner ways than the world's richest countries — which have long produced most of the emissions that endanger climate — and to do it while much of the support that has been pledged hasn't appeared.

"This is our time," Mithika Mwenda of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance told the gathering, claiming that the annual flow of climate assistance to the continent is a tenth or less of what is needed and a "fraction" of the budget of some polluting companies. "We

need to immediately see the delivery of the USD 100 billion" of climate finance pledged annually by rich countries to developing ones, said Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

More than USD 83 billion in climate financing was given to poorer countries in 2020, a 4 per cent increase from the previous year but still short of the goal set in 2009.

Kenya alone needs USD 62 billion to implement its plan to reduce national emissions that contribute to global warming, the president said.

Fifth man charged with murder of Indian-origin driver

London (PTI): Police in England investigating the murder of a 23-year-old Indian-origin delivery driver after an attack in Shrewsbury, western England, have charged a fifth man — also of Indian heritage.

Sukhmandeep Singh, 23, was arrested in Peterborough in eastern England and charged with Armaan Singh's murder on Friday. Armaan was pronounced dead at the scene when the Police attended reports of an attack and went on to arrest four Indian-origin men on suspicion of murder.

Sunak defends actions over school closures

London (PTI): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Monday strongly defended his record in government, dubbing allegations that he cut education funding as "completely and utterly wrong" amid an ongoing crisis over a light-weight concrete that is causing school closures in England and Wales.

Thousands of pupils face disruption at the start of a new term this week after over 100 schools face full or partial closure because of concerns about reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete

(RAAC), which is prone to collapse. A former senior civil servant in the Department for Education (DfE) alleged that it was under Sunak's term as Chancellor that the UK Treasury failed to properly fund school rebuilding schemes.

"I think that is completely and utterly wrong. Actually one of the first things I did as Chancellor, in my first Spending Review in 2020, was to announce a new 10-year school rebuilding programme for 500 schools," said Sunak.

Gabon's military leader sworn in as head of state

AP ■ LIBREVILLE (GABON)

Gabon's new military leader was sworn in as the head of state Monday less than a week after ousting the president whose family had ruled the Central African nation for more than five decades.

Gen. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, took the oath in the presidential palace in front of a packed, boisterous room of government officials, military and local leaders in Gabon's capital, Libreville. Oligui is a cousin of the ousted President Ali Bongo Ondimba, served as a bodyguard to his late father and is head of the republican guard, an elite military unit.

Speaking to applause and standing ovations Monday, Oligui said the military had seized power without bloodshed and promised to return power to the people by organising free, transparent and credible elections.

"With the new government, made up of experienced people, we're going to give everyone a chance to hope," he said.

The mutinous soldiers who toppled Bongo last week said he risked leading the country into chaos and they then "unanimously" designated Oligui president of the transitional committee.

Bongo, who had been president for 14 years, was ousted hours after being declared the winner of a vote that was widely seen as rife with irregularities and lacking transparency. The speedy swearing-in of Oligui will create perceptions of legitimacy and consolidate his power to deter potential opponents from challenging his rule, said Maja Bovcon, senior analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, a risk



assessment firm. "It is also likely intended as a means to restore investor confidence by conveying the message that he will not waste time in returning to business-as-usual and democratic rules," she said.

However, the fact that he plans to rewrite the constitution and electoral code means that the transition period will likely take months, if not years.

Bongo had served two terms since coming to power in 2009 after the death of his father, who ruled the country for 41 years, and there was widespread discontent with his family's reign.

Another group of mutinous soldiers attempted a coup in 2019 but was quickly overpowered. Nine members of the Bongo family, meanwhile, are under investigation in France, and some face preliminary charges of embezzlement, money laundering and other forms of corruption, according to Sherpa, a French NGO dedicated to accountability.

Investigators have linked the family to more than USD 92 million in properties in France, including two villas in Nice, the group says.

The idea of a long transition isn't something that appeared to bother Gabonese who attended the inauguration Thursday.

Judge hearing bail pleas of Imran, Qureshi goes on leave

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A special court judge, who has been hearing bail pleas of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets, has gone on leave until September 8, according to media reports on Monday.

Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain on Saturday postponed till Monday the hearing of post-arrest bail applications of Khan and Qureshi in the case since the validity of the special court was under scrutiny in the Islamabad High Court.

On Monday, when 70-year-old Khan's legal team arrived at the court premises, they found out that Judge Zulqarnain was on leave for a week due to his wife's illness, Geo News reported. Khan's lawyer Naem Haider Panjtoha said that when the legal team arrived at the court premises, they found out that Judge

Zulqarnain was on leave for a week, Dawn newspaper reported.

Subsequently, the legal team reached the courtroom of Judge Raja Javed Abbas and urged him to hear the bail plea. To which, the judge replied that he could not hear the case as he was not the duty judge.

"There is no notification of the duty judge of the Official Secrets Act. If the Islamabad High Court can mark it, only then I can hear it," Judge Abbas said. "I can hear cases of 24 courts as a duty judge but not to the extent of the Official Secrets Act."

Last month, ATC-I Judge Zulqarnain was given an additional charge of the special court established under the Official Secrets Act to hear matter related to the diplomatic cipher that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said was misplaced and used by Khan for political purposes.

The purported cipher

(secret diplomatic cable) contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan last year. Of late, Khan has come under increased scrutiny following the publication of a purported copy of the secret cable by the US media outlet The Intercept, with many in the government led by Shehbaz Sharif pointing fingers at the PTI chief for being the source of the leak.

Qureshi, 67-year-old former foreign minister, was arrested under the Official Secrets Act for violating the secrecy of the official cable sent by the Pakistani embassy in the US to the foreign office when he was the foreign minister.

Khan, who served as the country's prime minister until April last year, currently faces

around 180 cases. These cases primarily stem from incidents that occurred following the sacking of the Lahore corps commander's house on May 9.

Khan's three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case was suspended by a high court, which ordered his release from jail last week, but the embattled former premier's remand was on Wednesday extended till September 13 by the special court in cipher case.

The same day, Khan approached the IHC against the appointment of anti-terrorism court Judge Zulqarnain to the special court established to hear cases filed under the Official Secrets Act.

He filed a post-arrest bail plea in the special court, which had been fixed for hearing on September 2, with notices issued to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and other relevant authorities. However, on September 2, the hearings on the bail pleas of Khan and Qureshi were adjourned till Monday.

Malaysian court dismisses graft charges against deputy PM

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Kuala Lumpur (AP): A Malaysian court on Monday dismissed 47 corruption charges against Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi after prosecutors unexpectedly dropped the charges at an advanced stage of his trial.

Zahid said the High Court approved the prosecutors' application for a dismissal but refused to grant him a full acquittal, which means he can still be recharged. But he said he was grateful that the "politically motivated accusations against me have ended."

Zahid heads the United Malays National Organisation, and his support has been pivotal in helping Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim form a unity government after last November's general election led to a hung Parliament. Zahid's dismissal could further hurt the anti-corruption stance of Anwar's government.

Opposition leaders have alleged that Zahid supported Anwar so the charges against him could be dropped. Monday's court ruling came just weeks after local elections in which the Islamist-Malay nationalist opposition bloc made further inroads in government-ruled states.

Nepal working out agendas for Prachanda's China visit: Saud

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's government has been working out agendas, ranging from agricultural development to opening the northern checkpoints to hydropower development, for the official visit of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to China later this month, according to his close aide.

Prime Minister 'Prachanda' will visit China at the end of this month, a trip aimed at maintaining a balance in ties with both the neighbours - China and India. This will be his second foreign trip after assuming the office in December last year. The 68-year-old Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre (CPN-MC) leader visited India in June as his first foreign trip after assuming office for the third time.

"Prime Minister Prachanda is embarking on a visit to China leading a Nepalese delegation towards the third week of September, and the agenda of the visit range from agricultural development to opening northern checkpoints to hydropower development," Foreign Minister N P Saud said during a press conference in

Solukhumbu district on Sunday. During the visit, Prachanda is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, among others, and discuss matters relating to the construction of a cross-border transmission line with Chinese officials. "During the bilateral talks, matters relating to the grants pledged by President Xi during his Nepal visit in 2019 will also feature," he said.

The programmes will be decided on a priority basis to utilise the grants to be provided by the government of China during the visit, he added.

Stating that there are around a dozen checkpoints on the northern border with China, he said the talks will also touch upon the operation of these border points.

"Some of these checkpoints were shut down in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, and efforts will be made to reopen these checkpoints during the visit," Saud said that the delegation will float proposals to move forward for attracting Chinese investment for developing hydropower projects lying on the China border including Kimathanka.

