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## INDIA avoids seat-sharing talks

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI

In order to avoid any confrontation and any differences, the three months old Opposition INDIA bloc on Wednesday completely avoided holding discussion on seat sharing in their first coordination meeting aiming to prepare for the Lok Sabha 2024 polls for which they have joined hands to take on the Modi juggernaut.

Sources said States like Maharashtra (NCP, Shiv Sena, Congress), Tamil Nadu (DMK, Congress), Bihar (JD(U), RJD, Congress, Left) have settled. But the India bloc is now facing challenge in negotiations for Delhi, Punjab with the Congress and the AAP at helms of affairs, and in West Bengal with the TMC, the Congress and the Left as stakeholders.

Sources said leaders of several Opposition parties have sought an early seat-sharing formula to be worked out to ensure that a joint Opposition candidate is put up against BJP candidates in Lok Sabha polls. However, several leaders said the parties have to "shed their egos" and "vested interests" in arriving at such a formula.

Before the meeting, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar said it is natural to understand that seat sharing cannot be discussed in a meeting of coordination members and it has to be among the party chiefs and top leaders.

However the coordination committee decided to hold their first joint public meeting



NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress leader KC Venugopal, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, AAP leader Raghav Chadha, Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav, J&K National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah and other Opposition leaders during the Coordination Committee meeting of INDIA, at Sharad Pawar's residence in New Delhi, on Wednesday

in Bhopal in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh in the first week of October where issues related to rising prices, unemployment, corruption and caste census will be raised by the top leaders of the coalition.

The coordination committee also authorised the subgroup of media to decide upon the names of the television anchors on whose shows none of the INDIA parties will send their representatives.

Sources said the reason not to "touch" the sensitive seat-sharing subject was that TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee — one of the main constituents — is on an official visit to Europe and TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee, who is member of the INDIA bloc

coordination committee, is busy attending the summons by the Enforcement Directorate.

Twelve leaders of the 14-member panel were present in the meeting that took place under the shadow of a huge row over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's assault on Sanatan Dharma.

The meeting was held at the residence of NCP supremo Sharad Pawar in Delhi.

The leaders present at the meeting were: NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress' KC Venugopal, Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM leader Hemant Soren, CPI's D Raja, SP's Jawed Ali Khan, DMK's T R Baalu, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, AAP MP Raghav Chadha, JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha,

NC leader Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut.

"The coordination committee decided to start the process of determining the seat sharing. It was decided that the member parties will hold the talks and decide (seat-sharing) at the earliest," said Congress general secretary KC Venugopal briefing the media through a joint statement.

CPI(M) leader Mohd Salim mocked the decision of the coordination committee to keep a chair empty at its meeting since Abhishek, who was to represent the party, was summoned by the ED on the same day.

Salim said the "paduka" (footwear) of Abhishek could

have been kept, when told by reporters that Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut said a chair was kept empty at coordination committee meeting to mark the absence of the TMC MP. The CPI(M) is a constituent of the INDIA bloc but the party has not yet nominated any member to the committee.

Venugopal said the committee also decided to hold joint public meetings in different parts of the country. "The first public meeting will be held at Bhopal in the first week of October on the issue of rising prices, unemployment and corruption of the BJP Government. The parties present in the meeting agreed to take up the issue of the caste census," Venugopal said.

The resolution issued on September 1, after the third meeting of the bloc in Mumbai, said the parties would contest polls together "as far as possible", and that seat sharing in arrangements in different states would be "initiated immediately" and concluded "at the earliest".

Over two dozen Opposition parties have formed the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance unitedly in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

At the first meeting of the Opposition bloc in Patna in June, it was decided that the strongest candidate from each seat would be picked up for the Lok Sabha polls.

## BJP tears into the Opposition bloc

DEEPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

In a fervent escalation of the "Sanatan Dharma" controversy, the BJP on Wednesday criticised the Opposition INDIA alliance meeting, branding it as a gathering of the "anti-Hindu coordination committee". This development comes in the wake of sharp criticism from DMK leaders regarding the Sanatan Dharma issue.

The BJP contends that it is now glaringly evident that, whether in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, or Bihar, Opposition leaders are operating with a concerted effort to target the Hindu religion, consistently making disparaging remarks against it.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur lambasted the Opposition parties in advance of the INDIA bloc meeting, asserting, "These faces (of INDIA alliance) are all known for corruption. Some of them are on bail and some have returned after serving time in jail... People know them all, changing the name (to INDIA) won't change their character," Thakur said.

The BJP's latest offensive coincides with the day when the coordination committee of the Opposition INDIA bloc is set to convene to deliberate on seat-sharing arrangements and devise a broad campaign strategy in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra described the Opposition meeting aimed at



BJP Tamil Nadu incharge Ponuguleti Sudhakar Reddy (centre), with BJP Tamil Nadu vice-president Narayanan Thirupathy (right), addresses a press conference at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday

strategising for the Lok Sabha polls as a gathering of "anti-Hindu" forces. At a press conference, he also launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, alleging that she authored a book titled "Murder of Hinduism" drawing parallels with Agatha Christie's renowned suspense novel "Murder of..."

Patra, citing Sonia Gandhi's Christian name "Antonio Maino", further alleged that she has been instrumental in plotting against Hinduism. He pointed out that non-cooperation among INDIA group members is evident, downplaying the stated agenda of discussing seat-sharing arrangements. He insisted, "They will discuss how to finish off the Hindu religion."

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's recent statement suggesting a potential Godhra-like incident if people travel to Ayodhya for the Ram temple's inauguration was also brought into the fray. The BJP

maintained that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had previously referenced the Islamic terror group Muslim Brotherhood to criticise Hindutva, and an RJD leader made derisive comments about Ramcharitmanas and individuals wearing "tilak" on their foreheads.

The BJP alleged that DMK leaders, with the Congress' "endorsement", were speaking against Sanatan Dharma to divert attention from the alleged "misdeeds" of the MK Stalin-led Government in Tamil Nadu, aiming to disrupt peace and harmony in the country.

Ponuguleti Sudhakar Reddy, the BJP's co-incharge for Tamil Nadu, contended that the DMK and the Congress were attempting to construct a negative narrative against the BJP due to the party's "growing" popularity in Tamil Nadu and recognition of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government's accomplishments.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shake hands during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovskoy, about 200 kilometres from the city of Blagoveshchensk in Amur region, Russia, on Wednesday. Kim vowed "full and unconditional support" for Putin as the two leaders isolated by the West held a summit that the US warns could lead to a deal to supply ammunition for Moscow's war in Ukraine. The meeting, which lasted over four hours at Russia's spaceport in the Far East, underscores how their interests are aligning: Putin is believed to be seeking one of the few things impoverished North Korea has in abundance — stockpiles of aging ammunition and rockets for Soviet-era weapons. Such a request would mark a reversal of roles from the 1950-53 Korean War, when Moscow gave weapons to support Pyongyang's invasion of South Korea, and in the decades of Soviet sponsorship of the North that followed (See P9)

## Govt lifts lid on Special Session agenda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The "tentative agenda" for the five-day Special Session of Parliament starting September 18 was unveiled on Wednesday night, with the Government listing a discussion on the Parliamentary journey of the past 75 years and the passage of five Bills in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, including the Bill on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Commissioners.

The agenda was published in the bulletins of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The documents stated on the first day, there will be a discussion in both the Houses on Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha.

The tentative legislative business for the Lok Sabha listed four Bills, including The Advocates (Amendment) Bill and the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill. The Bills listed for passing should not be taken as exhaustive, the bulletin said.

Earlier, amid speculation about the agenda of the Special Session of Parliament, the

Government on Wednesday announced convening a meeting of the floor leaders of all political parties on September 17, a day before the start of a five-day session which is taking place a few months before the Lok Sabha elections, due early next year.

Reacting to the announcement, Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the Modi Government announced the agenda for the special 5-day session of Parliament under pressure from Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi's letter to the Prime Minister. "The agenda as published at the moment is much ado about nothing — all this could have waited till Winter Session in November. I am sure the legislative grenades are being kept up their sleeves to be unleashed at the last moment as usual. Regardless, the INDIA parties will steadfastly oppose the insidious CEC Bill," Ramesh, also a member of the Rajya Sabha, said.

Earlier in the day while announcing the all-party meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi did not share any details as to what is on



the table in the coming special session from September 18 to September 22.

The invitation for the meeting has been sent to all concerned leaders through email, Joshi posted on social media platform X.

On August 31, Joshi had announced a "special session" of Parliament for five days from September 18, but did not spell out any specific agenda for it.

"Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to having fruitful discussions and debate in Parliament," Joshi had posted on X.

The special session is to start in the old building on September 18 and will be later moved to the new building on September 19 on the occasion of "Ganesh Chaturthi".

Earlier, speculation was rife on the session deliberating issues ranging — One Nation,

One Election, changing country's name to "Bharat" from India, women reservation issue, Uniform Civil Code or a surprise announcement on the Lok Sabha polls.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee had earlier claimed that the Government might advance the Lok Sabha poll and may be held along with elections to five State Assemblies, including that of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Regarding the "One Nation, One Election" concept, the Government has already established a committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind to examine the feasibility of simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, legislative Assemblies, and Panchayats.

Opposition parties, caught off guard by the announcement of the special session, have criticised the Government for not revealing the session's agenda, especially with just a few days remaining before its commencement.

On Wednesday, Opposition leaders voiced their concerns about the Special Session of Parliament, asserting that only

a select few are privy to its agenda, leaving very little time for preparation.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh expressed his views on X, stating, "Today is September 13. The five-day special session of Parliament will commence five days from now and nobody — barring One Man (ok, perhaps the Other One too) — has any sense of the agenda."

Ramesh also provided examples of previous occasions when special sessions or sittings were held, and the agenda was known well in advance.

For instance, he pointed out that on November 26, 2019, a special sitting in Central Hall was organised to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Constitution. He also highlighted the Joint Special Session in Central Hall on June 30, 2017, which marked the introduction of the GST.

Ramesh emphasised that transparency about the session's agenda has been maintained in the past, citing instances such as November 26 and 27, 2015, when a special sitting was held to commemorate Constitution Day.

## Jumbo rise in elephant corridors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

Since 2010, India has seen a remarkable increase in elephant corridors, rising from 88 to a commendable 150. These vital land strips span across 15 range-States within four elephant-rich regions, providing unimpeded pathways for these majestic creatures.

This progress is a testament to the combined efforts of State forest departments and Project Elephant, as emphasised by officials from the Union Environment Ministry. They underscore the imperative to establish secure migratory routes for elephants, ultimately mitigating human-elephant conflicts.

A thorough examination of the report, titled "Elephant Corridors of India," reveals that while 69 corridors have witnessed unimpeded movement of elephants, 29 have seen an uptick in their utilisation.



increasingly contend with their habitats being fragmented by rapid urbanisation, highways, and industrial expansion like mining. Moreover, climate change-induced temperature fluctuations and extreme weather conditions exacerbate their plight due to resource and fodder shortages.

Among the four regions in India known for their elephant populations, the east-central region leads with an impressive 52 elephant corridors, followed by the northeast with 48, and the southern region with 32.

The northern region lags behind with only 18 elephant corridors.

An authentic elephant corridor serves as a land strip facilitating the movement of elephants between two or more viable habitat patches. Corridors that lead animals into human-dominated areas without connecting to suitable habitat patches are not deemed true elephant corridors.

Demographic isolation and concerns about genetic viability pose a significant extinction risk to elephant populations. Therefore, safeguarding these corridors stands as a pivotal conservation strategy, as highlighted in the report, which defines a corridor as a land strip enabling the movement of elephants between viable habitat patches.

As of the last estimation in 2017, India is home to around 30,000 elephants, constituting 60 per cent of the global elephant population. West Bengal

leads the nation with the highest number of elephant corridors, accounting for over 17 per cent of such crucial land patches.

States where elephants have recently expanded their ranges, such as the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra adjacent to Chhattisgarh, southern Maharashtra adjoining Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh (where elephants presently inhabit Bandhavgarh and Sanjay tiger reserves), and northern Andhra Pradesh (where elephants migrate from Odisha), must assess the long-term viability of habitats to sustain elephant populations.

Adopting a data-driven approach to identify corridors is paramount in these regions, as articulated in the report. Furthermore, the report notes that data on elephant movement remains limited in many northeastern States hosting relatively small elephant populations.

## BJP showers praise on Modi for G20 success

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP gave rousing welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the party's headquarters on Wednesday evening for "historic and unprecedented" success of G20 Summit, as he arrived there to attend the party's central election committee meeting.

The party said India's presidency of the grouping will always be celebrated as "People's G20". In the resolution, the BJP parliamentary board noted with "great pride the impeccable leadership and unwavering commitment" showcased by Modi at the summit.

The G20 Delhi summit stands as a monumental chapter in India's diplomatic annals and marks a transformative moment in how India is perceived and engaged with on the global stage, it added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd upon his arrival at BJP headquarters ahead of the party's central election committee meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday

"We, BJP karyakartas, extend our deepest appreciation and warm congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government of India for the successful G20 Summit," the resolution read.

"As representatives of the

people, we stand resolute in our belief that under Modi's leadership, India will persistently chart a course marked by growth, cooperation, and global leadership, crafting a legacy that future generations will look upon with hope and positivity," it said.



# Colonel, Major, Dy SP martyred in terror fight

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Three top-ranking officers, including a Commanding officer (CO) of the 19 Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army, a Major and a Deputy Superintendent of Jammu & Kashmir police were 'killed in action' during an encounter with terrorists in the Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday.

The officials killed in action have been identified as Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhonchak, Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Humayun Bhat.

In a tweet, General (Retd) VK Singh, currently holding the charge of Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation paid rich tributes in the memory of Colonel Manpreet Singh who laid down his life in the line of duty. It is after a long gap three senior-most officers were killed



in action in a single operation in the Kashmir valley.

Security experts viewed the killing of three senior officers as a serious threat as it also establishes the fact that the terrorists have once again started regrouping and tactically targeting security forces in the valley.

Earlier, on May 3, 2020, Col Aushutosh Sharma, a Major rank officer, and three other jawans were martyred during an 18-hour-long operation in north Kashmir's Handwara.

According to agency reports, the banned Resistance



Front, believed to be a shadow group of LeT, has claimed responsibility.

According to ground reports, senior officer of the Chinari Corps Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, DGP Dilbagh Singh, and ADGP Kashmir range Vijay Kumar also rushed to the encounter site after receiving initial reports of fatal injuries to senior officers.

Official sources said a helicopter was pressed into service to evacuate the critically injured officers from the spot but one of them died on the spot while two



others succumbed to their injuries later.

Official sources said CO Manpreet Singh belongs to the Ropar district of Punjab while Humayun Bhat is a resident of south Kashmir's Tral sub-district. The anti-terrorist operation was launched by the joint team of security forces in the Garol area of Anantnag on the intervening night of 12-13 September.

Chinari Corps in a tweet said, "Based on specific intelligence on the presence of terrorists a Joint Operation was

launched by the Indian Army & J&K Police on the intervening night of 12-13 Sep in Area Garol, Anantnag. Contact was established and a firefight ensued. Two Army personnel and one J&K Police personnel were injured. Operation in progress. With the first light, the hunt for the terrorists was resumed as the security forces had received vital inputs about the presence of terrorists in the said area.

According to ground reports, the commanding officer of the 19 Rashtriya Rifles was leading the operation when a group of terrorists opened fire on the advancing team of security forces near their hideout in the area.

Meanwhile, in Jammu's Rajouri, security forces killed one more terrorist in the Narla area on Wednesday. An army jawan identified as Rifleman Ravi Kumar was killed in action on Tuesday in the same encounter while three other

security personnel were injured.

Interacting with the media persons in Jammu Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday said. Pakistan is making full efforts to infiltrate foreign terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir to hinder the progress being made in internal security conditions in the region.

He said that the army has tried to neutralize foreign terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch. "The biggest thing is that Pakistan is trying to make efforts from its side to send foreign terrorists here, despite the better internal conditions (security situation), so that they can create some kind of obstacle.

"This is because of the progress that we are making in Jammu and Kashmir", Lt Gen Dwivedi told reporters on the sidelines of the North Tech Symposium at the IIT campus at Jagti on the outskirts of Jammu city.

# Maha Speaker to hear plea for disqualification of 16 Sena MLAs today

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The much-delayed hearing on a plea by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's plea seeking the disqualification of 16 Sena MLAs will begin on Thursday afternoon, with Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar directing all 54 MLAs to remain present in the central hall of Vidhan Bhavan in south Mumbai for the hearing.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde — who engineered the rebellion against then chief minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and 15 other Sena MLAs in June last year with the help of the then Opposition BJP — are among the 54 Sena MLAs who have been summoned for Thursday's hearing.

On his part, the Speaker — who has summoned all the 54 Sena MLAs for the hearing — has not specified the procedure that he has evolved to decide on a plea for the disqualification of the 16 Sena MLAs who are part of the Eknath Shinde camp.

