

OPINION 6
THE SHOW MUST GO ON ...
AT ANY COST

WORLD 9
RUSSIAN STRIKE ON UKRAINIAN CITY
MARKET KILLS 17, HURTS DOZENS

MONEY 10
SENSEX, NIFTY END IN
POSITIVE TERRITORY

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INDIA leaders question Spl Parliament Session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting a lack of agenda for the upcoming Special Parliament Session. In her missive, she identified nine critical issues for discussion during the Session, ranging from the surge of violence in Manipur to the concerning rise in prices of essential goods.

The Special Session of Parliament is scheduled to take place from September 18 to 22, setting the stage for potentially significant deliberations on these crucial national issues.

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already raised apprehension about BJP's agenda for the Special Session of Parliament. She had said, "I am apprehensive that they (BJP) could hold the Lok Sabha elections in December or in January next year."

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar backed his Bengal counterpart's claim that the BJP might conduct the Lok Sabha elections in December this year and emphasised the need for the Opposition parties to remain united.

The nine issues outlined by Sonia in the letter encompass a broad spectrum of concerns,



including the state of Centre-State relations, the escalation of communal tensions, border transgressions by China, and the pressing demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to investigate the transgressions of the Adani business group, prompted by a series of revelations.

Expressing her concerns, Sonia remarked, "I must point out that this Special Session has been convened without any consultation with other political parties. None of us have any idea of its agenda. All we have been communicated is that all five days have been allocated for Government business."

She stressed the Congress

party's desire to actively participate in the Session, hoping that time would be allotted under appropriate rules for thorough discussions and debates on these pressing matters.

Notably, this marks the first instance where no agenda has been discussed or listed in the business of the House, as pointed out by her party colleague Jairam Ramesh.

Sonia's letter further seeks time to deliberate on the nine raised issues, emphasising the ongoing suffering of the people of Manipur and the breakdown of constitutional machinery and social harmony in the State. She also brings to attention communal tensions in different States.

Sonia underscored the urgency of conducting a caste census, a demand supported by the Congress and several other parties for a considerable period.

The Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson also called for discussions on the damages inflicted on Centre-State relations, the impact of natural disasters such as extreme floods and droughts in various States, and the current economic situation, including the rising prices of essential commodities, growing unemployment, increasing inequalities, and the plight of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Modi tells Ministers to conform to G20 norms

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

To minimise inconvenience to the public and security personnel during the G20 summit, Union Ministers have been urged to forgo their official vehicles and utilise the shuttle service to reach Bharat Mandapam and other meeting venues.

This advice was given during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with the Council of Ministers ahead of the G20 summit. The PM also encouraged them to download the G20 India mobile app and make the best use of its translation and other features when communicating with foreign dignitaries, according to officials at a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers.

In preparation for the G20 Summit, Modi outlined a set of guidelines for ministers to follow during the two-day event to ensure the visiting dignitaries experience minimal inconvenience.

According to sources, ministers have been instructed to leave their official vehicles behind and rely on the shuttle service to reach Bharat Mandapam and other meeting venues. They are required to arrive at the Parliament Complex in their own vehicles, from where a shuttle will transport them to Bharat Mandapam, the location of the dinner. This measure has been implemented for security reasons.



A security personnel stands guard opposite a G20 logo installed near Raisina Road as part of preparations for the summit in New Delhi, on Wednesday. PTI

Furthermore, Modi has directed the Council of Ministers to acquaint themselves with the cultures of the respective foreign delegates they will be attending to. They have also been advised to familiarise themselves with the lifestyles, food, and fundamental aspects of these cultures. During the Council of Ministers meeting, Modi emphasised that only authorised individuals should discuss the G20 meeting.

The Chief Ministers of different States who have been invited to the dinner are instructed to arrive at the Parliament House complex at 5:30 pm in their own cars, after which they will use a shuttle to reach the dinner venue. The dinner is scheduled for 6:30 pm

on September 9. Ministers were also briefed on the courtesies they should extend when receiving delegates at the airport.

The G20 mobile app features an instant translation function that includes all Indian languages and those of G20 nations. The app provides users with a comprehensive, interactive guide to event-related information, including a calendar for the G20 India 2023 event, resources, media, and insightful details about the G20. The launch of the "G20 India" mobile app showcases India's technological advancements and its commitment to utilising digital tools for international events.

According to sources, Modi will personally welcome the leaders of all countries at

the venue, where he will also host a working lunch for them on Saturday.

The summit will see more than 40 delegations led by presidents, prime ministers, and, in some cases, their foreign ministers, as well as international organisations led by their secretary generals or executive directors.

On average, each delegation will consist of 150-200 people. When including security personnel, media representatives, catering staff, and others, nearly 10,000 people are expected to be present at Bharat Mandapam on Saturday and Sunday.

With nearly 40 world leaders, including those from international organisations, set to attend the summit on September 9-10, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra provided ministers with a detailed briefing on protocol and related matters.

Some ministers are expected to be on standby to assist world leaders who have already begun arriving for the summit. Union Minister of State for Health SPS Singh Baghel welcomed President of Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu upon his arrival in Delhi on Tuesday. During an informal interaction prior to the Union Cabinet meeting, which lasted for nearly one hour, ministers were informed about the summit's significance for India and its global image.



Devotees perform a ritual as they take out a tableau representing the story of Lord Krishna's birth in the River Yamuna on Janmashtami, in Agra on Wednesday. PTI

INDIA to meet for coordination on Sept 13

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the coordination committee of the INDIA alliance will take place on September 13 at the residence of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in New Delhi, said Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut while speaking to media persons, informing them about the meeting location in the national capital.

The 14-member committee includes KC Venugopal (Congress), Sharad Pawar (NCP), TR Bалу (DMK), Hemant Soren (JMM), Sanjay Raut (SS), Tejasvi Yadav (RJD), Abhishek Banerjee (TMC), Raghav Chaddha (AAP), Javed Ali Khan (SP), Lallan Singh (JD(U)), D Raja (CPI), Omar Abdullah (NC), Mehbooba Mufti (PDP), and one leader from the CPI(M) who will be named later. The Opposition has yet to choose a convener.

The coordination committee was formed during the third meeting of the INDIA alliance in Mumbai, following two successive meetings in

Patna and Bengaluru over the last two months. The coalition, consisting of more than 30 political parties including Congress, DMK, RJD, JDU, TMC, NCP, Shiv Sena, and the Left, has committed to organising public rallies across various regions. These rallies will serve as platforms to address the concerns and aspirations of the population and to showcase unity among the



Patna and Bengaluru over the last two months.

Opposition. In the Parliament strategy meeting, attendees included Kharge, TMC's Derek O'Brien, NCP leader Supriya Sule, AAP leaders Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh, Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav, DMK leaders Tiruchi Shiva and TR Bалу, RJD leader Manoj Jha, JDU President Lallan Singh, Shiv Sena (Uddhav) Sanjay Raut, and Left party MPs,

among others.

Sources revealed that during the meeting, it was decided to participate in the Parliament Special Session, but the core issues concerning the people of the country, including inflation and unemployment, will be emphasised in Parliament. The INDIA bloc will demand discussions on a range of issues.

In light of the controversy surrounding the "Sanatan Dharma eradicate" remark by a DMK member, members suggested refraining from talking to the media in this age of social media dominance and instead focusing on highlighting the achievements of their respective governments and pointing out the failures of the BJP-led governments.

The alliance is working cohesively and plans to challenge the BJP on various fronts, including the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The alliance successfully cooperated during the recent Monsoon session of Parliament.

Delhiites face nightmare as G20 comes alive

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Notwithstanding the assurances by the Delhi Police and the administration that there are only limited restrictions confined to the Lutyens' zone in view of the G20 Summit, Delhiites have been facing a traffic nightmare in view of the multi-layered security apparatus in place to regulate movement in the run-up to the mega event.

The high security measures will continue till Monday and Delhi residents are unlikely to get a respite from the regulated movement in the national Capital. Barricades have hampered the smooth movement of citizens and commuters for the last two days and they are experiencing a harrowing experience due to the unprecedented presence of security personnel on the roads.

From running out of fuel in prolonged traffic jams to diabetics missing their insulin on time, panic has gripped the commuters. "I was stuck in

Defence colony for two hours in the afternoon while on the way to refuel my tank. The traffic snarl was heavy and fuel got empty right in the middle of the road. Just imagine the horror for a woman who is to return home on time to administer insulin to ailing father," said Vandana Chopra, a resident of Lajpat Nagar.

Major traffic snarls were reported in the Capital on Wednesday till late in the evening across the city due to chehlum procession.

Meanwhile, Delhi traffic police on Wednesday appealed to the citizens to avoid walking or cycling in the India Gate or Kartavya Path area. In a media briefing, Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) SS Yadav said as India Gate-Kartavya Path has been "designated in the controlled zone", the Delhi Police appeals to people not to visit the area for "walking, cycling or picnicking" during the G20 Summit.

In its advisory, the traffic police has stated that traffic

congestion was expected in parts of the Capital due to the parade rehearsal ahead of the meeting of heads of the Governments and States of the intergovernmental forum G20 in New Delhi over the weekend and a march on Wednesday making the 40-day chehlum mourning.

The advisory said due to parade rehearsal and special traffic arrangements, some congestion is expected on Salimgarh Bypass, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Bhairon Marg, Bhairon Road-Ring Road, Mathura Road, C-Hexagon, Sardar Patel Marg and Gurgaon Road till 1 PM on Wednesday.

Police said the chehlum procession started from Pahari Bhojla with about 5,000 to 6,000 people around 8:30 am. Chehlum marks the 40-day mourning period of Imam Hussain, who was massacred along with his 72 companions and family members in the Battle of Karbala against an unjust ruler in modern-day Iraq in the seventh century. The march proceeded to



Dargah Shah-e-Mardan and later on to Jor Bagh via Bazar Chitli Qabar, Bazar Matia Mahal, Chowk Jama Masjid, Chowk Hauz Qazi, Ajmeri Gate, Pahar Ganj Bridge, Chelmsford Road and New Delhi Railway Station. The procession further moved to the Outer Circle Connaught Place (wrong carriageway), Sansad Marg, Patel Chowk, Sansad Marg, Rafi Marg, Rail Bhawan, Kartavya Path/Rafi Marg crossing, Sunehri Masjid, Sunehri Bagh Road, Krishna Menon Marg, Gol Methi, Tughlak Road, Aurobindo Marg, Jor Bagh Road and Lodhi Colony, leading to traffic snarls on the routes. Traffic was being regulated on 32 roads, including the ones on the Chehlum march route and Janpath, Baba Khadak Singh Marg, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Ashoka Road, Sansad Marg, and Barakhamba Road, according to the police. The police have also come out with an advisory for commuters during Janmashtami on Thursday. "No vehicles will be allowed on Mandir Marg from Talkatora Stadium towards Mandir Marg up to Peshwa Road-Mandir Marg T-point and vice-versa," the advisory stated.

Give befitting reply to slur on Dharma: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his first reaction to the outrage over insult to Sanatan Dharma across the nation, said on Wednesday that the remarks made by Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin "require a proper response."

His response comes after Udhayanidhi once again attempted to justify his "eradicate Sanatan Dharam" remarks by citing the omission of an invitation from the Centre to President Droupadi Murmu for the inauguration of the new Parliament in May.

While the DMK leader went on to label it as an example of discrimination by practitioners of Sanatana Dharma, an FIR was registered in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, against Udhayanidhi and Priyank Kharge, the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, for allegedly outraging religious feelings. Stalin was

booked for his call to eradicate Sanatan Dharma, and Priyank was booked for supporting his remark, the police said.

Modi, during an informal conversation with the Ministers during the Cabinet meeting, is understood to have raised the issue and stated that the Ministers should provide a fitting response to the "Sanatan Dharm" debate.

Modi asked his Ministerial colleagues to educate themselves adequately on the subject and present facts to counter the Opposition leaders in the Sanatan row, without allowing the India versus Bharat controversy to overshadow the Sanatan row, said sources. The Prime Minister mentioned that only party spokespersons should speak on the India versus Bharat issue.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, made a comment comparing Sanatan Dharm to dengue and malaria and suggesting it should be eradicated.

This comment has sparked a nationwide outrage, putting Udhayanidhi in the eye of the storm.

BJP leaders have questioned the Opposition alliance INDIA leaders whether it represents the collective opinion of the Opposition. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has stated that the "attack" on Sanatan Dharm is a deliberate strategy by the Opposition parties, led by the "ghamandia" alliance (INDIA).

Seeking to counter Stalin's accusation that President Murmu had not been invited to the recent inauguration of the new Parliament building, which he saw as a "discriminatory" practice of Sanatan, State BJP president K Annamalai wondered why the DMK did not vote for her. Murmu, belonging to a tribal community, was made the President and the first citizen of the country, which is Sanatan Dharm, the Tamil Nadu BJP chief added.

2 heavily armed ultras gunned down in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Indian army on Wednesday eliminated two heavily armed terrorists along the line of control in the Mandi area of Poonch.



According to the latest assessment of different security agencies including central intelligence agencies around one dozen foreign terrorists are active in the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Addressing a press conference in Rajouri on Wednesday Director General of Jammu and Kashmir police Dilbagh Singh told reporters, "There are 9-12 terrorists, the majority of whom are believed to be foreigners operating in Rajouri Poonch range."

Forces including police, army and CRPF for successful operations in the Rajouri-Poonch range, the DGP said that operations will continue to track down the remaining terrorists.

High-level body seeks applications for chairperson, members of Lokpal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level search committee has sought applications for posts of Chairperson and Members of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal, which has been working without a regular chief for over a year.



Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, a judicial member of Lokpal, is currently the acting Chairperson. The Lokpal is headed by a Chairperson and can have eight Members — four judicial and the rest non-judicial.

According to the Act, any person who is or has been a Chief Justice of India, a judge of the Supreme Court or an "eminent person" i.e. A person of impeccable integrity and outstanding ability having special knowledge and expertise of not less than 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking and law & management, are eligible for appointment as chairperson of Lokpal.

The Lokpal chief and its members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a selection committee headed by the Prime Minister with the speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lower House, the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him, and an eminent jurist as recommended by the chairperson and members of the selection panel, as its members.

Day after slamming term 'President of Bharat', Didi to attend G20 dinner

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after she slammed the Centre for writing "Bharat" and not "India" on a Presidential G20 dinner invitation card and attacked the BJP for trying to change everything including the country's historiography and history of national monuments, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's office on Wednesday said she would indeed be attending the dinner in Delhi.



According to sources at State secretariat Nabanna, the Chief Minister would fly off to Delhi on Saturday "to attend the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu."

and other scams are almost on the verge of being rapped up... where many of her senior leaders and even some of her family members may get arrested... in such a situation she needs an opportunity to hold the feet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which she cannot do in public... so she will use this opportunity to meet the BJP leaders and plead for her family's protection," said a CPI(M) leader and a former Minister.

People in UP, Bihar are illiterate: DMK leader

PNS ■ CHENNAI

The DMK's cup of woes continue unabated as a party spokesman courted more controversy on Wednesday with a statement which has potential inter-State ramifications.

He was responding to the "genocide call" given by Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of chief minister M K Stalin on Saturday while addressing a public meeting. "It is time we abolished and eradicated Sanatana Dharma from our society. It is more dangerous than Dengue, malaria and cholera," Stalin junior had told the audience.

BJP leader accused of rape, murder booked

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party's minorities unit was booked for allegedly raping a 17-year-old Dalit girl and killing her father in Maharajganj district.

Penal Code Sections 302 (murder), 354 (assault with intent to outrage her modesty), 452 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation). Charges under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act had also been invoked, Chauhan said.

NIA arrests absconding ISIS leader in Chennai, foils his bid to flee country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested the absconding leader of the ISIS Thrissur module from Chennai and foiled his plans to flee the country.



and arrested one Ashif alias Mathialakath Kodayil Ashraf from his hideout near Sathyamangalam, Tamil Nadu. The NIA, which had registered the case on July 11, 2023 based on credible information under various sections of the Indian Penal Code IPC and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, has found that the Thrissur-based IS module had been conspiring to commit terror acts in Kerala. It had been reconnoitering for this purpose, and had also been raising funds for furthering ISIS activities by committing a series of illegal activities, including dacoities, in the State, it said.

States and active recruitment of motivated youth who subscribe to its jihadist ideology. The NIA has cracked down on these modules in a big way and has arrested several IS members and cadres operating across States to thwart the proscribed organisation's terror agenda.

IMPORTANT NOTICE In part supersession to Public Notices published in various newspapers on 03.09.2023 & 04.09.2023 regarding Trains Handling Plan in view of G20 Summit 2023. The following corrigendum is issued as under:-

PUBLIC NOTICE Whereas, License No. 34-36 of 2007 dated 23.01.2007 (said License) was granted by the Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana (DTCPC) to M/s Maximal Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. & Others for development of Group Housing Colony; And whereas, M/s Parcela Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. has applied for grant of permission of Change in Beneficial Interest of area measuring 7.2431 acres (equivalent to 74,062.922 sqm FAR) (said area) under the said license to DTCPC, Haryana, Chandigarh;

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Kulwant Singh is the owner of Property bearing No. S-CI 26, area measuring 78 sq. yds., out of total area measuring 200 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 19/9 and 19/10, situated in the area of Village Koyalta, in the block of Vishnu Garden Extension, New Delhi-110018, vide GPA, ATS & Will dated 03.11.2009. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Cracked down against CPI(Maoist) leaders with raids across UP: NIA

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NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system. Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME I, Dishita Sehrawat, D/o Shri Pradeep Sehrawat, Resident of House No. 79, Pochanur Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110075 hereby declare that I shall be known and addressed as Dishita Sehrawat for all purpose.

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD DATIA Notice Inviting Tenders S.No. 2620 Date: 29.08.2023 Online bid are invited from registered contractors/reputed firms for the work of water Body Rejuvenation Work scheme under AMRUT 2.0 for Nagar Palika Parishad Datia.

Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 on Sept 25 With the emergence of drone technology in the country, the IAF is partnering with the Drone Federation of India to co-host the 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023'. The event to be held on September 25

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद दतिया (म.प्र.) Email : cmodatia@mpurban.gov.in दिनांक 28.08.2023 निविदा विज्ञापन सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु म.प्र. केन्द्रीयकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लोक निर्माण विभाग में सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

and 26 will be hosted at the IAF's airbase in Hindan (Ghaziabad), where the Indian drone industry shall give live aerial demonstrations. Giving details of the forthcoming event, IAF officials said here on Wednesday it will showcase the prowess of the Indian drone industry at full capacity hosting over 50+ live aerial demonstrations showcasing survey drones, agriculture drones, fire suppression drones, tactical surveillance drones, heavy-lift logistics drones, loitering munition systems, drone swarms, and counter-drone solutions and witness participation from more than 75 drone start-ups and corporates.



(Left to Right): Flags of countries participating in the G20 Summit in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ A youth clicks photographs of a woman in front of the G20 logo and decorations in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ A brightly lit Pragati Maidan ahead of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Metro services to start from 4 am on Summit days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Metro services will start from 4 am from terminal stations on all lines of the network on September 8, 9 and 10 in view of the G20 Summit in the national Capital.

This decision has been taken keeping in mind the convenience of citizens and the police personnel and other assisting agencies responsible for ensuring security, maintaining law and order, and managing traffic during the Summit, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said in a statement.

Parking facilities at Supreme Court, Patel Chowk and RK Ashram Marg Metro

Stations will be closed from 4 AM on September 8 till September 11 noon, the DMRC said.

The mega event is slated to be held from September 9 to 10 at the newly-built international convention and exhibition centre -- Bharat Mandapam -- at Pragati Maidan.

DMRC said the trains will run with a frequency of 30 minutes on all lines till 6 AM and after 6 AM, Metro trains will run according to the normal timetable throughout the day on all lines.

In a letter to the DMRC, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora had requested it to start train services from 4 AM on September 8, 9 and 10



so that security personnel could reach their duty posts in time.

The reporting time for staffers to reach G20 venues will be from 5 AM onwards, according to the letter. It stated that "as all of us are aware,

Delhi is hosting the prestigious G20 Summit on September 9 and 10. For the purpose, Delhi Police, in coordination with various stakeholders, has laid down elaborate security, law and order and traffic arrange-

ments involving about 40,000 personnel in all, which will come into full scale deployment from September 7 onwards."

Since arrangements at G20 venues -- International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) and Rajghat -- will begin early in the morning, the reporting time for staffers for these venues has been kept from 5 AM onwards, the letter said. "In view of traffic restrictions in the venue-affected areas, primarily NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council) and southwest district areas, being put in place, the police and other support staff will be greatly facilitated if the Metro services on September 8, 9 and 10 can begin from about 4

AM," it added.

"This will enable hassle free travel of staff and timely reporting at the two prime venues that is IECC/ITPO and Rajghat," it stated.

"May I request you to kindly consider the request from Delhi Police and make necessary arrangements accordingly, as a welfare measure for staff of Delhi Police and other assisting agencies, for the duration as mentioned above," Arora said in his letter.

Special Commissioner of Police (Transport Division) Nuzhat Hassan will be available for any clarification and detailing, as maybe required, for operationalising this request, it added.

Tight security for Janmashtami in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the G20 Summit around the corner, adequate security arrangements have been made in and around major temples in the national Capital for Janmashtami celebrations. Delhi Police also issued a traffic advisory for hassle-free visits to places of worship.

According to the advisory, restrictions will be in place around Laxminarayan Mandir. "No vehicles will be allowed on Mandir Marg from Talkatora Stadium towards Mandir Marg up to Peshwa Road -- Mandir Marg T-point and vice-versa," the advisory stated.

Similarly, no vehicle movement will be allowed on Mandir Lane from Shankar Road to Mandir Marg from 2 PM onwards, it said.

Buses and commercial vehicles are being diverted from different routes, namely, Panchkuian Road-Mandir Marg T-Point towards Mandir Marg, roundabout Gol Post Office and Kali Bari Marg-



Ranjan Dimri

Bhai Veer Singh Marg towards Kali Bari Marg, the advisory said.

Police said adequate traffic police personnel have been deployed to guide commuters about functional routes.

Traffic has also been diverted on routes where Mandir Samitis are scheduled to take out Janmashtami Shobha Yatras comprising raths, bands, floats, and temples in various areas of New Delhi. Parking is not allowed en route the processions.