"Besides these, the projects including the construction

of transmission lines from Rasuwa and Kimathanka will also be discussed," he said, adding that the east-west highway, Seti Corridor, road construction from Hilsa to Surkhet, Nuwakot-Chhahare tunnel road construction and upgradation and renovation of Kodari Highway are on agenda.

Similarly, cooperation on health-related matters including the extension of Civil Hospital and Bir Hospital of Kathmandu will feature during the bilateral talks, he said.

The two sides will also discuss trade-related issues including reducing Nepal's high trade deficit, the minister said.

"We will identify goods to be exported to China and also explore the possibility of establishing export-oriented joint venture industries by attracting Chinese investment to address the trade deficit currently facing Nepal," he added. Prachanda will leave for an official visit to the US and China on September 16. He will travel to the US first, where he will attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly. After spending five days in the US, Prachanda will fly directly to Beijing.

Pak police thwart terror plot, arrest seven terrorists

PTI ■ KARACHI

Lahore (PTI): Pakistan's law enforcement agencies have foiled a major terror plot by arresting seven suspected terrorists, including two key commanders of the Islamic State (ISIS), in the country's Punjab province, police claimed on Monday. The terrorists were arrested by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police during several intelligence-based operations conducted in different districts of the province.

"The CTD conducted 49 intelligence-based operations across the province during which seven suspected terrorists belonging to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi including two commanders of ISIS, Shahid Hussain and Siiful Din were arrested," the CTD spokesperson said.

"Both the commanders were operating in Punjab," he said. The spokesman said the terrorists had planned to target important installations and other places across the province. The police have registered six cases against them.

Pak Navy chopper crash in Balochistan kills three

PTI ■ KARACHI

Two Pakistani Navy officers and a sailor were killed in a helicopter crash during a routine training flight in Balochistan province on Monday, in the latest such aviation incident in the restive region. According to a statement by the Pakistan Navy, the incident occurred near the coastal city of Gwadar.

The helicopter was on a training flight, it said. "The helicopter crashed during the flight due to a possible technical fault...two officers and one jawan of the Pakistan Navy lost their lives," the statement said, adding that an investigation has been launched into the incident. Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has expressed grief over the loss of lives in the helicopter crash.

President Arif Alvi in a post on X mourned the loss of precious lives in the helicopter crash. In a statement posted on the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) X handle, former president Asif Ali Zardari expressed sorrow over the incident and



extended condolences to the families of the deceased. There have been several incidents of helicopter crashes in Balochistan province. In September last year, six Pakistan Army officials, including two majors, were killed when their helicopter crashed in the province. Same year in August, a Pakistan Army aviation helicopter carrying six senior military officers, including a top

commander of XII Corps, crashed while on a flood relief operation in Balochistan province after losing contact with the air traffic control.

Resource-rich Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, is also the hub of a decades-old separatist movement. Various armed groups based in the province have attacked Pakistani security forces and Chinese nationals working in the province in the past.

Clashes break out in Sweden after another Quran burning

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Clashes erupted in an immigrant neighbourhood in Sweden's third largest city after an anti-Muslim protester set fire to the Quran, police said on Monday.

Police in Malmo said they were pelted with rocks and dozens of cars were set on fire, including in an underground garage, describing the events that started Sunday and lasted overnight as "a violent riot." The clashes started after an anti-Islam activist Salwan Momika on Sunday burned a copy of the Quran and an angry mob tried to stop him while police, some of them helmeted, detained several people. At least three people have been detained, police said.

Early Monday, an angry crowd of mainly young people also set fire to tires and debris and some were seen throwing electric scooters, bicycles and



barriers in Malmo's Rosengard neighbourhood, which has seen similar clashes in the past. There were several banners relating to the Quran burning. "I understand that a public gathering like this arouses strong emotions, but we cannot tolerate disturbances and violent expressions like those we saw on Sunday afternoon," senior police officer Petra Stenkula said.

"It is extremely regrettable to once again see violence

and vandalism at Rosengard," she said. In the past months, Momika, a refugee from Iraq, has desecrated the Quran in a series of anti-Islam protests mostly in Stockholm that have caused anger in many Muslim countries. Swedish police have allowed his actions, citing freedom of speech.

The Quran burnings have sparked angry protests in Muslim countries, attacks on Swedish diplomatic missions and threats from Islamic extremists. Muslim leaders in Sweden have called on the government to find ways to stop the Quran burnings.

Sweden dropped its last blasphemy laws in the 1970s and the government has said it has no intention to reintroduce them. However, the government has announced an inquiry into legal possibilities for enabling police to reject permits for demonstrations over national security concerns.

'Attacks on Pak churches set off by false implication'

AP ■ MULTAN

Last month's mob attacks on churches and homes of Christians in eastern Pakistan erupted after three Christians threw the pages of Islam's holy book outside the house of two others to falsely implicate them in a blasphemy case due to a personal dispute, police said Monday.

The three detained suspects confessed to conspiring and throwing Quran pages outside Raja Amir's house, three police officials said. Amir and his brother had been arrested after they were accused by Muslims of desecrating the Quran. The suspected mastermind was Pervez Kodu, who thought Amir had an affair with his wife and knew Muslims would target Amir if Kodu had thrown the pages outside his house to give the impression Amir had desecrated the holy book, three police officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media on the record. They said the three men now face charges of causing violence and falsely implicating Amir and his brother in a blasphemy case. Khalid Mukhtar, a local priest, said he had heard about the arrests of the three men and told The Associated Press that he was trying to get details about the investigations from the police. At least 17 churches and nearly 100 homes were damaged in the Aug. 16 mob attacks in Jaranwala, a city in Punjab province. There were no casualties but it was one of the most destructive attacks on Christians in the country.

LOST & FOUND
The Public at large is hereby notified that my client Mrs. Kamlesh Gill alias Kamlesh Shergill W/o Shri K.S. Gill is the owner of Flat No.D-201, Anupam Apartments, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032. It is to inform the general public that original Share Certificate duly issued by The Railway Employees' CGHS Ltd has been lost/misplaced somewhere and not traceable by the best efforts of her. If anyone found or have any objection/claim for any type such as any Loan, Mortgage, Surety, Security etc. over the said property regarding the above said original document, then contact to the undersigned within 15 days of this Notice. Thereafter no body have any right on the said property.
SAHIL ARORA, ADVOCATE
Add: Office No. 107, F/F, M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No(s) 148 for 400 share(s) having Distinctive No(s) 2388271 - 2388670 held under Folio No. 148 respectively of Elofic Industries Limited, having its registered Office at 14/4, Mathura Road, Faridabad, Haryana - 121003 registered in the name of R.S. Aggarwal (Radhey Shyam Agrawal) has been lost. I, Kamal Kumar Aggarwal (Son of Radhey Shyam Agrawal - Legal Heir) now have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the above. Any person having any objection to the issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) as aforesaid is requested to lodge his/her/their objection thereto with the Company at their above address 14/4, Mathura Road, Faridabad, Haryana - 121003 in writing within 15 days from the date of publication.
Place: New Delhi
Date: 05-09-2023
Name & Address of the shareholder
KAMAL KUMAR AGGARWAL
B-47, Ashok Vihar Phase - 1, Ashok Vihar North West Delhi, Delhi - 110052

General Manager (Technical) Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board Mandi Bhanwan, Rudrapur (U.S. Nagar)
PH: 05944-250056 fax: 05944-250059 gmcrud@gmail.com
Letter no. UKAPMB/2023-24/219 Date: 04/09/2023
E-Tender Notice
Uttarakhand Agriculture Produce Marketing Board (UKAPMB) invites interested Bidders to supply and installation of Fully Automatic PLC base Bacteriological treatment plant enabled with Programmable logic controller & online comprehensive water Analyzer Water Purifier at ITI Hostel, Sitarganj, Model Colleges-Kashipur, Rudrapur, MBPG Haldwani and Degree Colleges- DSB, Nainital, Syalde (Almora), Thatur (Tehri Garhwal), Tanakpur (Champawat), Berinag (Pithoragarh), Someshwar (Almora), Champawat, Kapkot (Bageshwar), Koldwar (Pauri Garhwal).
The Terms and Conditions are as follows:- 1. The Bid will be opened on 22 September, 2023 at 12:30 pm. 2. The Bid can be seen on 04.09.2023 at 05:00 pm (uktenders.gov.in site). 3. Rs. 4,60,000.00 Security money plugged in favour of GM(T) UKKUVB, Rudrapur. The security money can be in FDR, Bank Guarantee. Security money (FDR&BG) & Bank draft to tender cost (in favour of GM(T) UKKUVB, Rudrapur) should be submitted before 05:00 PM on 21 September, 2023 in original at GM(T) office UKAPMB, Rudrapur. Failing which the tenders will not be open and treated as rejected. 4. The cost of tender is Rs. 4720.00 including GST. 5. Full Automatic PLC base bacteriological treatment. Number of plants can be increased or decreased.
General Manager (Tech.)