If anything, the Speaker has gone on record saying that the adjudication on a plea for disqualification of 16 Shinde Sena MLAs was a "quasi-judicial procedure", that he would take as per the provisions of the Constitution and that all MLAs would be given an opportunity to vote. He has not elaborated on what is voting all about and how he would go about the entire exercise. It is also not clear yet whether the hearing would be completed in one sitting or will there be more sittings.

# Abhishek grilled for over 8 hours by ED

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday subjected Abhishek Banerjee the Trinamool Congress general secretary and nephew of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to a marathon interrogation for more than 8 hours.

The Diamond Harbour MP who skipped the opposition INDIA alliance coordination committee meeting entered the ED office in Kolkata at around 11.45 am and was still inside the at CGO complex when reports last came in at 8 pm.

Banerjee is being probed for his alleged involvement in the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam that has seen a number of senior TMC leaders including State minister and former number 2 in the Mamata Banerjee Cabinet, Partha Chatterjee, MLAs Manik Bhattacharya, a sitting vice chancellor, chairpersons of School Services Commission, secondary



school board besides many other lesser leaders and cash-collecting agents going to jail. "Abhishek Banerjee has been called to answer certain questions regarding irregularities in the school recruitment process ... he will be asked certain questions regarding the scam," one of the ED officials said.

Though Banerjee was called under Section 160 as a witness, sources said that he was being made to explain a lot of things regarding the transactions of the company Leaps and Bounds of which he (and his family members) had been a director and the Chief Executive Officer.

According to sources he was made to confront a statement of confession made by

Sujay Krishna Bhadra (alias Kalighat er Kaku or Uncle of Kalighat) and Chief Operating Officer of the company.

Bhadra — who filed his nomination as a dummy candidate allegedly at the behest of the TMC when Mamata Banerjee was contesting from Bhawanipore Assembly seat in 2021 — known for his proximity to Kalighat (read the residence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee) is presently jail. He was also shown the transaction details of the money received by his company — as consultancy fees — from another company owned by Bhadra.

Meanwhile, the top TMC leadership once again lambasted the ED for acting at the behest of the BJP Government. "Abhishek Banerjee is being harassed because he is a rising leader and the people love him ... the BJP failed to dent TMC's bastion ... they also lost in Dhurguri by-elections and so they have set the ED after him," Bengal Minister Shashi Panja said.

# Bengal Congress, LF snub Raut for backing Abhishek

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The glue of Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) tended to buckle in Bengal with senior CPI(M) and the Congress leaders dismissing Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut's statement faulting the Enforcement Directorate for summoning Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee.

Contrary to what Raut said in support of Banerjee, senior CPI(M) and the Congress leaders from Bengal openly backed the ED action and even demanded his arrest in the multi-crore teacher recruitment scam involving more than 40 thousand school teachers, ministerial and menial staff.

In a sarcastic remark directed at Abhishek who is

also the nephew of TMC supremo and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, CPI(M) State secretary and politburo member Md Salim said, "Is he a very important member of INDIA ... if so then why can't we put his Paduka (sandals) as we have seen in the Ramayana where Bharat used ran administration of the kingdom of Ayodhya with his elder brother Lord Ram's sandals on the throne."

He further said that his party was for the arrest of the all the culprits who are involved not only in the teachers' recruitment scam but also in the other scams related to recruitments in Fire Brigade Department, Forest Department, Health Department, Municipal Department, cattle smuggling, coal smuggling etc."

# Ready to lead INDIA if people want: Didi to Lanka President

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Not quite in sync with her earlier statements on whether she wanted to lead a united Opposition alliance against the Narendra Modi Government, the Bengal Chief Minister on Wednesday told Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe that her being the Opposition face depends upon the people of the country before saying there were chances of the Opposition coming to "position" (read power).

The two leaders bumped into each other at Dubai Airport when the Sri Lanka President during a short interaction enquired whether she was leading the Opposition alliance.

Apparently unprepared for such a question Banerjee regained her poise and said

"Oh my God," before adding "It depends upon the people."

Apparently having not heard her reply Wickremesinghe once again enquired from someone else "Is she going to lead the opposition alliance?" to which she mildly said, "I replied it sir!" and then quipped, "it depends upon the people ... if people support us then the opposition may be in position (power) also."

Later the Chief Minister posted on X (erstwhile Twitter) "His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe saw me at the Dubai International Airport Lounge and called me to join for some discussion.

I have been humbled by his greetings and (have) invited him to the Bengal Global Business Summit 2023 in Kolkata."

# Chennai greets Singapore's President-elect

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tharman Shanmugarathnam, the 66 year old President-elect of Singapore has been greeted by the Tamil Chamber of Commerce on the eve of his inauguration. In a congratulatory note to Shanmugarathnam, the economist-turned-politician, Chozha Naachiar Rajasekhar, president of Tamil Chamber of Commerce, recalled the former's ancestral ties with Tamil Nadu.

The President-elect of Singapore is the son of a Tamil pathologist cum cancer specialist and has a series of recognitions from international educational institutes like Harvard School and Cambridge University. Tharman Shanmugarathnam bowled over the Indian audience last year when he delivered the first Arun Jaitley Memorial Lecture at New Delhi, attended among others by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

# Kota shaken by yet another aspirant's suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KOTA

Yet another suicide by a medical aspirant in coaching hub Kota in Rajasthan has shaken the conscience of people out there in the Rajasthan city to shape their career either in engineering or medical.

In the latest case a 16-year-old NEET aspirant from Jharkhand allegedly hanged herself in her hostel room in the Vigyan Nagar area. Police said Richa Sinha, who was preparing for the National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET), was found hanging in her hostel room late on Tuesday.

This is the 23rd case of suicide in Kota this year and last year it was 15 such cases. This year has seen the high-

est number of student suicides — 23 so far — with two ending their lives in a gap of a few hours on August 27 after which the Rajasthan government had asked the coaching centres to contain their courses and take periodic tests only when in need or the students desires.

Soon after the last suicide cases reported in August end the Rajasthan Education Secretary Bhawani Singh Detha held a meeting with Kota collector and other officials in which representatives of coaching institutes and hostel association too attended.

The coaching institutes were asked to stop conducting routine tests of students preparing for NEET and other competitive exams for the next two months in the wake of suicides by a number of



aspirants.

The police received information about Sinha's death around 10.30 pm on Tuesday from the private hospital where she was taken, said Amar Chand, an assistant of sub-inspector at Vigyan Nagar police station. Sinha, who hailed from Ranchi in Jharkhand, was a Class 11 student and enrolled in a coaching institute in the city. She came to Kota earlier this year, he said.

Over 2.5 lakh students come to Kota annually to prepare for competitive exams such as the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for engineering and the NEET for admission to medical colleges.

Packed schedules, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better, the bur-

den of parents' expectations and homesickness are among the common struggles of the students here, according to those working there.

With the record spike in such incidents, the administration has taken several steps including mandating installation of an anti-hanging device in fans and ordering coaching institutes to not take any exam for two months.

This is how the anti-hanging device works: If an object weighing more than 20 kg is hung from the fan, the spring attached to it expands, making it impossible for someone to commit suicide by this method. Simultaneously, a siren goes off.

"Anti-suicide nets" are also being installed in balconies and lobbies of hostels in Kota to prevent students

from taking any extreme step. Hostel owners said such steps to make their premises "suicide proof" are crucial to avoid tragic incidents.

The State government has now pitched in to draw lines to contain such cases and have asked parents to stay occasionally with their wards for proper acclimatisation.

Many parents are now averse to putting their children in hostels and instead they are renting accommodation in Kota and staying with their children by taking breaks from their work all for shaping the career of their ward.

To keep a check on student suicides, Kota Police said it is very important that parents acclimatise their children to the struggles of the city so they do not feel lost here.

# Couple arrested for killing Bollywood make-up artist, dumping body in creek

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The ghastly murder of 28-year-old Bollywood make-up artist-cum hair-stylist Naina R Mahat has come to light, with the arrest of a Palghar-based couple, who allegedly killed her, stuffed her body in a suitcase and dumped it in a creek near Valsad town in the neighbouring Gujarat a month ago.

Identifying the arrested couple as Manohar Shukla (34), a designer who was in a live-in relationship with Naina, and his wife, Poornima Shukla, the Naigaon police in Palghar district said that the couple had allegedly suffocated her to death by dunking the victim woman's head in bucket of water in their bathroom on August 9.

Shukla, who is the prime accused, and Poornima, who has been charged with abetting the murder, later stuffed Naina's body into a trolley bag. Together, they drove to Valsad, nearly 125 km away from Palghar, where they threw the suitcase into a creek and returned home early the following morning.

The investigations have revealed that Shukla and Poornima, who were arrested on Tuesday, were produced before a Palghar court which remanded them in police custody till September 16.

Shukla and Poornima have been booked for murder, conspiracy, destruction of evidence, etc, based on the investigations into a complaint lodged by the victim's sister Jaja Mahat.

Naina had been living with her sister Jaya and brother for a few months at Naigaon, before she fell in love with Shukla and was staying with him as a live-in partner.

A few years earlier, Naina, Jaya and their brother, had rented a flat at Naigaon. However, a few months ago, Jaya had left that home and shifted to neighbouring suburb

Nalasopara after Shukla created a rift among the siblings.

The incident took place on the morning of August 9, when Shukla and Naina had a major verbal duel at her home in Suntech complex in Naigaon.

Naina accused him of marrying Poornima despite having been in a relationship with her and demanded that he now marry her or she would commit suicide.

A miffed Shukla dragged her to the bathroom, put her head in a bucket of water till she stopped breathing.

Later that evening, Shukla returned to the flat along with his wife Poornima and their two-year old daughter on their scooter.

The couple stuffed Naina's body into a trolley bag and then drove off towards Valsad, around 125 km away, where they dumped it in a creek and returned home early the next morning.

With no trace of Naina, her sister Jaya was desperately trying to get in touch with her. Naina's phone was switched off and she had disappeared from social media. Realising that something was amiss, Jaya lodged a complaint with the Naigaon Police on August 14.

The Police said that during the course of investigations, the arrested couple had confessed to the murder and had also revealed to the police where they dumped Naina's body.

On their part, the investigators have also gathered other evidence like CCTV footage, statements of friends, associates and relatives.

Naina's body was found in a highly decomposed state at a Valsad creek. Since it was not identifiable due to disposal of it with due protocols, while retaining a sample for a DNA analysis.

The Naigaon police have reached out to the Valsad police for their inputs and available evidence, including a DNA test report of Naina.

# CBI recovers ₹2.61 crore from Railway chief manager's premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday said it recovered Rs 2.61 crore in cash during searches at the premises of Principal Chief Material Manager of North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, KC Joshi in a bribery case of Rs three lakh. The arrested accused Joshi is a 1988-batch Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS) officer.

Joshi was arrested on Tuesday evening while allegedly receiving Rs 3 lakh as a bribe from a contractor who is the complainant in the case, officials said.

The contractor had approached the CBI with a complaint that his firm provides products and services to the North Eastern Railways and had received a yearly contract for the supply of three trucks on a contractual basis, for which he was supposed to get Rs 80,000 per truck per month.

He alleged that Joshi was seeking Rs 7 lakh as a bribe by



threatening to get his firm de-registered from the Government e-Marketplace (GEM) website and cancel his contract, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation verified the allegation and laid a trap where the exchange of the part payment of the bribe was planned, they said.

Joshi was nabbed in the process, following which the searches were conducted at his residential premises in Gorakhpur and Noida, where Rs 2.61 crore in cash besides incriminating documents were seized, they said.

The arrested accused is being produced before the Competent Court in Lucknow, the CBI said.

# ED searches bank lockers in Jaipur in Jal Jeevan case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out search operations on Tuesday at several bank lockers held by individuals involved in the Jal Jeevan Mission Case in Jaipur, Rajasthan, under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The agency seized gold and silver worth Rs 6 crore.

The ED initiated investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Rajasthan against individual contractors like Padamchand Jain and others for bribing public servants to secure illegal protection, obtain tenders, approve bills, and conceal irregularities related to contracts with the Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED).

During the latest round of search operations on Tuesday, 9,635 kg gold worth Rs 5.83 crore and 6,349 kg silver worth Rs 3.90 lakh were seized, the ED said in a statement.

# Polyphenols in plants can help combat Alzheimer's: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) have found that highly abundant naturally occurring plant-based polyphenols (PPs) like tannic acid found in twigs of trees like Chestnut and Oak can yield a safe, cost-effective strategy for combating Alzheimer's disease (AD).

AD is a widely prevalent progressive neurodegenerative disorder marked by memory and cognitive decline, yet it remains poorly understood despite decades of dedicated research. As a consequence of this, there are no therapeutics to completely cure the disease.

Their study has demonstrated that the natural polyphenol, tannic acid (TA), could act as both an activator and enhancer of certain anti-toxicants.

"This novel approach provides a conceptually advanced



and comprehensive strategy for combating AD by modulating the GPX4-ferroptosis-AD axis. The ability of TA to elevate GPX4 levels even in the presence of AD pathological conditions offers exciting new avenues for targeting novel pathways in the aetiology of AD while holding promise for tackling the intricate interplay between ferroptosis and AD," said a statement from the DST.

The study published in the journal Chemical Sciences which steers research toward ferroptosis inhibitors presents a new dimension for drug development. This discovery may inspire medicinal chemists to explore new and derivatives of natural compounds to enhance

therapeutic efficacy against AD.

The discovery of a natural polyphenol, TA as a GPX4 activator that ameliorates Aβ induced ferroptosis holds great significance and this study presents new opportunities for the synergistic inhibition of ferroptosis in AD. By unravelling the complexities of AD and ferroptosis, the research not only addresses specific neurological challenges but also contributes to scientific knowledge, validating new disease mechanism, global health, and the well-being of dementia patients while inspiring researchers to seek this alternative axis for therapeutic avenues for neurodegenerative diseases, the statement added.



# PM to host dinner for cops who manned G20 Summit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will host a dinner party for the Delhi Police officers who provided security to the world leaders and Bharat Mandapam where the G20 Summit was held on September 9 and 10. According to sources, the exact date of the dinner has not been finalised but it is expected later this week.

This is the first time Modi has invited police officials who worked relentlessly to make sure that the G20 Summit 2023 become a success. More than 450 Delhi police officials, including the best performing officials from each and every department and every district, will be part of the dinner that will take place at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan, the venue of the G20 Summit.

Sources said Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora has asked for the names of police personnel from every district who were deployed for the duty. The list is expected to have 450 personnel, who, along with Arora, are likely to have dinner with the Prime Minister at Bharat Mandapam. The dinner for Delhi Police by Modi will help motivate the cops for seamlessly carrying out future high-profile events.



Modi's gesture not only acknowledges the dedication and sacrifices of the police force during the G20 summit but also acts as a source of motivation for the committed officers. It underscores the significance of their role in ensuring the security and success of significant global conferences such as the G20.

This is not the first time Modi will be recognising the efforts of people involved in a major achievement. In May, ahead of the inauguration of the new Parliament Building, he had felicitated the labourers involved in its construction.

In light of the remarkable success of the G20 event, the Delhi Police has issued a notification granting its personnel two days of well-deserved leave. The security personnel worked endlessly for contact for three days from September 8 to 10, for the summit.

The Delhi Police was solely given the responsibility for the outer security of the high-profile G20 Summit that was held in the national capital on 9 and 10 September. The Capital had turned into fortress. Security during the G20 Summit was the biggest challenge as world leaders had congregated in Delhi and the cops of the national capital proved its mettle.

More than 30,000 Delhi Police personnel were deployed on the ground in the NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council) areas. Also, more than 2,000 police officials — both armed and unarmed — were positioned inside Bharat Mandapam.

Several departments of Delhi Police worked in tandem for the successful and hassle free G20 Summit in India that was attended by head of more than 31 States.

# HC to examine plea by 17 unsuccessful UPSC aspirants

Seeking publication of answer key of preliminary civil services exam held earlier this year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday agreed to examine a petition by 17 unsuccessful Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) aspirants seeking publication of the answer key of preliminary civil services examination held earlier this year.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh rejected UPSC's contention that the petition was not maintainable before the High Court, saying the matter entails adjudication of legal and fundamental rights of the candidates, including those concerning fair play, legitimate expectation and the right to know.

The petitioners, who failed to secure the qualifying marks in the preliminary examination, assailed a June press note issued by the UPSC, which said the answer key would be declared only after the declaration of the final result.

"The claims of the petition-



ers prima facie pertain to the concerns surrounding the facets of fair play and right to know as well as the fundamental rights of the candidates and as such would require this court to test the same by delving into the domain of administrative law and constitutional provisions," the court said in its order.

"Where the enforcement and protection of fundamental rights or any rights of a person is sought, this court cannot look the other way... Accordingly, the petition stands admitted. List for arguments on merits on September 26, 2023," the court stated.

The UPSC had opposed the maintainability of the petition on the ground that only the Central Administrative Tribunal has the power to deal with issues related to recruitment by the UPSC.

The court, which had

reserved its order on this aspect last month, concluded that whether the UPSC could be directed to release the answer key did not fall within the scope of "recruitment" of civil servants so as to invoke the exclusive jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal.

Justice Singh said mere asking for the answer key, which might be used to assess the performance of candidates, did not amount to interference in the process of recruitment.