"General public is advised to be mindful of possible congestion on roads leading to the temples and routes of the processions. There is a likelihood of general slowing down of traffic and congestion on roads," it said.

Flag marches, enhanced patrolling, picket checking by police to maintain order

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Flag marches, enhanced patrolling and picket checking are among the measures taken by the Delhi Police to maintain law and order in the national Capital for the G20 Summit. The G20 Leaders' Summit will be held in Delhi from September 9-10.

A senior police officer said they are conducting flag marches in their district every day. "Picket checking has been increased in the area and communication is being established with locals to give them a sense of confidence. Traffic arrangements have been put in place. The areas near Yamuna Khadar are being checked regularly. Mounted morchas have also been pressed into service," the officer said.

Apart from the local police, paramilitary personnel are also conducting flag marches. The forces continue to remain on high alert to thwart any untoward incident. The police have intensified patrolling and



Ranjan Dimri

deployed extra pickets at vital installations, the officials said. Thorough checking is being carried out at the borders. The police have warned of strict action against anyone trying to disrupt law and order in the national capital.

"Checking in the bordering areas has been intensified. Extra pickets are being installed in the borders. Drones are also being used for surveillance. Regular communication is being made with RWA (residents' welfare associations), MWA (market welfare associations) and Aman committee members," another senior officer said.

"Anti-terror measures are being used to sensitise the cit-

izens and they have been asked to inform the police if they find any suspicious activity," the officer said.

Earlier, the Delhi Police prohibited flying sub-conventional aerial platforms such as paragliders, hang gliders and hot air balloons in the national capital from August 29 to September 12 for security reasons. According to officials, police will be maintaining a hawk-eye vigil during the summit, with the assistance of over 50,000 personnel, K9 dog squads and mounted police.

"From the airport to hotels and from hotels to the venues for the G20 Summit, foreign delegates will be provided fool-proof security by the Delhi Police during the prestigious summit," a senior official said.

In order to strengthen the arrangements, the Delhi Police is also being assisted by the Indian Air Force and specialised central agencies like the National Security Guard (NSG) and some of the central armed police forces (CAPF).

Flights may be delayed due to VVIP movement at IGIA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Passengers flying to and from Delhi are likely to face some inconvenience between September 8 and 10, as flights will be affected due to heavy movement of VVIPs owing to the G20 Summit, likely causing delays in take-off and landing. Besides that, a number of flights, including some international operations, will be impacted during the Summit days. Several airlines including IndiGo, Vistara, and Air India announced a one-time waiver to passengers traveling to and from the national Capital between September 8 and 10 amid traffic restrictions.

According to sources, the biggest impact on flight movements will be on Friday, when dignitaries from various countries will fly into the city, and on Sunday, when they will depart from IGI Airport. The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has "formed a team of senior officials who will monitor G20 arrival and depart-



operations to ensure the best experience for the arriving delegates.

IndiGo on Wednesday announced one-time waivers for people flying to or from the city on its flights. The offer will be valid for four days, from September 8 to 11, the country's largest airline, headquartered in the neighbouring tech hub of Gurugram, said. "Due to the G20 Summit 2023 taking place in New Delhi, IndiGo is offering one-time waiver to passengers travelling to and from Delhi between September 8 to 11, 2023. Customers are being offered the option of rescheduling or cancelling their flights with refunds. Passengers have been notified about flight cancellations and to schedule

changes in advance. In case of any further queries, passengers are requested to contact our customer care numbers at 0124 6173838, or 0124 4973838," it said.

Earlier, Air India has announced that passengers holding confirmed tickets to and from Delhi between September 7 and 11 will be given a one-time waiver of applicable charges.

"There will be traffic restrictions in Delhi between 7th and 11th September 2023. As a measure of goodwill, passengers holding confirmed tickets to fly to or from Delhi on these dates are being offered a one-time waiver of applicable charges, if they wish to change their date of travel or their flight. Only the fare difference for the rescheduled flight, if any, would be applicable," Air India wrote in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

One of the officials said that around 120 flights are likely to be impacted during the September 8-10 period.

Govt has finished all preparations to welcome G20 delegates: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Arvind Kejriwal Government has completed all preparations for the upcoming G20 summit, and Delhi is now fully prepared to welcome delegates from around the world.

Stating this here on Wednesday, PWD Minister Atishi and Urban Development Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said, Delhi's revamped infrastructure will leave a lasting impression, and the MCD, PWD, Kejriwal government- all have collectively worked towards the beautification and remodelling of a number of roads in Delhi.

Atishi said "I am pleased to share that all preparations to welcome the G20 summit guests in Delhi have been completed. It is a matter of pride for our country that heads of state from various nations will be attending the G20 summit in India. The government is confident that Delhi will undoubtedly leave a long-lasting impression on these esteemed delegates."

She further mentioned that G20 preparations have been in progress for several years, with multiple agencies and governments working together to give Delhi a remarkable makeover for the summit. She commended the central government, saying, "The central government has constructed the magnificent ITPO complex in the past 4-5 years, where the



G20 summit will take place. It is now ready to welcome guests from various nations."

She added that besides road development, extensive beautification work has been carried out by the Delhi Government, including the installation of 31 statues and 90 fountains on PWD roads, planting 1.65 lakh plants for G20 preparation, and the installation of decorative lighting among others.

Providing additional details on G20 preparations undertaken by the Delhi Government and MCD, Bharadwaj remarked, "In conjunction with the Delhi Government, the MCD has also worked tirelessly to ready Delhi for the G20 summit. The major works done for G20 are primarily under the jurisdiction of either PWD or MCD."

He emphasized that both agencies have been working tirelessly for several months to prepare Delhi for the G20 summit. The MCD has rejuvenated various markets in Delhi, including South Extension Market Part 1-2, Lajpat Nagar Market, PVR Anupam Cinema Market, Saket, RK Puram, and Char Minar Park-Mahipalpur area.

5 Govt Hospitals, 80 medical teams on standby for G20

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday said 80 teams of medical personnel, 130 ambulances, and Advanced Life Support (ALS) teams to escort VVIP caravades will be deployed as part of preparations to handle medical emergencies during the G20 Summit. Besides these, five Government hospitals and three private medical facilities have been put on "high alert" in view of the summit, officials said.

During a press conference on Wednesday, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the city Government has extended all support to the Centre and has made all the arrangements. "The advanced life support system will accompany all caravades. It will have senior resident (doctors) to address any medical emergencies," he said. The officials said the health department has formed 80 teams of doctors and nursing staff to attend to medical issues and emergencies at hotels. Of these, 75 teams will work in shifts, they said. There will be 70 advanced and 60 well-equipped ambulances for the event, the officials added.

The five Government hospitals that have been put on "high alert" are Lok Nayak Hospital, GB Pant Hospital, GTB Hospital, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital,



while the private ones are Primus Hospital-Chanakypuri, Max Hospital-Saket and Manipal Hospital-Dwarka, they said.

The private hospitals have been selected by taking into account their proximity to the hotels where guests would be staying, the officials said.

A state-of-the-art medical emergency facility with ICU services has also been set up within the premises of the Bharat Mandapam. Sources added that adequate arrangements have also been made at the Ram Mahohar Lohia Hospital and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in view of the Summit.

The officials said other Government and private hospitals have also been directed to make arrangements to deal with any emergency.

The Delhi Police has also made arrangements to provide assistance to medical emergency vehicles. An Ambulance Assistance Control Room will be operational from the intervening night of September 7 and September 8 to September 11 on the number 6828400604 and 112, according to a senior official.

LG OKs allotment of gram sabha land for school, afforestation in Badarpur Khadar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the allotment of gram sabha land in Badarpur Khadar village for the construction of a school, installation of a water treatment plant and compensatory afforestation.

The LG has also directed the Revenue department to expedite drafting of a uniform policy for inter-departmental land allotment, as was directed to it 10 months ago, according to a note from the LG office.

In a major boost to school and water infrastructure as also afforestation requirements in the city, the LG has approved allotment of 220 acres of gram sabha land in Badarpur Khadar village in northeast Delhi district to Education department, Delhi Jal Board and Environment department, it said. Saxena has directed the Revenue department to allot the land to the departments concerned free of cost on a 99-year lease, it said.

North East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari had in March this year written to the LG requesting for land allotment to construct a school and stadium in his constituency.

According to a proposal, 12.39 acre land will be allotted to the Education department for construction of a government school for the village and another 32 acres of land will be retained for future development needs of the village.

The DJB will be allotted 0.12 acre of land each from two separate khasras (revenue document) for installation of RO water plant.

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Not blacklisting Pak is doublespeak: India

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI / UNITED NATIONS

As China has repeatedly thwarted moves in the United Nations (UN) to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists, India has told the UN Security Council (UNSC) that blocking evidence-based proposals for blacklisting globally sanctioned terrorists without giving justifications is uncalled for and "smacks of doublespeak."

Making this assertion in a thinly-veiled reference to China and Pakistan, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said late Tuesday in the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee...



Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Security Council, speaks during a meeting of the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

UN Security Council to designate Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Sajid Mir, wanted for his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks, as a global terrorist. Kamboj highlighted that India, an eight-term elected member of the UNSC, has some key concerns about the need to improve the working methods of the Security Council.

"What we... need is a Security Council that better reflects the geographical and developmental diversity of the United Nations today. A Security Council where voices of developing countries and unrepresented regions, including Africa, Latin America and the vast majority of Asia and Pacific, find their due place at this horseshoe table," she said.

India, the world's most populous nation, underscored that an expansion of the Council in both categories of membership is absolutely essential.

"This is the only way to bring the Council's composition and decision-making dynamics in line with contemporary geopolitical realities," Kamboj said.

She added that the international community can no longer hide behind the smokescreen of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) in the General Assembly and continue to pay lip service by continuing to deliver statements in a process that has no time frame, no text and no defined goal to achieve.

Bharat mentioned in Constitution: Jaishankar amid war of words

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Amidst ongoing war of words between the ruling BJP and the opposition following Rashtrapati Bhawan sending out invitations for a G20 dinner on September 9 on behalf of 'President of Bharat', External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India that is Bharat is mentioned in the Constitution. In an exclusive interview with ANI, the minister said the connotation of the word 'Bharat' is also reflected in the Constitution. "India that is Bharat, it is there in the Constitution. Please, I would invite everybody to read it," Jaishankar said.

The minister was asked about the opposition parties' reaction and if the government is going to reposition India as Bharat coinciding with the G20 summit. "Look when you say Bharat in a sense, a meaning and understanding and a connotation that comes with it

and that is reflected in our Constitution as well," he said.

Opposition parties have alleged that the government was resorting to "drama" just because they got together and called their bloc as INDIA.

BJP leaders have strongly supported the move by the government. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan posted on X a picture of the dinner invite to him from the President and wrote a few lines from the national anthem.

"This should have happened earlier. This gives great satisfaction to the mind. 'Bharat' is our introduction. We are proud of it. The President has given priority to 'Bharat'. This is the biggest statement to come out of the colonial mindset," the minister told ANI.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh made a series of posts on the issue. "So the news is indeed true. Rashtrapati Bhawan has sent out an invite for a G20 dinner on September 9th in the name of 'President of Bharat' instead of the usual 'President of India'.

Now, Article 1 in the Constitution can read: 'Bharat, that was India, shall be a Union of States.' But now even this 'Union of States' is under assault," he said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The Congress leader charged the Modi government of trying to distort history and said 'BHARAT' is objective of INDIA parties. "It is BHARAT-Bring Harmony, Amity, Reconciliation And Trust. Judega BHARAT Jeetega INDIA!," Jairam Ramesh said.

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- THE TERMINAL OF TRAIN NO. 14309 LAXMIBAI NAGAR-DEHRADUN EXPRESS WILL BE CHANGED TO YOG NAGRI RISHIKESH INSTEAD OF DEHRADUN FROM THE DATE MENTIONED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE
- BOTH ORIGINATING AND TERMINATING STATIONS OF TRAIN NO. 14317/14318 INDORE-DEHRADUN-INDORE EXPRESS WILL BE CHANGED TO LAXMIBAI NAGAR-YOG NAGRI RISHIKESH-LAXMIBAI NAGAR FROM THE DATES SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE
- CONSEQUENTLY THE TIMINGS OF THESE TRAIN SERVICES WILL ALSO BE CHANGED AS UNDER:-

STATIONS	Existing		Revised	
	Train No. 14309 Laxmibai Nagar-Dehradun Exp.		Train No. 14309 Laxmibai Nagar-Yog Nagri Rishikesh Exp.	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
Lakshmbai nagar	---	18:40	---	15:25
Dewas	19:22	19:24	15:50	15:52
Ujjain Jn.	20:40	20:55	16:55	17:20
Maksi Jn.	21:48	21:50	18:45	18:50
Shajapur	22:15	22:17	19:15	19:17
Pachor road	22:58	23:00	19:58	20:00
Biyavra rajgarh	23:25	23:27	20:24	20:26
Khumbharaj	00:18	00:20	21:12	21:14
Ruthiyai Jn.	00:58	01:00	21:53	21:55
Guna	01:40	01:50	22:30	22:40
Shivpuri	03:03	03:05	23:54	23:56
Gwalior	06:10	06:15	03:05	03:10
Morena	06:52	06:54	03:28	03:30
Dhaulpur	07:45	07:47	04:33	04:35
Agra Cantt.	08:20	08:25	05:55	06:00
Mathura Jn.	09:00	09:05	06:45	06:50
Kosi Kalan	09:31	09:33	07:22	07:24
Faridabad	10:53	10:55	09:00	09:02
H. Nizamuddin Jn.	11:25	11:40	09:35	09:50
Ghaziabad	12:18	12:20	10:23	10:25
Meerut City	13:02	13:04	11:09	11:11
Deoband	14:05	14:07	12:08	12:10
Saharanpur Jn.	15:00	15:25	13:20	13:55
Roorkee	15:57	15:59	14:47	14:49
Haridwar	16:40	16:45	16:10	16:20
Yog Nagri Rishikesh	---	---	18:45	---
Dehradun	19:45	---	---	---

STATIONS	Existing		Revised	
	Train No. 14310 Dehradun-Laxmibai Nagar Exp.		Train No. 14310 Yog Nagri Rishikesh-Laxmibai Nagar Exp.	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
Dehradun	---	05:50	---	---
Yog Nagri Rishikesh	---	---	---	06:15
Haridwar	07:35	07:45	07:35	07:45
No time change between Haridwar & Laxmibai Nagar Stations				
Laxmibai nagar	06:05	---	06:05	---

STATIONS	Existing		Revised	
	Train No. 14317 Indore Jn.-Dehradun Exp.		Train No. 14317 Laxmibai Nagar-Yog Nagri Rishikesh Exp.	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
Indore Jn.	---	18:40	---	---
Laxmibai nagar	---	---	---	15:25
Dewas	19:22	19:24	15:50	15:52
Ujjain Jn.	20:40	20:55	16:55	17:20
Maksi Jn.	21:48	21:50	18:45	18:50
Shajapur	22:15	22:17	19:15	19:17
Pachor road	22:58	23:00	19:58	20:00
Biyavra rajgarh	23:25	23:27	20:24	20:26
Chachura Binagani	23:56	23:58	20:53	20:55
Ruthiyai Jn.	00:58	01:00	21:53	21:55
Guna	01:40	01:50	22:30	22:40
Kolaras	02:46	02:48	23:34	23:36
Shivpuri	03:03	03:05	23:54	23:56
Gwalior	06:10	06:15	03:05	03:10
Morena	06:52	06:54	03:28	03:30
Dhaulpur	07:45	07:47	04:33	04:35
Agra Cantt.	08:20	08:25	05:55	06:00
Mathura Jn.	09:00	09:05	06:45	06:50
Faridabad	10:53	10:55	09:00	09:02
H. Nizamuddin Jn.	11:25	11:40	09:35	09:50
Ghaziabad	12:18	12:20	10:23	10:25
Modi Nagar	12:42	12:44	10:49	10:51
Meerut City	13:02	13:04	11:09	11:11
Deoband	14:05	14:07	12:08	12:10
Saharanpur Jn.	15:00	15:25	13:20	13:55
Roorkee	15:57	15:59	14:47	14:49
Haridwar	16:40	16:45	16:10	16:20
Yog Nagri Rishikesh	---	---	18:45	---
Dehradun	19:45	---	---	---

Change in origin of train no. 14318 Dehradun-Laxmibai Nagar Express to Yog Nagri Rishikesh-Laxmibai Nagar Express from Yog Nagri Rishikesh w.e.f. 05.01.2024

STATIONS	Existing		Revised	
	Train No. 14318 Dehradun-Indore Exp.		Train No. 14318 Yog Nagri Rishikesh-Laxmibai Nagar Exp.	
	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	Departure
Dehradun	---	05:50	---	---
Yog Nagri Rishikesh	---	---	---	06:15
Haridwar	07:35	07:45	07:35	07:45
No time change between Haridwar & Laxmibai Nagar Stations				
Laxmibai nagar	---	---	06:05	---
Indore Jn.	06:10	---	---	---

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Extremism unacceptable: Sunak on Khalistani op

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Allying India's concerns over activities of pro-Khalistani elements in the UK, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak asserted on Wednesday that no form of extremism is acceptable, adding that the right to hold lawful protest does not extend to violent or threatening behaviour.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Sunak said he takes the duty of the government to disrupt and counter violent, divisive ideologies, whatever they may be, very seriously.

"We are working closely with our partners in the Indian government to tackle the threat from pro-Khalistan extremism and the British police are fully empowered to deal with violent acts," he said, replying to a question on the issue.

There is a view in Delhi that the Khalistani issue is a stumbling block in deeper India-UK ties.

Sunak also referred to a meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and UK's Security Minister Tom Tugendhat last month that was focused on addressing the threat of extremism and corruption. "In August, the UK's Security Minister met Minister Jaishankar in New

Delhi to develop our shared work addressing the threat of extremism and corruption," Sunak said.

"During that visit he announced new funding to enhance the UK's capability to tackle pro-Khalistan extremism. The Rs 1 crore investment will strengthen our understanding of the threat posed by pro-Khalistan extremism and complement the joint work already underway between the UK and India," he said.

"UK citizens enjoy the right to gather lawfully and demonstrate a point of view, but rights to lawful protest do not extend to violent or threatening behaviour," the British prime minister said.

In March, India reacted angrily after pro-Khalistan elements attacked the Indian High Commission in London and pulled down the national flag from a pole at the front of the building.

The India-UK relationship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the India-UK virtual summit held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his then British counterpart Boris Johnson in May 2021.

Leaders' absence from Summits common: EAM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

sen not to come themselves. But that country and its position is reflected by whoever is the representative on that occasion...I think everybody is coming with a great deal of seriousness," said Jaishankar, adding Jingping's decision to skip the summit has nothing to do with India. The Chinese delegation will be led by Premier Li Qiang.

Leaders from the world's top economies will be arriving in India on Friday for a two-day G20 summit. The G20 consists of 19 countries and the European Union, making up about 85 per cent of the global GDP and two-thirds of the world's population.

The September 9-10 summit of leaders of the world's richest countries is being held in the context of a "very turbulent" global environment and expectations from the G20 to find solutions to some of the world's pressing problems are "very high", Jaishankar told the ANI news agency.

Sherpas, or country representatives, of the G20 members are negotiating to build a consensus and arrive at a declaration at the summit in New Delhi, Jaishankar said in the interview. Jaishankar also played down a threat from his Russian counterpart that Russia will block the summit's final declaration unless it reflects Moscow's position on Ukraine and other crises.

Jaishankar said countries try to maximise their negotiating positions and people should not "prejudge" the outcome. "I am confident that every one of the G20 coming to Delhi will understand the responsibility that they bear...that the other 180 countries of the world are looking to them to set directions and that they cannot afford to fail them."

With Chinese President Xi Jinping not attending the G20 summit here, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said its position will be reflected by the representative present at the annual meeting.

Making this assertion in an interview with news agency ANI, Jaishankar said the absence of the heads of state at G20 Summit is not new and at different points in time there have been some Presidents or Prime Ministers who have chosen not to come.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is also not coming for the mega event. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will represent his country at the high-profile event.

"I think, at different points of time in G20 there have been some Presidents or PMs who, for whatever reason, have chosen not to come themselves. But that country and its position is reflected by whoever is the representative on that occasion...I think everybody is coming with a great deal of seriousness," said Jaishankar, adding Jingping's decision to skip the summit has nothing to do with India. The Chinese delegation will be led by Premier Li Qiang.

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SC nixes notification for Ladakh Hill Council polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside the August 5 notification of the election department of the Union Territory of Ladakh for the Hill Council polls and ordered issuance of a fresh election schedule within a week.

Holding that the National Conference is entitled to the 'plough' symbol, a Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Ahsanuddin Amanullah also dismissed the plea by the Ladakh administration opposing the allotment of the symbol to the party and imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on it.

The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court had dismissed the Ladakh administration's plea against a single Bench order allowing NC candidates to contest the upcoming polls for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil, on the party symbol.

The Ladakh administration had approached a division Bench of the High Court against the single Bench order of August 9 which directed the National Conference to approach the office of the election department of the administration of Ladakh to notify the reserved symbol 'plough' already allotted to it for in the polls. According to a notification issued by the election department on August 5, the polling for 26 seats of the 30-member LAHDC, Kargil, is scheduled for September 10 and the counting of votes will take place four days later. The apex court had on September 1 reserved its verdict on a plea by the National Conference challenging the denial of 'plough' symbol to its candidates for the LAHDC polls.

Earlier, the Bench had termed as unfair the act of the UT administration of not granting the 'plough' poll symbol to the party for the hill council elections despite the order of the High Court. "It is unfair... We will set aside the election schedule if need arises," the bench had observed on August 25 while hearing the appeal of the Union Territory of Ladakh against the order of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court. It had earlier refused to stay the High Court order on allotting the 'plough' poll symbol to the party.

Yogi briefs Modi on Ram temple work

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, is understood to have given him a presentation on the ongoing construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and developmental work underway in and around the city.

According to sources, the Prime Minister was briefed on the infrastructure development projects that are currently underway, and those which are expected to be completed by January 2024 before the inauguration of the temple.

It has been learnt that the Prime Minister, during the

presentation on the development projects of Ayodhya, also provided some suggestions.

A discussion was also held on the events that would be organised during the inauguration ceremony of the Ram Temple. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister shared a photograph on X, while thanking PM Modi for his guidance.