APPENDIX- IV A
[See proviso to rule 6 (b)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(b) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.** [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 09.10.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of **Rs. 32,04,036/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Four Thousand Thirty Six only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLRHH00501143**, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 22.08.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan documents w.e.f. 23.08.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **RUPESH KUMAR and SANTOSH KUMARI @ SANTOSH KUMARI SEN**.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be **Rs. 32,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 3,20,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Thousand only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
BUILT UP PROPERTY/PILOT BEARING NO. 29, ENTIRE THIRD FLOOR LAND AREA MEASURING 90 SQ. YRDS. WITH ROOF RIGHTS OF KHASARA NO. 7816 SITUATED AT REVENU VILLAGE HASTALS NEW COLONY KNOWN AS OM VIHAR PHASE 03, UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, WITH RIGHT TO COMMON SMALL CAR PARKING AT PARKING AREA WITH COMMON RIGHTS OF SUBMERSIBLE, SEWERAGES, INSTALLATION OF DISH TV ANTENNA ON THE ROOF/TERRACE, ENTRY PASSAGES, STAIR CASE WITH SEPARATE ELECTRIC/WATER CONNECTION ALONGWITH PROPORTIONATE LAND RIGHTS UNDER THE SAID PROPERTY. BOUNDED BY:-
EAST : ROAD NORTH : OTHER PROPERTY
WEST : OTHER PROPERTY SOUTH : OTHER PROPERTY
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomefinance.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 29.08.2023
Place : NEW DELHI
Sd/-
Authorized officer
Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LTD.
CIN: L15136UP1988PLC010084, Email id: info@rampurfert.com
Regd. Off.: Judges Barelly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P.
Notice of 35th Annual General Meeting, Book Closure and Remote E-Voting information
NOTICE is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Rampur Fertilizers Limited will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual means ("OAVM") on Friday, the 22nd September, 2023 at 1.00 pm to transact the Ordinary and Special Business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Notice of the Meeting, Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2023 and remote e-voting details have been sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository. The date of completion of email of the notices to the shareholders is August 31, 2023.
In case you have not registered your email ID with the Company/Depository, please follow detailed instructions to register your email ID for obtaining annual report for FY 2022-23 and login details for e-voting.
Physical Holding: Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at investor@maserv.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN (Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address. Please send your bank detail with original cancelled cheque or your RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110002) along with letter mentioning folio no. if not registered already.
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.
These documents are also available on Company's website www.rampurfert.com for download by the members. Notice is hereby given in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Company has offered e-voting facility for transacting all the business by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) through their portal www.evoting.nsdl.com to enable the members to cast their votes electronically. The remote e-voting period commences on Tuesday, 19th September, 2023 (09:00 am) and ends on Thursday, 21st September, 2023 (05:00 pm). No e-voting shall be allowed beyond the said date and time. During this period members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of 15th September, 2023, may cast their vote by remote e-voting. Any person, who acquires shares and becomes member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. 15th September 2023, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or RTA, MAS Services Limited at investor@maserv.com. However, if the members are already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then they can use their existing user ID and password for casting their vote. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The facility for voting through e-voting shall be made available at the AGM and the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Shri Sanjiv Nigam, Practising Company Secretary (Membership No. FCS 9313 & CP No. 8458), Proprietor M/s. Sanjiv Nigam & Associates, Company Secretaries, has been appointed as Scrutinizer for the e-voting process. The detailed procedure for remote e-voting is contained in the letter sent with the Notice of the AGM. Any query/grievance relating to e-voting may be addressed to Rajesh Kumar, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, Rampur Fertilizers Ltd., Judges Barelly Road, Rampur-244901 U.P. Phone: 0595-2352028, Email: rkumar@rampurfert.com. NOTICE is also hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 10 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, the 18th September, 2023 to Friday, the 22nd September, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of taking record of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting.
For Rampur Fertilizers Limited
Sd/-
Rajesh Kumar
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place: Rampur
Date: 1st August, 2023

HINDUSTAN AUTO FINANCE LIMITED
CIN: L65910DL1980PLC010617
Regd. Office: Cabin No. DA-8, 02nd Floor, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, New Delhi-110092
Email: hindaf1980@gmail.com, Website: www.hindaf.in

NOTICE OF 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING AND INTIMATION OF BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 43rd Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of members of Hindustan Auto Finance Limited will be held on Wednesday, 27th September, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. at the registered office of the Company to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

The Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 including the Notice convening AGM along with Attendance Slip and Proxy Form has been sent to members whose emails are registered with their depository participants as at close of business hours on Friday, September 01, 2023. The Notice of the 27th AGM along with Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 has been sent through electronic mode to those members, whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent ("RTA") or with the Depository Participants ("DP"). The emailing and dispatch of Annual Report along with Notice of AGM has been completed on Monday, September 04, 2023. The Annual Report along with the Notice convening the AGM is available on the website of the Company at www.hindaf.in, website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited, and on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) at www.evotingindia.com.

The shareholders whose email ids are not registered with Company/RTA or with respective DPs may temporarily get their email id registered with the Company by sending e-mail at hindaf1980@gmail.com and follow the temporary registration process as guided thereafter to receive the Annual Report for FY 2022-23 along with the Notice of AGM which inter-alia contains the instructions for attending the AGM. However, for permanent registration of email id, members are requested to approach their respective DPs and follow the process advised by DPs.

Pursuant to provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and the applicable rules framed thereunder and Reg.42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, ("Listing Regulations"), the register of members and share transfer books of the Company will remain closed from Thursday, September 21, 2023 and will end on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 43rd AGM of the Company.

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of Listing Regulations, the Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using electronic voting system from a place other than venue of the AGM (remote e-voting), provided by Central Depository Services India Limited (CDSL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting rights of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Any person who is a member of the Company as on the cut-off date is eligible to cast vote on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM using remote e-voting or voting through ballot paper at the AGM.

The remote e-voting period commences on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 09:00 a.m. IST and ends on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 05:00 p.m. IST. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter and remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the said date and time. Once vote on a resolution is cast by the member, he/she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast the vote again. The detailed procedure for voting has been mentioned in the AGM Notice. The facility for voting through ballot paper shall also be made available at the AGM and members who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM through ballot paper. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM, but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

A person who acquires shares and become a member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of the AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com. However, if he/she is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting, then he/she can use his/her existing User ID and password for casting the votes.

The Board of Director has appointed CS Anju Bansal, proprietor of M/s Anju Bansal & Associates, Company Secretary in Practice (COP No. 17594) as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the remote e-voting process and voting at the AGM, in a fair and transparent manner. The results of AGM will be announced by the Chairman or any other person authorised by him and will be submitted along with report of scrutinizer within two days from the conclusion of AGM to Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited and also be posted on the Company's website www.hindaf.in.

In case of any queries or grievances regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual which is available at www.evotingindia.com under help section or contact at 022-23058542/43. In case of grievances relating to e-voting, please contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager at 25th Floor, A Wing, Marathon Futurex, Marfatil Mills Compound, NM Joshi Marg, Lower Pare (E), Mumbai-400013; Email: helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or aforesaid number.

For Hindustan Auto Finance Limited
Sd/-
Rishabh Aggarwal
Place: New Delhi
Date: September 04, 2023
(Company Secretary & Compliance Officer)

I don't think Trump is going to be the nominee: Nikki Haley

Washington (PTI): With her campaign gaining momentum after last month's Republican primary debate, Indian American presidential candidate Nikki Haley has said former US president Donald Trump would not be the party's nominee for the 2024 presidential elections.

The latest opinion poll released by The Wall Street Journal revealed that Haley, 51, was in the third spot in terms of popularity rating after Trump and Ron DeSantis. Her fellow Indian American candidate Vivek Ramaswamy was in the fourth spot.

"I don't think President Trump's going to be the nom-

inee. I think it's going to be me. But I will tell you that any Republican is better than what Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are doing," Haley told CBS News in an interview on Sunday. According to RealClearPolitics which monitors all the major national polls, Trump tops the list of average of all such polls with 53.6 per cent followed by DeSantis (7.1 per cent), Ramaswamy (1.3 per cent) and Haley (6 per cent).

Haley, the former US ambassador to the UN, said that a vote for President Biden is a vote for Vice President Harris. "He is innocent until proven guilty. But you are

implying that the American people are not smart. The American people are not going to vote for a convicted criminal. The American people are going to vote for someone who can win a general election. I have faith in the American people," she said in response to a question.