The court observed the preliminary examination was a stand-alone examination which was qualifying in nature and, in the present case, the petitioners were neither challenging their disqualification nor assailing the examination process but only making a request for disclosure of the answer key before the entire process is completed.

"This court is of the view that there is no hurdle in adjudicating the instant petition," it said.

The petitioners' lawyer had argued that timely publication of the answer key of the preliminary civil services examination was in public interest as it would help them assess their capabilities and reduce burden from the system.

They initially sought quashing of the Civil Services Preliminary Examination, 2023 in their petition but subsequently decided to only press their demand for publication of the answer key.

"Not providing to the students the answer key of an exam they have appeared for, not considering the representations of the candidates despite a particular time window being provided for the same, and asking questions, which are disproportionately vague, testing candidates' ability to answer only on the basis of guesswork, is not only arbitrary but defies all principles of fairness, logic and rationality," the petition said.

Opposing the plea, the UPSC said the integrity of examination process has to be protected as civil services examinations were structured and have to be conducted in a time bound manner.



# Call Special House Session over G20, BJP asks Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP MLAs on Wednesday urged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to call a Special Session of the Legislative Assembly on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, Aditya L mission and the G20 Summit along with extending gratitude to the scientists and acknowledging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership.

"Along with extending gratitude to the scientists and teams that made both possible, respectively, the special session needed to be held to acknowledge Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership that was behind both "historic achievements," said the Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri while addressing a press conference along with BJP MLAs.

The Assembly should also thank Government officers and employees for the successful G20 Summit, he said.

During a joint press conference, BJP legislators emphasised that the success achieved is not only that of our space agency but also a symbol of India's progress and its strength on the global stage. Therefore, they believe it is essential for the legislative assembly to hold a special session so that they can also be a part of this celebration. The BJP MLAs — Mohan Singh Bisht, Bijendra Gupta, Om Prakash Sharma, Jitender Mahajan, Anil Vajpayee, Ajay Mahavar, and Abhay Varma were also present.

The BJP MLAs emphasised that landing on the south pole of the moon is not just a success for our space agency but also a symbol of how our scientists are always prepared to go beyond boundaries in their quest for knowledge. "The information we are gaining from the Pragyan rover will lead to growth in our knowledge, pave the way for new discoveries, and assist in understanding the mysteries of the moon and beyond. For this, the scientists at ISRO deserve congratulations and gratitude," they said.

They stated that the Delhi Legislative Assembly should also welcome two important aspects related to the Chandrayaan mission by naming them "Tiranga" (where the Chandrayaan-2 lander crashed) and "Shivshakti" (where Chandrayaan-3 landed). These names resonate with both our glorious history and modernity.

They are not just names; they encapsulate India's ancient heritage and its contemporary scientific aspirations in a single thread.

Last month, India became the first country to land on the lunar south pole with Chandrayaan-3.



# Govt to write to road owning agencies for land parcels to boost night time economy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will be writing to various road owning agencies to give them land parcels for stationing food trucks as part of its ambitious plan to promote night time economy.

The Government had identified 16 locations where these food trucks would be stationed, but the plan has hit a roadblock with the agencies concerned not being on board with the idea.

"We are working on the food truck policy, but before that there were plans to operate food trucks at 16 selected locations. These include Dilli Haat Janakpuri, Dilli Haat Pitampura, DDA Park in Rohini, Vishwavidyalaya and DDA Park in Rohini," an official said.

"However, at some places, the land is with the DDA, at some (places) with the DMRC and at some (places) with the MCD and they were not in agreement to allot land for this purpose. Out of the 16 locations, we have only a couple of locations where there are no issues," the official added.

The tourism department, which is looking after the project, will be writing to the land owning agencies to request them to allot land for developing them as food truck hubs. "The letters will be sent by this week in all probability," the official said. Earlier in June this year, the government had said Delhi would soon have food truck hubs like that in New York, Hong Kong and Australia.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had given an in-principle approval to the policy. The policy will be implemented with the operation of food trucks in 16 selected locations. Upon its successful implementation, the model will be replicated across Delhi, a statement from the chief minister's office had said.

Presenting the budget for the financial year 2022-23, then deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had said the government was preparing a policy to allow food trucks to operate at designated places in the city from 8 pm to 2 am.

"This will strengthen the night economy of Delhi and new employment opportunities will be created," Sisodia said.

# Energy audit of Govt buildings to cut wastage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to reduce electricity consumption and promote energy efficiency, the Kejriwal Government will conduct an 'energy audit' of its buildings, offices, and streetlights.

The primary objective of this energy audit is to pinpoint areas of excessive energy use and devise strategies to manage and control it. Apart from Government buildings, all commercial malls, plazas, hospitals, institutional buildings, multi-story and high-rise non-residen-

tial buildings, industries, etc., with an approved load of 500 kilowatts or more will also be required to undergo a detailed energy audit as per the regulations of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)

A notification regarding this matter will be issued by the government soon. According to it, all existing and new commercial malls, plazas, hospitals, multi-storey and high-rise non-residential buildings, industries, government, boards, or corporation-owned buildings, and buildings of the Water Supply



Department (in addition to consumers specified in the Energy Conservation Act, 2001) with an approved load of 500 kilowatts or more will be required to undergo a comprehensive energy audit conducted by a certified

energy auditor appointed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

All such consumers must complete the energy audit within 6 months of the notification. Additionally, they will be required to conduct an energy audit once every three years and implement the recommendations of the audit report.

Regarding the energy audits of government buildings and street lights across the national capital, Minister Atishi said the audit will provide recommendations for optimizing energy

usage, resulting in both energy and cost saving in electricity bills. "Moreover, energy audits will not only propose ways to minimise energy consumption in government buildings but will also alleviate the financial burden on the exchequer. Additionally, this initiative will contribute to reducing CO2 emissions," she said.

Atishi said the Delhi Government's power department has made the 'energy audit' of government buildings a priority and is working on it in mission mode.

# Follow rules for capture, release of street dogs: HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked the authorities to strictly comply with all provisions relating to the capture and release of street dogs for special events such as Independence Day and Republic Day. The order — released on Wednesday — came on a public interest litigation by Anita Santiago, who sought directions to release the dogs captured by the civic authorities for such events and to ensure their welfare according to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023.

The court directed the Delhi Government, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Animal Welfare Board of India to ensure strict compliance of all the provisions under Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, while capturing and releasing the stray dogs.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) counsel said it is following the ABC Rules and, as far as the G20 Summit was concerned, the process to release the captured strays has already been initiated. The counsel for Animal Welfare Board of India affirmed the MCD's submission. The civic body has

told the Court that the process of releasing stray dogs that were captured during the preparation for the G20 summit has been initiated in strict adherence with law.

In view of the stand taken by the authorities, the court said no further orders were required on the petition." Learned Counsel for the MCD has stated before this court that the process of releasing the dogs that were captured in preparation for the G20 Summit has already been initiated in strict adherence to the ABC Rules and with the assistance of the AWBI. These submissions are affirmed by the Learned Counsel for the AWBI. In light of the aforementioned submissions, the Respondent authorities are directed to ensure strict compliance with all the provisions prescribed under the ABC Rules relating to the capture and release of street dogs," said a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula in an order dated September 11.

The counsel appearing for Petitioner submitted that a detailed mechanism for capture and release of dogs has been prescribed under the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, which should be followed



diligently by the MCD.

The petitioner highlighted the ABC Rules mandate that the dogs should be identified with numbered collars immediately upon capture to maintain proper records that would subsequently facilitate their release in the same locality from where they were captured.

In her petition, Anita Santiago raised concern with respect to allegations of the inhumane way the MCD was "removing street dogs" for the G20 Summit in "bla-

tant violation" of the ABC Rules.

"Any event which makes the country proud and where the nation needs to project itself to the world calls for few steps of discretion for efficient organisation of such events, however, the same has to be within the bounds of law and not beyond it," she said in her plea.

"Actions of respondent no 1 (MCD) are impugned in this petition whereby the respondent no 1 despite withdrawal of its circulars for unlawful capture of dogs has permitted the use of government machinery to capture dogs with the assistance of private unauthorised persons," the petition alleged. Advocates Nirbhay Kumar, Nishant Mandal, Anshu Anand and Shubham Srivastava appeared for petitioner.

The animals right activists has alleged the civic body has started releasing canines back into colonies - at random, not their home habitats. "Many dogs were not properly tagged while being picked up and locked in pounds, kept away from their territories for several days, and released into neighbourhoods at random after the end of G20 summit," they alleged.

# PGDAV student thrashed for not raising slogan in college elections

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old student of the PGDAV college in the national Capital was allegedly thrashed by a group of students after he refused to participate in raising slogans in favour of a candidate who was contesting a college election, the police said on Wednesday. According to the FIR, the student is a BA Final year student of the college located in Nehru Nagar. The incident happened on September 5 when he was sitting with his friends.

"Around 1.55 p.m. on September 5, when some other students called me to participate in their election campaign and to raise slogans in their favour. I refused to do so. The group started thrashing me without any reason," the complainant told the police.

He further said that during the scuffle, he also lost his gold chain. Later, he informed the police about the matter, following which the police took him to AIIMS for treatment.

An FIR was registered at Lajpat Nagar police station against one identified and three to four unidentified persons under Sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code on September 7. A senior police officer said that they are probing the incident.

# 6 held for cheating share market trader of ₹35 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The crime branch unit of the Gurugram police has arrested six people for allegedly cheating a share market trader of Rs 35 lakh by offering to give him jewellery at discounted prices.

Complainant Manmohan Chauhan told the police that one of the key accused, who introduced himself as Narendra Rathore from Rajasthan, befriended him two months ago. Rathore said he worked at a prominent jewellery store, located on MG Road, and owned by his friend "Sharma".

"Rathore said Sharma's business had suffered huge losses and he wanted to sell jewellery at cheap prices. I was offered to buy it at a lower price



and promised a bill," Chauhan said in his complaint.

Rathore later introduced Chauhan to Sharma and another accused — "Mathur" — in Chandni Chowk. On August 26, the four of them met at the Surya Hotel in Delhi's New Friends Colony and agreed on the deal.

"On August 31, Rathore came to my house and I took Rs 35 lakh from my house and went to Sahara Mall on MG Road. Where Sharma and Mathur joined us there, and I hand-

ed them the cash. Sharma and Rathore went with the bag to count the money and returned with another bag that they said had jewellery worth Rs 40 lakh in it," Chauhan alleged.

The complainant said he left with Rathore to go to Sharma's shop nearby, but on the way, four men intercepted them and threatened them to hand over the bag. They even threatened him to run away from there, Chauhan got scared and ran away from there. Later it came to light that Narendra and his associates conspired together and duped him of Rs 35 lakh by creating a story of getting cheap gold from him.

Following this Chauhan reported the matter to the police and a case was registered at the Sector-29 police

station. A crime branch team of DLF Phase-4 nabbed the accused from different locations in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh and took them on two days police remand from the court.

Those arrested were identified as Arvind, Gulbir Singh, Sensarpal, Narendra Singh, Mohammad Salim alias Sharma and Sunder Chaudhary. "All the accused are in the age group of 45-65 years. Accused Sensarpal, Gulbir and Arvind work as home guards in UP and all these accused know each other. Accused Narendra Singh, along with his associates and other accomplices, as per the plan, established a good relationship with the victim and his family and took them into their confidence and carried out the crime," Inspector Sandeep Kumar said.

# Construction workers to be registered at all labour sites

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Labour Department will register construction workers at all labour sites in Delhi using mobile vans. This registration through mobile vans will ensure that they can avail benefits under various welfare schemes.

"Launching mobile registration

vans will be a significant step in this direction as it will help deliver essential documents for all welfare schemes to as many labourers as possible," Delhi Labour Minister Raaj Kumar Anand said on Wednesday. Anand said that a specially designed skill development programme would soon be launched for Delhi's construction workers. "The plan is to commence

it at the end of this month. This programme will provide opportunities to labourers to improve their skills and open new employment avenues to them," he added.

The minister said the labour department will also create awareness about various welfare schemes among the workers through distribution of newsletters at the construction sites

in the city. Anand expressed a strong commitment to resolving pending matters related to registration, claims, and updates for Delhi's construction workers. These proactive steps reflect the dedication of the Labour Ministry and demonstrate their resolve to improve the lives of Delhi's construction laborers, empowering them to lead better lives.

# SC refuses to interfere with Govt's firecrackers ban order

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to interfere with the Delhi Government's order putting a comprehensive ban on manufacturing, storage, sale and bursting of firecrackers in the city, saying people's health is important.

BJP Lok Sabha member Manoj Tiwari told a bench of justices AS Bopanna and MM Sundresh that a complete ban was imposed on firecrackers despite the court allowing bursting of green firecrackers. "No, we are not going to interfere. Where the government has banned firecrackers, it means complete ban. People's health is important. If you want to burst firecrackers, go to states where there is no ban," the bench told advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha, appearing for Tiwari.

The counsel said his client being an MP was responsible towards his constituency and the court has itself allowed bursting of green firecrackers. "People burst firecrackers during wedding and victory processions after elections, then why can't they be allowed to burst green



firecrackers during festivals," Jha said. He said that even the apex court and a Calcutta High Court verdict of last year said there will not be a complete ban on bursting of firecrackers.

"You should make the people understand that they should not burst firecrackers. Even you should not burst firecrackers during victory processions after elections. There are other ways of celebrating the victory," the bench told Tiwari, who is an MP from North East Delhi. Tiwari has filed a petition last year challenging the complete ban on bursting of firecrackers in Delhi and cited that in various other states people are allowed to burst them.

However, the top court last year refused to accord urgent hearing on Tiwari's plea saying, "Let the people of Delhi breathe clean air. People should not spend money on firecrackers instead they should eat sweets."



# Prepare manual on police's media briefings: SC to MHA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Union Home Ministry to prepare a comprehensive manual on media briefings by the police in criminal cases so as to prevent media trial in such cases. A Bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and Manoj Misra said that the existing guidelines were prepared a decade ago and since then, there has been an upsurge in reportage of criminal cases

in print, electronic and social media.

"The age, gender of accused and nature of crime will weigh on the nature of disclosure to be made...media trial leads to deflection from the course of justice. Bearing in mind these aspects we are of the view that the Home ministry prepares a comprehensive manual on media briefings by police personnel," the Court said, in a petition filed by the Peoples Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL).

The Court also asked Directors General of Police



(DGPs) of states to communicate their views to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) within one month. The MHA has been directed to prepare the guidelines after considering the views of state DGPs and other stakeholders. The entire exercise should be completed within three months.

"There is no gainsaying of the fact that both the media and consumers have a right to produce and receive fair and unbiased information," said the bench emphasizing on the right to press freedom as a facet

of the fundamental right to free speech and expression. However, the bench added that accused persons are also entitled to fair and unbiased investigation and presumption of innocence.

The court said that media reportage at times hampers the reputation of accused and that biased reporting also gives rise to public suspicion about the crime. "At another level, media reportage also impinges upon the rights of victims and survivors of crime. In a given case the victim may be a minor while in

another case the nature of the crime may involve privacy of the victim such as those involving gender violence," the Court said, adding that disclosures made by the police during media briefings should be objective in nature and not subjective, having a bearing on the guilt of the accused.

Amicus Curiae and Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan argued that disclosure by the police regarding investigation has a bearing not only on the rights of victims and accused but also on the rule of law.

## Cabinet allocates ₹1,650 crore to release 75L free LPG connections



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday allocated Rs 1,650 crore towards the release of an additional 75 lakh free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) over three years ending March 2026. As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after the meeting of the Union Cabinet.

Thakur said Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the extension of PMUY for the release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26. The total financial

implication will be Rs 1,650 crore. A targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year is being provided to PMUY consumers. With the release of an additional 75 lakh connections, the number of PMUY beneficiaries will go up to 10.35 crore.

The total financial implication will be Rs 1,650 crore. This includes Rs 2,200 per connection (14.2 kg single bottle connection/ 5 kg double bottle connection), and Rs 1,300 per connection (5 kg single bottle connection).

An official release on the Cabinet decision said some eligible households still do not have LPG connections. This is due to multiple reasons - new households are formed every year as a result of rising population, marriages, migration, nuclearisation of families, leftover



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

households, extremely remote locations etc. There is demand for 15 lakh PMUY connections as of August 31, 2023. Last month, the Government on Tuesday announced a Rs 200 per cylinder cut in prices of domestic cooking gas to soften the impact of rising inflation on households. A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in the national capital cost Rs 903. For Ujjwala beneficiaries, the price of an LPG cylinder is Rs 703 after considering the continuing Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched by the Prime Minister in May 2016 to provide LPG connections to women of below poverty line (BPL) families. PMUY has majorly contributed to increase in LPG penetration in the country from 62 per cent in 2016 to near saturation now, the release said.

## Cabinet approves third phase of eCourts Project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the third phase of eCourts Project as a central sector scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 7,210 crore to be implemented over four years. Briefing media after a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the eCourts Mission Mode Project is the prime mover for improving access to justice using technology in line with the PM's vision of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas".

As part of the National eGovernance Plan, the eCourts Project is under implementation since 2007 for ICT enablement of the Indian Judiciary. The Phase II of the project has concluded in 2023. Phase III of the e-Courts Project, beginning 2023, in India is rooted in the philosophy of "access and inclusion", the Minister said.