"Your invaluable guidance gives strength to 'New Uttar Pradesh' to play an important role in the achievement of the resolution of 'Developed India @ 2047'. Thank you very much for taking the valuable time out of your busy schedule," Adityanath wrote on X.

Ayodhya District Magistrate Nitish Kumar and Divisional Commissioner Gaurav Dayal were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, PM Modi is leant to have also sought details about land availability with the government.

He also suggested Adityanath to increase and upgrade all other necessary public infrastructure and public utility facilities including parking of vehicles, in view of the number of devotees visiting Ayodhya in future.

Setting up of a Temple Museum was also discussed between the two, sources said.

SPG chief passes away

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Special Protection Group (SPG) Director Arun Kumar Sinha (61) passed away at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram on Wednesday. Sinha was admitted to hospital a few days ago for cancer related treatment. A 1987 batch Kerala cadre IPS officer, Sinha was granted a one-year extension in service on May 31.

Sinha, who was designated to serve as the head of the SPG "on contract basis" till May 31, 2024, in the rank and pay of Director General of Police, had been appointed SPG chief in March 2016 as its 12th director.

Condoling his death, the Indian Police Service (IPS)

association said, "Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the loss of Arun Kumar Sinha, (IPS 1987 KL) Director SPG. His unwavering commitment to duty and exemplary leadership will forever inspire us."

"We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May his soul find eternal peace," it said in a post on X. Sinha had earlier served in various capacities in his cadre state Kerala and with the BSF at the Centre.

Orders reserved on police closure of minor wrestler's complaint against Brij

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court will pass its order on October 6 on whether to accept Delhi Police's closure report in a sexual harassment complaint filed by a minor wrestler against former WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Additional Sessions Judge Chhavi Kapoor, who was scheduled to pass the order on Wednesday, adjourned the matter saying the order was not ready. Delhi Police had on June 15 filed a report before the court seeking cancellation of case by the minor wrestler.

Meanwhile another court granted wrestler Bajrang Punia exemption from personal appearance for the day in a criminal defamation complaint filed against him by wrestling coach Naresh Dahiya. Metropolitan Magistrate Yashdeep Chahal, who had summoned Punia before the court on Wednesday, granted him the relief after his lawyer sought exemption on medical ground, claiming the wrestler was unable to appear since he was suffering from fever.

SC breather for Editors Guild members

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to four members of the Editors Guild of India (EGI), the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Manipur police not to take any coercive steps against them till September 11 in connection with two FIRs lodged for offences including promoting enmity between two communities. "Till next date of listing, no coercive step shall be taken against the (four) petitioners in connection with the FIRs..." a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra ordered after a brief hearing.

However, the bench later kept the case to itself after hearing senior advocate Shyam Divan who appeared for the journalists' body. Giving details of the case, Divan said the Editors Guild had prepared a report after sending three of its

members to the ground in Manipur. "They (EGI members) went there for four days between August 7 and August 10, 2023 and they published a report. The report is dated September 2, 2023 and there was a small error in the report which was corrected immediately on September 3," he said.

The senior lawyer said two FIRs were lodged on the basis of the report alleging that "incorrect and false statements" have been made in it which provokes enmity. "This is why we are here and we are very seriously apprehending that this kind of coercive machinery may act against us," he said.

The top court also sought the response of the state government on the plea filed by the Guild and fixed the matter for hearing on Monday. Initially, the bench was of the view that it will protect the EGI members against possible coercive State action for a limited period and, in the meantime, they can move the Manipur High Court for relief.

India Summit. I look forward to discussing with ASEAN leaders the future contours of our partnership, which has now entered its fourth decade. Engagement with ASEAN is an important pillar of India's 'Act East' policy.

"The Comprehensive Strategic Partnership entered into last year has injected new dynamism in our ties. Thereafter, I will be attending the 18th East Asia Summit. This forum provides a useful opportunity to deliberate on issues of importance to the region including food and energy security, environment, health, and digital transformation.

"I look forward to exchanging views with other EAS Leaders on practical cooperation measures to collectively address these global challenges.

"I warmly recall my visit to Indonesia for the G-20 Summit in Bali last year, and I am confident that this visit will further deepen our engagement with the ASEAN region."

PM leaves for ASEAN-India Summit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Jakarta on Wednesday evening to attend the 20th Association of South East Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit (EAS). He will return home on Thursday evening. His visit to Indonesia comes ahead of the G20 Summit here on September 9-10.

In his departure statement, Modi said "My first engagement will be the 20th ASEAN-

UP on top in loan disbursement to street vendors: SUDA Director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Director of State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) Anil Kumar said that UP is on the top in the disbursement of loans under the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi) Yojana as the state has given the maximum of 14.92 lakh loans (25.20 per cent) out of a total 59.21 lakh loans (first, second, third installments) distributed in the country. He was speaking at the second session of Northern Zone Conference of PM SVANidhi Yojana here on Tuesday.



A speaker addressing a session at North Zone Conference of SVANidhi Yojana in Varanasi on Tuesday.

He further informed that the total loans of Rs 2,035 crore have been disbursed in the state so far. As against the target of 12.30 lakh first installment loan disbursement set for the state, 11.17 lakh (90.80 per cent) loans have been dis-

bursed. Besides, 3.55 lakh loans have been distributed as second installment, while 0.521 lakh as third installment. Under the scheme, street vendors and traders are given a loan of Rs 10,000 in the first, Rs 20,000 in the second and Rs 50,000 in the

third installment, he added. According to SUDA Director, the vendors and their family members are being benefited from eight central schemes under SVANidhi Se Samridhhi Programme. "A total of 49.04 lakh vendors and their

family members have been linked to the schemes in the country, in which 21.71 lakh vendors have been benefited by UP, which is about 45 per cent of the country's achievement," he added. While attending the session, the progress of UP under the SVANidhi Yojana was appreciated by Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad and Joint Secretary of the Finance Ministry Bhushan Kumar and they expressed hope that UP would maintain its performance in future also. At the end of the zonal conference, Anil Kumar proposed the vote of thanks. Earlier, in the first session of the North Zone Conference, the progress of the SVANidhi Yojana was presented by the representatives of Uttarakhand and Delhi states. The officers and representatives of banks were also present in these sessions.

Krishna Janmashtami celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Shri Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated with all religious fervour and traditional gaiety at some places mainly in educational institutions here on Wednesday. Due to confusions over the dates of this famous festival, at several places the festival will be celebrated on Thursday. However, the festival was celebrated with all religious fervour in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) where Shri Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated with grandeur at different places.



Children presenting a programme on Krishna Janmashtami at a school in Varanasi on Wednesday.

The festival programme began with Dahi Handi around 3 pm at Dr Bhagwan Das Hostel, followed by Krishna Pujan in the evening. Attractive Jhanki was decorated and a Sangeet programme was also organised there which was attended by senior teachers and a good number of hostel inmates. Shri Krishna Janmashtami was also celebrated at Malviya Bhawan at 5 pm and Swasti Kunj Hostel, Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV) at 7 pm and both the functions were attended by several senior university officers apart from a good number of faculty members and students. The festival was celebrated in a grand manner at Triveni Sankul in which there are several hostels for girls. The entire complex glittered with attractive lighting arrangements and tableaux

were decorated attractively. At Seth MR Jaipuria School at Babatpur, the festival was also celebrated with all enthusiasm. On the occasion, the school students were apprised in detail about the character of Lord Krishna. The children also presented attractive cultural programmes. A special tableau was decorated in the school premises during its two-day festival. The hostel inmates organised a special programme in the evening session. Besides, fancy dress competition was also organised in which all the children participated enthusiastically.

Among the children, Shikhar, Himaira, Krishna, Abdulla, Priyanshi, Soni, Kiyansh Pandey etc assumed the attractive forms of Krishna and Radha in an adorable manner. The School Chairman Deepak Kumar Bajaj said that by taking inspiration from the glorious character of Lord Krishna, the children of the new generation can bring a lot of progress and success in their lives. "Every child has immense talent like Krishna, all that is needed is to nurture and encourage them," he said. Principal Sudha Singh gave gifts and certificates as encouragement to the children participating in the programme.

On the occasion, Managing Director Manoj Kumar Bajaj, Executive Director Shyam Sundar Bajaj, Director Anil K. Jajodia, Ayushman Bajaj, Academic Manager Narendra Pandey and others were also present. The festival was also celebrated at RS World School where the children were seen in attractive dresses. They won the hearts of all by appearing in Radha Krishna forms. Attractive tableaux were also decorated and children presented Dahi Handi and Krishna Leela programmes. The mood of the children was changed in Matki Phod programme. Vice Chairman Ayush Jaiswal encouraged the children highlighting the teaching of Lord Krishna.

One lakh fingers of 'Chitala' fish released into Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For the first time in the country, the river ranching programme of fish was organised in Varanasi under which one lakh fingers of State Fish 'Chitala' was released into Ganga at Sant Ravidas Ghat here. The aim of river ranching of Chitala fish is to strengthen the ecosystem of the rivers, make the river free from pollution and double the income of fish farmers.



Guests releasing fingers of Chitala fish at a programme of river ranching of State Fish 'Chitala' held at Sant Ravidas Ghat in Varanasi on Tuesday.

The Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Parushottam Rupala released one lakh fingers of Chitala fish into river Ganga at a programme held at Sant Ravidas Ghat here on Tuesday with an aim to strengthen the ecosystem of the rivers, make the river free from pollution and double the income of fish farmers. The Union Minister Rupala along with the UP Minister for Fisheries Dr Sanjay Kumar Nishad also distributed symbolic cheque of Kisan Credit Cards to some beneficiaries besides distributing the certificate of fishermen accident insurance scheme, seeds and fish parlor. Speaking on the occasion, Rupala said that Chitala fish is on the verge of extinction and so, the Department of Fisheries has entered into an MoU with NBFGF under the Chitala Enrichment Project for its breeding and under this, with the help of the Bureau, the Chitala fish is being rehabilitated in the reservoirs through river ranching. The government has started a special scheme to promote this fish in the main rivers

of the state and in the ponds through fishermen, he added. Divulging the details about the scheme of Fisheries department, the UP Minister for Fisheries Dr Nishad informed that the state government has launched Nishad Raj Boat Subsidy Yojana and the projects of over Rs 1000 crore are active or under construction in the state under Pradhan Mantri Matsy Sampada Yojana. With an aim of increasing the income of farmers and providing self-employment opportunities, two projects are being run by the state government under the Chief Minister

Matsya Sampada Yojana for the investment in Gram Sabha and other leased ponds and establishment of a fish seed bank in which first year investment in improved Gram Sabha and other lease ponds and establishment of fish seed banks in improved Gram Sabha and other lease ponds are important, he added. The Director, Fisheries Prashant Sharma said that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has included the Chitala fish in the category of near threatened and the government has decided to organise the river ranching pro-

gramme for its preservation and promotion and added that with the river ranching of Chitala, the number of this state fish would increase in the rivers which would help in maintaining the ecosystem in the rivers, it would double the income of fish farmers. The certificates of Kisan Credit Card, PM and CM Matsya Sampada Yojana and Fishermen Accident Insurance Scheme were also distributed to the beneficiaries besides handing over the keys of fish parlors and releasing the booklet of schemes run by the Fisheries department.

Markets decked up for Janmashtami

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Markets are all decked up for the celebration of Janmashtami. Markets are seen flooded with colourful idols of Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna. From bronze to white metal and wood, there are idols in various sizes. Arun, a shopkeeper in Civil Lines market, who has decked up his shop for the festival said that here are decorative items to suit every budget- from Rs 10 to Rs 1,000 available in the market.

Moreover, even the small clothes for 'Laddoo Gopal' are in great demand. "Embellished attires for Laddoo Gopal is a new item for this year. This dress costs from Rs 500 to Rs 10,000 for all sizes. Embroidered clothes and attractive toran are a popular festival decorative." Moreover, authorities of city-based Radha-Krishna temples have also completed their preparations for the festival.

Apart from decorating temple premises with special light and sound effect, they have focussed on special designer dresses being brought from Mathura and Vrindavan. The cost of these dress ranges from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,00,000. The management of temples have also arranged 'bhajan sandhya', prasad distribution, light and sound show etc in the premises.

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of NCR HS Upadhyay said these changes have been made for just three days (September 8 to 10) and passengers are requested to kindly take note of these changes and attentively hear the announcements made at the railway stations.

G20 summit: Changes in terminating & originating stns of many trains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In view of the G20 summit in the national capital, the Indian Railways has made changes in the terminating and originating stations of more than 50 important trains operating on Delhi-Howrah route under NCR for three days between September 8 and 10.

Around 100 more trains in NR will remain cancelled on September 9 and 10. The G20 Summit is being held in Delhi from September 9 to 10. There are preparations to stop trains at other stations instead of Delhi. The Railways have banned all types of parcel booking etc from September 8 to 10.

During this period there will be no booking of parcels from any railway station, including Prayagraj Junction of North Central Railway for New Delhi, Delhi Junction, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar Terminal, Delhi Sarai Rohilla station nor will any parcel arrive from these stations.

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Medical store manager killed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a sensational incident, a medical store manager Pawan Kumar was killed by unidentified goons in Manda area. His body was found lying in a field. There were bruises at many places on his body and an injection was found nearby. Pawan Kumar Bharti (38) of Deori Kala under Karchana police station used to run a medical store in Katka. When he did not reach home till 9 pm his family started worried. When they called on Pawan's mobile, his friend picked up and said that he was leaving in a while. Pawan's mobile got switched off at 10 pm. The fam-

ily started worrying when the mobile got switched off. They rang up to all the relatives and asked if Pawan had stayed anywhere. In the written complaint given at the Meja police station in the morning a young man from nearby Antahiya village arrived with Pawan's bike. He was accompanied by another young man and said that Pawan took his bike and went to take medicine with Sanjay Sharma. His brother's body was found lying in the field adjacent to Prayagraj-Mirzapur highway near Bhadari village. The police sent the body for the post-

mortem. The police have found a diary and a syringe lid. Blood marks were found on the left side and in the leg. The rest of the body looked fine. After an FIR against unidentified miscreants on the basis of written complaint police are now searching for the killers. On information Manda SHO Sanjay Sandhu, sub-inspector Subhash Yadav arrived. After this, Subhash Yadav informed Meja Police Station incharge Rajesh Upadhyay. Meanwhile two students of class XII of a school located in Civil Lines were attacked with

a knife allegedly by some other students here on Wednesday afternoon. Among the injured are Rishi Soni (17) of Sangam Vihar Colony and Karthikeya Gupta (17) of Civil Lines. The injured are undergoing treatment at SRN Hospital. Rishi Soni told the police that he received a call from an unknown number and the caller called him outside. When he went out with his two friends, five to six boys attacked him with a knife after which they escaped from there. One of them met with an accident while running and is undergoing treatment. He has not yet been able to divulge the name of his other colleagues.

Man killed in road mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A man was killed while his wife sustained serious injuries when the two-wheeler on which they were travelling was hit by a speeding dumper near Dandi trisecton under the Naini police station in trans-Yamuna pocket on Tuesday. The deceased Niranjana Chaudhary was a resident of Dandi road. His wife Reena Devi was admitted to the SRN hospital where her condition

was stated to be critical. The police said the incident took place around 10:30 pm when the couple was returning home from their relative's house in Naini. An FIR has been lodged in this connection and a manhunt was on for absconding dumper driver. The body has been sent for the post-mortem. CELEBRATED: The Bharat Vikas Parishad Prayagraj, Allahabad Inter

College and Allahabad Vidya Niketan jointly celebrated Teachers' Day to felicitate teachers and boost the morale of meritorious students. The programme 'Guru Vandana-Chhatra Abhinandan' was held at Allahabad Inter College. Principal of Allahabad Inter College Dr Manju Singh, lecturer Dr Jay Prakash Sharma and Anil Kumar were felicitated. Headmistress of Allahabad Vidya Niketan Twinkle

Agrawal besides teachers Mala Seth and S Anjula Agrawal were also honoured. The topper students from standard I to XII were given merit certificates besides books as gifts. Former vice-chancellor of Purvanchal University and Rewa University Prof Piyush Ranjan Agrawal was the chief guest on the occasion. Dr Hari Om Agrawal and Dr Alpna Agrawal were also honoured.

Pratibha Samman ceremony organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The candidates selected in the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission's State Judicial Service Examination PCS J were felicitated on Teachers' Day. They were honoured with a memento at the Pratibha Samman ceremony organised at DS Judicial Academy here. Chief guest Additional Advocate General (AAG), Government of Uttar Pradesh, PK Giri, special guest, Chief Standing Counsel (CSC) IV, Sheela Prasad Gaur, Additional District Judge, Diwakar Dwivedi, former minister of State Lallan Rai and Director of DS Judicial Academy DS Singh felicitated successful candidates with mementos. AAG PK Giri told the selected candidates that now



A selected candidate being felicitated by AAG PK Giri

they have become a personality and will have to discharge their responsibilities honestly. He said the 'chaupai' of Ramcharit Manas are very important in life. He gave information about the sections of IPC and CrPC.

Chief Standing Counsel IV Sheela Prasad Gaur told the selected candidates that their role as a judge in the district court will be important. Describing the mantra of success, he said those who have not been successful so far

should not get disheartened. He said that sensitivity is very important in life. The successful candidates in PCS J shared their experiences and said there is no shortcut to success. The candidates who were honored included Vushra Naz Ansari, Satyabhama Kaushiki, Prateek Gupta, Abhishek Singh, Rupali Singh, Shubham Malviya, Akshay Kumar, Hemant Kumar and Jitendra Yadav. On the occasion Additional Government Advocate (First) Munesh Kumar Upadhyay, Rameshwar Pandey, Guru Prasad Mishra, standing counsel GP Singh, Prashant Singh Som, Harish Pratap Singh, Vaibhav Singh, Pushkar Mishra, Prashant Singh, Kishan Singh, Rahul Singh etc were present. The programme was conducted by teacher Rohit Tiwari.

19 stolen mobile phones recovered

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Rajgarh police have arrested three persons and recovered 19 stolen mobile phones on Tuesday. Giving details at Police Lines, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP/Operation) OP Singh said Sunil Kumar of Semari Sarson village had lodged a complaint at Rajgarh police station on August 23 about the theft in his mobile shop. On being tipped off by an informer about the presence of suspicious persons at a place, the police raided the spot and arrested Virat Bind alias Mulayam, Pawan Kumar and Ram Bhawan of Paigapur under Chunar police station. After interrogation the police

recovered 19 mobile phones. The accused were sent to jail. GIRL DIES: Rinki (12), daughter of Gopi, slipped into the well while drawing water from it in Nunauni village in Tala hamlet. On hearing the noise the locals rushed to the spot and brought the girl out from the well in a dead condition. On information the incharge Sakteshgarh police outpost, Indra Bhushan Mishra, reached the spot and took possession of the body. Meanwhile a lineman was burnt alive at an electric pole under City Kotwali police station. Manoj Yadav (42) of Chandradeepa locality was repairing an electric fault near head post office on Monday night when he came in contact

with electric current. The staff of Electricity department brought the victim to the divisional hospital where he was declared as brought dead by the doctors. Angered by the incident the locals created a ruckus. The police force led by Circle Officer (CO/City) Parmanand Kushwaha pacified them. The body was sent for the post-mortem examination. The deceased is survived by two children. OBSERVED: The Teachers' Day was observed in the district on Tuesday. In a programme organised to honour the teachers for their outstanding services at Rajasthan Inter College MLA Ratnakar Mishra, who was the chief guest, congratulated them and

extended his best wishes to them. In a programme organised at Rajdeep Degree College Kailhat manager Raj Bahadur said that it was the hard work of teachers that their students were earning laurels in academics. Meanwhile Madhurima Tiwari, a teacher at Rani Karnawati School of the city received the state award from the chief minister for her outstanding performance in teaching along with other activities of the school. Principal Rajasthan Inter College Ashok Kanaujia, Uttar Maurya, Dr Surendra Kumar Dubey, Ashish Mishra and others congratulated the teacher and extended their best wishes to her.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Namaste, delegates!

Uncertainties and challenges notwithstanding, G20 is all set to become a historic gala

Delhi has got the makeover that could put it among the best-equipped venues to host a world event. From fountains to lighting to security to the swank Bharat Mandapam, everything is just waiting to leave the G20 Summit guests impressed. Though it will be almost a three-day partial holiday for Delhiites, they do not seem to mind it. The Capital has organised many a mega event and this one, of course, promises to be yet another feather in the cap. Besides showcasing India's famed hospitality and impeccable arrangements, the G20 Summit promises to be a crucial event in the global political calendar as world leaders gather together to address pressing challenges and discuss potential solutions. However, the absence of two prominent leaders, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin have added a layer of complexity to the preparations. Despite the challenges posed by leadership absences and attendance uncertainties, the G20 Summit in New Delhi will address a range of imperative global issues. Climate change remains a top priority, with discussions focused on achieving carbon neutrality goals, accelerating renewable energy adoption and mobilising climate finance. Besides, the global economy's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is a common concern. The leaders will explore strategies to promote sustainable economic growth, reduce inequality and ensure access to vaccines and healthcare. However, the main focus as always would be on trade and geopolitics. The G20 members will examine ways to strengthen international trade and supply chains, ensuring their resilience and efficiency in the face of future disruptions.

Despite the absence of a few key leaders, discussions on regional conflicts, cybersecurity and global security challenges are expected to take place. The leaders are also likely to discuss the role of technology in shaping the global economy, digital governance and addressing challenges like cybersecurity and data privacy. The most noticeable aspect of the G20 Summit is the absence of Putin and Xi. Both leaders have traditionally played significant roles in G20 deliberations, and their absence raises questions about the conclave's dynamics and outcome. Xi's absence in particular may affect discussions on critical issues such as climate change and trade. China's role as the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases and its pivotal position in global supply chains means that its participation is essential for meaningful progress on these issues. Similarly, Putin's absence may hinder discussions on geopolitical tensions, cybersecurity and regional conflicts. The international community remains hopeful that meaningful progress can be made on critical global issues through constructive dialogue and cooperation among the attending leaders. This summit's outcomes will be closely watched as these will have far-reaching implications for global economy, geopolitics and the environment.