"They know what they need to do. So I think that, yes, I will support the Republican nominee anyway. I will make sure that that we're going to pick someone that's going to beat a President Kamala Harris, because we can't have a President Kamala Harris, or we'll never get our country back," she said.

SENSEX, NIFTY RALLY FOR SECOND STRAIGHT SESSION

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the second straight session on Monday following encouraging domestic macroeconomic data amid a firm trend in global markets.

Fresh foreign fund inflows and intense buying in IT and commodity stocks also bolstered sentiment, traders said. The BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 240.98 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 65,628.14. During the day, it jumped 296.75 points or 0.45 per cent to 65,683.91. The Nifty rose 93.50 points or 0.48 per cent to end at 19,528.80.

Recent domestic macroeconomic data have portrayed a positive picture for the domestic markets, allowing them to maintain their momentum. Despite profit-taking in Nifty Auto after reaching an all-time high, the market regained its footing with robust buying in IT stocks. "The increase in the US unemployment rate has solidified expectations of a pause in rate hikes, and positive global cues have further boosted market sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Wipro was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 4.34 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Infosys, Power Grid, Tata Consultancy Services and

Foreign fund inflows, intense buying in IT and commodity stocks bolstered sentiment



State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Axis Bank, Nestle, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.96 per cent, and smallcap index gained 0.84 per cent.

Among the indices, metal jumped 2.72 per cent, commodities climbed 1.94 per cent, utilities rallied 1.91 per cent, IT gained 1.74 per cent, power (1.55 per cent), tech (1.51 per cent) and services (0.59 per cent).

FMCG and consumer durables were the laggards. "Global Stocks were higher on Monday following a report that signalled the US jobs market, while still healthy, shows some signs of cooling, raising

FinMin begins Budgetary exercise for 2024-25

Seeks inputs from various Ministries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has initiated the process to prepare the interim Budget for 2024-25 by inviting inputs on expenditure from different ministries and departments.

It will be an interim Budget as the elections for the Lok Sabha are due early next year. The full Budget for FY25 will be presented after the formation of the new government after the general elections. "Pre-budget meetings chaired by Secretary (Expenditure) shall commence in the second week of October 2023...Shall continue till around mid-November, 2023," according to the Budget Circular (2024-25) of the Budget Division under the Department of Economic Affairs of the Finance Ministry.

According to the circular dated September 1, financial advisers should ensure that the necessary details required should be submitted by October 5, 2023.

The Budget Estimates for 2024-25 will be provisionally finalised after completion of pre-Budget meetings, it said.

During the pre-budget meetings, the requirement of funds for all categories of expenditures, along with receipts of ministries or depart-



ments, is discussed. Besides, non-tax revenues, including arrears of non-tax revenue and indicative budget figures, will be discussed on a net basis.

All ministries or departments should submit details of autonomous bodies or implementing agencies for which a dedicated corpus fund has been created, the circular said, adding the reasons for their continuance and requirement of grant-in-aid support, and why the same should not be wound up, should be explained.

This will be the sixth Budget of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who presented her first full Budget in July 2019.

The Budget for the current fiscal had projected a nominal growth rate of 10.5 per cent, while the fiscal deficit was pegged at 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The interim Budget 2024-25 is likely to be presented on February 1. Prime Minister

Narendra Modi-led government scrapped a colonial-era tradition of presenting the Budget at February-end.

Former finance minister Arun Jaitley started the practice of presenting the annual Budget on February 1 in the year 2017. With the pre-announcement of the Budget, ministries are now allocated their budgeted funds from the start of the financial year beginning in April. This gives government departments more leeway to spend as well as allows companies time to adapt to business and taxation plans.

Previously, when the Budget was presented at the end of February, the three-stage Parliament approval process used to get completed sometime in mid-May, weeks ahead of the onset of monsoon rains. This meant government departments would start spending on projects only from August-end or September, after the monsoon season ended.

Rupee falls 11 paise to close at 83 against dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee depreciated by 11 paise to close at 82.73 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, weighed down by a surge in crude oil prices and strength of the American currency in the overseas market.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.71 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 82.67 to 82.77 in the day trade.

The rupee finally settled at 82.73 (provisional) against the US dollar, down 11 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 82.62 against the dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on positive US dollar and rising global crude oil prices. However, rise in risk appetite in global markets on rising expectations of a no rate hike by Fed in its September FOMC may support rupee at lower levels," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Choudhary further said that "USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.40 to Rs 83."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell marginally by 0.14 per cent to 104.08. Brent crude futures, the glob-

al oil benchmark, advanced 0.16 per cent to USD 88.69 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 240.98 points or 0.37 per cent higher at 65,628.14. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 93.50 points or 0.48 per cent to 19,528.80.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Friday as they purchased shares worth Rs 487.94 crore, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves dropped by USD 30 million to USD 594.858 billion in the week ended August 25, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. In the previous week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 7.273 billion to USD 594.888 billion.



India's power consumption grows by over 16 per cent to 151.66 billion units in Aug

New Delhi: The country's power consumption grew by over 16 per cent to 151.66 billion units in August this year compared to that of the same month last year mainly due to increase usage of cooling appliances during sultry weather.

In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 130.39 billion units (BU), higher than 127.88 BU in August 2021, according to the government data.

The peak power demand met, which is the highest supply in a day, rose to 236.59 GW in August 2023. The peak power supply stood at 195.22 GW in August 2022 and 196.27 GW in August 2021. The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity

demand to touch 229 GW during the summer season. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July this year due to unseasonal rains. The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 223.29 GW in June and remained at 208.95 GW in July.

Industry experts said that power consumption was affected in March, April, May and June this year due to widespread rains in the country.

They are of the view that power consumption as well as demand grew in the month of August mainly due to high humid weather conditions and also perk up in industrial activities ahead of festival season. PTI

Flipkart aims to create over 1L job opportunities ahead of festive season

Mumbai: Homegrown e-commerce marketplace Flipkart on Monday said it is looking to create more than 1 lakh seasonal job opportunities across its supply chain to cater to demand during the festive season.

The seasonal jobs, both direct and indirect, will include those for local kirana delivery partners and women. Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) will also be employed to create a diverse supply chain talent, the company said in a statement.

Ahead of the festive season, Flipkart expects to generate over 1,00,000 new job opportunities across its supply chain, including fulfilment centres, sortation centres and delivery hubs, it said. "The Big Billion Days (TBBDD) is about scale,

innovating for India, and impacting the ecosystem. It allows millions of new customers to experience the goodness of e-commerce, many of them for the first time," Flipkart Group Senior Vice President and Head of Supply Chain, Customer Experience and ReCommerce, Hemant Badri said.

TBBDD is the Flipkart sale time during which it offers discounts on products of top brands. "The complexity and scale during TBBDD require us to scale up for capacity, storage, placement, sorting, packaging, human resources, training, delivery, and the entire supply chain, and this scale is always unprecedented," Badri said. PTI

Gold rises ₹100; silver remains flat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold rose by Rs 100 to Rs 60,450 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday amid jump in precious metal prices globally, according to HDFC Securities. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 60,350 per 10 gram in the previous trade. However, silver remained flat at Rs 77,000 per kg.

"Gold rose on Monday, with spot gold in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 60,450/10 gram, up by Rs 100, taking positive cues from overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In MCX, gold prices also exhibited a sideways trend, closely following Comex. The absence of significant data can support prices, combined with



the weakness of the rupee due to the surge in crude oil prices, providing support to gold prices in MCX, said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities. In the international markets, gold was trading higher at USD 1,945 per ounce while silver was marginally down at USD 24.17 per ounce.

Rajesh Nambiar made chairperson of Nasscom

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Technology industry body Nasscom on Monday announced the appointment of Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, as its Chairperson.

Nambiar takes on the new role from his previous role as Vice Chairperson succeeding Anant Maheshwari, Former President, Microsoft India, Nasscom said in a statement.

Chairperson Nambiar along with President Debjani Ghosh will continue to work with Nasscom Executive Council, industry, and government in strengthening India's position as



a global technology hub while navigating current volatile macro environment, it said. "I am honoured and humbled to support the Nasscom Executive Council as its Chairperson and look forward to working with all its stakeholders to continue to strengthen India's leadership as the most trusted tech partner for the world," Nambiar added.

Gadkari asks officials to prepare road map for projects worth ₹3L cr project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Road, transport and highway Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday directed the officials of his ministry, including those of NHAI and NHIDCL, to prepare a road map for up to Rs 3 lakh-crore projects for immediate execution. The minister also warned the officials of action in case of any delay in execution of projects and fixing issues related to them.