The third phase is aimed at ushering in a regime of maximum ease of justice by moving towards digital, online and paperless courts through digitisation of the entire court records including legacy

records and by bringing in universalisation of e-filing/e-payments through saturation of all court complexes with e-Sewa Kendras, he added. It will put in place intelligent smart systems enabling data-based decision-making for judges and registries while scheduling or prioritising cases.

The main objective of the Phase-III is to create a unified technology platform for the judiciary which will provide a seamless and paperless interface between the courts, the litigants and other stakeholders. Citizens who do not have access to technology can access the judicial services from eSewa Kendras, thus bridging the digital divide, the government said.

Digitisation of court records also enables processes to become more environmentally friendly by minimising paper-based filings and reducing the physical movement of documents. Besides, virtual participation in the court proceedings can reduce costs associated with court proceedings such as travel expenses for witnesses, judges, and other stakeholders, while payment of court fees, fines and penalties can be made from anywhere, anytime.

## NIA attaches house of terror outfit member in UP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has attached a house in Uttar Pradesh as 'proceeds of terrorism' after discovering that it was being used by an active member of the banned terrorist organisation, Al-Qaeda/ Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind, to make preparations for carrying out terror attacks.

"The accused, Minhaj Ahmed, was using the property, House No. 602/400, Adnan Palli, Ring Road, Dubagga, Uttar Pradesh, for carrying out various terror related unlawful activities, including fabrication of IEDs and petrol bombs, to carry out terrorist attacks in the State. The property is registered in the name of Minhaj's father, Siraj Ahmad and the latter's mother and brother," the NIA said in a statement.

The NIA, which attached the property on Monday, under section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, has found that the accused, Minhaj, had been working closely with Adil Nabi Telia alias Musa, a terrorist affiliated with TRF (an affiliate of the proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba).

Musa was killed in an



encounter with security forces on March 16, 2022.

Investigations by NIA in a case pertaining to radicalisation/recruitment of members for AQIS (Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent) had led the agency to Minhaj's connections with Musa. NIA has found that Minhaj had provided funds to the co-accused for the purpose of carrying out violent Jihadist (terrorist activities) in Kashmir.

The accused had procured certain raw materials and components to fabricate an IED in a pressure cooker, which was recovered from the property attached on Monday. Minhaj had also prepared a sample IED using materials in small quantities and carried out its controlled explosion (testing) on the roof of the said house, NIA investigations

have revealed.

Further, the anti-terror agency has found that Minhaj had recorded a video of the fabrication of IED as well as its controlled explosion and sent it to Musa. "He had also prepared a Petrol bomb and shared a video of its fabrication with Musa. Minhaj Ahmad had also procured a Pistol and live ammunition, and concealed it in his room on the first floor of the said house," the agency alleged.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 10/2021 on July 11, 2021 by Anti-Terrorist Squad, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It was taken over and re-registered by NIA on July 29 the same year.

The NIA has so far arrested and chargesheeted six accused in the case.

**ICICI Home Finance** Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri- Kuria Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400059, India  
Branch Office: 2nd Floor, SCO- 319, Sec-29, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001  
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Avdesh Kumar (Borrower) Monika Sharma (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. LHGU00001325125	Residential Apartment No. C-1001 on 10th Floor, Tower G, Rajeeva Atharva & Shilias Sector 109 Village Pawala Khusrapur Tehsil Kadipur Dist. Gurgaon	Rs. 83,15,183/- September 11, 2023	Rs. 68,89,949/- Rs. 6,89,000/-	September 18, 2023 11:00 AM- 03:00 PM	September 29, 2023 02:00 PM- 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link - <https://BestAuctionDeal.com>) of our auction agency **Globe Tech**. The Mortgagors/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **September 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 2nd Floor, SCO- 319, Sec-29, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001** on or before **September 28, 2023 before 04:00 PM**. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, 2nd Floor, SCO- 319, Sec-29, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001** on or before **September 28, 2023 before 05:00 PM**. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction" payable at **Gurgaon**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 7021072869** or our Sales & Marketing Partner **NexXen Solutions Private Limited**.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <https://www.icicifhc.com/>

Date : **September 14, 2023**  
Place : **Gurgaon**  
Authorized Officer  
**ICICI Home Finance Company Limited**

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

**Whereas**

A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective [successors, assigns, heirs]). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, a notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pawan Kumar Maheshwari/ Santosh Maheshwari/ LBDEL00001131229	Plot No A- 83, MG2 (MIG) Sadashiv Apartments, Shalimar Garden Ext.-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad/ September 11, 2023	April 25, 2023 Rs. 4,67,248/-	Delhi/ NCR/ Rewari

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

Date : **September 14, 2023**  
Place : **Delhi/ NCR**  
Authorized Officer  
**Secured Creditor**

## 'Quality of water, not only its availability, under threat due to climate change'



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

by Dr Michelle van Vliet of Utrecht University.

It's not only the availability of water but also its quality that is under threat due to climate change worldwide, an international group of scientists have said after analyzing river water quality. They showed that in most cases water quality tends to deteriorate during droughts and heatwaves (68%), rainstorms and floods (51%) and under long-term changes in climate (56%). During droughts, less water is available to dilute contaminants, while rainstorms and floods generally result in more contaminants that run off from land to rivers and streams, said the study published in Nature Reviews Earth & Environment.

The study further said that as these events become more frequent and severe due to climate change, ecosystem health and human access to safe water may be increasingly under threat and underlined the urgent need for a better understanding of water quality changes during extreme weather events, and the mechanisms underlying this.

"Climate change and increases in drought and rainstorms pose serious challenges to our water management. Not only is the availability of water under pressure, but also its quality. However, according to the most recent IPCC report our current understanding of this issue is inadequate," noted the research led

The team analysed 965 cases of river water quality changes during extreme weather such as drought, heatwaves, rainstorms, and flooding, as well as under long-term (multidecadal) changes in climate. "We looked at various water quality constituents such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity and concentration of nutrients, metals, microorganisms, pharmaceuticals, and plastics," said van Vliet.

Improvements or mixed responses in water quality are also reported for some cases owing to counteracting mechanisms, for example when increased transport of pollutants is offset by more dilution during flood events, said the study.

Water quality changes are strongly driven by changes in river discharge and water temperature. Land use and other human factors such as wastewater treatment also shape how this plays out. "Understanding the complex interplay between climate, land use and human drivers, which together influence the sources and transport of pollutants is crucial" added van Vliet. The research also calls for more data collection and studies of water quality in non-Western countries. "We need better monitoring of water quality in Africa and Asia. Most water quality studies now focus on rivers and streams in North America and Europe".

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

**Whereas**

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Om Prakash Kukreja/ Pushpa Rani Kukreja/ LBDFB00001309421	Space No.- G-7, Pw-2, Ground Floor, Aez, Vaishali Plot. No-w-2, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad/ September 11, 2023	January 30, 2020 Rs. 42,79,455/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Anuj Sharma/ Rajeshwari Sharma/ LBDEL00003782523/ LBDEL00006085066/ LBDEL00006086913	Flat No- 1004, Tower-C, 10th Floor, Building Name As "Star Rameshwaram", Nh-58, Raj Nagar Extn. Ghaziabad/ September 11, 2023	April 15, 2023 Rs. 20,42,762/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Bhooshan/ Sompal Singh/ LBGHZ00005136561/ LBGHZ00004418607	Flat No 1107, Type-D, 11th Floor, Tower-7, Block No. 1, Without Roof Rights, Vvip Addresses Khasara No-1119,1120,1125,1126,1146,1147, &1117, Village Noor Nagar, Raj Nagar Extn, Nh 58, Ghaziabad/ September 11, 2023	April 15, 2023 Rs. 18,57,350/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Shabina Parvej/ Mohammad Sajid Ahmad/ LBNOD00005172616	Shop No. 135, 1st Floor GYC Runway Suites, Plot No. MPC 01 Gaur Yamuana City Pocket 3, Mirzapur Site (Lfd-3), Sector 19, Yeida Shops/studios Noida/ September 11, 2023	July 06, 2021 Rs. 9,46,852/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Dharmendra Kumar Singh/ Amarawati/ LBNOD00004944086/ LBNOD00004979183	Flat No.- 1206, 12th Floor, "Migsun Vilaasa", Block Sun 3, Plot No. GH 1B(2), Sector Eta-2, Noida/ September 11, 2023	April 19, 2023 Rs. 14,63,887/-	Delhi/ NCR Jharkhand/ Mirzapur

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

Date : **September 14, 2023**  
Place : **Delhi/NCR**  
Authorized Officer  
**ICICI Bank Limited**

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET**

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

**Notice for sale of immovable assets**

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mechsoft Engineers- Manoj Kumar, Riya Rani, Rajnish Singh, Avantika Kushwaha A/c No- 629405042934	Commercial Space No. 405 A 4th Floor, Commercial Complex Known as Orbit Plaza Plot No C-2, Crossings Republik Dundaheara, NH-24, Ghaziabad, Super Area: 487 sq. ft.	Rs. 33,42,191/- as on 2nd September 2023.	Rs. 24,30,000/- Rs. 2,43,000/-	September 26, 2023 from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM	October 11, 2023 from 11:00 AM onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>)**. The Mortgagors/notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **October 10, 2023 before 05:00 P.M.** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at: **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005** on or before **October 10, 2023 before 05:00 P.M.** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **October 10, 2023 before 05:00 P.M.** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at: **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005** on or before **October 10, 2023 before 05:00 P.M.** Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at **Delhi**.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited On 9372730494/8584874809**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1.M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd 3. Hecta Proptech Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4](https://www.icicibank.com/n4p4)

Date : **September 14, 2023**  
Place : **Delhi/ NCR**  
Authorized Officer  
**ICICI Bank Limited**



# G20 sustainable finance roadmap discussions kicked off

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The discussions on the progress so far and actions taken to advance G20 sustainable finance roadmap kicked off here on Wednesday under India's Presidency when the 4th G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) Meeting started in this holy city to finalise the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report. The discussions in the 4th SFWG meeting in Varanasi, a parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which hosted several G20 working group meetings so far, continued to build on the first three meetings held in Guwahati, Udaipur, and Mahabalipuram respectively, to jointly adopt the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report.



G20 SFWG meeting being held in Varanasi on Wednesday

The report will consist of the recommendations welcomed by the leaders along with two compendia, viz, case studies on financing SDGs and on non-price policy levers to support sustainable investments. Furthermore, the key highlight of the 4th SFWG meeting will be reflections and sharing of experiences by G20 members and IOs on the progress made in the implementation of the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap. The 4th G20 SFWG meeting under India's G20 Presidency will also bring together over 80 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries and international organisations. This 4th and the last meeting will focus on finalising the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report and also discuss the progress made by jurisdictions, IOs and relevant stakeholders against the actions listed out in the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap.

The main purpose of the SFWG is to help scale up private and public sustainable finance and in so doing, accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The working group was co-chaired by USA and China and UNDP serves as the secretariat. Three priority areas have been outlined for the SFWG under India's G20 Presidency, viz, mechanisms for mobilisation of timely and adequate resources for climate

finance; enabling finance for the sustainable development goals (SDGs); and capacity building of the ecosystem for financing toward sustainable development. These priority areas reflect India's focus on sustainability and the theme of India's G20 Presidency 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. The G20 New Delhi Leader's Declaration 2023 which was adopted in the Leaders' Summit held recently, has welcomed the work undertaken by the SFWG under India's G20 presidency. Leaders welcomed the recommendations on the mechanisms to mobilise resources for climate finance, scaling up blended

# RBI conducts FLP for students

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the aegis of the G20 India Presidency, the two-day 4th Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) meeting began in this ancient city on Wednesday. In the run-up to the regular G20 meetings, various domestic outreach and Jan Bhagidari (JB) programmes are being organised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Lucknow, during September 10-15.

Under the Jan Bhagidari initiative, a Financial Literacy Programme (FLP) was organised by the RBI during the day for school students and teachers at Government Girls Inter College (GGIC), Maldaahya here. Around 100 students and 40 teachers participated in this programme. The programme was attended by Dr Balu Kenchappa, Regional Director, RBI Lucknow, Rakesh Dubey, Deputy General Manager, along with other senior officials. The programme commenced with the welcome address by the Principal, GGIC.



RBI Lucknow organising financial awareness campaign at GGIC in Varanasi on Wednesday.

In his keynote address, Dr Balu Kenchappa impressed upon the importance of financial literacy as well as G20 India Presidency while exhorting upon the importance and benefits of inculcating the habit of

saving from an early age. He elucidated upon the work and role of RBI, as well as highlighted the importance of opening a bank account, features of bank notes, KYC norms, electronic transfer of money, check book facility, internet and mobile banking, UPI, security features of bank notes, ATM etc. He welcomed the participants and urged them to join the banking system so that they can get maximum benefit in their daily lives by availing the social security and other schemes of the government. Rakesh Dubey, DGM (FIDD), RBI Lucknow, sensi-

tised the participants about the fraud incidents by phone, e-mails and SMS, banking ombudsman scheme including grievance redressal mechanism, etc. This was followed by an interactive presentation by Markandeya Chaturvedi, AGM, FIDD, RBI Lucknow, who exhorted upon financial literacy initiatives by RBI, delineated the various concepts related to banking and investment, note refund rules, etc and informed the participants about different types of accounts like savings account, fixed account, current account etc. A quiz competition was organised, and prizes were distributed among the winners.

The programme was well received by the participants and booklets on financial literacy were distributed amongst them. Concomitantly, street play styled 'Nukkad Nata' will also be organised where staging of puppet shows, magic shows and folk songs, at various Ganga ghats will be undertaken including at Rajendra Prasad Ghat at 10 am and Namo Ghat at 4 pm on Thursday and at Chet Singh Ghat at 10 am and Lalita Ghat at 4 pm on September 15 so that message related to financial literacy reaches the general public.

# Ayushman Bhava campaign launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With the hope of keeping everyone healthy, President Draupadi Murmu virtually launched the Ayushman Bhava campaign by pressing a button on Wednesday. With this campaign, Draupadi Murmu and Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya have set the goal of universal health coverage to keep all the people associated with different states of the country healthy and fit. The inauguration ceremony and live broadcast of Ayushman Bhava campaign from the district level took place in the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (DDU) Government Hospital auditorium. The programme was presided over by Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya.



Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya distributing an Ayushman card to a beneficiary in Varanasi on Wednesday.

In this 15-day campaign, all the schemes related to Ayushman Bharat will be implemented in a better way. Seva Pakhwada will start from September 17. Along with this, many welfare programmes like cleanliness campaign, Ayushman card distribution campaign, Ayushman Gram Panchayats, Ayushman fairs, blood donation and organ donation camps will be conducted. In this campaign, Ayushman cards will be made for all the eligible listed beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in the district, she said, adding that with Ayushman Card, beneficiaries will get free treatment facility up to Rs 5 lakh. She appealed to all the public representatives to help all the people in the community for the successful conduct of the campaign and provide them the benefits of the schemes. MLC and district

BJP chief Hansraj Vishwakarma said that under the inspiration of the PM and the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, better medical and health services are being provided to all the people of the district. Through this campaign, medical and health benefits will be provided to every person of the district. District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam said that the main five components of Ayushman Bhava campaign will be Seva Pakhwada, Ayushman Aapke Dwar 3.0, Ayushman Sabha, Ayushman Fair (every Saturday), Ayushman Gram Panchayat related activities. Along with this, public welfare programmes related to Ayushman Urban (urban), screening of children etc in Anganwadi and government schools will be organised. On this occasion, Padma Shri Prof KK Tripathi, Padma

Shri Prof Saroj Chooramani and Ajgara MLA Tribhuvan Ram also presented their views on making the Ayushman Bhava campaign successful. The CMO said that all the departmental officers have been given responsibility for successfully conducting the campaign. All preparations are being completed at the district level. Every Saturday, in the Ayushman Mela, activities related to non-communicable diseases will be organised in the first week, communicable diseases like TB, leprosy and others in the second week, mother-child health and nutrition in the third week and eye donation care in the fourth week. On this occasion, ACMO, Deputy CMO, Nodal Officer, Superintendent, Medical Officer, DPMU unit, DHEIO, doctors, DIU and other health workers were present.

# NCR GM awards staff for alertness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

General Manager (GM) North Central Railway (NCR) Satish Kumar conferred awards on staff for alertness and contribution towards safety in train operations in the presence of its PHODs. Seven railway staff were conferred safety awards by the GM on the occasion.

Meena, Gateman, Gate No. 75 Ghosrana-Mandawar and Uday Ram Meena, Track Maintainer, Agra (Agra Division), Basant Lal, Pointsman, Ambiapur and Naval Kishore, Train Manager, Prayagraj (Prayagraj division). Naval Kishore has been conferred with the Employee of the Month Safety Award for August this year.

next meeting of the House through the Municipal Corporation Executive Committee.