PICTALK



Children dressed as Lord Krishna and Radha during the celebrations on the eve of 'Janmashtami', in Amritsar. PTI

Preserve natural habitats for national well-being

To build climate resilient communities in India, we must protect the health of our natural habitats

The natural habitats and ecosystems in India act as the heartbeat of our land. They provide shelter, food, and protection to not just diverse types of plants and animals but also have an essential role in human existence. A cared-for habitat offers crucial resources like fuel, food, fodder, and goods, supporting human sustenance and well-being.

The causal link between people's health and the health of natural habitats or the overall environmental changes is ignored. This is because, often, the impact is indirect and displaced in space or time. For instance, in the context of India, the increase in cases of Forest fires has led to the destruction of homes for animals and plants, hurting ecosystems and biodiversity. Fires change or kill plants that support lots of wildlife, making animals leave or die. One such case was when a five-day inferno swept the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, scorching over 15,400 acres from February 21 to 25, 2019. The blaze, detected via 127 fire counts across the 912 sq km expanse, inflicted severe



damage on this precious forested area. The fire also harmed around 40 acres in the Mudumalai forest in Tamil Nadu. **Impact of climate change** Climate change's impact on humans is complex. Rising temperatures in India, reaching nearly 50°C, endanger lives. According to the International Labour Organization, temperatures above 39°C can be fatal and disrupt work, hitting older workers harder and driving migration. By 2030, 2% of global work hours could be lost due to heat. Crowded, poorly ventilated cities worsen this for India's 1.4 billion people. Additionally, climate change brings water woes. Rising temperatures dry up water sources, triggering scarcity. Recent floods in Delhi from the overflowing

Yamuna River illustrate the flip side. Intense rainfall caused chaos, blocking roads and raising disease risks. Climate change's dual nature - scorching heat and flooding downpours - exposes vulnerability. It's not just a future concern; it's here, impacting livelihoods, health, and daily lives. Adapting to these changes is crucial.

The vulnerable communities in India face the impact of such atrocities in even more severity. Rural India constitutes 65 per cent of the overall population in India, amongst whom 47 per cent are dependent on agriculture as their primary source of income. The floods, landslides, and forest fires affect the agricultural lands. **Conservation of Natural Habitats**

Conserving natural habitats, comprising forests, rivers, and biodiversity, holds immense significance. These habitats serve as the backbone of ecological balance, providing clean air, water, and essential resources. Aside from environmental benefits, conservation improves communal resilience. Preserving forests helps prevent floods

and maintain stable climates, while intact rivers ensure water availability. Biodiversity safeguards against diseases and supports agriculture. **Key Initiatives** Collaboration among government, NGOs, and stakeholders is vital for conserving habitats and combating climate change. Some examples of organizations working in the area are- The Nature Conservancy India (TNC), TNC-India, with support from Rural India Support Trust, is developing and implementing a science-based, community-led approach to restoring 250 hectares of Narmada's degraded riparian forests to benefit people and biodiversity in one of its projects titled- Restoring River Narmada Riparian Zones.

Collective action from individuals to large-scale initiatives drives positive change for sustainable habitats and human stability. Joint efforts, foster impactful transformations ensuring a balanced coexistence between nature and society.

(The writer is founder and chairperson of The Hans Foundation)



SHWETA RAWAT

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Collective action from individuals to large-scale initiatives drives positive change for sustainable habitats and human stability. Joint efforts, foster impactful transformations ensuring a balanced coexistence between nature and society.

(The writer is founder and chairperson of The Hans Foundation)

The show must go on ... at any cost

A newspaper is more than a business; it is a duty that we journalists must perform with due diligence and honesty



AMIT GOEL

Let us journey back to 1987, an important period in Indian politics when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister and the *Indian Express*, led by Ramnath Goenka, witnessed a significant strike. Initially, Goenka supported Rajiv's Government but their relationship gradually soured, leading to a series of articles exposing alleged corruption within the Congress. *Indian Express* also delved into the business dealings of Dhirubhai Ambani, a prominent industrialist who, the paper alleged, enjoyed favour with the Government and Pranab Mukherjee, then Finance Minister. S Gurumurthy, an RSS ideologue, played a leading role in these exposés. I was then working as a sub-editor with the *Financial Express*, a sister publication of *Indian Express*, on a monthly salary of ₹750.

Those days the Express corridors were abuzz with activity, featuring notable figures. In the midst of these tumultuous times, an air of anticipation and restlessness engulfed our office headquarters at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg as the Union strikers began to gather in the main hall, demanding higher bonuses. Rumours were rife of a possible political support by the Congress, causing discord within our staff members. Soon, a divide emerged among the editorial staff where a few, including myself, chose not to side with the Union striking work. We started to convene at the Sunder Nagar guest house in Delhi for regular roll calls.

Days later, we were tasked with entering the Express building to retrieve copies of the newspaper forcibly, in the middle of all the violence and chaos. Our stance was clear: We could not align with a hostile Government, even as the police, under the Congress, appeared indifferent. Before entering the building, we gathered at the Express Dhaba and began forming a queue to enter the office premises.

As we marched in, we faced acid bulbs and stones hurled at us by the strikers, resulting in injuries and burns to many. Nonetheless, our determination remained unwavering—editions must be published. At 11 pm,



after the task had been accomplished, the challenge was to leave the building and reach home, safe from the angry mob. At that point, my senior colleague, AK Bhattacharya (AKB, who rose to later become Editor of *The Pioneer*) and I took advantage of the darkness and slipped out to escape to Maulana Azad Medical College. We boarded a bus and reached NDRS, where AKB's orange Vespa awaited, to facilitate our escape. The next day, the newspapers were published, featuring the awaited editorial by *Financial Express* Editor NS Jagannathan boldly declaring: "Good morning, Rajiv. We're here despite you..." The strike aimed to halt the newspaper but, in the process, had a significant impact on other publications too; it demonstrated that freedom of expression could not be stifled by political or social pressures and least by unscrupulous Union leaders.

Fast forward to the present, when echoes of similar disruptions resurfaced with self-proclaimed Union leaders seeking to wield power at *The Pioneer*. Having devoted 24 years to the newspaper,

I can assert that not a single day went by when readers were deprived of our newspaper.

However, a significant exception occurred on August 16, 2023, when, for the first time in its 76-year history, *The Pioneer* did not appear in print, breaking a legacy dating back to 1947. This decision was made by a self-styled Union leader citing unnecessary reasons and severe understaffing as reasons. Adding to the complexity, even the court-appointed personnel lacked familiarity with newspaper operations. To make matters worse, the Suspended Directors were also excluded from crucial decisions.

August 15 holds special significance for every Indian when the Prime Minister addresses the nation from the ramparts of Red Fort, making it to the annals of history. Interestingly, this mirrors events like the 1983 Cricket World Cup when Kapil Dev's heroic innings salvaged India to propel them to the semifinals. Unfortunately, due to a broadcaster's strike, there's no video recording of that historic moment.

By all means, the missing

edition of *The Pioneer* on August 16, 2023, was a far more pressing and significant issue than the missing World Cup recording.

At one end of the spectrum, where a strike at my older workplace failed to destabilise the system, the frequent disruptions in journalism at the other end today are unbearably and commonplace. Looking at the century ahead, it is disheartening to imagine a time when *The Pioneer* will be absent from the archives. Irrespective of all the differences of opinions and ideologies, one steadfast principle that remains in tact is that journalism must continue and the show must go on, as the dissemination of information and the preservation of historical records remain vital in a true democracy.

As Chandan Mitra believed, the show must go on. *The Pioneer* must reach our readers every day, at any cost. I wish Ms Shobori Ganguli all the best in keeping Chandan Mitra's dream alive.

(The author was associated with the *Financial Express* and is Suspended Director, *The Pioneer*. The views are personal)



FAST FORWARD TO THE PRESENT, WHEN ECHOES OF SIMILAR DISRUPTIONS RESURFACED WITH SELF-PROCLAIMED UNION LEADERS SEEKING TO WIELD POWER AT THE PIONEER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE CHEATERS AT A MARRIAGE!

Sir — Former Solicitor General of India and senior lawyer, Harish Salve, has tied the knot for the third time. Interestingly, he is a member of the 'One Nation One Election Committee.' Ex-Chairman of IPL, Lalit Modi, who has caused financial trouble to the country, and Qureshi, the accused wanted by ED, were present at the wedding party.

Partying with the cheaters of the country, inviting them to programs, and being part of the country's main committee, despite having previously held important national responsibilities, raises the seriousness of the matter.

How I behave in my personal life and how I am in my professional life is apparent to everyone. It is through one's professional life that prestige is attained. Even so, it is a mistake to assume. What is the government going to do to make Salve aware of this?

Jayesh Rane | Mumbai

REMOVING POVERTY

Sir — The entire country is watching the amusement provided by the ruling dispensation, which is actively engaged in renaming the country, as suggested by the chief of RSS. It is said that the act of changing the name is influenced by the formation of I.N.D.I.A. If colonial influences are to be removed, banning cricket and distributing the substantial funds available with the BCCI will be allocated to Indian games like Kabaddi and Chess, as cricket is seen as the game of the colonial rulers. It is claimed that the script of the Indus Valley civilisation is Tamil. Therefore, considering the name Tamil Nadu to replace India carries some logic.

The southern regions have historically been ruled by different rulers, distinct from the mythological ones. It is estimated that 80 crore people depend on free rations, and improving their livelihood should be the top priority of any ruler. The government's efforts should be to solve the people's issues such as rising infla-

Reservations for Marathas



Approximately 20 protesters and 37 police officers sustained injuries during the clash. Over the past few days, hundreds of protesters, led by Manoj Jarange, a local Maratha leader, have been on a hunger strike, demanding reservation. At least seven FIRs have been filed by the police against the protesters, charging them with assault on policemen, rioting, and damage to public and private property.

In 1997, Maratha Sangh and Maratha Seva Sangh organized the first major Maratha agitation for reservation in government jobs and educational institutions. The protestors argued that the Marathas were not upper caste but essentially Kunbis, members of the agrarian community. After a protracted struggle, the Maharashtra legislature passed a bill proposing a 16% reservation in education and government jobs for the Maratha community. The bill officially recognized Marathas as a socially and educationally backward class by the government.

With all these developments, the current regime in Maharashtra appears to be facing significant challenges, which could prove costly for them in the upcoming elections as voters may reject them entirely for betraying their trust.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

tion, unemployment etc.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

STUDENTS' SUICIDE

Sir — It concerns the issue of "Resuscitation." It is ironic that a city once known as a coaching factory has now become the suicide capital. Twenty-eight student suicides in the last eight months in Kota are both unfortunate and unprecedented. Sadly, this issue extends beyond Kota; we are witnessing suicides in IITs too. This clearly exposes the vulnerability of our young minds and the undue pressure we subject them to. While these young students will undoubtedly face intense competition when they enter the corporate world, we must not subject them to extreme pres-

sure due to increasing societal peer pressure.

Initiatives like having mental health professionals on call, promoting light sports activities, and allowing family members to stay with students are positive steps. We must encourage our children to pursue their dreams and passions, as there is no shortage of alternative careers in today's world. IITs and medical courses are not the only paths to success. Ultimately, the mental well-being of our children should be our foremost concern.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

TAKE SHELTER IN GOD, HE ALONE CAN HELP YOU

God is ever ready to guide us if our prayers conform to dharma



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Most of us are unable to comprehend God, who is incomprehensible. Then, how do you develop faith in an entity that is hard to relate to with our human brains? But as we desperately need God's help to exist well, we have to make some attempt to somehow find some similarities between identifiable objects and God.

I have chosen six objects for their similarities with God in some senses. The first one is the Sun. It is a glowing ball of hydrogen and helium. It is at the centre of the solar system. Its gravity holds the solar system together. The Sun radiates energy mainly as light. Then, there is ultraviolet and infrared radiation. It is the most important source of energy for life on Earth. When we can accept the reality of this very big star, what is so difficult in accepting that God can be big, very big, which He is? What about oceans? Aren't they very large, holding an enormous amount of water, fish, etc. Oceans are the main sources of clouds, which in turn provide rainwater, which recharges groundwater, fills up ponds, etc. Don't we take these huge bodies of water as an accepted fact of life? So, what is so difficult to comprehend is that God can be very big and useful at the same time.

The next example is that of the moon. It gives us light and has cool rays, which nourish all herbs/plants. (15.13) God is similar; He is effulgent unlimitedly. God supports living entities by His energy. (15.13) Fruit trees are my fourth example. These trees don't eat their fruits but provide them for our consumption. God is similar; He is always giving because He is complete in Himself; He does not need anything from anyone. In short, God is useful par excellence. The Internet is my fifth example. Don't we get amazed by what it can do? Then, why not accept that God can do unbelievable tasks like the creation of this universe? The last example is that of satellites, which see everything on the planet Earth all the time. Then, why not believe God when He states that He has eyes and ears everywhere; He is situated in this word pervading all. (13.13)



The following facts will make it still easier to comprehend God. What is the 'karmaphala' principle? It is simply: "What you sow you reap." Who keeps track of what you sow? Who ensures that we reap what we have sowed? This has to be somebody ultimately powerful, who God is. He has appointed divine authority, which oversees this under His superintendence. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 9.10) Plenty of proofs exist to substantiate this. How do astrologers know that something will happen in someone's life, say sixty years hence? Palmists are also similarly blessed to know the future of persons. How will you explain a group of friends descending upon a Tarot Card reader? All the friends pick up cards, which relate to them, and all the cards are different because we will pick up cards, which relate to us only; we are programmed that way.

Another classical example is of persons who take shelter from God. Their future is excellent. How does it happen? Because only those who have 'saubhagya' in their lives will turn to God; others will stay away. Even turning to 'siddha' persons indicates that some good fortune is going to smile upon these persons. We all know that this happens quite often but are not inclined to go. Why? Because we don't have something nice in store for us right now. The best part is that one can experience God quite easily and surely. We are habituated to pray when in trouble but are generally disappointed with the results. Have we wondered why? Mostly, what we seek is not according to dharma, for example, a person applies for a job for which there are many applicants. Shouldn't the job go to the most deserving, which we may not be? Try it, you will find that God will find someone to help you.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher)

Lady Zainab exposed the founder of terrorism



HASAN KHURSHID

On Chehlum, let us resuscitate the message of lady Zainab, who stood tall without bowing down before the brutes

The pre-Islamic period in Arabia is known as the 'age of ignorance'. Scudding away from the noble attributes of human principles, Arabs were treading the path of retrogression and abhorrence. Practising all sorts of evils and vices, they were habitual of wreaking vengeance, killings on non-issues, group quarrels and tribal animosities, lasting for generations. They used to bury their newly born daughters alive. They had no sense of equality, human values, decency and brotherhood.

In this crucial moment, Prophet Mohammad brought the message of love, tolerance, humanity, kindness, compassion, forbearance, liberty, equality and securing justice for the persecuted. However, the conflict between good and evil remains perpetual. Both persist in their efforts to sustain. Mohammad was the messenger of peace but there inhabited a Satanic group of 'Ommayyads' did not tolerate the sojourn of humanity and excellence and opposed the Prophet's teachings with heavy hands. Ommayya's grandson Abu Sufiyan forced the Prophet to migrate from Mecca to Medina. From this migration began the Hijri era of Islam. In Medina, the Prophet established the caliphate for administering the systematic "rule of law".

After the demise of the Prophet, the Muslim community was torn by conflicting claims of leadership. In total disregard to the Prophet's declaration of Hazrat Ali as his successor in the Gadeer e Khum area while returning from his last Haj, Muslim tribal leaders declared Abu Bakar as the first caliph, followed by Omar, Usman and then Hazrat Ali.

Muawiya of the Ommayyad clan with the view to usurp the caliphate, mischievously and secretly planned the assassination of Hazrat Ali and his elder son Imam Hasan and declared himself as caliph and leader of the faithful. After Muawiya's death, his son Yazid usurped the seat of the caliphate forcibly and declared himself the so-called spiritual leader of the faithful. Yazid was a hardcore criminal, tyrant, great drunkard and libertine. The barest mention of his objectionable character is taboo in this civilised society.

After declaring himself as self-proclaimed caliph and leader of the faithful, accused Yazid compelled Imam Husain, the younger grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad to acknowledge him as commander of the faithful.

Husain was known throughout the Arab world for his wisdom, compassion and piety. On the contrary, Yazid's immoral activities indicated the deliberate intentions of making vulgar and vociferous alterations to the established Islamic values. Imam Husain refused Yazid's allegiance. Husain as the Prophet's grandson and successor had to do his duty to save Islamic values against transgression as accused Yazid was committed to defacing and disfiguring the true faith and then a pseudo-religion would emerge under the guise of Islam.

On Imam Husain's refusal of his allegiance, on 10th October, 680 AD, Yazid brutally assassinated Imam Husain and 71 of his family members in the desert of Karbala with mercury touching 50 degrees C, after keeping them hungry and thirsty for three days. When Husain asked the enemy to give water to his 6-month-old infant son Ali Asghar, the child was killed with an arrow, the buoyancy of whose innocent blood floated the sinking ship of humanity. After the massacre of 72, the bodies of



YAZID WAS COMPELLED TO FREE THE CAPTIVES OF THE HOLY FAMILY. THROUGH HER LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SERMONS, SHE INTRODUCED HUSAIN AND HIS MISSION TO THE MASSES.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author. The views expressed are personal)

the martyrs were trampled with the hoofs of the horses. Their heads including that of the infant were severed and mounted on lancers. The tents of Husain's family were torched. The innocent children, including the 4-year-old beloved daughter of Husain, Bibi Sakina, ladies and the only surviving ailing son of Husain, Zainul Abedein were made prisoners and paraded from Karbala to Syria, a long distance of 2700 km, on the bare backs of Camels to be produced before the accused Yazid.

Here in his secretariat, accused Yazid played another trick by concealing the real identity of the victims. Yazid through his state-sponsored propaganda apparatus was now portraying the Prophet's Household as renegades. Yazid would have succeeded in his evil designs had Husain's sister Zainab and son Zain ul Abedein not risen to the occasion.

Lady Zainab through her bold and eloquent sermons in that very state of captivity, bound in chains with the heart-rending spectacle of the severed heads of her brothers, sons and nephews, mounted on lancers before her, protected the withered tree of Islamic values and humanity before the fierce gales of disaster.

When Zainab and her remaining family members whose necks were bound in one long chain, which included the neck of a 4-year-old Husain's daughter Sakina, were brought to the court of Yazid with 700 courtiers and ambassadors of other states sitting over there, Zainab exposed Yazid's tyranny and false propaganda through her bold and eloquent sermons. She said, "What Yazid! By closing down all existence, imprisoning, chaining and parading us without food and water from place to place, have you thought that you have lowered our image and considered yourself to be a respectful person? Or you are under the wrong impression that the tragedy we met at your hands has elevated your status and therefore you are acting most arrogantly! You have caused this dilapidated condition of ours for no fault that where from our guardian-less caravan passes, huge throngs of spectators assemble to glance at us. She further said, "Oh the son of our freed slaves, is this justice?"

Lady Zainab again said fearlessly, "Oh Yazid! Be sure that the most inhuman treatment you have meted to us doesn't guarantee your success but the momentary respite given to you by the Almighty." Zainab quoted the verse of the Holy Quran, "

And let not those who disbelieve think that our granting them respite is better for their souls; we grant them respite only that they may add to their sins; and they shall have a disgraceful chastisement."

Zainab unveiled the truth. The sermons had an electrifying effect on the misguided people. Soon after hearing her most influential sermons her, the large conglomeration of the people realised that these prisoners were none but the Household of the Holy Prophet. Most of them started weeping and the tyrant Yazid had to make a hasty retreat towards his palace. In a few months, Yazid was compelled to free the captives of the Holy family. Through her literary and philosophical sermons, she introduced Husain and his mission to the masses.

Lady Zainab's balance of mind, tolerance, patience, fearlessness, determination and spiritual stamina under heavily burdened adverse circumstances is beyond imagination and deserves full credit for the exemplary courage and aplomb with which she handled the ugly and the most difficult situation. Lady Zainab has proved how to stand tall without bowing down before the brutes in human form.

Despite Xi's absence, the G20 meet is poised to be a success

Xi Jinping's absence from the G20 conclave in Delhi, is primarily directed against the United States and the West

In diplomacy, doors for dialogue are never shut but China and India were entailed in a petty issue of scoring over each other which is evident from the recent controversy started by Dragon that Xi and Modi met on the sideline of the BRIC summit in Johannesburg at the request of India which gave birth to the pessimism of improvement in strained ties between two countries. The reports in foreign media as well as Indian press focused on the crux of the brief interaction that took place between Xi and Modi thereby slightly brightening the chances of intensifying efforts to de-escalate tensions at the border which is mandatory to normalize the relations strained since the past more



KS TOMAR

(The writer is a political analyst and senior journalist based in Shimla)

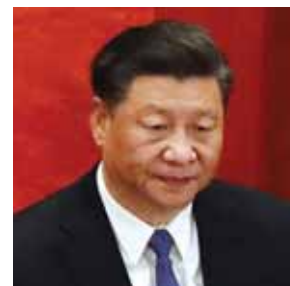
than three years. But it proved short-lived.

In this backdrop and latent attempt by China to take away credit for the success of the G20 summit from India, now it is confirmed that Chinese president, Xi Jinping will not willfully attend the G20 meeting in Delhi on Sept 9 which is primarily aimed at undermining the success of summit besides hitting and snubbing United States and west though Russia's president, Vladimir Putin has stood by India because he telephoned prime minister, Narendra Modi to explain his decision not to attend G20 meet in person.

President of G20 nations, India will be hosting meetings of heads of member nations on Sept 9 and Sept 10, 2023, in New Delhi hence Xi's presence

would have made a lot of difference but uncertainty prevails. Experts say that a brief conversation between the two leaders had created a good atmosphere which was sullied by China as scoring over each other will not yield positive results. India faces a challenge to ensure the success of the G20 summit which will be attended by Joe Biden, the US president also. India needs to avoid any attempt by China to undermine the importance of the G20 meeting hence a signal has been sent to the world about India's eagerness to have normal ties with Dragon.

Experts believe that China's attempt to emerge as a dominating power in the region has been thwarted by India which is also an emerging world economic power.