The direction came after the Union minister of road, transport and highways (MoRTH) reviewed the performance of the regional officers of the ministry as well as projects carried out by National Highways Authority of India



(NHAI) and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) in the national capital.

Keeping a close coordination and cooperation with each other, prepare proposals of land acquisition and come up with projects worth Rs 2 to 3 lakh crore in build operate

and transfer (BOT) mode and Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) immediately, Gadkari told the officers.

Give approvals to projects and try to start them immediately so that there is less burden on annual plan in which there are projects of NHAI, NHIDCL and the ministry. "I am in the mood now that if work is not done I will take action," the minister said and asked officials to kick off the project in a transparent and time-bound manner.

While acknowledging the hard work being done by officers, Gadkari said that regional officers and project directors must also try to rectify the project related issues at their level.

"Social media is very active. If you will not fix (the issue) it then it will go in the media...I will send notice that this has come (published)..." he added.

The minister also questioned the officials about the progress of projects in the old annual plan. The value of projects sanctioned under old annual plan is approximately Rs 3.5 lakh crore.

"These are sanctioned for long, solve the problems and start immediately. If such projects can be converted into BOT or PPP model, give recommendations for improving it, see why projects given to state government did not complete, change contractors if not delivering," Gadkari said.

'India's digital public infra a force whose time has come'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's call for global cooperation and equitable growth for all, alongside its showcase of transformative digitisation have resonated with the world, Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar has said, exuding confidence that G20 presidency of India underpins strong messages that will leave an indelible mark.

In an interview with PTI ahead of G20 Leaders' Summit scheduled in New Delhi from September 9-10, Chandrasekhar termed India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) a force whose time has come and added that nothing can stop it. He said the Indian

approach on DPI smashes old normal, which was about big tech companies dominating the space, and paves the way for new normal, one that is open source, nimble, consumer-driven, and 'non-intermediated'. "When over 1 billion Indians are using it, who can resist it?" Chandrasekhar said. The Minister of State for Electronics and IT was referring to the country's payment, identity and other population-scale platforms which have captured attention of many nations with several MoUs already signed.

India is developing its DPI as a core utility for every citizen. Chandrasekhar pointed out that India's message, in

its capacity as current president of the G20 grouping of the world's biggest economies, has been about accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth for all.

With New Delhi drawing global attention to cooperation for common good, and global macroeconomic stability, India's approach and beliefs will resonate way beyond its G20 presidency, the minister affirmed.

"Our message from day one has been that the world is one family, that there is a need for more and more global cooperation to achieve our common good and common goals of sustainable planet, of prosperous, developing world for all countries and people.

Cloud seeding helps reduce pollution in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday said that cloud seeding technology, that is known to enable precipitation during low rainfall seasons and helps reduce pollution, will now be used in the city.

The technology, which is being used in US, China, Dubai, will be implemented in addition to a number of employment generations, skill development, and environmentally conducive projects being kick started in Delhi in conjunction with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Govt invites bids to engage asset valuer for IDBI Bank sale

New Delhi: The Government is looking to engage an asset valuer for valuing assets and providing assistance in strategic divestment of IDBI Bank. The government along with the LIC is selling about 61 per cent stake in IDBI Bank and has received multiple Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the same.

Currently, the government and RBI are in process of vetting bids received. Security clearance from government and 'fit and proper' clearance from RBI would be necessary for bidders to move to second stage of bidding process which is due diligence and subsequent invitation of financial bids. PTI

New rule can raise commercial vehicle prices by 10-12%: ICRA

New Delhi: Implementation of multiple proposed regulatory specifications can push up commercial vehicle prices by 10-12 per cent, ratings agency ICRA said on Monday.

In its report on the Indian commercial vehicle industry, ICRA said the domestic automotive industry is undergoing rapid transformations, with increased focus by the government on implementing emission norms, safety systems and other standards that will bring the country at par with other major automotive markets. "Within the Indian automotive industry, the commercial vehicle (CV) sector has been the

focus, given that CVs account for the major part of vehicular emissions in the country," it said, adding mandatory standards towards driver comfort and safety can help improve the driving conditions and road safety to a large extent.

Accordingly, ICRA said there have been multiple regulatory interventions in the recent past, with the industry adopting stringent emission standards in a relatively short span of time, as well as driver safety and comfort standards such as advanced braking systems (ABS), speed limiting devices (SLD) and blowers in cabins, with a view to reducing vehicular emis-

sions and improving road safety and driver comfort. "While these proposed changes can result in a potential cumulative increase of 10-12 per cent in vehicle prices as they get implemented, the benefits in terms of vehicle safety, driver comfort, export potential to developed markets, among others, are expected to outweigh the same," ICRA said.

The ratings agency pointed out that there are multiple proposed regulatory changes on anvil such as the mandatory fitment of air-conditioners (ACs) in driver cabins which has already been announced with effect from January 1, 2025. PTI

SBI announces introduction of UPI interoperability on CBDC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday said it has implemented UPI interoperability in its digital rupee, called Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). With this move, the bank aims to deliver unprecedented convenience and accessibility to its customers, SBI said in a statement.

This cutting-edge feature, accessible through the 'eRupee' by SBI application will empower SBI CBDC users to effortlessly scan any merchant UPI QR code for swift and secure transactions, it said. SBI was among the first few banks to participate in the RBI's retail

digital e-rupee project in December 2022. "The seamless integration of CBDC with UPI marks a significant leap for the bank, enhancing the acceptance and utilization of digital currencies in everyday transactions," it said.

This integration will be a game changer for the digital currency ecosystem, it said, adding, the move is the outcome of our unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of digital innovation to accelerate the transition to a more cashless economy. SBI remains dedicated to providing secure, efficient, and user-friendly solutions that reshape conducting transactions.

BUSINESS BRIEF

MAHINDRA UNVEILS NEW RANGE OF TRACTORS
Swaraj Tractors, a part of Mahindra Group on Monday unveiled its new TV commercial (TVC), featuring cricketing legend and Swaraj's Brand Ambassador MS Dhoni. The launch of the TV commercial coincided with Swaraj Tractors unveiling a new range of tractors in the 40-50 HP category to cater to the evolving needs of the farmers. The company has invested Rs 200 crore to develop a new range of tractors which will eventually replace its current tractors in the category. "The new range comes with a new set of features, different set of agri applications. We want to be future ready and that is why we are introducing the new tractors," Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Swaraj Division Chief Executive Officer Harish Chavan said.

OPTIEMUS TO SET UP MANUFACTURING FACILITY
Optiemus Infracom Limited, India's leading telecommunications and manufacturing group, and Corning International Corporation, one of the world's leading innovators in glass and glass-ceramic materials for mobile consumer electronics applications, on Monday announced a joint venture to set up India's first manufacturing facility for producing high-quality finished cover glass parts for the mobile consumer electronics industry. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chairman, Optiemus Infracom Limited, said with this joint venture, we are committed to make available world-class high-quality products for global and local brands.

SWIATEK OUT OF US OPEN

AP ■ NEW YORK

Defending champion Iga Swiatek was sent crashing out of the US Open on Sunday, losing in three sets to Latvia's 20th seed Jelena Ostapenko.

Ostapenko fought back after losing the opening set to record a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory in 1hr 48min and will now face American sixth seed Coco Gauff in the quarter-finals on Tuesday.

The defeat means Polish star Swiatek will end her 75-week reign as women's world number one when the rankings are updated after the US Open, with rival Aryna Sabalenka set to take over top spot.

Ostapenko's victory also extends her unbeaten record against Swiatek after wins in all three of her previous meetings with her.

"I always expect a tough battle against Iga, she's such a great player and won many Slams and is so consistent," Ostapenko said after her win on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

"I knew I had to be aggressive and play my game because that's what she doesn't like."

"I was just thinking that I have to play until the very last point, until we shake hands. I felt like I was playing better and didn't give her many chances."

Swiatek had cruised into the fourth round after not dropping a set in her first three matches, looking in prime form to defend the title she won last year.

On Sunday she finally looked ready to score a first victory over Ostapenko, playing confidently to take the first set.

But Ostapenko snatched an early break in the second set and then held for a 3-0 lead and Swiatek was always struggling



thereafter. She managed to break Ostapenko and served to level at 4-4, but instead was broken again to give the Latvian a 5-3 lead.

Ostapenko then survived a break point to close out the set at 6-3.

In the third, Swiatek had no answer to Ostapenko as she broke the champion twice in the first three games to take 3-0 lead.

She then broke Swiatek in the fifth game to go 5-0 ahead.

Although Ostapenko was broken as she served for the match, Swiatek again struggled to serve and was broken again to go tumbling out.