Vinay Kumar Mishra, corporator of Pura Padain ward of the city, demanded installation of streetlights at the intersection of Johstongan intersection. Corporator Nem Yadav has proposed to name Mohtsimganj after Pandit Kesharinath Tripathi. This was unanimously agreed upon in the meeting held in the House. Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani said that the corporators' proposal will be approved soon. Special attention will be given to cleanliness in the

extended area of the Municipal Corporation. For this, 694 sanitation workers will be deployed by the Municipal Corporation. All these cleaners will be hired through outsource. In the House meeting, corporator Shivsevak Singh, Anand Ghildiyal etc said that thousands of street lights in the city are defunct. It is not even being repaired by the Municipal Corporation. Corporator of extended wards Ramkumar, Babita Yadav, Reena, Tara etc. said water and sanitation are the biggest problems in their areas. The mayor said that improvements should be done on the issue.

# KK Yadav gets additional charge of Prayagraj PMG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Indian Postal Service officer Krishna Kumar Yadav will now be the new Postmaster General (PMG) of Prayagraj postal region. Yadav is currently the PMG of Varanasi region and along with this he will also hold the additional charge of PMG of Prayagraj region.

He has received hundreds of honors from various organisations in the country and abroad. Yadav, popular as an efficient and sensitive administrator, has previously worked on various posts in Surat (Gujarat), Lucknow, Kanpur, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Prayagraj, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and Varanasi.

pollution caused by idols made of plaster of Paris painted by dangerous chemical-based colours, this year's Ganesh Chaturdashi is all set to be eco-friendly.

As people are getting more aware, the efforts of the district administration too have contributed in bringing down the number of stalls selling idols, which could cause water pollution. Nowadays eco-friendly idols are in demand, as such city markets are flooded with stalls such idols of Lord Ganesha. Not only local artisans but the idols made by experts of Chunar and Mirzapur are also in great demand. Ghanshyam Kuhar, an artisan of Baluaaghat locality of the city said, "Retailers are demanding bigger and more decorative idols, which fetches us handsome profit". Artisans are using biodegradable material like cow dung, lac, coconut shells and jute, clay and natural

colours for making these idols. As go-green is the new mantra, citizens are saying no to idols made of chemical, plaster of Paris, clay, plastic, or thermocol (polystyrene). Pointing out that it is an easy process to sculpt an eco-friendly idol, local sculptors claim they have been making idols of Ganesha in various 'avatar', decorated with bright colours and designs. Moreover, these idols are reasonably priced too. Ranging from Rs 200 to 500, these idols are giving a tough competition to the one brought from neighbouring manufacturing hubs like Chunar or Mirzapur, which is famous for making idols of ceramic and clay. These idols are liked by both local customers and also by the officials of the UP-Pollution Control Board. While the denizens are happy that there is something to fit their pockets, officials are happy that this reduces water and soil pollution.

# Special fortnight from September 17 to October 2

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 'Ayushman Bhava' campaign has been started simultaneously in the entire country, including Prayagraj, on Wednesday. It was launched in virtual mode by President Draupadi Murmu which was telecast live across the country simultaneously. Under this campaign a special fortnight will be run from September 17 to October 2. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Ashu Pandey gave complete information about the scheme to mediapersons here. He said this will be run on a special campaign from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday i.e. September 17 to Gandhi Jayanti October 2. In this the department team will go door to door and special attention will be given to the health of common people

as well as cleanliness etc. This campaign was launched from Tej Bahadur Sapru (Beli) Hospital in Prayagraj. MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani, CMO Dr Ashu Pandey, Principal of Motilal Nehru Medical College Dr SP Singh, CMS of the hospital Dr. Sharda Chaudhary and other officials were present. The Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Jan Arogya Yojana) will be expanded under Ayushman Aapke Dwar 3.0. Besides, weekly health fair will be organised at health and wellness centres and community health centres. Information related to organisation of blood donation camp and voluntary blood donation will be given. Besides information will be given for voluntary organ donation and pledge will be taken for the same. Ayushman

Sabha will be organized in all the villages on October 2. In this Ayushman card will be distributed, ABHA ID creation and information about health related schemes will be given. **LAWYERS CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT WORK :** Working in the Allahabad High Court remained paralysed on Wednesday as the lawyers continued to boycott the judicial work on a call given by the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh, the apex body of the lawyers of the state, in protest against the cane charge on lawyers at Hapur district court. Apart from the high court, lawyers at Prayagraj's district court, Central Administrative Tribunal, Debt Recovery Tribunal, Company Law Tribunal, Board of Revenue court and all other judicial forums also boycotted the judicial work.

The police had allegedly lathicharged lawyers on August 29 at Hapur district court when they were returning after protesting the registration of a case against a woman advocate and her father around a week ago. The lawyers across the state had been boycotting the judicial work since then on a call given by the bar council. The working in all courts across the state, including Allahabad High Court, and its Lucknow Bench has also come to standstill since then. According to two ex-officers of high court bar association (HCBA), Ashutosh Tripathi and Santosh Kumar Mishra, there is resentment among the lawyers across the state as the government has not taken any action on the demands made by the bar council till date.

# Vindhya Corridor project: Officials told to identify places for vehicle parking

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

To review the progress of Vindhya Corridor project District Magistrate (DM) Priyanka Niranjan held a meeting at her camp office on Tuesday. She became aware of the works which were to be done in the next phase under the project. In the meeting she asked the officials concerned to identify proper places for vehicle parking and 'rain basera'. She said at all main entry points of Vindhya corridor town parking places are to be constructed for the convenience of devotees. She said if purchase of land is necessary then talk to the land owners and inform her about the progress within a week. The meeting was attended by City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh, sub-divisional magistrate

(SDM), Sadar, Chandrabhanu Singh, Assistant Tourism Officer Rajesh Bharti and other officials concerned. Meanwhile DM Priyanka Niranjan inspected the land proposed for state university at Deori village in Madihan tehsil on Tuesday. At the site she directed the SDM Madihan Yugantar Tripathi to ensure measurement of the land and submit status report without delay. On the occasion she was accompanied by Additional District Magistrate (Land Revenue) Satya Prakash Singh and SDM Sadar Chandrabhanu Singh. EE PWD and tehsil staff were also present during the inspection. **MEETING:** A joint table top meeting of NDRF and District Disaster Management Agency Mirzapur for earthquake mock exercise was

presided over by Additional District Magistrate ADM (Finance & Revenue) Shiv Pratap Shukla at Collectorate on Tuesday. Addressing the meeting the ADM said preparations are to be examined during the mock exercise. He said the mock exercise was to be done on September 15 at Lions School. On the suggestion of Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP/City) Srikant Prajapati the mock drill was to be started from District Emergency Operation Centre whose phone number is 05442-256357. It was also to be examined which departments and organisations were to be activated after receiving information about the earthquake. As part of the mock exercise the bus of NDRF was to be brought at Lions School from Shastri Bridge by creating a green cor-

ridor. The meeting was attended by Dy CMO Dr Gulab Varma, Fire Station Officer Anil Saroj, representative of SDRF, Principal Lions School Dr Neeraj Pandey and other officials concerned. **DIES:** A lineman died when he came in contact with electric current while repairing a fault in an area under Lalganj police station on Tuesday. Bhaail of Devghata Pandey under police station Bhaail of Devghata Pandey under Halia police station fell from the electric pole while repairing electric fault in Sahji village and died on the spot. The mob staged a jam in Kota Shiv Pratap village on Lalganj Halia Road. SDM Lalganj Bharat Lal Saroj reached the spot along with police force and assured to make available proper help to the family of the victim.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Double trouble

Kim Jong Un's Russia visit sets off alarm bells in the West over secret 'military alliance'

Though he chose to skip the recent G20 Summit which discussed all hot-button global issues in the presence of the world's largest economies, Russian President Vladimir Putin is meeting North Korean 'Supreme leader' Kim Jong Un on the sly in Vladivostok. Afraid as the latter is of flying, the North Korean dictator travelled on his bulletproof, heavily armoured private train which is so heavy it can not chug over 59 km per hour. The world, especially parts of the Korean peninsula and the West, is wildly speculating about the possibility of a military alliance between the Communist countries since it will have implications for regional and global security. While the visit is officially framed as a 'diplomatic mission', the secretive nature of North Korean politics and the history of its questionable alliance with Russia give rise to suspicions of a potential military deal. The two countries share a complex history of diplomatic, economic and military cooperation. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union supported North Korea both economically and militarily. However, the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 led to a period of estrangement between them as Russia focused on its domestic challenges. In recent years, Russia has sought to revive this relationship. Kim's visit is part of a broader effort by both countries to rekindle their ties and enhance military collaboration.



This visit of Kim to Russia is notable for its timing and context. The trip comes at a time when North Korea faces increasing international isolation due to its nuclear ambitions, economic sanctions and human rights violations. Russia, on the other hand, has been seeking to assert itself on the global stage and strengthen ties with nations that share similar interests. Despite sanctions and the bruises of Ukraine war, Russia is still a power to reckon with and it can help North Korea in a number of ways, including supplying arms, which could be a grave concern for South Korea and stability in southeast Asia. The likely military cooperation between these countries could destabilise the delicate balance of power in southeast Asia and complicate efforts to denuclearise North Korea. Kim's visit could also impact ongoing negotiations between North Korea and South Korea, as well as efforts to resume talks between North Korea and the United States. The international community is closely watching for any developments and their potential impact. Diplomacy and careful negotiations with the two countries, especially Russia, will be essential in managing this evolving situation and ensuring stability in the region. Experts feel Kim's visit could have the twin purpose of modernising North Korean weaponry and exporting ammunition to Russia in return. That any transfer of arms from North Korea to Russia will be a violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions does not deter the two countries — it could well be the beginning of a new ominous buildup.

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### PICTALK



Students attend a class at the Arya Samaj School as it reopened after three decades, at Maharaj Gurji in Srinagar

# India's forest policy needs reevaluation

Any so-called economic development at the cost of forests is going to invariably hit vulnerable groups who depend on them

The vast expanses of forests, covering India's diverse terrains, are not just mere geographical entities. They are the unsung guardians of our planet, playing a monumental role in mitigating attrition of ecological services and climate change threats.

Forests are better known as buffers against extreme weather patterns, ensuring consistent water supply, curbing soil erosion, and aiding in sustainable agricultural practices. Besides these, they stand as vital habitats for the majestic wildlife of India, from awe-inspiring tigers to vivid avian species, amphibians, and the insect world. Their loss could mean a stark decline in biodiversity, damaging the intricate ecological systems, and endangering countless life forms including humans.

Less discussed, however, is the fact that humanity has relied on forests, as a primary source of sustenance with a plethora of foods derived through various inventive methods. In modern times, our diet largely revolves around just thirty domesticated species: with rice, wheat, and maize alone making up over half of global calorie consumption. Every domesticated species has its 'mother plant' in the forest, the gene pool in its purest form. The decline in wild food resources due to anthropogenic forces and the fading knowledge of their harvesting and processing have led to the shrinking of the variety that populates the human food system. Any crisis because of harm to the cultivated crops on account of development of immunity of pests to pesticides, or due to climate change will simply be catastrophic. Integrating wild edible plants into mainstream diets needs to be explored as it will have the potential of significant implications for environmental sustainability, especially in a world grappling with food scarcity challenges. Given this, the need to conserve forests at any cost can hardly be overstated.

While many underprivileged households often depend on monotonous staple diets provided by governmental initiatives, the tradition and reliance on wild



foods and indigenous medicinal systems remain strong, particularly in remote, and economically challenged areas. Any so-called economic development at the cost of forests is going to invariably hit these vulnerable groups, and converting forests indiscriminately into basically low-productivity agricultural lands through encroachments and regularization thereof by Governments for short-term gains needs to be stopped forthwith. For most laymen, forests are primarily vast tracts populated by trees and wildlife. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) paints a more intricate picture while it indicates and includes in the forest cover any territory spanning over a hectare, with a canopy coverage exceeding 10%. According to their latest biennial report, India's forest cover encompasses about 22% of its terrain. This definition and its true contribution to the ecological security of India, though, do raise eyebrows.

The importance of large, continuous forests cannot be matched by the simple summation of smaller, fragmented forest covers, even if they hold equivalent area metrics in the name of compensatory plantations done instead of natural forests diverted for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 of



FORESTS ARE BETTER KNOWN AS BUFFERS AGAINST EXTREME WEATHER PATTERNS, ENSURING CONSISTENT WATER SUPPLY, CURBING SOIL EROSION, AND AIDING IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

India. Ignoring this crucial aspect also contributes to the undervaluation of natural forests and could prompt a decreased emphasis so far as the protection and conservation of natural forests are concerned. One can notice a predominant trend of weakening of the forestry sector. The Global Forest Watch showcases a concerning trend: between 2002 to 2020, India lost around 3,490 sq. km of natural forests.

The Forest Conservation Bill 2023 has recently relaxed conditions required for the diversion of forests for non-forestry purposes in many areas of the country. The penal provisions of the Indian Forest Act 1927 have been amended by legislating a separate Act in the name of The Jan Vishwas (amendment of provisions) Act 2023 lowering the punishments for the offences related to setting fire to cattle trespass and grazing in forest areas. The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 has 'decriminalized' the offences whereby the offenders can get away by simply paying a penalty amount.

While aiming to meet the objective of promoting bamboo plantations in private areas, the Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in 2018 which deleted bamboo from the definition of timber making it felling a 'non-offence'

under this Act in the Reserved Forests. At the heart of the conundrum lies the challenge of appropriately valuing all the goods and ecological services provided by forests and incorporating the same while planning for and assessing economic development. The current economic approaches fail to recognize the contributions of forests which aren't translatable into strict market terms. Forward and backward economic linkages related to forest produce including medicinal plants and also provision of livelihoods to forest dwellers and local communities remain either ignored or unquantified. The critical role in maintaining the water balance in the catchment areas as well as ensuring perennial flow in streams is grossly overlooked. Carbon sequestration and its role in the mitigation of climate change are also not comprehensively accounted for.

As we venture further into the age of sustainability in all spheres; it becomes paramount to re-evaluate, recognize, and incorporate the true worth of our forests in the national economy while ensuring simultaneously that they remain our guarding sentinels for generations to come.

(The writers are Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (UP, Maharashtra); the views are personal)



BKP SINHA



ARVIND KUMAR JHA

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FIR AGAINST JOURNALISTS

Sir — It is deeply disheartening that the media, particularly the press, has not reacted as strongly as it should in response to the FIR filed against the Editors Guild by the Chief Minister of Manipur. This constitutes a direct attack on the media, and it begs the question: Can the press afford to remain silent about such a critical issue? The Chief Minister's actions suggest that merely reporting the truth may be construed as promoting enmity between different groups.

The Supreme Court has, commendably, ordered the police not to take any coercive action against the Editors until September 15th. However, what unfolds after this date is open to debate. The freedom of the press is a cornerstone of democracy, and any threat to it must be taken seriously. It is imperative that the media community, as well as society at large, stands up to protect this vital institution.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

### RISING SUICIDE RATE

Sir — The rising suicide rate in India is a matter of grave concern. According to a 2021 report, 33.2 per cent of men took their own lives due to family problems, and 4.8% cited marriage-related issues as the cause. Shockingly, among the 81,063 men who committed suicide, a significant number were married. In total, 1,18,979 men lost their lives to suicide, accounting for approximately 72% of the total suicides, while 45,026 women also tragically ended their lives, constituting about 27% of the total. Recently, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court, seeking guidelines for addressing suicide among married men subjected to domestic violence. Additionally, there's a call for the establishment of a 'National Commission for Men.' In 2021, the numbers were staggering, with 1,18,979 male suicides and 45,026 female suicides. Among these, male daily wage earners had the highest suicide rate at 37,751, followed by self-employed individuals (18,803) and unem-

## Congratulations Djokovic!



Heartfelt congratulations to Novak Djokovic on his remarkable achievement of winning his fourth US Open and securing a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles championship. Djokovic's triumph has also made him the oldest US Open champion in the Open era, a remarkable feat in itself. Notably, Djokovic is the first player to secure three Grand Slam titles in the same year four times, cementing his impending return to the world No. 1 ranking in a truly fitting manner.

What's even more significant for Djokovic is his record against his peers. With 24 Grand Slam titles to his name, he now stands two ahead of Rafael Nadal and four ahead of Roger Federer in terms of Slam victories. His awe-inspiring achievement of 24 Grand Slam titles is a testament to his dominance, redemption, and the history he is creating in the world of tennis. During the presentation ceremony, it was quite amusing when Medvedev humorously asked Djokovic, 'What are you still doing here?' This question must surely be on the minds of the current generation of players, as Djokovic continues to win Grand Slam titles at an unprecedented rate, often against opponents almost a decade younger than him. Once again, congratulations to Novak Djokovic on his incredible achievement, and may he continue to inspire and amaze us with his tennis prowess.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

### CORRIDOR OF PROGRESS

Sir — The Europe-West Asia-India transit corridor represents a strategic shift in the energy supply dynamics from the Persian Gulf region. The concept of an India -to-Europe corridor has been under discussion for several years, to strengthen trade, investment, and people-to-people ties between geographically distant yet economically significant regions. India's strategic location, bridging South Asia and Europe, coupled with Europe's economic prowess, makes this corridor an enticing proposition. The recent G20 summit provided a significant push towards making this corridor a reality. The corridor's economic viability and mutual benefits hinge on India's strength. Moreover, it addresses concerns within the global supply chain, such as the vulnerability of the Suez Canal, by ensuring resource efficiency and uninterrupted flows.