China has tried to entrap poor nations in Asia through Debt policy which is a byproduct of its expansion strategy. However, such a policy is being resented by several nations as they are unable to repay huge loans. Nineteen rounds of talks held between India and China have not yielded tangible results as China has refused to restore pre-2020 status on LOC which

reflects its lack of sincerity in resolving the border issue. The Chinese Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement that said "President Xi stressed that improving China-India relations serves the common interests of the two countries and peoples." But China's track record shows that it seldom follows such a policy which is evident from its attempt to grab Indian territory and refusal to pull back its forces which were illegally piling up their strength on our side of LOC.

Secondly, China is very upset over the strategic partnership and close ties that have been developed between the United States and India thereby preventing Dragon from advancing towards its ambition of becoming the

Superpower to replace the US. China keeps on encouraging Pakistan to create tension with India which suits its' evil designs. Owing to open support to Russia, China stands to lose in the international arena after the Ukraine war. India has maintained good ties with Putin and taken a neutral stand on Ukraine aggression which helped India to get cheap oil amidst the sanctions imposed by the US and West. India's role in different groupings including the Security Quadrilateral (QUAD), a grouping of Japan, the US, India and Australia is widely seen by China as America's initiative to counter the growing influence in the world arena.

Third, Amidst the push-back being faced by China and

Russia owing to sanctions imposed by the United States, an aggressive posture was adopted by both nations to ensure the expansion of BRICS but India registered its strength as it had taken the lead in floating an idea of evolving the consensus over the admission of new six members in the block to develop new global developmental order of governance which should not be Unipolar. It was not to the liking of China as Russia took a stand that was not at the variance of India in BRIC. Biden was poised to raise the Ukraine issue and China has stood by Russia. China does not want to tolerate the dominance of Western powers and relations have further strained with India after the redrawing of the map.

UK to ban Russia's Wagner group

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government will table a draft proscription order in the House of Commons on Wednesday which will impose a ban on Russia's mercenary Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation. The proscription order will make it illegal to be a member of or support the Russian group in the UK, the Home Office said. Certain offences related to banned terror organisations can result in 14 years imprisonment in the country.

As part of the Home Office draft order, Wagner's assets can also be categorised as terrorist property and seized. "Wagner is a violent and destructive organisation which has acted as a military tool of [President] Vladimir Putin's Russia overseas," said UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman. "While Putin's regime decides what to do with the monster it created, Wagner's continuing destabilising activities only continue to

serve the Kremlin's political goals. They are terrorists, plain and simple — and this proscription order makes that clear in UK law," she said.

The Indian-origin Home Secretary claimed that Wagner has been involved in "looting, torture and barbarous murders". "Its operations in Ukraine, the Middle East and Africa are a threat to global security. That is why we are proscribing this terrorist organisation and continuing to aid Ukraine wherever we can in its fight against Russia," she added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has previously called for the Wagner Group to be treated as a terrorist organisation. The mercenary group, which was led by Yevgeny Prigozhin until he was killed in a plane crash last month, has played a prominent role in the Russian conflict with Ukraine. It is also known to be active in conflicts in other war-torn regions of Syria and Africa.

'Russian strike on Ukrainian city market kills 17, hurts dozens'

AP ■ KYIV

At least 17 people were killed and dozens were wounded Wednesday when Russian shelling struck a market in a city in eastern Ukraine, officials said. The deadly attack came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Kyiv and was expected to announce more than USD 1 billion in new American funding.

Associated Press journalists at the site of the attack in Kostiantynivka saw covered bodies on the ground and emergency workers extinguishing fires at market stalls, with blackened and mangled cars nearby.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said at least 16 people were killed. At least 28 were wounded, according to Internal Minister Ihor Klymenko.

Emergency service workers extinguished the fire that damaged about 30 pavilions at the

outdoor market, Klymenko said. Crews searched the rubble for any trapped civilians.

Twenty shops, power lines, administrative building and the floor of an apartment building were damaged, according to the prosecutor general's office.

Blinken's visit also was aimed at assessing Ukraine's 3-month-old counteroffensive and signal continued US backing as some Western allies express worries about Kyiv's slow progress in driving out Russian forces after 18 months of war, according to US officials.

"We want to make sure that Ukraine has what it needs, not only to succeed in the counteroffensive but has what it needs for the long-term, to make sure that it has a strong deterrent," Blinken said. "We're also determined to continue to work with our partners as they build and rebuild a strong economy, strong democracy."

Blinken was set to pledge more than USD 1 billion in new US funding, a senior State Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the announcement before it was made. The money would be for "a range" of investments, the official said, without elaborating.

Other issues, including support for Ukraine's war-torn economy were to be discussed, building on Blinken's June announcement in London of USD 1.3 billion in aid to help Kyiv rebuild, with a focus on modernizing its energy network, which was bombed by Russia last winter.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that US assistance to Ukraine "can't influence the course of the special military operation" — Moscow's euphemism for the war. Blinken arrived in Kyiv for an overnight visit hours after

Russia launched a missile attack on the city. He was expected to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other top officials to discuss the ongoing counteroffensive and reconstruction efforts.

On the train journey to Kyiv, Blinken met with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, also on an official visit, to discuss the war. Blinken thanked her for Denmark's leadership in a coalition training Ukrainian pilots on F-16s and for promising to donate the fighter jets to Ukraine, according to State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller.

Washington officials said there will be discussions of alternative export routes for Ukrainian grain following Russia's exit from the Black Sea Grain Initiative and its frequent bombardment of port facilities in the Odessa region, from which most grain is transported abroad.

'Kim Jong's Russia trip could be like his 2019 journey'

AP ■ SEOUL

Reports that Kim Jong Un may travel to Russia soon have drawn attention to the traditional method of travel for North Korean leaders: luxury, armoured trains that have long been a part of the dynasty's lore and are symbols of its deep isolation. In what would be his first foreign travel since the start of the pandemic, Kim may visit Russia this month for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a US official has said, possibly to discuss North Korean arms sales to refill Russian reserves drained by its war on Ukraine. According to US reports, the two leaders could meet in the eastern city of Vladivostok, the site of their first get-together in April 2019, when Kim took his green-and-yellow train. Putin is expected in the city for the annual Eastern Economic Forum that runs from Sunday to Wednesday. The reports come

at a time when the leaders' interests are aligning in the face of their deepening, separate confrontations with the United States. Whether Kim could again make the rattling 20-hour journey by rail is a focus of media attention, as is the reportedly luxurious train, which stands in sharp contrast to the grinding poverty of daily life for most North Koreans.

Kim's famously flight-averse father, Kim Jong Il, made about a dozen trips abroad during his 17-year rule, almost all to China and all by train. North Korea's state media said that the elder Kim died of a heart attack during a train trip in 2011.

According to an account published in 2002 by Konstantin Pulikovskiy, a Russian official who accompanied Kim Jong Il on a three-week trip to Moscow, the train carried cases of expensive French wine and passengers could feast on fresh lobster and pork barbecue.

Suspect indicted for attempted murder of Japan PM Kishida

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese prosecutors formally indicted a 24-year-old man on Wednesday on attempted murder and other charges in the explosives attack on Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in April, court officials said.

Kishida was campaigning for elections in a small fishing port in Wakayama in western Japan when a man threw a homemade pipe bomb at him. Kishida was unhurt, but two people received minor injuries.

Suspect Ryuji Kimura, 24, was arrested on the spot and underwent a three-month psychiatric evaluation sought by local prosecutors to determine that he is mentally fit for trial. Police and prosecutors determined that the bomb used



A man who was later identified as Ryuji Kimura is arrested after what appeared to be a pipe bomb was thrown at Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

in the attack was potentially lethal, according to local media reports. Prosecutors indicted Kimura on an attempted murder

charge and four others, including violation of the gun and swords control law and the explosives control law, accord-

ing to the Wakayama District Court, which accepted the indictment.

A trial date has not been decided, court officials said. In the indictment, prosecutors allege that Kimura threw the pipe bomb at Kishida with an intent to kill and caused minor injuries to a police officer and a local resident in the audience, Kyodo News reported. Kimura has refused to talk to the authorities.

He may have been angry because he couldn't file for candidacy in 2022 elections, Japanese media reported. Investigators found he purchased explosives used to make the bomb in November, around the time he lost a lawsuit against the government over the election system, Kyodo News said.

'Israel enforcing apartheid system in West Bank'

AP ■ HERZLIYA

A former head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Israel is enforcing an apartheid system in the West Bank, joining a tiny but growing list of retired officials to endorse an idea that remains largely on the fringes of Israeli discourse and international diplomacy.

Tamir Pardo becomes the latest former senior official to have concluded that Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank amounts to apartheid, a reference to the system of racial separation in South Africa that ended in 1994. Leading rights groups in Israel and abroad and Palestinians have accused Israel and its 56-year occupation of the West Bank of morphing into an apartheid system that they say gives Palestinians second-class status and is designed to maintain Jewish hegemony.

27 die in Brazil storm, over 1,600 homeless

Rio De Janeiro (AP): An extratropical cyclone in southern Brazil caused floods in several cities, killing at least 27 people and leaving more than 1,600 homeless, authorities said Wednesday.

More than 60 cities have been battered by the storm since Monday night, and Rio Grande do Sul Gov. Eduardo Leite said the death toll was the state's highest due to a climate event.

Rescue efforts expanded farther west on Wednesday with helicopters headed to the Rio Pardo Valley. Search and rescue teams had been focusing around the Taquari Valley, about 150 kilometres northwest of the state capital Porto Alegre, where most of the victims and damage were recorded.

More heavy rains were expected to hit the state's centre-south region, but possibly sparing worst-hit areas.

Authorities maintained three flooding alerts on Wednesday — for the Jacui,

Cai and Taquari rivers.

TV footage showed families on the top of their houses pleading for help as rivers overflowed their banks. Some areas were entirely cut off after wide avenues turned into fast-moving rivers.

Leite said 15 of the deaths occurred in one house in Mucum, a city of about 50,000 residents. Once the storm had passed, TV footage showed a goat hanging from an electrical line — an indication of how high the water had risen.

Many of the victims died from electrical shock, or were trapped in vehicles, online news site G1 reported. The city hall at Mucum recommended that residents seek out supplies to meet their needs for the next 72 hours.

Rio Grande do Sul was hit by another extratropical cyclone in June, which killed 16 people and caused destruction in 40 cities, many of those around Porto Alegre.

'More than 5 mn displaced by Sudan conflict'

Cairo (AP): More than 5 million people have been displaced by the monthslong fighting in Sudan, the United Nations' migration agency said on Wednesday as clashes between the country's military and a rival paramilitary force show no sign of easing. According to the International Organisation for Migration, over 4 million people have been internally displaced since the conflicted erupted in mid-April while another 1.1 million have fled to neighbouring countries. More than 750,000 have travelled to either Egypt or Chad, the agency said.

International efforts to mediate the conflict have so far failed. There have been at least nine cease-fire agreements since the outbreak and all have broken down. Sudan was plunged into chaos almost five months ago when long-simmering tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces, escalated into open warfare.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

1	Name of Work with its Location	Replacement of existing 105 sq.mmm G-Jumper by 160 sq.mmm G-Jumper of 1st Sub-Sector over Delhi Division.
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 6370222.60/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 127400/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Starting Date	22.09.2023 (00.00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & Time E-Tender Open Date & Time	06.10.2023 (15.00 Hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	20366203
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.reps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 03B-TRD-NDLS-2023-24 Date: 06.09.2023 2776/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Lait Monan is the owner of Residential MG3 Flat bearing No. A-1/2B, on Ground Floor, in Pocket No. A-1, situated in the layout plan of Housing Estate at Rohini, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi, vide registered Will dated 14.12.2012. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property. If anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/ mortgage/ litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Mori Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-41112527-28. legal@kandc.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that, Motion Pictures Association, having its office at 52/55, Mangal Market, Bhagirath Palace, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006, is owner and in possession of Property No.27,Block-F,Darya Ganj,New Delhi-110002, and applied for freehold of said property in D.O.A.The original Lease Deed, Revisionary Lease Deed, Sale Deed, Mutation Letter and other related documents of the said plot have been lost. An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone No.912013800 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this plot can personally inform or write to D.Director(OSB),DDA,Vikas Sadan INA, New Delhi.

NOTICE OF 102 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Notice is hereby given that 102 (One Hundred Two) Annual General Meeting of Roshanara Club Limited (CIN - U91990DL1901PLCC00098) shall be held at the Registered Office of the Company at Roshanara Garden, Delhi - 110007 on Friday the 29th day of September 2023 at 2.00 P.M to transact the following business:-

ORDINARY BUSINESS

- To receive, consider and adopt the Report of the Managing Committee (Board of Directors), Audited Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 31st March 2023 and the Audited Income & Expenditure Account as on that date along with the Auditors' Report thereon.
- To elect and appoint all Fifteen Directors in place of all the existing Directors of the Company, as all retire by rotation in terms of section 152(6) and 160 of the Companies Act 2013, as amended, and the Article 43 and 44 of the Articles of Association of the Company, through ballot process as prescribed in Articles of Association.

Place: Delhi By Order of the Managing Committee
Date: 5th September 2023 For Roshanara Club Limited

RAJAN MANCHANDA
Director & Hon'y. Gen. Secretary
(DIN: 00457119)
37/38, UB,
Jawahar Nagar, Delhi - 110007

NOTE : Annual Report and Accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 are being forwarded via email / sms /whatsapp and will also be available on club website / mobile app.

JINDAL LEASEFIN LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC059252
Regd. Office: 110, Babar Road, New Delhi-110001
Ph: 011-46201000 Fax: 011-46201002 E-mail: jindal@jindal.biz taxation@jindal.biz www.jlltd.co.in

NOTICE OF 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 29th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Jindal Leasefin Limited will be held on Saturday, 30th September, 2023 at 10.00 A.M. at Kejriwal Farm House, Holambli Kalkan, Narela, Delhi-110082.

The notice along with the Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 in electronic mode has been sent to all the Members whose email ids are registered with the Company/Depository Participants. Physical copies of the notice alongwith the Annual Report have been sent to other Members at their registered addresses.

The members may cast/exercise their right to vote by electronic means through remote e-voting services provided by CDSL. Voting rights shall be reckoned on the paidup value of shares registered in the name of the member/beneficial owner as on the cut off date i.e. 23rd September, 2023. Any person who becomes member of the company after dispatch of the notice of the meeting and holding shares as on cut off date i.e. 23rd September, 2023 may obtain the user ID and password by sending a request at beetalra@jlltd.com.

The remote e-voting period commences on 27th September, 2023 at 9.00 A.M. (IST) and ends on Friday 29th September, 2023 at 5.00 P.M. (IST). Please note that remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond 5.00 p.m. (IST) on 29th September, 2023.

The facility for voting through Ballot Paper shall be made available at the venue of the AGM to the members attending the meeting, who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting. The members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM, may also attend the meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM. The Notice and annual report can also be downloaded from the Company's website: www.jlltd.co.in. Any grievance related to e-voting may be addressed to the undersigned. Pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules thereunder and Regulation 42 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 the Register of members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from 25th September, 2023 to 30th September, 2023 for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.

For Jindal Leasefin Limited
Sd/-
SURENDER KUMAR JINDAL
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DATE : 06th September, 2023
PLACE : DELHI

NOTICE
TWENTY FIRST CENTURY MEDICARE LIMITED
Plot No. 22, L.S.C. Madangri, New Delhi-110062
CIN-U24230DL1985PLC022113, E-Mail: mpd.humanity@gmail.com

NOTICE is hereby given that the 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Thursday, 28th September, 2023 at 10.00 A.M. at Plot No.22, L.S.C. Madangri, New Delhi-110062, to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Company has completed dispatch of the Annual Report for financial year 2022-23 to Members through permitted mode by Tuesday, September 5th, 2023.

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM using electronic voting system provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) from a place other than the venue of the AGM (remote e-voting) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting rights of Members shall be proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Friday, September 22nd, 2023 (cut-off date).

The facility for voting, either through electronic voting system or polling paper shall also be made available at the AGM. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

The e-voting period commences on September 25th, 2023, Monday at 09:00 a.m. and ends on September 27th, 2023, Wednesday at 05:00 p.m. thereafter the said facility shall be blocked. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter.

A person who has acquired shares and become a Member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@csindia.com or call on 022-23059542/43.

However, if the person is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then the existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

For details relating to remote e-voting, please refer to the Notice of the AGM. In case of any queries relating to voting by electronic means, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at www.evotingindia.com or contact at toll free no. 1800225533 or send a request at helpdesk.evoting@csindia.com. In case of any grievances connected with facility for voting by electronic means, please contact to the Manager (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurus, Mafatlal Mill Compound, N.M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@csindia.com or call on 022-23059542/43.

The Notice of AGM is also available on the website of the CDSL at www.evoting.cdsli.com and at the website of Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent at www.skylinetia.com.

For Twenty First Century Medicare Limited
Rajni Sharma
DIRECTOR
DIN:00144238

DATE: 07-09-2023
Place: New Delhi

ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED
CIN: L51109DL1980PLC256335
Registered Office: A-104, Third Floor, Okhla Industrial Area Phase - II, New Delhi - 110020
Phone: 011-45025460, Email: addi@addi.com, addind@gmail.com
Website: www.addiindustries.com

NOTICE OF THE 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE DATE(S)

Dear Members,

The 41st Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Addi Industries Limited ("the Company") will be held on Saturday, 30th September, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with General Circular 10/2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) dated 28th December, 2022 and SEBI circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PD-2/PICIR/2023/4 dated 5th January, 2023 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Circulars") and all other applicable laws. The members intending to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM may attend the AGM by following the procedure prescribed in the AGM Notice.

In compliance with the aforesaid Circulars, the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2022-23 have been sent on 6th September, 2023 to all the members, through electronic mode whose e-mail addresses are registered / available with the Company / Depository Participants (DP) / Registrar and Transfer Agents ("RTA").

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and aforesaid Circular(s), the Members are provided with the facility to attend AGM through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), to cast their vote electronically through the Remote e-voting before the AGM and through e-voting during the AGM, through the Authorised Agency, Central Depository Securities Limited (CDSL).

The process and manner of Remote e-voting / e-voting during the AGM and instructions for participation at the AGM through VC/OAVM are provided in the Notice of AGM. Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2015 as amended, Members are hereby informed that:

- The Ordinary Business and the Special Business as set out in the Notice of 41st AGM will be transacted through voting by electronic means;
- The Remote e-voting shall commence on Wednesday, 27th September, 2023 at 09.00 A.M.
- The Remote e-voting shall end on Friday, 29th September, 2023 at 05.00 P.M. Thereafter, the facility of Remote e-voting shall be disabled by CDSL.
- The e-voting rights of the Members shall be in proportion to the paid-up value of their Shares in the Equity Share Capital of the Company. Members of the Company holding Shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e. Saturday 23rd September 2023, may cast their vote by Remote e-voting before AGM / e-voting at AGM.
- Any person who acquires Shares of the Company and becomes member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holding Shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Saturday 23rd September, 2023 may follow the login process mentioned in the notice.

Members may further note that:

- Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- Members who have voted through Remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the meeting.
- A person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date shall be entitled to avail the facility of Remote e-voting attend the AGM through VC/OAVM and e-voting at the AGM.
- The Notice of AGM and Annual Report are available on the website of the Company at www.addiindustries.com, website of the stock Exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and website of CDSL at www.evotingindia.com
- In case of any grievance connected with the facility for voting by electronic means, Members can directly contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi Sr. Manager (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited e-mail ID: helpdesk.evoting@csindia.com or call on Toll Free No. : 1800-22-55-33. Members may also write to the Company at the e-mail ID: stul.addi@gmail.com

Book Closure: Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books will remain closed from Sunday, 24th September, 2023 to Saturday, 30th September, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of this AGM.

The result of voting on the resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM shall be declared within 2 working days of conclusion of the AGM. The results declared along with the report of the Scrutinizer shall be placed on the website of the Company www.addiindustries.com and on the website of CDSL immediately after the declaration of result by the Chairman or a person authorized by him and the results shall also be communicated to the Stock Exchange.

For ADDI Industries Limited
Sd/-
Taranjeet Kaur
Company Secretary, Membership No. 8991

Date : 06.09.2023
Place : New Delhi

Bank of India
Zonal Office, Ghaziabad Zone,
Address: B-32, Sector-62, NOIDA-201307.

[See rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the BANK OF INDIA- DHOOM MANIKPUR BRANCH under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest (Act), 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with (rule 3) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 12-06-2023 calling upon the borrower- Mr. Pradeep Kumar S/O Gyasu, Plot No.- A-180, Block-A, Part of Kharsa No-383, Surya Chaman Enclave, Village- Dhoom Manikpur, Dabri, Gautam Budha Nagar, U.P. Borrower- Mr. Pradeep Kumar S/O Gyasu residing at Plot No.-A-180, Block-A, Part of Kharsa No-383, Surya Chaman Enclave, Village- Dhoom Manikpur, Dabri, Gautam Budha Nagar, U.P. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 6,80,000.00 (Rupees Six Lakhs Eighty Thousand) as on 12-06-2023 with further interest, costs, expenses and other incidental charge etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrower / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Sec. (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 4th day of September 2023.

The Borrower / Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with said Property and any dealings with the Property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF INDIA, Dhoom Manikpur BRANCH, Village- Dhoom Manikpur, Teshil- Dabri, Gautam Budha Nagar, U.P.-203208 for an amount of Rs. 6,80,000.00 (Rupees Six Lakhs Eighty Thousand) as on 12-06-2023 with further interest, costs, expenses and other incidental charge etc. thereon

[The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (B) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PART & PARCEL of land and building comprised of Plot No.- A-180, Block-A, Part of Kharsa No-383, Surya Chaman Enclave, Village- Dhoom Manikpur, Dabri, Gautam Budha Nagar, U.P.-203208, admeasuring area 50.00 sq. yds. in the name of Mr. Pradeep Kumar S/o Gyasu, Bound as:- East: Rasta 22 ft. Wide & Plot No-256, West: Plot No.-A-173 of Mr. Sanjeev, North: Plot No. A-179, South: Plot No.-A-181 of Mr. Dharmendra

Date: 04-09-2023, Place: Noida
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

kotak
Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE
Locker hired by Mr. Shikhar Kumar Srivastava having address at- E-288, Ground Floor, Patel Garden, Near Dwarka Mod, Uttam Nagar, Landmark: S P Grade Electricals, New Delhi - 110078, Delhi, India with okhla Branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. situated at Ground Floor, E-49-12 Okhla Industrial Area Phase II, New Delhi - 110020 has rent in arrears for the last 3 years.