DJOKER IN QUARTERS

Novak Djokovic swept past Croatia's Borna Gojo in straight sets on Sunday to book his place in the quarter-finals of the US Open.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion outclassed world No.105 Gojo to win 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 in 2hr 26min on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

Djokovic will now face American ninth seed Taylor Fritz on Tuesday for a place in the semi-finals as he chases a record-extending 24th Grand Slam title.

The 36-year-old Serbian star had been given a scare in the third round on Friday, forced to recover from a two-set deficit before beating compatriot Laslo Djere in five sets.

But there never looked like any chance of Gojo causing Djokovic similar difficulties on Sunday, with the Croatian earning just one break point throughout the match.

Djokovic made only 12 unforced errors throughout the match compared to Gojo's tally of 40, and broke his opponent

Bopanna-Ebden enter quarterfinals

PTI ■ NEW YORK

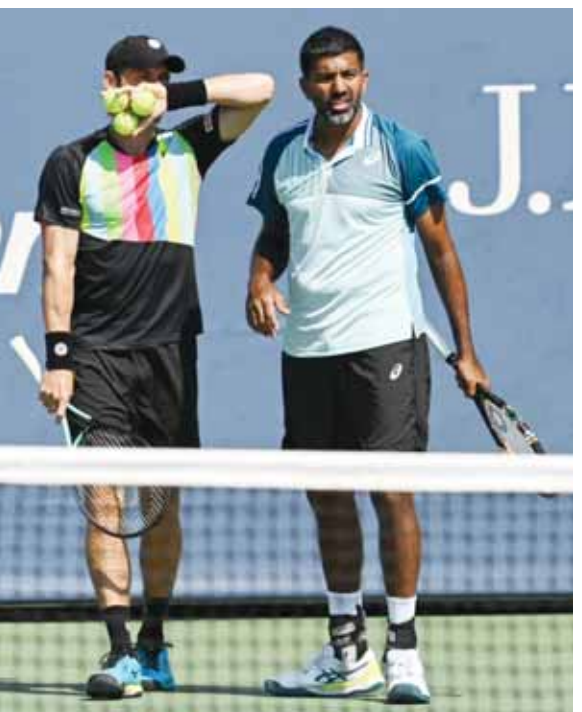
India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden advanced to the men's doubles quarterfinals at the US Open with a hard-fought three-set win over Julian Cash and Henry Patten.

The sixth seeded Indo-Australian pair won 6-4, 6-7(5), 7-6(10-6) against the British duo of Cash and Patten after toiling hard for two hours 22 minutes in the third round at the Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday.

Bopanna and Ebden, who had reached the Wimbledon semifinals earlier this year, hit 13 aces and won 81 per cent of their first-serve points.

They will next face the winners of the third round match between top seeds Wesley Koolhof of Netherlands and United Kingdom's Neal Skupski and the local duo of Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow.

The 43-year-old remains the only Indian in the fray in the men's doubles event after Yuki Bhambri and Saketh



Myneni made first round exits. Bopanna, however, crashed out of the mixed doubles event. Partnering Indonesian Aldila Sutjiadi, Bopanna went down 2-6 5-7 to the American duo of Ben Shelton and Taylor Townsend in the second round.

five times on his way to a clinical victory.

"I knew that Borna has a big game...he's a big shot player, serve and forehand, big weapons, and moves pretty well for a big guy," said Djokovic after reaching his 13th US Open quarter-final.

"The key to match was to try and neutralise his serve. Just glad to get through in straight sets."

Djokovic is meanwhile looking forward to the challenge of facing Fritz in the last eight on Tuesday. Fritz is one of three American men in the quarter-finals along with Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton, the first time since 2005 three Americans have reached the last eight at the US Open.

"That's amazing for the USTA and US Open," Djokovic

said. "All of the guys — Fritz, Shelton and Tiafoe, big serves."

"(Fritz) has been playing some terrific tennis, particularly on home soil here in the States," added Djokovic, who was won all seven of his previous encounters with Fritz.

"Obviously the matches are going to get tougher from here onwards and I'm ready," he added. "It's going to be great."

Gauff ends Wozniacki run



AP ■ NEW YORK

American teenager Coco Gauff ended Caroline Wozniacki's fairytale return to the US Open on Sunday, booking her place in the quarter-finals with a three-set victory. Sixth seed Gauff, regarded by many as one of the favourites for the title after two tournament wins in August, advanced to the

last eight with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

The 19-year-old will face either defending champion Iga Swiatek or Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko in Tuesday's quarter-finals.

"I knew going in I had to play aggressive," Gauff said after her victory. "I'm happy that I was able to get back and focus."

ly tough with every single point."

The defeat ended former world number one Wozniacki's impressive showing at the tournament.

The 33-year-old retired after the 2020 Australian Open to start a family, and this year's US Open was only the third event the mother-of-two has played since returning to the tour in Montreal last month.

Gauff, who was only one when Wozniacki made her debut on the WTA in 2005, paid tribute to the Dane's performance in defeat. "Caroline is back, it's like she's never left," Gauff said. "The level she played today was amazing, and she's been an inspiration for me growing up."

"I grew up watching her win the Australian Open...to be out on the court with her today was an honour."

After dropping the first set, wild card entrant Wozniacki had raised the prospect of a mammoth upset after punishing an error-strewn second set by Gauff to level at one set apiece.

A rattled Gauff was then broken in the opening game of the third set to deepen the jitters amongst the teen's fans.

But Gauff rallied to break back immediately and then turned up the pace to break Wozniacki for leads of 3-1 and 5-1 up before holding to clinch victory.

Inter join Milan at Serie A summit

AP ■ MILAN

Marcus Thuram scored his first Serie A goal on Sunday as Inter Milan thumped Fiorentina 4-0 and moved level with AC Milan at the top of Serie A.

France forward Thuram opened the scoring midway through the first half and had a hand in two more strikes from Lautaro Martinez and Hakan Calhanoglu which helped continue Inter's perfect start to the new season.

"The whole team played well today, it was a good evening," said Thuram to DAZN.

"I'm really happy with my goal and key pass, I just want to help the team as much as I can."

Inter host Milan, who have also won their first three matches, in the first derby of the season immediately after the international break.

That match promises to be a blockbuster as both teams already look like strong contenders for the league title.



And Milan will be looking for revenge for a comprehensive defeat to their local rivals in last season's Champions League semi-finals. Martinez ended up with a brace to take his tally to five goals in three matches but it was Thuram who was crucial to seeing off woeful Fiorentina.

Juventus are two points behind the pace setters in third after their 2-0 win at bottom team Empoli, who are still point-less three weeks into the season.

Daniilo opened the scoring in the 24th minute in Tuscany after confusion at a corner and Federico Chiesa ensured Juve of the points with his second of the campaign eight minutes from the end.

Chiesa was picked in Luciano Spalletti's first Italy squad which will face North Macedonia and Ukraine in Euro 2024 qualifying.

And the 25-year-old showed the eye for goal that Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri has demanded from him when he sprinted through onto Arkadiusz Milik's through ball and carried on to roll home after being almost taken out by Empoli keeper Etrit Berisha.

Juve had little problem dealing with Empoli, striking the twice through Milik and Moise Kean while Dusan Vlahovic also missed a first-half penalty.

Lewandowski earns Barcelona tight win

AP ■ BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski rolled home a late penalty to earn Barcelona a hard-fought 2-1 win at Osasuna in La Liga on Sunday. The striker won the penalty when he was tugged back in the box by Alejandro Catena, who was sent off.

Barcelona took the lead through Jules Kounde's header in the first half but Chimy Avila drilled the hosts level with less than 15 minutes remaining.

Xavi brought on new loan signings Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix in the second half as Barcelona, third, stayed on league leaders Real Madrid's tail



— they are two points behind their arch-rivals after four games. The coach started 16-year-old Lamine Yamal on the right wing again after his impressive display last weekend and his first call up to the Spanish national team on Friday. However it was veteran forward Lewandowski's penalty which was crucial for Barcelona this time.

Mbappe shines as PSG hammer Lyon

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe scored twice as Paris Saint-Germain romped to a 4-1 win away at Lyon on Sunday to leave their crisis-hit opponents bottom of Ligue 1. Mbappe's two goals in the first half sandwiched strikes by Achraf Hakimi and Marco Asensio as PSG produced a ruthless performance that augurs well for the rest of the season.

Corentin Tolisso pulled one back with a penalty for Lyon but the seven-time former French champions are enduring a miserable start to the campaign and are bottom with just one point from four games.