Sambhavan Jain | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Hindi Diwas: Time to celebrate Hindi

The G20 summit gave a strong push to make Hindi an international language. It may welcome an official language of UN soon

With India's constant rise in the international system with the G20 summit being a huge success and being widely hailed internationally, Hindi—the most spoken language in India, is also fast acquiring an international status, and the days don't appear far when it may be recognized as the United Nation's official language too. India's mission of globalising Hindi is amply reflected by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar when he said that India is trying to globalise Hindi by seeking its recognition as the United Nation's official language and there has been some progress and the process may take some time to complete.

The exercise around globalising Hindi is not new. Considering its fast-growing potential owing to its demographic trends and a rapidly expanding economy and military, India started the World Hindi Conference long ago. According to Forbes India, Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world with 60 crore speakers. Only English with 1,13.2 crore and Mandarin with 1,11.7 crore speakers are ahead of Hindi.



In 2019, the number of Hindi speakers was estimated at 615 million. The 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue stated English at the top of the list with 1,132 million speakers and Chinese Mandarin at the second position with 1,117 million speakers. Bangla has been ranked as the 7th most spoken language of the world with 228 million native speakers.

Ethnologue brings out a yearly database of living languages of the world since its establishment in 1951. The current round of the database covers 7,111 living languages of the world. And Hindi becoming the third most spoken language of the world, is not a small achievement. Hindi is already being used by UNESCO in its social media and newsletters.

Presently, the UN has six official languages- Arabic, Chinese, English, French,

Russian and Spanish. Now, when Hindi is the third most spoken language, there is no point in it not being included in the UN list of official languages. As per the UN laws, a delegate may speak in any official UN language and then the speech is interpreted simultaneously into the other official languages. Now it is widely considered that a few other widely spoken languages should also be included in the list of official languages as multilingualism enables effective communication between the UN's linguistically and culturally diverse member states. Multilingualism also ensures increased and enthused participation of the member states in the organisation's work, besides ensuring greater effectiveness, better outcomes and more involvement. Constituting the core value of the UN, multilingualism also eliminates the hegemony of English and ensures full and equitable treatment and respect for other languages. Now we hope that the 'Hindi@UN' project, launched in 2018 by the Modi government to enhance the public outreach of the UN in

the Hindi language and to spread increased awareness about the issues of global importance among Hindi-speaking populations, will soon be a reality. Mahatma Gandhi once called Hindi the language of the masses as it ties the nation in a thread of unity and has a special place in the public consciousness. Hindi was focused upon as a unifying force even during the freedom struggle to hasten India's journey to independence. September 14 is celebrated as Hindi Diwas every year to further strengthen and spread this public consciousness across the country. The Constituent Assembly which framed the Indian constitution, accepted Hindi as the official language of the country on September 14, 1949. Without a doubt, Hindi Diwas ignites passion and love for the language among people. Along with various government departments, schools, colleges and several private organisations organise literary and cultural events on this occasion across the country. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH





## FIRST COLUMN

### PLAN WELL, BE FOCUSED

Each phase of life has challenges and we must have proper plans to meet them



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We, human beings, are an intelligent species. It is expected from us that we will lead meaningful lives, which means steady progress throughout our existence in the present bodies. How do we do that? We must be focused at all times. And the right age is no later than 15. I have divided the lifespan into five parts. These are 16 to 30, 31 to 45, 46 to 60, 61 to 75 and 76 onwards. Each part has different challenges and we must have proper plans to meet them.

Starting with the 16 to 30, we are expected to complete our education and training and get settled in some occupation to begin earning and maintaining selves. The next period of 31 to 45 should be for getting settled nicely in family life. The third period of 46 to 60 should be for meeting midlife challenges with grandchildren becoming part of our family lives. The next period of 61 to 75 is to begin turning spiritual, if not already turned in the earlier phase. The last period of 76 onwards is to seek shelter from God seriously.

Now going into details of each phase, the planning in the 16 to 30 part should be to plan what we wish to specialise in. This must take into consideration our abilities. This is where planning helps; it forces us to assess properly. A connected matter is choosing an occupation. We must decide whether working for someone suits us or going into business for ourselves is better. In this case, nature must be seriously examined, because anything contrary to our natures will not work. Lord Krishna made it very clear when He alerted us in the Bhagavad-Gita, "Work Should be according to one's nature only, even though appearing inferior. If one doesn't do this, there will be fearful consequences." (3.35) We see it also every day. A person misfit to do business goes into it and wastes a lot of savings for self and parents. Personally speaking, we should always begin with working for someone else and learn the practical side of life. Subsequently, we can go into business, if we choose to, which I did.



The next phase of 31 to 45 must have a decision about marriage, if not made earlier with help from parents, mostly done in India. We must be clear in what we want in our life partner. Only then, we have a good chance that our marriage will succeed. Similarly, we should be clear in what we want in the matter of our wives' working and having children. The first question is easily answered by the quantum of personal income. If the wife has to work, we must be prepared to not be so suspicious, just because she has to work with males. The connected issue of how to bring up children should be similarly addressed. What kind of help is necessary, especially from parents? This kind of planning brings into focus many important matters, which have a bearing on our future. The next phase is important for different reasons. Health starts to become an issue, if not already has become one. Lots of discipline is required. Then, Retirement brings its challenges, if in a job. One must plan what he or she wants to do in such an eventuality. This is where spirituality is the only real solution; any other is temporary only; and really cannot help, as one gets into the 76 onwards phase of life. If one is not connected with God, bad karmaphalas can cause havoc at times. Our planning for any phase of life must be realistic. Because we are only one factor in how our future unfolds, in which our 'prarabdha' (destiny) is very important. Our planning must be very flexible. Good planning helps us to remain focused. We can be positive as we move forward in life, thus avoiding frustration to a great degree. Our direction has to be right. For example, if we plant a mango tree, its fruits will only be available after many years. Even if we cannot control results, we won't be too far away from our plans. In the end, I will re-emphasise the role of God in our planning; He has to help. Because God guides and helps those who take His shelter. In human birth, we have this golden opportunity. Plan well with God in the picture and get focused. You can enjoy a quality life.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views expressed are personal)

# G20 has galvanised manufacturing sector



AS MITTAL

India has successfully included the developing industrial economies in the world agenda while positioning itself as an attractive manufacturing hub



India's G20 presidency presents an opportunity to strengthen the country's collaboration and economy. With the world's most powerful countries represented, the G20 forum provides a premier platform for international economic cooperation, accounting for 85% of global GDP and 75% of trade. The timing of the Presidency is ideal for India to exercise greater influence on global policies and the economic sector.

The Business 20 (B20) is a G20 dialogue forum that has conducted a year-long series of summits, which saw the participation of Indian and global industry leaders. One of the significant outcomes of the G20 is the 'India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor'. A cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network that will connect India to the Arabian Gulf countries, the European Union and the USA, expected to translate into trade and investment opportunities for Indian businesses, supporting global expansion to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

India is making strides towards becoming a leading global manufacturing hub, but there is still room for improvement. Outsourcing has increased due to China's diversion of manufacturing and production to new locations. This has resulted in India becoming a preferred choice for companies seeking alternative manufacturing or sourcing bases. With Indo-US deals taking centre stage and other global corporations following suit, India's manufacturing sector has the potential to reach US\$1 trillion by 2030, making it the fourth largest in the world. Currently, it is the fifth largest.

The manufacturing sector in India has made significant progress since the economy liberalised in the early 1990s. Initially, India was caught between capital-intensive countries like the US, Japan, and Europe, and labour-intensive countries like China. However, India has found its place through low-cost automation, which has enabled



MANUFACTURING SECTOR LEADERS SHOULD THINK GLOBALLY AND FOCUS ON ALL ASPECTS OF TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING QUALITY, COST, DELIVERY, SAFETY, MORALE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(The Author is Vice-Chairman Sonalika Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board and Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views are personal)

world-class quality and scale in some sectors such as automobiles and auto components. This was accomplished under the umbrella of Total Quality Management (TQM), which focused on quality, cost, delivery, safety, morale, and the environment.

India's economic growth relies heavily on industries such as automotive, engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, and consumer durables, making manufacturing a crucial component of the country's progress. Not only does the manufacturing sector have the potential to boost economic growth, but it also can provide employment opportunities for a vast number of the country's young workforce. However, despite its potential, the manufacturing sector has only been contributing 13-17% of GDP over the past four decades. To achieve India's national target of increasing manufacturing's contribution to 25% of GDP by 2025, the sector must export goods worth US\$ 1 trillion by 2030, which will help India become the third-largest economy.

Unfortunately, India's manufacturing sector has struggled to increase its share of global export of merchandise to 2%. Its share has remained below 2% since 1948, hovering between 1.5% and 1.8% between 2010 and 2022. China, on the other hand, has maintained a significant lead over India with a share of 10.3% to 13.8% in global export of merchandise since 2010. China's advantage in labour-intensive manufacturing at scale, backed by low labour costs and investment in trade-related infrastructure, has enabled it to move towards cutting-

edge sectors like robotics and aerospace through the 'Made in China 2025' campaign.

China's export-oriented approach focused on industries with higher export potential and invested in skilling its labour force, allowing for easier technology absorption and movement up the global value chain. In contrast, India struggled to achieve the desired level of skilling, leading to export inefficiency. India's weak infrastructure, which only uses 3% of its GDP for infrastructure construction each year, is a significant flaw for the manufacturing sector. India's surface transportation systems cannot meet the expectations of modern high-speed logistics, which is crucial for efficient manufacturing.

The fusion of intelligent digital technologies into manufacturing and industrial processes, known as Industry 4.0, presents an exciting opportunity for a new industrial revolution. This includes industrial IoT networks, AI, Big Data, robotics and automation, additive manufacturing, simulation, system integration, cloud computing, and cybersecurity. The objective is to enable autonomous decision-making in real-time, with the involvement of all stakeholders from the beginning.

The manufacturing industry is poised for growth, especially with the Make in India initiative at an inflection point. To build a successful "Brand - Made in India," several things need to happen. The government should continue to build physical infrastructure and promote ease of doing business while also funding Industry 4.0 through start-ups. They should implement the

NRF to attain leadership in technologies of national importance and build a future-ready workforce. The manufacturing sector needs an inspirational leader to drive Industry 4.0 as a movement until India becomes the third-largest manufacturing economy.

Manufacturing sector leaders should think globally and focus on all aspects of Total Quality Management, including quality, cost, delivery, safety, morale, and the environment. They should invest in R&D and innovation and build partnerships to de-risk. Creating and owning designs and intellectual property will be critical, as will investing deeply in Industry 4.0. Driving cultural change to embed it and build a sustainable footprint will be essential, as learning is a life-long process and diversity enhances it.

The Way Forward: India's G20 presidency would position its manufacturing sector globally. With a government target of \$500 billion in merchandise (Goods) exports for FY 2023-2024, the manufacturing sector must focus on the untapped export potential in existing tariff lines and support manufacturers to fulfil the dream of India becoming the world's third-largest economy with 'Make in India' global reach.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi hands over the G20 presidency baton to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, it leaves behind a legacy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - the world is one family, with fruitful dialogue, innovative solutions, and a strengthened commitment to shaping a prosperous and sustainable future.

# India voices concerns of south Asia in the G20 Summit

The G20 has raised the voice of South Asian nations but their success on world stage would depend upon their level of engagement with India and the world

The stupendous success of the G20 New Delhi Summit and a deftly worded G20 Leaders New Delhi Declaration left a lasting impression on the world community. The six thematic corridors ranging from civilisational heritage to world-class digital India showcased the length and breadth of an Indian thought leadership - agile yet humble, welcoming yet assertive, consensus-driven yet independent.

Prime Minister Modi's messaging at the Summit was "human-centric development" and integrating the perspectives of Smaller States in Global decision-making. The Smaller States and developing countries including the Vulnerable ones (LDCs, LLDCs, LMIC,



NAVITA SRIKANT

(The author is a financial, geopolitical and security analyst. Views are personal)



SIDS) find a recurring mention in the Declaration. LDCs find a mention 6 times in the G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration.

In South Asia alone, we have Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh graduating from LDC status soon. It is a natural question - how the gains from #G20 will translate for South Asia? All three States look up to India and would like

to have better access to markets, shorter and smarter supply chains with infrastructural connectivity, food security & fertilisers and support for clean energy.

To this effect, the New Delhi Declaration succeeded in garnering support of "WTO's Aid For Trade, Accessible and Affordable Healthcare, Green Development Pact and Green Credit, Capacity

Building for Disaster and Climate Resilience. How successfully can the countries such as Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan leverage depends upon their engagement with India and Global Partners.

Bangladesh, as an LDC State was invited to participate as a Guest at the G20 India Summit. Though Nepal was not an invitee, their voice and priorities were well articulated

in the deliberations. What is critical now is the collaboration between the countries to pursue this agenda and keep the momentum so that the interests of Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan are well protected.

Bangladesh is the most successful LDC in the world whose economic growth over the last years is nearly double the world's average. Geographically, the Bay of Bengal region, the eastern part of the Indian Ocean where Bangladesh is, offers substantial trade routes to global economies. India has been instrumental together with Bangladesh in launching several trade and connectivity initiatives linking the Bay Of Bengal to the ASEAN States via the North-East.

Modi-Hasina's political

engagement over the last 9 years demonstrated impeccable Political Will, led from the front with full-throttle implementation by their teams. The Bangladesh Policy and the India Policy moved in tandem, with trust in each other for shared progress as well as safeguarding mutual interest. In sync understanding even led to the resolution of the long pending boundary dispute. It is these years of camaraderie that may have been one of the triggers of Bangladesh's presence at the Summit.

This notable global recognition of Bangladesh - Bay of Bengal - Indian Ocean - Ocean Economy by global economies brings me to a follow-up question about Nepal and the Himalayas. What about Nepal's presence with

Nepal seeking global attention for climate change adaptation for vulnerable Hindu Kush Himalayan ecosystem, economy and people? After all, the ecosystems of the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal are not mutually exclusive. Climate vulnerable Hindu Kush Himalayan ecosystem is a direct threat to the Ocean economies and the people.

Nepal should follow up on the outcomes of the G20 India Summit with a clear and definitive Nepal-India Road Map for the next 10 years. It may help in securing a voice for Nepal's Himalayas and Climate Change Adaptation commitment. Closer cooperation with India can help the Nepal agenda to harness and preserve the Hindu Kush Himalayas economy.



# 'Death toll in Libya flooding surpasses 5100'

AP ■ DERNIA

The death toll from flooding that hit the eastern Libyan city of Derna reached more than 5,000 and was expected to rise further, a local health official said Wednesday, as authorities struggled to get aid to the coastal city where thousands remained missing and tens of thousands were homeless.

Aid workers who managed to reach the city, which was cut off Sunday night when flash floods washed away most of the access roads, described devastation in the city's centre, where search and rescue teams combed shattered apartment buildings for bodies and retrieved floating bodies offshore.

"Bodies are everywhere, inside houses, in the streets, at sea. Wherever you go, you find dead men, women, and children," Emad al-Falah, an aid worker from Benghazi, said over the phone from Derna. "Entire families were lost."

Mediterranean storm Daniel caused deadly flooding in many towns of eastern Libya, but the worst-hit was Derna. As the storm pounded the coast



Sunday, residents said they heard loud explosions when the dams outside the city collapsed. Floodwaters washed down Wadi Derna, a river running from the mountains through the city and into the sea.

"The city of Derna was submerged by waves 7 metres high that destroyed everything in their path," Yann Fridez, head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Libya, told broadcaster France24. "The human toll is enormous."

Derna lies on a narrow coastal plain on the

with around 100 others elsewhere in eastern Libya. More than 7,000 people were injured in the city, most receiving treatment in field hospitals that authorities and aid agencies set up, he told The Associated Press by phone on Wednesday.

The number of deaths is likely to increase since search and rescue teams are still collecting bodies from the streets, buildings and the sea, he said. At least 30,000 people in Derna were displaced by the flooding, the UN migration agency said. The damage is so extensive that the city is almost inaccessible for humanitarian aid workers, the International Organisation for Migration said. The startling devastation pointed to the storm's intensity, but also Libya's vulnerability. The country is divided by rival governments, one in the east, the other in the west, and the result has been neglect of infrastructure in many areas.

"This is a disaster of every sense of the word," a wailing survivor who lost 11 members of his family told a local television station as a group of rescuers tried to calm him. The television station did not identify the survivor.

Ahmed Abdalla, a survivor who joined the search and rescue effort, said they were putting bodies in the yard of a local hospital before taking them for burial in mass graves at the city's sole intact cemetery. "The situation is indescribable. Entire families dead in this disaster. Some were washed away to the sea," Abdalla said by phone from Derna. Bulldozers worked over the past two days to fix and clear roads to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid and heavy equipment urgently needed for the search and rescue operations. Derna is 250 kilometres east of Benghazi, where international aid started to arrive on Tuesday.