All the 3 letters sent to Mr. Shikhar Kumar Srivastava calling upon him to clear the dues of the rent has returned unserved and he is not contactable.

It is hereby informed that despite this notice if the said locker dues are not cleared by Mr. Shikhar Kumar Srivastava within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on December 6, 2023 at around 12 p.m

SC AGROTECH LIMITED
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS SHEEL INTERNATIONAL LIMITED)
CIN: L01122DL1990PLC042207
Regd Address: RZ-1484/28, Ground Floor, Tughlakabad Ext. New Delhi-110019

NOTICE OF 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

- Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of SC AGROTECH LIMITED ("the Company") will be held on Saturday 30th September 2023 at 11:00 A.M. at the registered office of the company to transact the business that will be set forth in the Notice meeting.
- The aforesaid Notice and the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2023 will be sent in electronic mode to all the members whose e-mail ids are registered with the Company/Depository participants. The notice of the AGM and the Annual Report will also be available and can be downloaded from the website of the Company i.e. www.scagrotech.in and on website of the Bombay Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com.
- The Company has completed the dispatch of Notice of 33rd AGM along with the Annual Report 2022-23.
- The shareholders who have not registered their email addresses with the company or depositories need to follow the following process for obtaining login credentials for remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM.
- The Company is pleased to provide all its members (holding shares both in physical and in electronic form) the facility to exercise their vote through remote e-voting to be provided by CDSL. Members of the Company holding shares in physical or dematerialized form as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September 2023 may cast their vote through remote e-voting. The remote e-voting shall commence on 25th September 2023 (10:00 A.M.) and end on 29th September 2023 at 5:00 P.M.
- The shareholders who have not registered their email address with their email addresses with the company or depositories need to follow the following process for obtaining login credentials for remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM.
- For physical shareholders- please provide necessary details like folio no. name of shareholders, scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), pan card (self-attested), Aadhar card (Self attested) by email to company (sheel102@gmail.com)/RTA (info@skylinetia.com).
- For demat shareholders please provide Demat account details (CDSL-16 digit beneficiary ID or NSDL 16 digit (DPIID+CLID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, Pan card (self-attested), Aadhar card (Self attested) to (sheel102@gmail.com)/RTA (info@skylinetia.com).
- Pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and regulation 42 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulation 2015, the register of members and share transfer books of the Company shall remain closed from 23rd September 2023 to 30th September 2023 (both day inclusive) for the AGM to be held on 30th September 2023.
- Only those members who have registered themselves as a speaker by mail at sheel102@gmail.com before 7 days of AGM will be allowed to express their views/ask questions during the AGM.
- Any person who ac

Pak authorities launch crackdown against dollar smuggling

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The Pakistani rupee appreciated by Rs 4 against the US dollar on Wednesday as the cash-strapped country's authorities launched a crackdown against illegal smuggling of the greenback amidst a squeeze in the national currency.

After gaining its value by Rs 4, the rupee was selling at Rs 313 during the day while it was being bought for 310 in the open market, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan. However, the local currency gained 12 paise against the dollar in the interbank market to come to 306.98 from yesterday's (Tuesday's) close of 307.10. Malik Bostan, the Chairman of the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan, said the change in the value of dollars followed authorities' strict actions in controlling the "black market". He hoped that the interbank and open market rates would soon return to normal. The change came as the government started cracking the whip against smuggling and hoarding of US dollars.

The action will also be directed against the enablers, government officials facilitating the smuggling and those patrons who have been identified, the Express Tribune newspaper reported. The report quoted sources as saying that lists had been made and a prolonged crackdown would be initiated. Sources further added that with major policy reforms underway, the commodity and currency businesses will be "transformed". To implement the new measures effectively, the government will also install and upgrade monitoring systems at land, sea and

airports to curtail illegal movement of goods and currency.

Earlier, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar directed the customs authorities to establish a monitoring system at irregular border crossings to prevent smuggling in the country. Decision to crack down on the dealers was made the day the rupee-dollar parity in inter-bank trading crossed Rs 300, a threshold breached for the first time in Pakistan's history on the back of high dollar demand because of imports, dollarisation of the economy, smuggling and financing of Afghanistan's imports.

Pakistan's law enforcement agencies have failed to stop the smuggling of dollars to Afghanistan, which has been going on by using the crates of oranges and in connivance with the law enforcement agencies. State institutions seem to have failed to guard borders and international airports that have turned into dens of smuggling. The central bank had also lowered the ceiling for the outbound flow of the greenback to USD 5,000 per person, which created problems for the people but did not help to curb the outflow. Sources said that a major factor behind the high demand for dollars was the financing of smuggled goods from Iran, mainly diesel and edible oil, and payments for Afghan transit trade. They pointed out that diesel smuggling from Iran deep into Pakistan was not possible without the involvement of agencies that were responsible to curb smuggling and ensure border security. The smuggled diesel price is paid in US dollars to Iran, according to Pakistan Customs officials.

Pak shuts border crossing with Af

AP ■ PESHAWAR

Pakistani authorities closed a key border crossing with Afghanistan on Wednesday shortly after border guards from the two sides exchanged fire, officials and residents said, in a sign of increasing tensions between the two neighbours. There were no reports of casualties, and it was not immediately known why the border guards from the two sides exchanged fire, said Nasrullah Khan, an official in Torkham, a town in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

He said Pakistani government and military officials were in contact with their Afghan counterparts to defuse tensions.

Abdul Mateen Qani, the Afghan Taliban-appointed spokesman for the Interior Ministry, confirmed the clash between Afghan and Pakistani forces. He said officials from both sides were attempting to find out what caused the clash and ways to prevent such incidents in the future. Pakistani authorities said dozens of trucks carrying perishable items, including vegetables and fruits, were waiting on both sides of the border for the reopening of the Torkham crossing, which is a vital commercial artery and trade route to Central Asian countries for Pakistan. The border closure comes two days after caretaker

Pakistani Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said US military equipment left behind during the American withdrawal from Afghanistan had fallen into militant hands and made its way to the Pakistani Taliban.

The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, have intensified attacks over the past months on Pakistan security forces. They are a separate group but an ally of the Afghan Taliban.

The Afghan Taliban overran Afghanistan in August 2021 as US and NATO troops were in the last weeks of a chaotic pullout from the country after 20 years of war.

The Pakistani Taliban have released statements and video clips in recent months claiming they possess weapons such as guns with laser and thermal imaging systems. Previous clashes at Torkham occurred after the two sides accused each other of trying to build new posts along the border. Afghanistan has never recognised the porous border that runs through the Pashtun heartland and dilutes the power of Afghanistan's largest ethnic group on both sides. Pakistan says it has completed fencing along 97 per cent of the border to stop cross-border attacks and smuggling. Pakistan also accuses the Afghan Taliban of providing sanctuaries to Pakistani militants who are living in Afghanistan.

Death toll from flooding in Greece, Turkiye and Bulgaria rises to 12

AP ■ ISTANBUL

The death toll from severe rainstorms that lashed parts of Greece, Turkiye and Bulgaria increased to 12 on Wednesday after rescue teams in the three neighbouring countries recovered five more bodies.

A flash flood at a campsite in northwestern Turkiye near the border with Bulgaria killed at least five people — with three found dead on Wednesday — and carried away bungalow homes. Rescuers were still searching for one person reported missing at the campsite.

Another two people died in Istanbul, Turkiye's largest city, where Tuesday's storms inundated hundreds of homes and workplaces in several neighbourhoods.

The victims in Istanbul included a 32-year-old Guinean citizen who was trapped inside his basement apartment in the low-income Kucukcekmece district, Turkish broadcaster HaberTurk TV reported.

The other was a 57-year-old woman who died after being swept away by the floods in another neighbourhood, the private DHA news agency reported.

The surging flood waters affected more than 1,750 homes and businesses in the city, according to the Istanbul governor's office. They included a line of shops in the Iktelli district, where the deluge dragged parked vehicles and



into furniture stores, destroying the merchandise, DHA reported.

The floods also engulfed a parking area for containers and trucks on the city's outskirts where people found safety by climbing on the roof of a restaurant, Turkish media reports said.

In Greece, a record rainfall caused at least two deaths near the central city of Volos and three people were reported missing. The fire department said one man was killed on Tuesday when a wall buckled and fell on him, and the body of a woman was discovered on Wednesday.

Authorities banned traffic

in Volos, the nearby mountain region of Pilon and the resort island of Skiathos, where many households remained without electricity on Wednesday.

Traffic was also banned in another two regions of central Greece near Volos, while the storms were forecast to continue until at least Thursday afternoon.

In Bulgaria, a storm caused floods on the country's southern Black Sea coast. The body of a missing tourist was recovered from the sea on Wednesday, raising the overall death toll to three. Border police vessels and drones were assisting efforts to locate another two people still listed

as missing. TV footage showed cars and camper vans being swept out to sea in the southern resort town of Tsarevo, where authorities declared a state of emergency.

Most of the rivers in the region burst their banks and several bridges were destroyed, causing serious traffic problems. Tourism Minister Zaritsa Dinkova said about 4,000 people were affected by the disaster along the entire southern stretch of Bulgaria's Black Sea coast.

"There is a problem transporting tourists because it is dangerous to go by coach on the roads affected by the floods," she added.

Birmingham council declares bankruptcy

PTI ■ LONDON

The local authorities running Britain's second-largest city, Birmingham, have shifted focus on maintaining vital services as they declared the council effectively bankrupt due to an annual budgetary shortfall of millions of pounds. Birmingham City Council, which is run by the Opposition Labour Party and is the largest local authority in Europe comprising over 100 councillors, issued a Section 114 notice on Tuesday to say that all new expenditures with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services will stop immediately. The council said the dire financial situation arose as it must fund an "equal pay liability" that has accrued to date in the region of GBP 650 million to GBP 760 million, but it does not have the resources to do so.

"On that basis, the Council's Interim Director of Finance, Fiona Greenway, has issued a report under section 114(3) of the Local Government Act, which confirms that the Council has insufficient resources to meet the equal pay expenditure and currently does not have any other means of meeting this liability," the council statement reads. "The Council will tight-

en the spend controls already in place and put them in the hands of the Section 151 Officer to ensure there is complete grip. The notice means all new spending, with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services, must stop immediately," it adds. The UK government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) said it had been "engaging regularly" with the council in recent months over the "pressures it faces" and had "expressed serious concern over its governance arrangements." "We have requested written assurances from the leader of the council that any decision regarding the council's issues over equal pay represents the best value for taxpayers' money," DLUHC said.

Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands region which covers Birmingham, said the news was "deeply disturbing" for residents and called for an "inquisition" into what had happened. "It is no secret that local authorities up and down the country have faced significant cuts over the past decade — even if the funding from government has been improving in recent years — and it has been a real challenge to keep services running," said Street.

EU targets Apple, Amazon, Meta, Microsoft in next phase of digital crackdown

AP ■ LONDON

The European Union (EU) is targeting Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, Google parent Alphabet, Facebook owner Meta and TikTok parent ByteDance under new digital rules aimed at reigning in the market power of online companies. The six companies were classified on Wednesday as online "gatekeepers" that must face the highest level of scrutiny under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act.

The act amounts to a list of do's and don'ts that seeks to prevent tech giants from cornering digital markets, with the threat of whopping fines or even forcing Big Tech companies to sell of parts of their business to operate in Europe. It's part of a sweeping update to the EU's digital rulebook that's starting to take force this year, and comes weeks after a companion package of rules aimed

at keeping internet users safe, the Digital Services Act, started kicking in.

"The most impactful online companies will now have to play by our EU rules," European Commissioner Thierry Breton, who's in charge of the bloc's digital policy, said on X, previously known as Twitter. "DMA means more choice for consumers. Fewer obstacles for smaller competitors. Opening the gates to the Internet." The EU's Executive Commission said digital platforms can be listed as gatekeepers if they act as key gateways between businesses and consumers by providing "core platform services." Those services include Google's Chrome browser, Microsoft's Windows operating systems, chat apps like Meta's WhatsApp, social networks like TikTok, and others playing a middleman role like Amazon's Marketplace and Apple's App Store.

Zonal Office, Ghaziabad Zone, Address: B-32, Sector-62, NOIDA-201307.

[See rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the BANK OF INDIA BULANDSHAHR BRANCH under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of security Interest (Act), 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with (rule 3) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 27.06.2023 calling upon the borrowers- Mr. Jugendra Singh S/O Mr. Mahendra Singh, Village- Rajwana, Pargana- Agauta, Tehsil- & Distt- Bulandshahr, UP-203001. Borrower is residing at Village- Rajwana, Pargana- Agauta, Tehsil- & Distt- Bulandshahr, UP-203001, (residential address) & H. No- 46/1, Ward No-02, Village- Akbarpur (Sushila Vihar-1) Tehsil & Distt- Bulandshahr, U.P. (Property address), to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 8,72,892.48 (Rupees Eight Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Two and paise Fourty Eight) as on 27.06.2023 with further interest, costs, expenses and other incidental charge etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The Borrower / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Sec. (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 4th day of September 2023. The Borrower / Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with said Property and any dealings with the Property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF INDIA, BULANDSHAHR BRANCH, Opp. Sharma Inter college, Civil line (Hospital Road) Bulandshahr, (U.P.) for an amount of Rs. 8,72,892.48 (Rupees Eight Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Two and paise Fourty Eight) as on 27.06.2023 with further interest, costs, expenses and other incidental charge etc. thereon [The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PART & PARCEL of residential property on H. No- 46/1, Ward No-02, Village- Akbarpur (Sushila Vihar-1) Tehsil & Distt- Bulandshahr, U.P.-203001 admeasuring area 105.00 Sq. Mtrs in the name of Mr. Jugendra Singh S/O Mr. Mahendra Singh (Borrower & Mortgagee) Bound as: East: House of Mr. Bheem Singh West: Road, North: Plot of Mukti, South: House of Mahendra Singh
Date : 04-09-2023, Place: Bulandshahr Authorised Officer, Bank of India

OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED

CIN No: L28219HR1988PLC003047
Regd. Office: 17-18, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District Mewat, Haryana. - 122103
Website: www.okplay.in Email: info@okplay.in Tel: 011 46190000 Fax: 011 46190090
INFORMATION REGARDING 34TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED

The 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of OK Play India Limited ("Company") will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC")/ Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 1:30 P.M. (IST) to transact the businesses as set forth in the Notice of AGM ("Notice") dated September 06, 2023, in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Rules made thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, General Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, General Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, General Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021, General Circular No. 19/2021 dated December 08, 2021, General Circular No. 21/2021 dated December 14, 2021, General Circular No. 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022, General Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022 and other applicable circulars issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/POD2/CIR/P/2023/4 dated January 5, 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circulars"). In accordance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circulars, the Notice and Integrated Report & Annual Accounts 2022-23 ("Integrated Report") will be sent through electronic mode to those Members whose email ids are registered with the Company/ Depository Participants (DPs) as on August 25, 2023 and the hard copy of the full Integrated Report will be sent to those shareholders who will request for same. The Notice and Integrated Report will also be available on the website of the Company at <https://www.okplay.in/>, on the website of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL"), at www.evoting.nsdl.com/ and on the website of the Stock Exchange i.e. Bombay Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com respectively. Further, the Members can join and participate in the AGM through VC/ OAVM facility only. The instructions for joining and manner of participation in the AGM will be provided in the Notice. Members attending AGM through VC/ OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. The Members holding shares in physical form who have not registered their email address with the Company are requested to register the same by following the procedure specified in the Notice. i.e. through submitting the requisite Form ISR-1 along with the supporting documents. Form ISR-1 is available at <https://masserv.com/downloads.asp> and www.okplay.in and detailed FAQs on the same are available at <https://okplay.in/investors/#1662467359558-b9167f3-448d> The Members holding shares in dematerialized form are requested to register/update their email addresses with their relevant DPs. The Company will provide remote e-voting facility to all the Members to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice. Additionally, the Company will also provide the facility of voting through e-voting system during the AGM. The detailed procedure for casting votes through remote e-voting/e-voting at the AGM, including the manner in which Members holding shares in physical form or who have not registered their email addresses can cast their vote through remote e-voting/e-voting at the AGM, shall be provided in the Notice. This advertisement is being issued for the information and benefit of all the Members of the Company in compliance with the MCA Circulars and the SEBI Circulars.

For OK Play India Limited
Sd/-
Meenu Goswami
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place : New Delhi
Date : 06.09.2023

Zonal Office, Ghaziabad Zone, Address: B-32, Sector-62, NOIDA-201307.

[See rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the BANK OF INDIA BULANDSHAHR BRANCH under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of security Interest (Act), 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with (rule 3) of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 27.06.2023 calling upon the borrowers- Mrs. Izhar Begum W/O Mr. Sujat Ali, H.No. 214, Dhameeda Adda Nayagaon, Bulandshahr UP-203001 & Mr. Sujat Ali S/O Shaukat Ali both residing at House No. 214, Dhameeda Adda, Nayagaon, Bulandshahr UP-203001 (Residential address) & Khet No. 225, Vill-Nayagaon, Paragana-Baran, Distt. Bulandshahr, U.P. (Property address), to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 43,90,770.79 (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and Paise Seventy Nine) as on 27.06.2023 with further interest, costs, expenses and other incidental charge etc. thereon within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The Borrower / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Sec. (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 4th day of September 2023. The Borrower / Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with said Property and any dealings with the Property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF INDIA, BULANDSHAHR BRANCH, Opp. Sharma Inter College, Civil line (Hospital Road) Bulandshahr, (U. P.) for an amount of Rs. 43,90,770.79 (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy and Paise Seventy Nine) as on 27.06.2023 with further interest, costs, expenses and other incidental charge etc. thereon [The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.]

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PART & PARCEL of residential property on Khet no. 225, vill- Nayagaon Bulandshahr, U.P.-203001 admeasuring area 83.66 Sq. Mtrs in the name of Mrs. Izhar Begum W/O Sujat Ali and Mr. Sujat Ali S/O Shaukat Ali, Bounded as: East - House of Hazi Anif, West - House of Sabir Sefi, North - Khet of Anil Kumar Lodhi, South - Rasta Sadak Dhakauli Road
Date : 04-09-2023, Place: Bulandshahr Authorised Officer, Bank of India

MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED

REGD. OFF: 10-A, UNDERHILL LAKE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054
CIN : L67120D1992PLC047890; Website : www.mymoneysecurities.com;
E-mail id : mymoneysecurities@outlook.com; Tel No : 011-47087300, 011-29306655
Information regarding 32nd Annual General Meeting of My Money Securities Limited Notice is hereby given that the 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") on Saturday 30th September, 2023 at 05:00 PM to transact the business set out in the notice convening the said AGM. The 32nd AGM will be held in compliance with the MCA General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08 April 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13 April 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated 05 May 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13 January 2021, Circular No. 19/2021 dated 08 December 2021, Circular No. 21/2021 dated 14 December 2021, Circular No. 22/2022 dated 05 May 2022 and Circular No. 10/2022 dated 28 December 2022 respectively, the provisions of the Companies Act 2013 and the rules made thereunder and SEBI Circular dated 15/10/2020, January 15, 2021, 13 May 2022 and 5 January 2023 read along with the applicable provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) 2015 (collectively referred to as "Circulars").

In accordance with the abovementioned Circulars, the Notice of 32nd AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 is being sent only electronically mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/ Depository Participant(s). The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 will be available on the website of the Company at www.mymoneysecurities.com, the website of the stock exchange BSE Limited www.bseindia.com and the website of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") (www.evoting.nsdl.com/) agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility: www.evoting.nsdl.com/. In compliance with the provisions of Section 103 of the Act and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of the SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company is pleased to provide the Members, the facility to cast their votes electronically through Remote e-Voting and E-Voting during the AGM in respect of all the businesses to be transacted at the AGM. The Company has engaged the services of NSDL to provide E-voting platform. The detailed procedure to be followed for the e-voting system of NSDL has been described in the Notice of AGM. All the Members are informed that:

- the business set out in the Notice calling the AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means only;
- Register of members & Share Transfer Books of the company will remain closed from Sunday, 24th September, 2023 to Saturday, 30th September, 2023 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of taking record of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting;
- Remote e-Voting facility shall commence from Wednesday, 27th September, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. and will end on Friday, 29th September, 2023 at 5.00 p.m. Remote e-Voting will not be allowed beyond the aforesaid date and time and the Remote e-Voting module shall be disabled by NSDL upon expiry of aforesaid period;
- Voting rights shall be reckoned on the paid-up value of shares registered in the name of the Member/ beneficial owner as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2023;
- Any person who becomes a Member of the Company after dispatch of this Notice and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2023, may obtain the User ID and password for Remote e-Voting by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or info@masserv.com;
- Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may participate in AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again through E-voting during the AGM. Members participating in AGM and had not cast their vote through Remote e-Voting can cast their vote through E-Voting during the AGM;
- The Members whose names appear in the Register of Members/ list of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2023, only shall be entitled to avail the facility of Remote e-Voting as well as E-voting during AGM. Since the AGM is being held through VC/OAVM, physical attendance of Members has been dispensed with and accordingly, the facility for appointment of proxies by the Shareholders will not be available for the Meeting. However, Corporate Shareholders can authorize representative(s) to attend the Meeting and are requested to send a certified copy of the Board Resolution authorizing their representative or the authority letter or power of attorney of the board of directors or other governing body of the body corporate authorizing their representative to attend and vote on their behalf at the meeting through email at mymoneysecurities@outlook.com and cs.sarikajain@yahoo.in. In case you have not registered your email ID with the Company Depository, please follow below instructions to register your email ID for obtaining the annual report for FY 2022-2023 and login details for e-voting;

Physical Holding: Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at info@masserv.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/ PAN (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address.
Please send your bank detail with original cancelled cheque to our RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2nd floor, Okhla industrial area Phase-II, New Delhi 110026 alongwith letter mentioning folio no. If not registered already, PLEASE UPDATE THE SAME ON OR BEFORE 23/09/2023

Demat Holding: Please contact your Depository Participant (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP.
PLEASE UPDATE THE SAME ON OR BEFORE 23/09/2023

For and on behalf of the Board
For My Money Securities Limited
Sd/-
Vikas Seth
Managing Director
DIN : 00383194
Date : 06.09.2023
Place : Delhi

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173
Regd. Office : 2/8, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007
Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in
Tel. : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000
BSE Listing Symbol: COSCO

NOTICE OF 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Cosco (India) Limited ("the Company") will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at 12:00 Noon through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") to transact the business(es), as set out in the Notice of the AGM only through e-voting facility.

In compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules issued thereunder and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circular Nos. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, 10/2022 dated 28th December, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and SEBI Circular(s) Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated 13th May, 2022, SEBI/HO/CFD/POD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated 5th January, 2023 issued by SEBI, along with other applicable Circulars issued in this regard by the MCA and SEBI, the AGM will be held only through VC/OAVM. The instructions for joining the AGM electronically are provided in the Notice of the AGM.

Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for FY 2022-23 has been sent on September 06, 2023 only through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company or CDSL/NSDL ("Depositories") and will also be available on the Company's website www.cosco.in and website of the Stock Exchanges viz. BSE Ltd. at www.bseindia.com.

In compliance with the provisions of section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Secretarial Standard-2 issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and the MCA Circular(s), the member are provided with the facility to cast their vote electronically through remote e-voting (prior to AGM) and e-voting (during the AGM) services provided by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) on all resolution set forth in the Notice of 44th AGM.

The Company has engaged the services of M/s. Skyline Financial Services Private Limited as the authorized agency for conducting the AGM electronically. The remote e-voting period will commence from Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (9:00 a.m. IST) and ends on Friday, September 29, 2023 (5:00 p.m. IST). During this period the eligible members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module will be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter i.e. voting shall not be allowed beyond 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2023. Facility for e-voting shall also be made available during the AGM to those Members who attend the AGM and who have not already cast their vote. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend/participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. The Company has appointed CS Ravi Sharma (Mem. No. 4468) a practicing Company Secretary as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting procedure in a fair and transparent manner.

Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at info@skylinetra.com or admin@skylinetra.com or evoting@nsdl.co.in, to cast his/her vote. The detailed procedure for obtaining the login ID and password and exercising e-voting provided in the Notice of AGM.

The cut-off date for determining the eligibility of members for voting through remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM is Saturday, September 23, 2023.

The results of voting will be declared within 48 hours from the conclusion of AGM i.e. on or before October 03, 2023 and the results so declared along with the consolidated Scrutinizer's report will be placed on the website of the Company www.cosco.in and website of the Stock Exchanges viz. BSE Ltd. at www.bseindia.com.

In case of any queries / grievances connected with electronic voting, Shareholders may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and E-Voting User Manual for shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting@nsdl.com under help section or write an email to evoting@nsdl.co.in or contact to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre , Senior Manager, email ID: evoting@nsdl.co.in, Ph.No. 022-4886 7000 or 022-2499 7000. Alternatively, members may also write to the Company Secretary of the Company at the email ID: sudha@cosco.in

Notice is also hereby given pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with applicable Rules and Regulation 42 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Sunday, September 24, 2023 to Saturday, September 30, 2023, both days inclusive, for the 44th AGM and for determining the entitlement of members for the purpose of AGM for the financial year ended March 31st, 2023.

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Cosco (India) Limited
Sd/-
Devinder Kumar Jain
Managing Director and CEO
Place: New Delhi
Date: September 06, 2023 (DIN: 00191539)

FinMin tightens PMLA rules

Brings partners with 10 per cent stake under its purview

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry has tightened the anti-money laundering rules by bringing in partners holding 10 per cent stake in a firm, as against 15 per cent earlier, under the definition of beneficial owners. The ministry has amended the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005, which also provides for management-level functionary as 'Principal Officer' responsible for providing information to the financial intelligence unit.



The amendment also said that in the case of a trust, the reporting entity shall ensure that trustees disclose their status at the time of commencement of an account-based relationship or when carrying out specified transactions. The government has in recent months tightened various anti-money laundering provisions ahead of assessment by the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The agency is scheduled to conduct an assessment of the implementation of anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing standards in India later this year.

In May, the Finance Ministry had notified changes in PMLA provisions which made chartered and cost accountants and company secretaries liable under the anti-money laundering law for carrying out certain specified financial transactions on behalf of their clients. These transactions include buying and selling of any properties and management of bank accounts. In March, the PMLA rules were amended making it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to record financial transactions of politically exposed persons (PEP). Also, financial institutions or reporting agencies were mandated to collect information about the financial transactions of the non-profit organisations or NGOs under the PMLA. The government also made it mandatory for crypto exchanges and intermediaries dealing with virtual digital assets to do KYC (Know Your Customer) for their clients and users of the platform.

Reliance Retail acquires majority stake in Alia Bhatt-promoted kids' wear brand Ed-a-Mamma

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Retail has entered into a joint venture with a 51 per cent stake in Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt-promoted clothing brand of kids and maternity wear Ed-a-Mamma. Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), the holding company for retail operation of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), in a statement said it aims to take the brand Ed-a-Mamma on a dynamic growth trajectory. It will be "closely collaborating with founder Alia Bhatt and leveraging the management strength of its subsidiary Reliance Brands Limited to spearhead the business. This partnership also marks a significant step forward in promoting sustainable fashion for the younger generation," said a joint statement.



Ed-a-Mamma and its founder Alia Bhatt.

RRVL is the leading retailer and had reported a consolidated turnover of Rs 2.60 lakh crore (USD 31.7 billion) in the year ended March 31, 2023. Established in 2007, Reliance Brands has collaborated with over 50 international brands and operates over 2,000 stores in India. It has a portfolio of brand partnerships, which includes AK-OK, Armani Exchange, Bally, Bottega Veneta, Burberry, Canali, Coach, Diesel, Dune, Emporio Armani, Ermegildo Zegna, Gas, Giorgio Armani, Hamleys, Hugo Boss, Jimmy Choo, Michael Kors, Mothercare, Muji, Paul & Shark, Paul Smith, Pottery Barn, Ritu Kumar, Salvatore Ferragamo, Satya Paul, Steve Madden, Superdry, Scotch & Soda, Tiffany & Co, Versace, Villoroy & Boch and West Elm.



Not in negotiations with Haldiram's to buy majority stake: Tata Consumer Products

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Wednesday said it is not in negotiations with Haldiram's to acquire a 51 per cent stake in the company.

According to reports, the Tata Group's FMCG arm is in talks with Haldiram's to buy a majority stake, but not comfortable with a high enterprise value. Haldiram's is a leading snacks maker and restaurant operator. "The company is not in negotiations as reported" to acquire Haldiram's, TCPL said in a regulatory filing. The filing was in response to a clarification sought by the NSE and the BSE regarding the reports. "Tata Consumer Products does not comment on market speculation," a company spokesperson said earlier in the day. When contacted, Haldiram management declined to comment on the matter. TCPL owns brands such as Tata Salt, Tata Tea, Tetley, Tata Coffee, Tata Soufflull and Eight O'clock in the tea, coffee and beverages segment and Himalayan, Gluco+ in the liquid beverages. The company is also expanding in the foods and beverages sector.

Sensex, Nifty end in positive territory

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended in the positive territory on Wednesday on buying in HDFC Bank and a largely firm trend in Asian markets. The Sensex closed at 65,880.52, up 100.26 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 65,880.52. During the day, it had declined 292.23 points or 0.44 per cent to 65,488.03. The Nifty advanced 36.15 points or 0.18 per cent to end at 19,611.05.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Titan, ITC, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major gainers. Tata Steel, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, NTPC and ICICI Bank were the major losers.



In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed marginally by 0.13 per cent while small-cap index skidded 0.04 per cent. Among the sectoral indices, telecommunication jumped 1.69 per cent, FMCG climbed 1.05 per cent, consumer durables (0.89 per cent), healthcare (0.69 per cent) and energy (0.67 per cent). Commodities, financial services, industrials, IT, bankex, capital goods metal and realty were the laggards. "A spike in crude oil reverberated across the globe, reviving concerns about inflation and sparking fears of a Fed rate hike. This led to a surge in US bond yields, causing investors to shift towards the safety of bonds and reversing the buying trend of foreign investors in the domestic market. Nevertheless, the resilience of the domestic markets shone through as investors placed their bets on an improved outlook, ultimately helping the market recover from the initial shock," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green while Seoul settled lower. European equity markets were trading lower. The US markets ended in the negative territory on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.70 per cent to USD 89.41 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,245.86 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark had climbed 152.12 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 65,780.26 on Tuesday. The Nifty advanced 46.10 points or 0.24 per cent to end at 19,574.90. Builders complete 86 pc of 1,642 housing projects launched between Jul-17-Dec-18: Anarock New Delhi, Sep 6 (PTI) At least 86 per cent of the total 1,642 housing projects were registered under the real estate regulatory law — RERA. In these major cities have been completed so far, helped by tighter regulations under realty law RERA, according to real estate consultant Anarock. These 1,642 housing projects are registered under the real estate regulatory law — RERA. However, in terms of number of residential units, the developers have completed only 71 per cent of the residential properties that they launched across seven cities during these 1.5 years. These cities are Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Pune, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata. "When it comes to ensuring timely delivery of residential real estate projects, RERA has delivered resoundingly, wherever it has been fully deployed," real estate consultant Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said.



Gold declines ₹100; silver plunges ₹700

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price declined by Rs 100 to Rs 60,200 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday amid weak cues in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal had ended at Rs 60,300 per 10 gram. "Gold extended its fall on Wednesday, with spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 60,200/10 gram, down by Rs 100, in response to bearish cues from overseas markets," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said. Silver also plunged Rs 700 to Rs 74,800 per kilogram. In global markets, gold and silver were trading lower at USD 1,924 per ounce and USD 23.35 per ounce, respectively. "Gold slipped to one-week lows, as US treasury yields and the dollar index advanced on expectations that interest rates are likely to remain high. "The US dollar rose to a near six-month high...In the last session, while benchmark 10-year bond yields reached their highest level in over a week, dampening appetite for bullion," said Navneet Damani, senior vice-president of commodity research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Centre issues advisory for mandatory disclosure of masur stockholding

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has directed traders, millers and importers of pulses to compulsorily disclose details about their stockholding of masur (lentil) as part of efforts to prevent market manipulation and control price rise. To ensure availability of all kinds of pulses at reasonable prices in the festive season, the government is "watching" the developments very closely and would initiate "stringent measures" to get the stock released into the market, according to Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh. "The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, has issued advisory for mandatory stock disclosure of masur (lentil) with immediate effect," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said in a statement on Wednesday. The decision was taken during a weekly review meeting chaired by Singh. The all-India average retail price of masur was Rs 93.2 per kilogram on Wednesday, slightly lower than Rs 98.12 per kg in the year-ago period but the prices of other pulses are under pressure, as per official data.

The ministry said that all stakeholders should mandatorily disclose their masur stock on a portal every Friday and any undisclosed stock, if found, will be considered as hoarding and suitable action under the Essential Commodities Act would be initiated. "At a time when lentil import flow increases from Canada and tur imports rise from African countries, few players are trying to manipulate the market against the interest of consumers and the nation," the secretary said during the review meeting. The secretary has also instructed the department to broad-base lentil buffer procurement and procure available stocks at prices around the minimum support price. The direction also comes against the backdrop of NAFED and NCCF suspending their tenders to purchase imported lentils due to exorbitantly high bids received from few suppliers amid hints of cartelisation. Singh also said that judiciously balancing the interest of the farmers vis-à-vis the consumers is paramount and the government will not hesitate to initiate stern action against those trying to hurt the interest of consumers and farmers in an "unscrupulous" manner.



Oil nears \$90 for first time in 2023, reduces chances of petrol, diesel price change in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Oil prices hit a 10-month high of nearly USD 90 per barrel as Saudi Arabia and Russia extended their voluntary production and export cuts until the end of the year. For a nation that is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for its oil needs, the surge in prices means India will have to shell out more and the prospect of returning to market-driven petrol and diesel prices in the near future diminished further. Brent crude prices surged around 6.5 per cent over the past week after Saudi Arabia, which leads the expanded OPEC+ cartel with Russia, decided to keep its one million barrels a day reduction in supplies to the global market until the end of December. Russia has added its own voluntary export cuts in recent months. The move has led to Brent rising above USD 90 a barrel for the first time this year on Tuesday. On Wednesday, it was trading at USD 89.67 per barrel. The basket of crude oil that

India imports has averaged USD 89.81 per barrel this month, up from USD 86.43 in August, according to oil ministry data. The Indian basket was hovering in the range of USD 73-75 per barrel in May and June, rekindling hopes for a return to market-based pricing and a reduction in petrol and diesel prices. But rates spurt to USD 80.37 per barrel in July and now to near USD 90. "Public sector oil companies had been recouping losses they incurred for holding rates when crude oil prices shot through the roof last year. In May, international oil prices and retail pump rates had come at par. "But now with the prices rising, the difference between cost and retail prices will reappear," an industry official said. India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and its fuel pricing is indexed to international rates. Petrol and diesel prices have been on a freeze for a record 17 months in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62 a litre.

Govt OK's ₹3,760 crore for 4,000 MWh battery energy storage system

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday approved Rs 3,760 crore for viability gap funding of up to 40 per cent of total capital cost to set up 4,000 MWh battery energy storage system in the country, Union minister Anurag Thakur said. The entire Rs 3,760 crore viability gap funding (VGF) will be borne by the central government, the Information & Broadcasting Minister said while briefing the media about the Cabinet decisions. The VGF will be released in five tranches till 2030-31 and help in creation of 4,000 MWh storage across the country. The viability gap funding, Thakur said, will lead to an investment of Rs 9,500 crore. About the progress of renewables, he said that the solar energy has increased from 2.6 GW in 2014 to 71 GW at present while wind energy has increased from 21 GW (in 2014) to 40 GW. He said that India is meeting its 25 per cent of energy demand from renewable energy, including from large hydro plants. He explained that India needs to develop BESS (battery energy storage system) for making round-the-clock renewable energy supply possible. The BESS would enable use of stored renewable energy in peak hours, he said. The minister opined that the scheme is in sync with India's ambition to meet its 50 per cent of energy requirements through renewable energy and non-fossil energy sources by 2030 and also help reduce carbon emission. An official statement said, "The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister approves the Scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)." The approved scheme envisages development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31, with a financial support of up to 40 per cent of the capital cost in the form of VGF it explained. The move is expected to bring down the cost of battery storage systems increasing their viability. Designed to harness the potential of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, the scheme aims to provide clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to the citizens, it stated. The VGF for development of BESS scheme, with an initial outlay of Rs 9,400 crore, including a budgetary support of Rs 3,760 crore, signifies the government's commitment to sustainable energy solutions, it stated. The scheme aims to achieve a Levelized Cost of Storage (LCoS) ranging from Rs 5.50 to Rs 6.60 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), making stored renewable energy a viable option for managing peak power demand across the country. The VGF shall be disbursed in five tranches at various stages of implementation of BESS projects. To ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach the consumers, a minimum of 85 per cent of the BESS project capacity will be made available to power distribution companies (discoms), it stated. This will not only enhance the integration of renewable energy into the electricity grid but also minimize wastage while optimising the utilisation of transmission networks, the ministry statement said. Consequently, it will reduce the need for costly infrastructure upgrades.



Icra revises outlook for petrochemicals to negative on profitability concerns

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rating agency Icra has revised the outlook on the petrochemicals and basic chemicals industries to negative from stable due to weak demand and global supply glut. Outlook on specialty chemicals remains stable, with profitability expected to moderate in FY2024, but not trigger an outlook change at this stage, it said, adding that the petrochemical and basic chemicals industries are likely to face pressure on operating rates and profitability. "The petrochemicals and basic chemicals industries have been facing headwinds on account of weak demand amid a global supply glut, owing to capacity expansions in several chemicals. This is likely to exert pressure on the operating rates as well as profitability of the petrochemical and basic chemical players," Icra said in a statement. As for the specialty chemicals segment, while profitability is expected to moderate in FY2024, the extent is expected to be mild enough to not trigger an outlook change at this stage. According to Prashant Vasishth, senior vice president and co-group head of corporate ratings, Icra Ltd, "Tepid global growth and inflationary pressures in major chemical-consuming nations are exerting pressure on the global demand of a host of chemicals and thus, volume growth for these chemicals is expected to slow down in the near term." Moreover, sizable capacity expansions over 2022 to 2024, are expected to weigh on the operating rates and would result in a supply overhang, which is likely to keep the spreads and margins under pressure in the next 2-3 years. While domestic demand is likely to remain healthy, dumping of excess output by large overseas producers is likely to keep profitability under pressure, he said. For commodity polymers, the global demand is expected to remain muted. While the European economy has witnessed weak growth and inflationary pressures, the recovery of the Chinese economy has been sluggish despite opening up.

Working on with health insurers to ensure 100 per cent cashless claim settlement soon: IRDAI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Insurance sector regulator IRDAI on Wednesday said it is working on with health insurance providers to ensure 100 per cent cashless settlement of medical expense claims as soon as possible. Currently cashless claim process is tiresome and insurers deduct 10 per cent or more from the total billing in the name of consumables and other heads. Also, most hospitals don't allow cashless admissions even though the insurance product offers such a facility, citing one or other excuses. Addressing the three-day global fintech festival here on the second day, IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) chairman Debasish Panda said the regulator is working with health insurers and the national health authority and also the insurance council to roll out 100 per cent cashless claim settlements as soon as possible. However, he didn't give any time frame. IRDAI is also working closely with the Insurance Council and the National Health Authority to onboard more hospitals onto the National Health Exchange for this, he said. Panda said the regulator is working with insurers to facili-

tate better and affordable pricing of health insurance for the elderly, which, he said, is an area of critical concern now as current pricing make mediclaim policies beyond the reach of most of the elderly. On the drive for 'insurance for all' by 2047 when the nation will be celebrating a century of independence, panda said, "we should work for achieving the target much before the terminal date".

New Zealand overcome Bairstow blitz to level England T20 series

AFP ■ NOTTINGHAM (UNITED KINGDOM)

Mitchell Santner starred with the ball before Tim Seifert led the way with the bat as New Zealand beat England by six wickets at Trent Bridge on Tuesday to end a four-match Twenty20 series all square at 2-2.

When Jonny Bairstow was making a quickfire 73, to give the Black Caps a reminder of his stunning Test century against them in Nottingham last year, T20 world champions England were on course for a huge total. But, with England white-ball captain Jos Buttler officially rested from the game, New Zealand took four wickets for 35 runs -- with left-arm spinner Santner returning fine figures of 3-30.

New Zealand controlled their chase, with Seifert making 48 and the in-form Glenn Phillips 42 before Mark Chapman's unbeaten 40 completed a comfortable win with 16 balls left.

England will now face New Zealand -- the team they beat in the 2019 50-over World Cup final -- in a four-match one-day international series starting in Cardiff on Friday as they continue their preparations ahead of a title defence in India starting next month.

The first two matches of the T20 series witnessed two dominant England wins, by seven wickets and 95 runs, before New Zealand hit back with an equally emphatic 74-run success at Edgbaston on Sunday.

'AGGRESSIVE OPTIONS'

"We were far from our best in the first two games and the last two have been closer to what this side is about," New Zealand captain Tim Southee said at the presentation ceremony.

"They (England) got off to a great start



tonight but we knew that if we kept taking wickets it was the best way to slow them down. We were trying to be smart and make them take aggressive options."

Stand-in England captain Moeen Ali said: "They (New Zealand) bowled really well but we just lost some momentum after the powerplay so that was disappointing."

He added: "They had a brilliant start with the bat too and then we couldn't wrestle it back."

England were 105-1 off 11 overs after Moeen won the toss.

But Santner led New Zealand's fightback in the field with a haul that included the prize scalp of Bairstow in an innings where the next highest score was the 26 made by both Dawid Malan and Liam Livingstone.

Bairstow dominated the powerplay with three legside sixes, pacemen Matt Henry and Kyle Jamieson the bowlers to suffer.

But his assault ended when he failed to clear long-on after lofting Santner down the ground.

Ish Sodhi, another of New Zealand's spinners, induced ring star Harry Brook -- left out of England's provisional World Cup squad -- to hole out for four before Santner removed both Malan and Moeen in the 16th over.

Bairstow suffered a shoulder injury while batting with the result that regular white-ball keeper Buttler was drafted in as emergency cover behind the stumps.

Seifert hammered Brydon Carse and Luke Wood for sixes before leaping teenage leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed had him caught and bowled in a return of 2-27 on his return to the team.

But Chapman made sure of New Zealand's victory.



Lyles, Richardson confirmed for 100m at Diamond League Final

AFP ■ LOS ANGELES

Noah Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson, fresh off 100m titles at the World Athletics Championships, will run the event in next week's Prefontaine Classic, the Diamond League Final.

Meet organizers announced the US sprint stars would compete at the September 16 showdown at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon.

Richardson followed her 100m victory at the US championships in Eugene in July by

winning the 100 world crown and taking third at 200m last month in Budapest as well as helping the US women's 4x100 relay capture gold.

Lyles staked his claim as the world's fastest man by sweeping the 100 and 200 world titles and helping a US 4x100 men's relay triumph. Lyles is a four-time Diamond League Final champion in the 200, taking the crown in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022. He seeks his first title at 100m after setting a wind-legal personal best of 9.83 seconds this year to rank first in the world.

Djokovic into record 47th Grand Slam semi-final at US Open

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic powered into a record 47th Grand Slam semi-final on Tuesday with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 win over American ninth seed Taylor Fritz at the US Open.

Djokovic continues his push for a record-extending men's 24th Grand Slam title in the last four against another home player, either 10th seed Frances Tiafoe or the up-and-coming Ben Shelton.

The 36-year-old Djokovic is through to the semi-finals in New York for the 13th time and is now 12-0 against Americans at the US Open.

"It's a huge opportunity every single time I step out onto the court at this age, at this stage of my life," said Djokovic, who broke the mark he shared with Roger Federer for most major semi-final appearances. "I don't know how many more opportunities I'll get so I'm trying to enjoy it as much as I can."

"I've played so many times

on this court, so many epic matches. I can't wait for another in a few days' time," added the three-time US Open champion.

Djokovic, who will reclaim the number one ranking from Carlos Alcaraz next week, is one win away from reaching the final at all four majors in the same year for the third time in his career. He is 2-0 against 2022 US Open semi-finalist Tiafoe but has yet to face the 20-year-old Shelton.

"I will enjoy that match from the sofa with my physio and some popcorn and a nice drink - water with lemon. I will put my legs up and try to recover," said Djokovic.