Laurent Blanc's side prop up the division on goal difference



behind last season's runners-up Lens and Clermont. PSG, meanwhile, are up to second, two points behind early league leaders Monaco, after a second straight win to follow draws in their opening two games. "It is a great result. It is not easy to come and win here, regardless of what the opposition are going through," said PSG captain Marquinhos. Luis Enrique's team are building towards the start of

their Champions League campaign which will see them come up against Borussia Dortmund, AC Milan and Newcastle United in the group stage. They still have Randal Kolo Muani to come into the team after the France striker joined from Eintracht Frankfurt in a reported 90 million-euro (\$97m) deal just before the transfer window closed on Friday.

This game came too soon for Kolo Muani to make his debut, but there was a first appearance for Bradley Barcola after he joined from Lyon on Thursday for a fee that could reach 50 million euros. Barcola came off the bench late on to a chorus of jeers and whistles from the home support, but the game was well and truly over by then.



Messi assists Miami to big win over LAFC

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Inter Miami delivered the most impressive win of their Lionel Messi era, 3-1 over Major League Soccer champions Los Angeles FC on Sunday, with two assists from the Argentine boosting their playoff hopes.

Goals from Argentine forward Facundo Farias, Spanish full-back Jordi Alba and substitute Leonardo Campana of Ecuador earned Miami a statement victory that moves them within nine points of the playoff places with nine games remaining.

Messi's first MLS appearance in Los Angeles, attracted a capacity crowd, swollen by a host of A-List celebrities including Leonardo DiCaprio, Selena Gomez and Prince Harry. But the home fans left frustrated as last year's MLS Cup winners wasted a series of chances. After surviving those early scares, Miami took the lead in

the 14th minute when Tomas Aviles split the LAFC defence to find Farias who beat John McCarthy with a low shot on the slide.

LAFC paid the price for the wastefulness in front of goal in the 51st minute when Miami's former Barcelona trio combined in style.

Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets fed Messi who picked out the overlapping Alba and he burst into the box to score with a cool, left-footed finish. Miami were in firm control and wrapped up the win in the 83rd minute when Messi burst from midfield and slipped the ball outside to Campana who made no mistake with a curling finish.

LAFC got a 90th-minute consolation via Ryan Hollingshead's glancing header from a corner and while the third-placed team in the Western Conference should have little trouble making the playoffs, they had been given a lesson in finishing.

Sancho puts Man Utd career in doubt with Ten Hag spat

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Jadon Sancho's Manchester United future could be in doubt after he took a swipe at manager Erik ten Hag for saying he had been dropped because of poor training performances.

The 23-year-old, who described himself as a "scapegoat", did not travel to London for Sunday's Premier League match at Arsenal, which United lost 3-1.

The England winger was conspicuous by his absence, having come off the bench in United's first three matches. Ten Hag had few experienced attacking options at the Emirates, with debutant Rasmus Hojlund, Alejandro Garnacho and Facundo Pellistri among the substitutes.

The Red Devils appeared set for a 1-1 draw but conceded two stoppage-time goals to slump to a damaging defeat that left them 11th in the Premier League table.

Ten Hag said Sancho was dropped due to sub-par training. "Jadon, on his performances in training, we did not select him," the Dutchman said after the game.

"You have to reach a level every day at Manchester United and we can make choices in the front line. So for this game he was not selected."

However, Sancho hit back later Sunday in a strongly worded social media post. "Please don't believe everything you read! I will not allow people saying things that is completely untrue, I have conduct-



ed myself in training very well this week," he posted on X.

"I believe there are other reasons for this matter that I won't go into, I've been a scapegoat for a long time which isn't fair!"

He added: "All I want to do is play football with a smile on my face and contribute to my team. I respect all decisions that are made by the coaching staff, I play with fantastic players and (am) grateful to do so which I know every week is a challenge. I will continue to fight for this badge no matter what!"

Sancho has struggled for consistent form since moving to Old Trafford from Borussia Dortmund for £73 million (\$92 million) in 2021. He has scored 12 goals in 82 appearances in all competitions for United.

INDIA HOLD NEPAL FOR 230

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Fearless Nepal batsmen exploited a well below par effort by Indian bowlers to the hilt to post a competitive 230 in their Asia Cup match here on Monday.

Aasif Sheikh (58 off 97 balls), Kushal Bhurtel (38 off 25 balls) and Sompal Kami (48 off 55 balls) were impressive while tackling a pedigreed Indian attack after they were asked to bat first.

Nepal who were bundled out for 104 by Pakistan in their opening match, went off the blocks in a cracking style, reaching 65 for 1 in the first 10 overs.

Bhurtel was the engine room of their initial charge in their first international match against India. However, India will regret the two reprieves they gave to Bhurtel.

Shreyas Iyer dropped Bhurtel on 1 off Shami in the very first over. A little later Ishan Kishan spilled a chance behind the stumps off the same bowler when the batter was on 7.

Bhurtel was in no mood to look a gift horse in its mouth and took on Indian bowlers bravely.

The Nepal opener slammed pacer Mohammed Siraj over square leg for a six, and followed it with another maximum off Shardul Thakur over fine leg.

But Thakur brought India the first breakthrough soon when he induced an edge from Bhurtel and this time Kishan did not commit any mistake.

Ravindra Jadeja (3/40 in 10 overs) joined the act with three wickets between the 16th and 21st overs to reduce Nepal to 101 for 4.

The left-arm spinner dismissed captain Rohit Paudel, Kushal Malla and Bhim Sharki to slow down Nepal's progress.

Sheikh, however, kept his end going with a pragmatic approach amid multiple rain interruptions.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav (0/34 in 10 overs) was expected



to pose a big threat to the Nepal batsmen. But Sheikh played him well, reading his googlies and the only time he looked in trouble was when the Indian bowled the deliveries that skidded away from him.

However, Siraj ended Sheikh's stay with a delivery that climbed on him which he jabbed uppishly to Kohli.

Dipendra Airee and Kami played some daring shots and added 50 runs for the seventh wicket as Jasprit Bumrah-less Indian bowlers and fielders struggled for a cohesive outing.

Nepal will be hoping that India can at least be stretched when their turn comes to bowl.

POOR FIELDING RECORD

India has a concerning statistic to their name in ODIs ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 at home from October 5 onwards, as they have the second-lowest catch efficiency among the top 10 ranked teams since the 2019 edition of World Cup in England.

During the start of India's crucial

Asia Cup clash against Nepal, the Indian team dropped some easy catches. Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer, among India's best and most agile fielders and wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan, dropped these catches.

India's catch efficiency of 75.1 per cent places them at number nine, just above the bottom-placed Afghanistan, which has a catching efficiency of 71.2 per cent.

England sits at the top with a catch efficiency of 82.8 per cent, followed by the current number one ODI side

Pakistan (81.6 per cent) and New Zealand (80.9 per cent) at second and third positions.

Sri Lanka is at the fourth spot with 78.8 per cent catch efficiency, followed by Australia at the fifth spot with 78.5 per cent. At number six is West Indies with 77.9 per cent, which did not even qualify for the ODI World Cup this year.

Bangladesh, at seventh with 75.8 per cent and South Africa at eighth with 75.1 per cent are also placed above Men in Blue.



Afghanistan aim for massive victory over SL

PTI ■ LAHORE

Afghanistan will need to up their game with the ball when they face a skillful Sri Lanka in the battle of a Super4 spot in the Asia Cup here on Tuesday.

Afghanistan not only find themselves in a must-win situation after the loss to Bangladesh but they also need a victory with a massive margin to finish in the top two of Group B.

Their run-rate is in the negative following the defeat here on Sunday night while Sri Lanka, who beat Bangladesh in their opening game, are in the positive with a NRR of 0.951.

Having put 300 plus against Afghanistan, Bangladesh have a much superior run rate and are all but through to the next stage.

The Sri Lanka-Afghanistan fixture will be the second one at the Gaddafi Stadium and is expected to be a run feast. In the absence of express fast bowlers, Afghanistan rely

heavily on the spin duo of Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Rashid went wicketless on Sunday and his team would be hoping he that he comes up with a match-winning effort against Sri Lankans.

Besides being ordinary in the pace department, Afghanistan's fielding also left a lot to be desired.

The recent form of openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran is one big positive for the side.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will hope that their top-order fires after the failure against Bangladesh. In the absence of three injured pacers, the young Matheesha Pathirana embraced the responsibility with four wickets in the opener and the slinky operator will be expected to make life tougher for the Afghanistan batters.

Mystery spinner Maheesh Theekshana delivered with the new ball against Bangladesh and will be tasked to do the same against Shahidi and Co.

Maxwell could skip ODI series against India due to ankle injury



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Star Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell may skip this month's ODI series against India as he takes a cautious approach in the run up to the World Cup after his ankle flared up.

Maxwell was ruled out of the just-concluded T20I series against South Africa after he experienced soreness in his left ankle, the same foot he had injured last year.