Libya's neighbours, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia, as well as Turkiye and the United Arab Emirates, have sent rescue teams and humanitarian aid. President Joe Biden also said the United States is sending emergency funds to relief organizations and coordinating with the Libyan authorities and the UN to provide additional support. Mohammed Abu-Lamousha, a spokesman for the eastern Libyan interior

ministry, on Tuesday put the death tally in Derna at more than 5,300, according to the state-run news agency. Dozens of others were reported dead in other towns in eastern Libya, he said. Authorities have transferred hundreds of bodies to morgues in nearby towns. In the city of Tobruk, 169 kilometres east of Derna, the Medical Centre of Tobruk's morgue received more than 300 bodies for people killed in the Derna flooding. Among them were 84 Egyptians, according to a list of dead obtained by The Associated Press.

Dozens of bodies of Egyptians killed in the floods were returned to their home country.

Most of the dead are from one village, el-Sharif, in the southern province of Beni Suef. They were buried Wednesday morning following a mass funeral attended by hundreds of villagers. Four of the dead were buried at another funeral in the Nile Delta province of Beheira.

Among the dead was the family of Saleh Sariyeh, 60, a Palestinian from the refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh in

Lebanon, whose home was washed away in the floods, his nephew Mohammed Sariyeh told The Associated Press.

Mohammed Sariyeh said his uncle had been living for decades in Derna with his wife, Sanaa Jammal, and two daughters, Walaa, 27, and Hoda, 25, and were all killed on Monday. He added that friends called them from Libya telling the family that his uncle's apartment was in a building in the city centre that was washed away during the storm.

The four were buried in Derna, Mohammed Sariyeh said adding that because of the ongoing fighting in Ein el-Hilweh, the family in Lebanon will not be receiving condolences in the camp. At least 10,000 people were still missing in the city, according to Tamer Ramadan, Libya envoy for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

He said 40,000 people have been displaced in Derna and other towns affected by the floods in eastern Libya. Known for its white-painted houses and palm gardens, Derna is about 900 kilometres east of the capital, Tripoli.

## Alvi proposes Nov 6 as date for general elections

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan President Arif Alvi on Wednesday unilaterally proposed November 6 as the date for the general elections in a letter written to the chief election commissioner, amidst controversy over polling dates in the cash-strapped country.

In his letter to CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja, President Alvi cited Article 48(5) of the Constitution, which he said: "empowers and mandates the president to appoint a date not later than 90 days from the date of the dissolution, for the holding of a general election to the Assembly".

Hence, "in terms of Article 48(5), the general election to the National Assembly should be held by the 89th day of the date of dissolution of the National Assembly, i.e. Monday, 6th day of November 2023", wrote Alvi, who was a founding member of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party.

Alvi wrote that "in an endeavour to fulfil the constitutional obligations, the chief election commissioner was invited for a meeting to devise the modalities of implementing the constitutional intent and mandate".

However, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) chief turned down the invitation by saying that the president had nothing to do with the election date.

Alvi in his letter alluded to Raja's response, saying that the CEC "took a contrary view that as per the scheme of the Constitution and framework of electoral laws, it was the domain of the Election Commission, and following the publication of last preceding census on August 7, duly notified delimitation of constituencies was in progress, a mandatory requirement stipulated by Article 51(5) of the Constitution and section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017".

Interestingly, President Alvi's five-year term ended last week. Under the Constitution, he will continue to serve as head of state until the next presidential elections, which will take place after general polls in the country.

# Court extends judicial remand of Imran

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A special court in Pakistan on Wednesday extended the judicial remand of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and his close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi till September 26 in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets. Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who has been hearing the cases related to the Official Secrets Act, 1923, conducted the proceedings inside the high security Attock jail where the 70-year-old former prime minister is currently lodged.

During the in-camera hearing, Judge Zulqarnain extended Khan's judicial remand for another 14 days in the cipher case, his lawyer Naem Haider Panjotra said in a post on platform X.

"Judicial remand of Chairman PTI Imran Khan extended till September 26," Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said in a brief message on WhatsApp. Two

## CIPHER CASE



time foreign minister Qureshi was also produced in court on Wednesday following the completion of his 14-day judicial remand. The court also extended Qureshi's judicial remand till September 26.

Qureshi, 67-year-old former foreign minister, was arrested under the Official Secrets Act for violating the secrecy of the official cable sent

by the Pakistani embassy in the US to the foreign office when he was the foreign minister. Security was beefed up outside the jail ahead of the hearing. Khan has been kept in the Attock Jail since August 5 after his conviction in the Toshakhana corruption case. His sentence was suspended by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on August 29, but he continues to remain in Attock prison in the cipher case. Last month, his remand was extended for 14 days till September 13 by the special court.

Today's hearing comes at the end of the 14-day judicial remand.

The cricketer-turned-politician is charged with the violation of the Official Secrets Act in connection with the leakage of a confidential diplomatic cable from Pakistan's embassy in Washington.

On Tuesday, the law ministry issued a notification, expressing no objections to conducting the trial in jail, saying that special court judge

requested that proceedings be held in Attock jail "due to security reasons".

The ministry in its notification cited unspecified security issues for allowing hearing in the jail premises. However, Khan's spokesman Zulfiqar Bukhari rejected the plea and demanded a trial in a normal court environment. "Hearing continues citing security concerns, a preposterous excuse saturated with malice when there can be video link appearance if not in person," he said in a statement.

Bukhari also said that the authorities had not waited for the outcome of the case heard by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) against Khan's trial in jail.

The IHC on Tuesday reserved its order on a petition against the conduct of Khan's trial in prison, rather than Islamabad. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq concluded proceedings by saying that he would pass an "appropriate order". The cipher case was filed last month

against Khan on the allegations of violating secret laws of the country in the matter of a cable sent by the Pakistan embassy in Washington in March last year.

In March last year, ahead of the vote of no-confidence that resulted in his ouster, Khan pulled out a piece of paper - allegedly the cipher - from his pocket and waved it at a public rally in Islamabad, claiming it was the evidence of an "international conspiracy" being hatched to topple his government.

However, during the interrogation with the joint investigation team (JIT) in the jail on August 26, Khan denied that the paper he waved at a public gathering last year was the cipher. He also admitted to losing the cipher, saying he couldn't recall where he kept it.

His principal secretary Azam Khan stated before a magistrate and the FIA that the Khan used it for his 'political gains' and to avert a vote of no-confidence against him.

# Taliban hail China's new ambassador with fanfare

Kabul (AP): The Taliban Wednesday hailed China's new ambassador to Afghanistan with fanfare, saying his arrival is a sign for other nations to come forward and establish relations with them. The Taliban seized power in August 2021 as US and NATO forces withdrew after two decades of war. Their leaders are under sanctions and no country recognises them as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers. The country's seat at the United Nations is still held by the former Western-backed government that was led by Ashraf Ghani. Only a handful of nations have working diplomatic missions in Afghanistan, including China, the world's second-largest economy. The two sides have been open about their desire for closer ties, especially commercial ones.

Ambassador Zhao Sheng's car swept through the tree-lined driveway of the Presidential Palace escorted by a police convoy. He was greeted by uni-

formed troops and met top-ranking Taliban officials, including Mohammad Hassan Akhund, who heads the administration, and Foreign Affairs Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. It is the first time since the Taliban takeover that an ambassador to Kabul has been afforded such lavish protocol.

Muttaqi said the two countries had special ties and that Zhao's nomination was a "significant step with a significant message". He did not elaborate further. The Taliban's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, told The Associated Press that it is tradition for new ambassadors to present their credentials to the head of the country. "It also signals to other countries that we are forward and interact with the Islamic Emirate," said Mujahid. "We should establish good relations as a result of good interactions and, with good relations, we can solve all the problems that are in front of us or coming in the future."

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Known to all that my client Vishal Anand is Original Allottee and owner of FLAT NO. 73B, FIRST FLOOR, POCKET-6, PHASE-1, DWARKA, NEW DELHI. And Allotment letter Cum Demand letter dated 23.11.2009 in favour of Vishal Anand have been lost, and FIR all already execute with LR No. 862536/2023. It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.  
AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION  
Ch. No. 760, Dvaka court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75  
M:- 9399013918

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**THE GAZETTE OF INDIA**  
CG-DL-E-11092023-248638  
Extraordinary  
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY  
(No. 3806) NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023/BHADRA 15, 1945  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**  
(Northern Railway) (Construction Organization)  
**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 6th September, 2023  
S.O. 3968(E).—In Exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20A of the Railways Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, brief discussion of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for execution of the special Railway project, namely, Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan in the District South West, village Bhartal of Delhi state, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.  
Any person interested in the said land may, within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette subject to the acquisition of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act.  
Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely Additional District Magistrate, South West District, Delhi in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector and opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may after hearing all such objection and after making such further enquiry, if any as the competent authority hence necessary, by order either allow or disallow the objections.  
Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final.  
The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.  
**SCHEDULE**  
Brief description of land to be acquired, with or without structures falling within the District-South West of Delhi State for special Railway project namely 'Development of Freight & Coaching Terminal at Bijwasan'.  
Sl. No. Name of District/State Name of Tehsil/Taluka Name of Village/Hadbast No./Musteel Khasra No. Area to be acquired in Bigha-Biswa  
1 District-South West, Delhi Kapasheda Bhartal 51/24 4-16  
2 52/4/2 1-10  
3 26/1 0-6  
4 26/4/1 3-0  
Total = 9-12 (0.8075 hectare)  
[F. No. 190-W/Land/Misc./CSB-I(Kapasheda)]  
2834/2023 A. K. SINGHAL, Chief Administrative Officer/Const.

## 'Nawaz's return will give healing touch to Pakistan'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LONDON

Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who is currently in London, had left for London in November 2019 after the Lahore High Court granted him four-week permission allowing him to go abroad for his treatment. But he never returned to Pakistan where he was convicted of corruption and jailed. "We are really looking forward to his return," Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary General of PML-N was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. "The country needs healing, the country needs a collective effort, and it is only a statesman like Nawaz Sharif who can reach out to all political groups and provide leadership to all institutions to work in harmony. Pakistan needs synergy," he said.

On Tuesday, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party announced that its supreme Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan on October 21, ending his over four-year self-imposed exile in the UK.

The planned return of the three-time former prime minister was announced by his younger brother and ex-

prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is currently in London. Nawaz, 73, had left for London in November 2019 after the Lahore High Court granted him four-week permission allowing him to go abroad for his treatment. But he never returned to Pakistan where he was convicted of corruption and jailed. "We are really looking forward to his return," Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary General of PML-N was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. "The country needs healing, the country needs a collective effort, and it is only a statesman like Nawaz Sharif who can reach out to all political groups and provide leadership to all institutions to work in harmony. Pakistan needs synergy," he said.

# Fishery vessel to free cruise ship with 206 people on board in Greenland

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Authorities said Wednesday that a fishery vessel will attempt to use the high tide to pull free a Bahamas-flagged Norwegian cruise ship carrying 206 people that ran aground in northwestern Greenland. Capt. Flemming Madsen from the Danish Joint Arctic Command told The Associated Press that those on board were doing fine and "all I can say is that they got a lifetime experience".

A scientific fishing vessel owned by the Greenland government was scheduled to arrive later Wednesday and together with the high tide would attempt to pull the 104.4-metre long and 18-metre wide MV Ocean Explorer free.

The cruise ship, 104.4 metres long and 18 metres wide, ran aground on Monday in



A view of the Ocean Explorer, a Bahamas-flagged Norwegian cruise ship with 206 passengers and crew, which has run aground in northwestern Greenland, on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023.

Alpefjord in the Northeast Greenland National Park — the world's largest and most northerly national park, known for icebergs and the musk oxen that roam the coast. The Alpefjord sits in a remote corner of

Greenland, some 240 kilometres away from the closest settlement, Ittoqqortoormiit which is nearly 1,400 kilometres from Nuuk, the Greenland capital, and across from the ice sheet that covers the world's largest island. Dozens of

cruise ships sail along Greenland's coast every year so that passengers can admire the picturesque mountainous landscape with fjords, the waterways packed with icebergs of different sizes and glaciers jutting out into the sea. In a statement, Australia-based Aurora Expeditions which operates the ship, said that all passengers and crew onboard were safe and well and that there was "no immediate danger to themselves, the vessel, or the surrounding environment".

"We are actively engaged in efforts to free the MV Ocean Explorer from its grounding. Our foremost commitment is to ensure the vessel's recovery without compromising safety," the statement said. Madsen said the passengers were "a mix" of tourists from Australia, New Zealand, Britain, the United States and South Korea.

# 'Apple must withdraw iPhone 12 from market'

AP ■ FRANCE

A government watchdog Agency in France has ordered Apple to withdraw the iPhone 12 from the French market, saying it emits levels of electromagnetic radiation that are too high. The National Frequency Agency, which oversees radio-electric frequencies as well as public exposure to electromagnetic radiation, called on Apple in a statement Tuesday to "implement all available means to rapidly fix this malfunction" for phones already being used.

Corrective updates to the iPhone 12 will be monitored by the agency, and if they don't work, "Apple will have to recall" phones that have already been sold, according to the French regulator's statement. Apple disputed the findings and said



the device complies with all regulations governing radiation. The agency, which is known by the French acronym ANFR, said it recently checked 141 cellphones, including the iPhone 12, for electromagnetic waves capable of being absorbed by the body.

It said it found a level of electromagnetic energy absorption of 5.74 watts per kilogram during tests of a phone in a

hand or a pocket, higher than the European Union standard of 4 watts per kilogram. The agency said the iPhone 12 met the threshold when radiation levels were assessed for a phone kept in a jacket or in a bag. Apple said the iPhone 12, which was released in late 2020, has been certified by multiple international bodies and complies with all applicable regulations and standards

for radiation around the world. The US tech company said it has provided the French agency with multiple lab results carried out both by the company and third-party labs proving the phone's compliance. Cellphones have been labelled as "possible" carcinogens by the World Health Organisation's cancer research arm, putting them in the same category as coffee, diesel fumes and the pesticide DDT. The radiation produced by cellphones cannot directly damage DNA and is different from stronger types of radiation like X-rays or ultraviolet light.

In 2018, two US government studies that bombarded mice and rats with cellphone radiation found a weak link to some heart tumours, but federal regulators and scientists said it was still safe to use the

devices. Scientists said those findings didn't reflect how most people use their cellphones and that the animal findings didn't translate into a similar concern for humans.

Among the largest studies on potential dangers of cellphone use, a 2010 analysis in 13 countries found little or no risk of brain tumours. People's mobile phone habits also have changed substantially since the first studies began and it's unclear if the results of previous research would still apply today.

Since many tumours take years to develop, experts say it's difficult to conclude that cellphones have no long-term health risks. Experts have recommended that people concerned about their cellphone radiation exposure use earphones or switch to texting.

# Vietnam's capital fire killed 12

Hanoi (AP): A fire in a nine-story apartment building in Vietnam's capital killed 12 people and injured more than 50, state media reported Wednesday. The fire has been extinguished and rescue operations were continuing, the official Vietnam News Agency reported. Authorities have not confirmed an exact death toll. The fire was believed to have started late Tuesday and rescuers struggled to reach the building on a narrow lane in south Hanoi. It wasn't immediately clear how much of the building had burned. It was home to 150 residents, and 54 of the 70 people rescued from the fire were hospitalized state media said.



# Kim Jong vows full support for Russia

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea's Kim Jong Un vowed "full and unconditional support" for Russia's Vladimir Putin on Wednesday as the two leaders isolated by the West held a summit that the US warns could lead to a deal to supply ammunition for Moscow's war in Ukraine. The meeting, which lasted over four hours at Russia's spaceport in the Far East, underscores how their interests are aligning. Putin is believed to be seeking one of the few things impoverished North Korea has in abundance — stockpiles of aging ammunition and rockets for Soviet-era weapons. Such a request would mark a reversal of roles from the 1950-53 Korean War, when Moscow gave weapons to support Pyongyang's invasion of South Korea, and in the decades of Soviet sponsorship of the North that followed. The decision to meet at the Vostochny Cosmodrome, Russia's most important launch center on its own soil, suggests Kim is seeking Russian help in developing military reconnaissance satellites, which he has described as crucial to enhance the threat of



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shake hands Wednesday during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovskoy, about 125 miles from the city of Blagoveshchensk in the far eastern Amur region of Russia.

his nuclear-capable missiles. Putin talked about the Soviet Union's wartime support for North Korea and said the talks would cover economic cooperation, humanitarian issues and the "situation in the region." Kim, in turn, pledged continued support for Moscow, making an apparent reference to the war in Ukraine. "Russia is currently engaged in a just fight against

hegemonic forces to defend its sovereign rights, security and interests," he said. "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has always expressed its full and unconditional support for all measures taken by the Russian government and I take this opportunity to reaffirm that we will always stand with Russia on the anti-imperialist front and the front of independence."

North Korea may have tens of millions of aging artillery shells and rockets based on Soviet designs that could give a huge boost to the Russian army in Ukraine, analysts say. The United States has accused North Korea of providing Russia with arms, including selling artillery shells to the Russian mercenary group Wagner. Both Russian and North Korean officials have denied such claims.