"I have to be ready for whatever will come my way from the opposite side of the net. Both players are very charismatic and dynamic players. It will be great to watch them play."

DJOKOVIC KEEPS COOL

Djokovic made it eight wins in as many matches with Fritz, who had pushed him to five sets



in their previous Grand Slam meeting at the 2021 Australian Open but barely made a dent in the Serbian star's armoury Tuesday.

Djokovic saved a break point in the first game but swiftly gained control on a swel-

tering afternoon, with the roof partially closed on Arthur Ashe Stadium to shield the players from the sun.

Fritz had lost just serve just once through four rounds en route to his first US Open quarter-final, but Djokovic broke

him three times in succession to pocket the first set with ease.

Fritz, whose mother Kathy May reached the last eight here in 1978, finally held to start the second set, only briefly slowing Djokovic's charge.

Djokovic again broke for a

2-1 cushion and foiled Fritz the following game when the American generated four break points but was unable to penetrate his rival's ironclad defences.

The early break sufficed for Djokovic to surge two sets in front as he hammered an ace on set point.

Fritz had another whiff at 15-40 on Djokovic's serve in the sixth game of the third set, his inability to capitalise growing even costlier when the Serbian broke to edge closer to the finish line.

Fritz hit right back when an agitated Djokovic speared a forehand wide, but a woefully loose next game from the American spelled the end of the road as Djokovic eventually served out for victory.

"I didn't take my chances," said Fritz, who converted only two of 12 break points. "I didn't think that he played any of those points I guess exceptionally, raised his level. He was solid, and I didn't perform well enough on a lot of the big points."

Nketiah ready to seize England chance

AFP ■ BURTON UPON TRENT (UNITED KINGDOM)

Arsenal striker Eddie Nketiah believes his first England call-up has come at the right time as he stakes his claim to be Harry Kane's deputy at Euro 2024. The 24-year-old is England's all-time top goalscorer at under-21 level having netted 16 in 17 games.

But after bursting onto the scene as an 18-year-old, Nketiah's future at Arsenal looked in doubt until an injury to Gabriel Jesus gave him the opportunity to impress for Mikel Arteta's men last season.

Nketiah has also deputised for Jesus this season, scoring twice in four Premier League games, to earn his call-up to Gareth Southgate's squad.

"I think I am a much better player now than I was two or three years ago. It is really nice



and I am coming in at a good time," said Nketiah on Tuesday.

"I feel confident and I feel ready to continue to improve. That is the thing, I'm still young and humble enough to know I am not the finished article."

"Coming away with these players and being able to show my quality and learn from them is really good for me and (to) continue to take those steps in

my career."

England travel to face Ukraine in Wroclaw, Poland on Saturday looking to extend their perfect record from four games of Euro 2024 qualifying.

The Three Lions then face Scotland in a friendly on Tuesday to mark the 150th anniversary of the first ever international between the countries.

That clash at Hampden Park could offer Southgate the chance to rest the likes of Kane as he looks to assess the depth of his squad ahead of the tournament in Germany next year.

And Nketiah is desperate for game time after opting to play for England over Ghana, where his parents are from.

"Obviously both sides were always an option," he added on the possibility of representing the Black Stars.

"I think naturally coming through the academy at England, you have the aspiration to play here and once the call-up was there and the offer was on the table it was really hard to turn down."

"I felt now was a good time to make that step so obviously I'm really happy to be here and proud to be here. Hopefully I can go on and help the team this week and get some caps."

Weary Ostapenko raps 'crazy' schedule after Open exit

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Jelena Ostapenko took aim at "crazy" US Open scheduling after being bundled out of the quarter-finals by American teenager Coco Gauff on Tuesday.

Less than 48 hours after sending world number one Iga Swiatek crashing out of the tournament, the Latvian 20th seed found herself heading for the exits after a 6-0, 6-2 drubbing.

But Ostapenko was unhappy at tournament scheduling that left her having to face a noon quarter-final in searing heat on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court so soon after her fourth round win.

"Today was not really good match from me," Ostapenko said. "I think it's really hard to recover from those night matches, because after beating world



No. 1, I went to sleep at, like, 5:00 in the morning.

"You sleep for, I don't know, maybe like seven, eight hours, but you completely don't recover. Yesterday the whole day I felt very low energy. I thought today I was going to wake up and feel

better. But honestly, I didn't really feel much better."

"I think it's a little bit crazy," she added.

"If I play a match, a late-night session, then I suppose in one day I have to play at least at the same time or later on,

because you don't really have much time to recover."

Ostapenko said tournament officials had led her to believe she would be given a later start on Tuesday following her win over Swiatek, which wrapped up just minutes before midnight on Sunday.

"I was pretty sure I'm gonna play at night session, because that's what they told me," Ostapenko said.

"When I saw the schedule I was a little bit surprised, not in a really good way."

Meanwhile Ostapenko said while she hadn't been bothered by the heat, the bright sunshine on the court had caused her problems.

"It was very hard to see the ball, because half of the court was in the shadow and half was in the sun," she said. "I felt like I was reacting too late because of the shadow."

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Smiling Gauff romps into US Open semi-finals

Coco Gauff said learning how to smile more often is behind her dazzling run at the US Open after she stormed into the semi-finals with a straight sets thrashing of Jelena Ostapenko on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old sixth seed became the first American teenager to reach the last four of the US Open since Serena Williams in 2001 after demolishing Latvia's Ostapenko 6-0, 6-2 in just 1hr 8min.

It was another polished performance that suggested Gauff is finally ready to land a breakthrough Grand Slam title, four years after she announced herself to the world with a magical run to the fourth round at Wimbledon in 2019.

Gauff's season has been transformed since she began working with veteran coach Brad Gilbert in July, weeks after she was left distraught by a first-round exit at Wimbledon.

has won titles in Washington and Cincinnati, where she also defeated outgoing world number one Iga Swiatek for the first time.

Gauff says one of the biggest changes Gilbert has made is to her mindset.

"I thought to play and win you have to be ultra serious and ultra focused, which is true, but also you still have to enjoy it," Gauff said after Tuesday's win.

"Honestly, the first meeting that I had with Brad before he started coaching with me, one of the first things he said is 'You need to smile more'. It wasn't really anything with my game or anything."

"I really took that, and when he said that I was a little bit surprised. I started to think and I was like, 'Yeah, I do.' That's something I'm trying to work on and continuing to do, and obviously I think it's helping my



results."

Gauff meanwhile says she is flattered by comparisons to Serena Williams after matching the 23-time Grand Slam champion's feat in reaching the US Open last four as a teenager.

"I mean, being in any sentence with her is great. She's the greatest player of all time," she said. "I'm nothing close to that yet. I'm just really honored to be in the same sentence as her."

"She's my idol. I think if you told me when I was younger that I would be in these same stat lines as her, I would freak out."

Gauff will face either Czech 10th seed Karolina Muchova or Romania's Sorana Cirstea in the last four on Thursday.

'CRAZY' SCHEDULING

On Tuesday's evidence, Gauff will head into the last four brimming with confidence after producing a superb display to

overwhelm Ostapenko.

Ostapenko had produced the shock of the tournament in the last 16 on Sunday, ousting world number one and reigning women's champion Iga Swiatek in three sets.

But amid furnace-like heat on the Arthur Ashe Stadium, the inconsistent Latvian wilted in the face of a scorching performance from her American opponent.

Former French Open champion Ostapenko hit out at US Open scheduling after her defeat, stating she had not been given enough time to recover properly following her gruelling late-night victory over Swiatek on Sunday.

"I think it's really hard to recover from those night matches, because after beating world No. 1, I went to sleep at 5 a.m.," Ostapenko said.

"You sleep for maybe like

seven, eight hours, but you don't completely recover."

"I think it's a little bit crazy," Gauff broke Ostapenko's

serve three times in a lopsided first set which was over in 20 minutes, with the Latvian coughing 15 unforced errors to Gauff's two.

Ostapenko was soon in trouble in the second set, suffering a service break in the opening game when Gauff's sublime drop shot left the Latvian scrambling to the net.

However Ostapenko finally got on the board with a break of serve in the next game only to surrender that momentum in the next game when Gauff broke her for the fifth time for a 2-1 lead.

The next three games went with serve before Gauff turned the screw to break for a 5-2 lead that left the teenager serving for the match.

Although Ostapenko defiantly saved two match points, Gauff clinched victory with a forehand winner.

Pak pace trio too hot to handle as B'desh bowled out for 193

PTI ■ LAHORE

Haris Rauf proved to be too quick for the Bangladesh batters, who were also troubled relentlessly by Naseem Shah as the Shakib Al Hasan-led side was bundled out for a paltry 193, well inside 40 overs in an Asia Cup Super 4 match against Pakistan here on Wednesday.

Despite a 100-run stand and twin half-centuries by skipper Shakib (53 off 57 balls) and former captain Mushfiqur Rahim (64 off 87 balls), Bangladesh suffered twin batting collapse on either side of the fifth wicket partnership.

They were reduced to 47 for 4 during the first Powerplay and again lost six wickets for 47 runs between overs 30 to 39.

Rauf (4/19 in 6 overs) terrorised the batters with sheer pace while Naseem (3/34 in 5.4 overs) also added seam and swing with it.

The trouble started in the second over as last match's centurion Mehidy Hasan Miraz (0) flicked the first delivery he faced off Naseem into the hands of mid-wicket.

Mohammed Naim (20) and



Litton Das (16) hit a flurry of boundaries between them, taking the score to 31 before Shaheen Shah Afridi (1/42 in 7 overs) got one to climb on the latter, who could only fend it awkwardly allowing Mohammed Rizwan to complete the for-

malities. After that Rauf, coming in at one change, started hitting the bat faster than the opposition willow wielders could have envisaged.

Rauf, who hits the hard lengths, had Naim cramped for

room while trying a pull-shot but all he could do was offer a simple return catch.

Towhid Hridoy (2) didn't measure up as Rauf went slightly wider off the crease and angled one at 140 kmph plus speed. Hridoy couldn't get his

Floodlight malfunction for 20 minutes leaves PCB red-faced

PTI ■ LAHORE

The Pakistan Cricket Board, on Wednesday, was left red-faced after a floodlight malfunctioning led to a 20-minute stoppage during the Asia Cup match between the hosts and Bangladesh.

Bangladesh were all-out for 193 in 38.4 overs and Pakistan had started their chase on time reaching 15 for no loss in five overs when light in one of the towers installed at the Gaddafi Stadium went off.

The exact reason for the malfunction wasn't known but the match had to be halt-

ed for a good 20-minute period with Pakistan openers Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman having a chat with the umpires.

Finally, the bulbs on the tower started glowing once again and the players were back on the field for the proceedings to start.

The Bangladeshi bowlers looked in nice rhythm during the first five overs with left-arm Shoriful Islam looking incisive.

The embarrassing stoppage of play did disturb their rhythm. No PCB official has yet clarified the reason for the glitch.

Injury scare for Naseem Shah versus Bangladesh

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan has suffered an injury scare in the form of pacer Naseem Shah, who has seemingly hurt his left arm. It happened during Pakistan's Super-Four fixture of the Asia Cup versus Bangladesh here on Wednesday.

With Bangladesh batting first, pacer Shaheen Afridi bowled to Mohammad Naim, who flicked the ball to the fine leg. As Naseem went for a full-length dive to his left to stop the ball, he immediately held his arm and was in visible pain.

The team physio rushed in, while Naseem remained laid on the ground for a few minutes



before walking off the field.

Although Naseem's injury is yet to be ascertained, it raises concerns in the Pakistan camp ahead of their vital encounter against arch-rival India on Sunday in Colombo. Also, with the ICC Cricket World Cup due to happen in India next month, an injury to Naseem could severely hamper Pakistan's plans.

Naseem has been good with the ball for the Men in Green, being the second-most wicket-taker in the continuing event, clasping five in three outings at an economy of 4.29, with the best figures of 3 for 36 that came against the Men in Blue.

Gill, Kishan attain ODI career-best rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Riding on their exploits at the Rongoing Asia Cup, young India opener Shubman Gill and wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan have achieved career-best ratings in the latest ICC ODI Rankings released on Wednesday.

Gill has broken into the top three among batters, attaining the third spot with 750 rating points, thanks to his unbeaten 67 against Nepal on Monday. He is trailing second-placed Rassie van der Dussen of South Africa by 27 points. Kishan, on the other hand, has risen 12 places to the 24th spot with 624 rating points, thanks to his brilliant knock of 82 in the tournament's opening meet against arch-rival Pakistan in Palkelee.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam continues to lead the chart with 882 rating points fol-



lowing his vibrant knock of 151 versus Nepal during the competition opener in Multan.

Among the bowlers, pacer Mohammed Siraj is the highest-ranked Indian in eighth place with 652 rating points, followed by left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav (614) at 12th and returning pacer Jasprit Bumrah

at 35th.

Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood dominated the bowling list with 705 rating points. In the all-rounders' chart, Hardik Pandya remains the only Indian in the top 20, ranked tenth with 220 rating points, while the list is led by Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan (372).

Will Dravid seek renewal of BCCI contract?

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

His two-year contract will expire at the end of ODI World Cup but head coach Rahul Dravid's future will be followed keenly in case the Indian team lifts the coveted trophy.

It is a foregone conclusion that Dravid will be one of the fall guys if India cannot at least make it to the title clash as a mere semi-final appearance wouldn't be considered good enough.

BCCI may search for a coach again and it will be interesting to see if 'The Wall' will be keen on a renewal of contract -- partial or full -- in case Board supremo Jay Shah offers a fresh deal.

There is a school of thought that Dravid, in case he is keen, should continue as the red ball coach with South Africa (away) and England (home series) series scheduled very close to the World Cup.

There is no harm in having separate coaches for limited overs and Test format moving into the next cycle post World Cup, just like England have Brendon McCullum (red ball) and Matthew Mott (white ball).

Dravid has been given breaks from assignments to recuperate as living out of suitcase for someone, who is involved in a tremendously high-pressure job,

could be taxing. Someone like Ashish Nehra (successful IPL coach) is an apt choice but sources close to the left-arm seamer of yesteryears have said that he is "not interested" as of now with his contract with Gujarat Titans running till the end of 2025 season.

"Suppose India wins the World Cup, Dravid himself might not want a renewal as he would like to end his stint on a high. But if you ask me, post World Cup, the BCCI should seriously think of having separate coaches for separate formats. They should ask Rahul to continue as red ball coach," a former BCCI office-bearer told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

At this point, whether it is Dravid or the Board top brass, they would like the focus on the big event, which starts October 5.

While Dravid arrived amidst lot of fanfare after Ravi Shastri's departure but as a white ball coach, he hasn't really left an impression which could compel anyone to consider him as a shrewd tactician.

Rather, he has been perceived as someone, who is a bit on the defensive when it comes to taking tough calls -- both in T20Is and ODIs.

If in T20I World Cup, he allowed the top-three that had past its sell-by-date in shortest format to continue, the decision



to drop Ravichandran Ashwin during the World Test Championship final didn't seem to be a very prudent call.

The lack of a right-arm spinner (finger or wrist) in the current World Cup squad or the bullishness to include KL Rahul, without him proving his match-fitness are decisions that might come back to haunt him.

Even though a lot will depend on team's World Cup performance but Dravid isn't a great white ball coach and someone with more hands-on approach could help the team in the next phase when some legends will be expected to walk into the sunset.

History is replete with incidents that if a team loses a major event, the

coaches often become scapegoats. Dravid himself had seen that when Greg Chappell had no option but to send his resignation after the 2007 debacle when he was the captain.

In 2023, the shoe is on the other foot and Dravid wouldn't want his coaching legacy to be tarnished like it happened with his captaincy where one tournament result trumps all the good work done.

He would want that Rohit and his players help him enjoy that surreal feeling of being a World Champion, something that has eluded him.

He never really had the proverbial 'rub of green' when it came to holding the centre-stage during the seminal moments in Indian cricket.

Whether it was Lord's 1996 when the other debutant Sourav Ganguly scored the hundred or at Taunton when Ganguly's 183 overshadowed his century. His 180 at the Eden Gardens during the historic 2001 Test against Australia was sheer class. Just that VVS Laxman's 281 was classier.

Under his captaincy, India successfully chased a record 17 games in ODIs between 2006 and 2007, only to come up with their worst World Cup performance since 1979. Port of Spain did become his 'Port of Pain'.

Pakistan treated us well, went out of the way to make us comfortable: Binny

PTI ■ AMRITSAR

BCCI President Roger Binny could not stop gushing over the warm and friendly treatment they received in Pakistan on their short visit to the neighbouring nation while Board Vice President Rajeev Shukla asserted that cricket could be the bridge between the two countries that share a tense diplomatic relation.

Binny and Shukla returned to India via the Attari-Wagah border on Wednesday after watching Asia Cup matches on Pakistan Cricket Board's invitation. It was first instance in 17 years that the two BCCI office bearers travelled to Pakistan.

They had crossed the border on Monday.

"We had a very good meeting in Pakistan. We received very good hospitality. They took care of us very well. The main agenda was to watch cricket and to sit and discuss things with them. Overall, it was a very good trip," Binny told PTI after their arrival.

"Pakistan treated us very well, they went out of the way to make us comfortable."

The two countries compete against each other only in ICC or ACC events as bilateral cricket ties have been suspended due to diplomatic tension between the two nations.

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.

Pakistan last visited India in 2012 for a white-ball tour.

Asked about the possibility of resumption of bilateral cricket

with Pakistan, Binny reiterated that they can't take a call on that.

"BCCI can't say. It is a government issue, and they will have to take a call. We need to wait and see. And hopefully, it will happen because the (ODI) World Cup is coming up,

Pakistan team will be in India to play."

India and Pakistan are currently engaged in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka and will lock horns again in the much-anticipated World Cup clash on October 14 in Ahmedabad.

Although there were reservations about Pakistan travelling to India for the World Cup, the PCB eventually agreed.

Shukla also praised PCB for its hospitality.

"The meeting was very good. The Pakistan Cricket Board took very good care of us. The security was tremendous, all the arrangements were fabulous. It was a goodwill visit for cricket which went well.

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Kuldeep Yadav was facing an uncertain future by the end of 2021. He had gone down in India's pecking order and Kolkata Knight Riders benched him for the whole of that IPL season.

But within the last year or so Kuldeep has managed to change his status to become one of the automatic picks in India's World Cup-bound 15 which was announced on Tuesday.

Kuldeep has also nosed ahead of leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and off-spinners R Ashwin and Washington Sundar in the India scheme of things.

His claim has the backing of numbers as well.

So far this year, the left-arm wrist spinner has taken 23 wickets from 13 ODIs - the highest by an Indian bowler.

So, how did he bring in that metamorphosis?

"Determination," said Kuldeep's childhood coach Kapil Pandey.

"He was heart-broken. Forget about playing for India, he was not even getting the game-time with KKR. It is important for a bowler to keep working on his skills to improve his craft."

"But he was not ready to give up and kept training with me for a long time at the nets. We worked on many things like delivery speed etc that could help his bowling," said Pandey.

But then any cricketer needs the help of an expert hand, someone who has seen it and done it all kind, to expand his craft. For Kuldeep, that person was Sunil Joshi.



The former India left-arm spinner took Kuldeep under his wings and imparted some valuable lessons at the NCA.

"In fact, I was in the selection panel when Kuldeep went down the line. It was not a pleasant sight to see a talented bowler going down. So, we met at the NCA and prepared a path ahead," Joshi told PTI.

Joshi said Kuldeep, at that time, was a bit low on confidence and needed to tweak his bowling as well.

Days of hard work followed at the NCA nets.

"We were mainly focusing on technical aspects like reducing his strides, increasing his arm speed so that he can bowl a bit quicker through the air. His action and approach (to the bowling crease) needed to be rectified," said Joshi.

During the time when he was in turmoil, Kuldeep had lost his accuracy and zip off the pitch that made him look pedestrian,

and he leaked plenty of runs too. Joshi suggested a few changes, and Kuldeep diligently worked on it.

"He was not having focus then, you know, the all over everywhere kind of bowling. But now, if you observe, he has lined up the batsmen well - his bowling arm is right in front of the batter, and even his strides are directed at the batter," said Joshi.

A change of IPL franchise too worked wonders well for Kuldeep in this period - from KKR to Delhi Capitals.

"Kuldeep was telling me that he received plenty of backing at DC from (head coach) Ricky Ponting and assured him of good enough game-time."

"It is important for a bowler to have the support of captain and coach, and that's why I think he excelled under MS Dhoni," said Pandey. Joshi has little doubt that Kuldeep will be Rohit Sharma's go-to bowler in the ODI World Cup.

Injured Cummins, Smith, Starc and Maxwell in Australia's provisional squad

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Pat Cummins, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc and Glenn Maxwell were all included in Australia's 15-member provisional squad despite injuries while bowling all-rounder Sean Abbott earned his maiden World Cup call-up.

Cummins and Smith are nursing wrist injuries they picked up during the Ashes, while Starc and Maxwell are out with a groin problem and ankle issue respectively.

Of the quartet, only Cummins is in the ODI squad to face South Africa, starting Thursday. However, his participation is also doubtful.

All four are in a race against time to get fit for the marquee event, starting in India on October 5. "All are well placed



to come back online in the coming weeks and potentially for selection in the upcoming series against India," selection chief George Bailey said.

"There are eight one-day matches still to play in South Africa and India before the final squad is due to be declared.

"They are followed by two World

Cup practice games, which offers plenty of opportunity to continue the build for the tournament," he added.

The 31-year-old Abbott trumped fellow quick Nathan Ellis for a spot in the squad, while Aaron Hardie and leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha also failed to make the cut.

All-rounders are of huge importance in limited-overs cricket and Australia have preferred to go with multi-talented players. Apart from Abbott, the five-time champions have also picked Mitchell Marsh, Cameron Green, Marcus Stoinis as the seam bowling all-rounders.

Adam Zampa and Ashton Agar are the two specialist spinners picked while Josh Inglis has been included as the backup wicketkeeper.

Changes to the 15-player squad can

be made until September 28.

Australia are scheduled to play a five-match ODI series against South Africa following which they will travel to India to play three ODIs, starting September 22. Australia will then play the Netherlands and Pakistan in the World Cup warmup matches on September 30 and October 3 respectively.

They will open their World Cup campaign against hosts India in Chennai on October 8.

AUSTRALIA SQUAD

Pat Cummins (c), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam Zampa.