"I still want to play some part of that India series. But I'm not feeling any pressure on it," Maxwell was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

Australia are scheduled to travel to India for a three-match ODI series starting in Mohali on September 22, ahead of the

World Cup. "The selectors and the staff have been brilliant with me as well. They don't want to put too much pressure on me to sort of set that date because they know they've got a bit of extra time before the World Cup.

"So instead of rushing it and probably putting myself a week or two behind, being able to give myself extra time and make sure we get through the whole tournament," he added.

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

The 34-year-old, who still carries a metal plate in his left leg after fracturing his fibula in a freak birthday-party accident

last November, was forced to fly home from South Africa early as his ankle flared up after the team's first training session.

"I don't think I could have predicted how sore I was going to be once I got to South Africa. But it was one of those things. Even when I went to train that day, I still felt fine. There was nothing wrong.

"Something just got impinged. I think one of the tendons around my ankle was a little bit inflamed, there's a bit of swelling, so it kept on catching which meant it just gave me a bit of pain.

"Hopefully, the cortisone takes care of that and I can get back up and running to where I was just before I went to South Africa," he added.

The Cricket Australia medical team adopted a conservative approach by sending Maxwell home given the World Cup showpiece event is only weeks away.

"We've probably just got to be a bit smarter going forward. Making sure that my preparation is a bit more managed. I think leading into a flight like that.

After the ODI series against India, Australia will play Netherlands and Pakistan in the World Cup warm matches on September 30 and October 3 respectively.

Australia open their campaign against hosts India in Chennai on October 8.

Switzerland Tourism felicitates Neeraj Chopra

PTI ■ ZURICH

Switzerland Tourism felicitated their 'Friendship Ambassador' Olympic and World champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra for his achievements.

The 25-year-old Chopra became only the third javelin thrower in history to hold both the Olympic and World Championships crowns after winning the worlds title in Budapest with a throw of 88.17m last month.

"We are honoured and delighted to celebrate India's sports legend Neeraj Chopra. Neeraj is paving the way and inspiring an entire generation. For us at Switzerland Tourism, we are extremely happy with our association with Neeraj as our 'Friendship Ambassador' in India.

"We heartily congratulate him on his world championship and wish him the best for his future endeavours," Pascal Prinz, Head of global partnerships at Switzerland Tourism, said in a media release.

Chopra has been enjoying the adventurous, sporty and scenic outdoors of Switzerland. He shared his Swiss experiences of popular adventure sports like skydiving, canyon jumping and jetboating in Interlaken, paragliding, and helicopter tour over the Zermatt landscape.

Lakshya will look to test his skills against the best as he starts off against Anders Antonsen of Denmark.

Lakshya, on the other hand, has a tougher path, with the possibility of facing seventh seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the round of 16 and world No. 1 Axelsen in the quarterfinals.

Priyanshu Rajawat is the other Indian in men's singles main draw as he takes on Shesha

This is purely cricketing invitation: BCCI VP Shukla on Pakistan visit

PTI ■ AMRITSAR

For the first time in 17 years, two senior BCCI office-bearers — president Roger Binny and vice-president Rajeev Shukla — travelled to Pakistan and reached Lahore on Monday after crossing the Attari-Wagah border, honouring the PCB's invitation to watch Asia Cup there.

The last time an Indian cricket team travelled to Pakistan was back in 2008 for the Asia Cup. Pakistan last hosted India for a bilateral series in 2006.

The BCCI had refused to send its team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, which led to a bi-national 'Hybrid Model' arrangement. But in a heartening gesture, the BCCI approved former Test player Binny and Congressman Shukla's participation in a dinner hosted by the Governor of Punjab province of Pakistan.

"Pakistan is the host of Asia Cup. The visit by this delegation is purely cricketing and there is no politics involved. It is a two-day visit and the Governor of Punjab is hosting us for dinner and all three teams Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan will be present. We shouldn't mix cricket with politics," Shukla told mediapersons.

Shukla, who has been with the Indian cricket board for more than two decades, was a part of BCCI delegation that



Bumrah becomes father, welcomes baby boy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah and his wife Sanjana Ganesan are blessed with a baby boy on Monday (September 4).

"Our little family has grown & our hearts are fuller than we could ever imagine! This morning we welcomed our little boy, Angad Jasprit Bumrah into the world. We are over the moon and can't wait for everything this new chapter of



came for the historic 'Friendship Series' back in 2004.

Asked about the chances of resumption of bilateral cricketing contests, the Rajya Sabha MP said: "The decision with regards to bilateral series is taken by the Indian government and we would follow whatever the government suggests."

Binny recollected his last visit to Pakistan which incidentally was more than 16 years ago when he was a part of the Asian Cricket Council.

"My last visit of Pakistan was in 2006 when I was a part of Asian Cricket Council. Pakistan's hospitality has been very, very good and we were treated very well," said Binny.

our lives brings with it — Jasprit and Sanjana," posted Bumrah on his official X handle.

The speedster left for Mumbai amid the ongoing Asia Cup due to personal reasons. The Indian cricketer is expected to be back in time for the Super Stage of the tournament, starting from September 6 onwards.

Bumrah tied knot with Ganesan, who is a sports presenter in March 2021.

Indian shuttlers eye success in China Open

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Fresh from winning his maiden World Championships bronze medal, HS Prannoy will spearhead India's campaign alongside Lakshya Sen, who will strive to regain top form before the Asian Games, at the China Open Super 1000 Tournament, beginning here on Tuesday. There will be no Indian in the women's singles as star shuttler PV Sindhu has pulled out in a last-minute decision to focus on the Asian Games.

Sindhu, who clinched a silver at the last Asiad, was pitted against Korea's Kim Ga Eun.

Kerala shuttler Prannoy had a dream run at the Worlds last month where he stunned world No 1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen en route to his bronze medal.



Prannoy, who achieved his career-high world ranking of No 6 on the back of the World Championships show, will open his campaign against Ng Tze Yung of Malaysia. Should he overcome the opening round, Prannoy could potentially face

world No. 4 and third-seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand in the round of 16, a competitor he has yet to defeat in their two previous face-offs.

Prannoy could potentially face world No 9 Jonatan Christie from Indonesia in the quarter-

finals, and if the Indian manages to advance further he even set the stage for a rematch against top-seeded Axelsen in the semi-finals. Commonwealth Games champion and former world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen, however, could not repeat his 2021 show and had a disappointing outing at Copenhagen last month, going down to Vitidsarn in the round of 16.

Lakshya will look to test his skills against the best as he starts off against Anders Antonsen of Denmark.

Lakshya, on the other hand, has a tougher path, with the possibility of facing seventh seed Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the round of 16 and world No. 1 Axelsen in the quarterfinals.

Hiren Rhusavito of Indonesia in the opening round.

In the men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will look to get over the disappointment of their quarterfinals exit at the World Championships, with an improved show here. The Indian duo is seeded second and open its campaign against Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana of Indonesia. M R Arjun and Dhruv Kapila will take on Japanese duo of Keichiro Matsui and Yoshinori Takeuchi.

All eyes will also be on the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand as they face top-seeded Chinese pair of Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan. The Indians will face the Chinese duo less than two weeks after they went down to them in the World Championships.

Indian men's TT team assured of bronze medal at Asian C'ship

PTI ■ PYEONGCHANG

The Indian men's table tennis team assured itself of at least a bronze medal in the Asian Championships with a 3-0 win over Singapore in the quarterfinals here on Monday.

The opening singles between veteran Sharath Kamal and Isaac Quek went down to the wire with the 41-year-old Indian prevailing 11-1, 10-12, 11-8, 11-13, 14-12.

The seasoned G Sathiyan then blanked Yew En Koen Pang 11-6, 11-8, 12-10 to give India a 2-0 lead in the last eight clash. India's highest-ranked player at 61, Harmeet Desai, sealed the tie by outplaying Zhe Yu Clarence Chew 11-9, 11-4, 11-6.

"After Sharath fought well to give the momentum, I and Harmeet finished well. It was necessary. We are in good shape but won't be satisfied with the bronze, which we are sure of. We will keep pushing ourselves to the limit against Taipei in the semifinals," Sathiyan said.



At the Asian Championships, the losing semi-finalists are also awarded bronze medals.

Third seeds India play either Iran or Chinese Taipei in the semifinals. The men's team finished with a bronze in the previous edition in Doha two years ago.

In the women's quarterfinals, fifth seeds India suffered a 0-3 loss against Japan on Monday.

World number eight Mimma Ito got past Ayhika Mukherjee in the opening singles without much difficulty, winning 11-7, 15-13, 11-8.

Indian star and world number 36 Manika Batra took a game off seventh ranked Hina Hayata before going down 7-11, 9-11, 11-9, 3-11.