But either buying arms from or providing rocket technology to North Korea would violate international sanctions that Russia has supported in the past. And it would both underscore and deepen Russia's isolation in the more than 18 months after its invasion of Ukraine drew increasing sanc-

tions that have cut off Moscow's economy from global markets and shrunk the circle of world leaders willing to meet with Putin.

Wednesday's summit came three weeks after a suspicious plane crash killed Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who in June launched a brief rebellion that challenged Putin. The Kremlin denied it was behind the crash.

As the leaders toured a Soyuz-2 space rocket launch facility, Kim peppered a Russian space official with questions about the rockets.

Kim and Putin met together with their delegations and later one-on-one, according to Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov. After the talks, the Russian president gave an official lunch for Kim, Russian state media reported.

Putin told Russian state TV that Kim will visit two more cities in the Far East on his own after the summit, flying to Komsomolsk-on-Amur, where he will visit an aircraft plant, and then go to Vladivostok to attend "a demonstration of capabilities" of Russia's Pacific Fleet, visit a university and other facilities.

# Outgoing Singapore President extends wishes to Tharman

PTI ■ SINGAPORE



Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Singapore's outgoing President Halimah Yacob on Wednesday extended her best wishes to the Indian-origin President-elect, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, in her final speech as the holder of the city-state's highest but non-political post. Singapore-born economist Tharman will be sworn in as the ninth president of the city-state on Thursday, days after he was overwhelmingly elected as the ninth head of state of the country. The 66-year-old President-elect won 70.4 per cent of the 2.48 million ballots cast by voters on September 1, while his Chinese-origin rivals Ng Kok Song and Tan Kin Lian received 15.72 per cent and 13.88 per cent respectively.

Wednesday marked the end of 69-year-old Halimah's six-year term as president.

"Tomorrow, a new president will be sworn in," she said at her farewell reception at the Istana (Presidential Palace), according to Channel News Asia. "I wish Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam all the best in

Tharman, who has served Singapore all his life in public service, was overwhelmingly endorsed by the city-state's predominantly Chinese society.

Before being president-elect, Tharman served as a senior minister between 2019 and 2023, coordinating minister for social policies between 2015 and 2023, and Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore between 2011 and 2023. He also served as Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister from May 2011 to May 2019.

He also co-chairs the Global Commission on the Economics of Water with Ngozi Owonjo-Iweala, Mariana Mazzucato and Johan Rockstrom.

Tharman is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum (WEF). He is also a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, which will make recommendations on Effective Multilateralism for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024.

# Ukrainian attack damages two ships, hurts 24 people in Crimea

AP ■ KYIV

A Ukrainian attack on a strategic shipyard early on Wednesday in Russian-annexed Crimea wounded 24 people, damaged two ships undergoing repairs and caused a fire at the facility, Russian authorities reported. The attack in the port city of Sevastopol, which serves as the main base for Russia's Black Sea Fleet, took place as Moscow offensives killed at least three civilians and injured 14 across Ukraine, the president's office said. A pre-dawn drone onslaught in southern Ukraine's Odesa region damaged port and civilian infrastructure in the region's Izmail district — not far from the Crimean city — and wounded seven people, three seriously, Gov. Oleh Kiper said. Russian attacks on residential areas in 10 cities and villages in the Donetsk region killed three people and wounded three. Fighting in the Zaporizhzhia region injured one resident in Orikhiv, while shelling in southern Kherson damaged homes and a kindergarten, the government said. The skirmishes occurred as Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a summit that the US has warned could lead to a deal to supply arms to Moscow's depleted troops in Ukraine. Kim offered his full support



that were being repaired at the shipyard. Mikhail Razvozhayev, the Moscow-appointed governor of Sevastopol, said on Telegram that the resulting fire injured 24 people. He posted a photo showing the shipyard in flames with smoke billowing over it.

Ukraine's RBC-Ukraine news outlet reported, citing unnamed sources in Ukrainian military intelligence, that an amphibious landing ship and a submarine were damaged in the attack. Some Russian messaging app channels made the same claim. The Russian Defense Ministry said the Russian warships damaged at the Sevastopol shipyard would be fully repaired and return to naval service. There was no immediate comment from Ukrainian officials but in what appeared a tacit claim of responsibility for the attack, Ukraine's air force chief posted a picture of the burning shipyard and praised the pilots for their work. Kyiv has acknowledged past attacks on Crimea but avoided claiming responsibility for drone attacks on Moscow and other regions of Russia. In other developments, Romania said it is investigating what appear to be drone fragments found near its border with Ukraine on the Danube River.

Russia seized in 2015. Russia had used the platforms for electronic warfare equipment and to launch helicopters, and Ukraine said getting control of them would help it regain Crimea. Wednesday's attack on the Sevastopol Shipyard appeared to be one of the biggest in recent weeks. Russia's Defense Ministry said Ukraine launched 10 cruise missiles at the shipyard and three sea drones at Russian ships in the Black Sea. The shipyard is of strategic importance to Russia because vessels in its Black Sea fleet are repaired there. Seven missiles were shot down, and all the sea drones were destroyed, the Russian military said, but some of the missiles damaged two ships

# 'Lanka to soon publish new terrorism law draft in gazette'

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry on Wednesday said that the country's new legislation to combat terrorism will be gazetted soon and it would be open for the public to raise concerns if any. Sri Lanka is replacing the existing Prevention of Terrorism Act with a new legislation called the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) after the former law was roundly condemned for its draconian nature where people were allowed to be detained without being charged for indefinite periods of time. Speaking to reporters, Sabry said that during the past two or three years, a re-evaluation of the PTA had led to the formulation of a plan to introduce reforms and relax certain aspects of the Act. "The new Prevention of Terrorism Act is to be gazetted soon. We are optimistic that the existing Prevention of Terrorism Act will be gazetted within this week or next week," Sabry said. He said after it is presented in Parliament for reading the public could avail the opportunity to scrutinize the Act and raise concerns that they may have by approaching SC within one week from its publication.

# 10 Malian soldiers killed in attack

Bamako (Mali): At least 10 government soldiers were killed on Tuesday during an attack by armed groups in northern Mali, the nation's armed forces said, amid ongoing deadly violence in the hard-hit region and as United Nations peacekeepers continue their withdrawal. A coalition of former rebels known as the Permanent Strategic Framework for Peace, Security and Development claimed responsibility for the attack in the city of Bourem in Gao region and said they have captured parts of the city. The development signalled a failure of a 2015 agreement which the former rebels signed with Malian authorities to stop their rebellion. Malian security forces repelled "the attack with booby-trapped vehicles by several terrorists aboard several vehicles and motorcycles in the locality of Bourem", according to a statement issued by Col. Souleymane Dembele, a spokesman for the Malian Armed Forces. He said 13 soldiers were wounded in the incident while 46 of the attackers were killed. Claiming responsibility for

# Morocco King visits quake victims

Marrakech (Morocco): Morocco's king showed solidarity with his suffering nation on Tuesday as it counts the dead from a powerful earthquake, visiting some of the injured at a hospital not far from the epicentre and rolling up a sleeve to donate his royal blood. King Mohammed VI inspected the hospital bearing his name in the city of Marrakech, where he inquired about the recovery services and care being provided for those injured in the Friday night tremor and the conditions of survivors, the official MAP news agency said. A video shows the king — whose public appearances are normally limited to special occasions — at the bedside of several patients, bending over a young boy to bestow a kiss on his head and at the side of an older man. In a surprising gesture, the bespectacled monarch was seen seated in a chair, coat off, suspenders showing, and shirt-sleeve rolled up, with his arm at the ready to donate blood. Blood donations have become a national gesture of solidarity, with Moroccans lining up in Marrakech and other cities to donate blood for the injured. AP

# Video shows US cop laughing over death of Indian student

Houston (PTI): A bodycam footage of a police officer joking about the death of a 23-year-old Indian student after she was struck by a speeding police patrol car earlier this year in Seattle has prompted India to raise the matter strongly with the US authorities for a thorough investigation and action against those guilty in the case. Jaahnavi Kandula was killed in January after she was struck by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 kmph) on the way to a report of an overdose, the Seattle Times newspaper reported on Monday. In bodycam footage released on Monday by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and dismissed any implication Dave might be at fault or that a criminal investigation was necessary. Commenting the reports, the Consulate General of India in San Francisco on Wednesday termed the handling of Kandula's death in a road accident as "deeply troubling".

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Chandar Bhan Kalra S/o Mr. Navneet Bhan Kalra, is the Owner of Plot Bearing No. 156/A, area bearing 134.11 Sq. Yards, situated in the layout plan of 'The Oberoi Small Khan Co-operative Housing Building Society Ltd., in the area of Village Rajpur, Chaurani, & Malkapur Chaurani, now known as Deraul Nagar, Delhi, vide Reinstatement deed dated 23.04.2011 regd. vide doc. No. 4850, to be financed & mortgaged by M/s. Praram Capital and Housing Finance Ltd. The Original Conveyance deed (Freshly Transfer deed) dt. 08.04.1988 regd. vide doc. No. 1183, pertaining to the aforesaid property is very old & laminated and it difficult to determine if now if any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contest the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghav Tiwari, Advocate  
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts,  
New Delhi - 110001. Mob.: +91-8076168328

**ADMISSION NOTICE**  
Applications are invited for **DPSE (2023-25) under Management Quota for Affiliated Institutes of SCERT (Govt. of Delhi)**  
Last date to Apply: 27.09.2023

For further details, please contact:  
**Satyam International Polytechnic**  
GD Block, Near Pitampura Metro Station,  
Pitampura, Delhi-110088. Ph: 9711396842

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our Client that Mrs. Kiran Bhatia and Mrs. Sucha Gulati are joint owners of Entire Ground Floor without terrace road rights of Property bearing No. 19/21, area measuring 88.1 sq. yards, Situated at Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, the said property by virtue of Reinstatement Deed dt. 02.06.2003/03.06.2003. For 1/2 undivided share in the name of Mrs. Kiran Bhatia, & Sale deed dt. 14.09.2011/16.09.2011 (for remaining 1/2 undivided share in the name of Mrs. Sucha Gulati). All persons including other legal heirs if any are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said floor to someone who is taking home loan facility for purchase the said floor from our client. If anybody has any objection(s) upon the ownership of Mrs. Kiran Bhatia & Mrs. Sucha Gulati in respect of the said floor its Sale Mortgage/Deed, & any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)**  
200, Red Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Meri Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph: 011-41112527-28 legal@kralgal.com

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

This is only an advertisement for information purpose and not an offer document announcement, nor for publication, distribution or release directly or indirectly outside India. All capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the letter of offer dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022 filled with the stock exchanges, namely BSE Limited and Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (the "Letter of offer").

**NOTICE IN RELATION TO FORFEITURE OF PARTLY-PAID UP EQUITY SHARES OF THE COMPANY, ON WHICH HOLDERS OF THE RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES HAVE FAILED TO PAY THE FIRST, SECOND AND FINAL CALL MONEY PURSUANT TO LAST REMINDER CUM FORFEITURE NOTICE DATED 16th MAY, 2023.**  
Issue of up to 1,10,70,125 Equity Shares of Face Value of Rs. 10 each ("RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES") of our company for Cash at a price of Rs. 11 per equity share (including a Share premium of Rs. 1 per equity share) (the "ISSUE PRICE"), Aggregating up to Rs. 1217.71 Lakhs on a rights basis to the Existing Shareholders of our company.

Board of Directors of the Company had demanded First Call money of Rs.4 vide First call Money notice dated 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2023.  
Board of Directors of the Company demanded Second and Final call Money of Rs. 4 (Consisting Rs. 1 towards Premium and Rs. 3 towards Face Value) vide second and Final call money Notice dated 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

Finally Board of directors had given final opportunity to shareholders to pay  
1. First, Second and Final Call money on or before April 29, 2023 vide Last Reminder cum Forfeiture notice dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.  
2. First, Second and Final Call money on or before May 31, 2023 vide Last Reminder cum Forfeiture notice dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

The Board of Directors in their meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 noted that the 3526 holder of partly paid-up Equity Shares have not paid the first, Second and Final call money and 916 holder of Partly paid-up Equity Shares have not paid the Second and Final Call money up to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 and accordingly, the Board of directors approved the forfeiture of such total 4442 Partly paid-up Rights Equity Shares, in accordance with Article of Association of the Company. Kindly note that the list of shareholders whose shares have been forfeited, due to non-receipt of call monies by the Company, is available on the website of the Company at [www.rungtairrigation.in](http://www.rungtairrigation.in).

Registrar to the Issue	Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
<b>BEETAL Financial &amp; Computer Services Pvt Ltd.</b> BEETAL House, 3rd Floor, 99, Madangir, Behind LSC, New Delhi - 110062 Ph. 011-29961281-283, 26051061, 26051064 Fax 011-29961284	<b>Ms. Ayushi Vijay</b> Rungta Irrigation Limited 101, Pragati Tower 26, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008 Phone: 011-40453330,331 Website: <a href="http://www.rungtairrigation.in">www.rungtairrigation.in</a>

For Rungta Irrigation Limited  
Sd/-  
Ayushi Vijay  
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Date: 13.09.2023  
Place: New Delhi

**P.M.C. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
(Affiliated to SCERT, New Delhi)  
Pratap Vihar, Kirari Extn.,  
Nangloi, Delhi - 110086  
Ph: 7290037803, 7290037804  
Email: [pmc\\_colli@yahoo.com](mailto:pmc_colli@yahoo.com)  
Admissions available under Management Quota Seats in D.El.Ed & DPSE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the Public at large that Smt. Ar. Krishnan D/o. Sh. Krishnan Venkatesh is the Title Holder in possession of "DDA Built Up Free hold Property Plot No. 125, Second and Third Floor (Duplex), Block-B, Kalkaji Residential Scheme, Kalkaji New Delhi-110015" with Car Garage (hereinafter referred to as said Property). The said Property is registered in the Office of the Sub Registrar - Indraprastha, New Delhi. That the original documents i.e. (i) Allotment Letter, (ii) 5th and Final instalment letter and (iii) Agreement to Sell dated 03.07.83, have since been lost, mislaid and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 12.09.2023 bearing LR No. 87-087/2023 has been filed with Delhi Police. This notice is thus issued to Public at large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Firm(s), Partnership(s), Bank(s), HUFs etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lost/ mislaid original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. in the said Property by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Gift, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc. or otherwise to the sale of the said Property by the Title Holder, to come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of this publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null, void and so waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to sell the said Property, as is presently intended.

(Aravesh Kumar (Advocate))  
Office Address: 27, Basement, Shreshtha Vihar, Delhi-92  
Chamber Address: 383, Saket Court, New Delhi  
Cont. No: 999228183

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given on behalf of the M/s Shivalk Apartment Residents Welfare Association, which has its Registered Office at Shivalk Tower, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad-201010 who had on 17-07-2023, issued Legal Notices for the recovery of dues to the defaulters of the Society, but the same have not been responded to or returned undelivered, and therefore, by this notice, all concerned defaulters are directed to settle or pay the overdue amount immediately. If the defaulters fail to pay or settle the amount within 14 days of the publication of this notice, the Shivalk Apartment Residents Welfare Association shall take legal action as per law against them. The list of defaulters of owners of following properties in Shivalk Tower, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad 201010 is given below:  
1. M/s. Chaudhary & Sons (1204),  
2. Mr. Kamlesh Tyagi (301)  
3. Mr. S K Shams (506)  
4. Ms. Sonja Jaga (202)  
5. Ms. Santia Sharma (300)  
6. Mr. T K Sharma (404)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the Public at large that Smt. Ar. Krishnan D/o. Sh. Krishnan Venkatesh is the Title Holder in possession of "DDA Built Up Free hold Property Plot No. 125, Second and Third Floor (Duplex), Block-B, Kalkaji Residential Scheme, Kalkaji New Delhi-110015" with Car Garage (hereinafter referred to as said Property). The said Property is registered in the Office of the Sub Registrar - Indraprastha, New Delhi. That the original documents i.e. (i) Allotment Letter, (ii) 5th and Final instalment letter and (iii) Agreement to Sell dated 03.07.83, have since been lost, mislaid and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 12.09.2023 bearing LR No. 87-087/2023 has been filed with Delhi Police. This notice is thus issued to Public at large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(ies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Firm(s), Partnership(s), Bank(s), HUFs etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lost/ mislaid original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, interests, possession etc. in the said Property by way of Ownership, Succession, Inheritance, Gift, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc. or otherwise to the sale of the said Property by the Title Holder, to come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 14 days from the date of this publication, post expiration of which, any claim(s) or objection(s), if raised or received, shall be treated as null, void and so waived, and the Title Holder shall proceed to sell the said Property, as is presently intended.

(Aravesh Kumar (Advocate))  
Office Address: 27, Basement, Shreshtha Vihar, Delhi-92  
Chamber Address: 383, Saket Court, New Delhi  
Cont. No: 999228183

**JM FINANCIAL ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED**  
Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2007PLC74287  
Registered Office: 7th Floor, Chery, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025  
Contact Person: 1. Nishant Gautam- 9899216466 2. Rohan Sawant- 9833143013 3. Akshay Hassija- 022- 6224 1676  
Website- [www.jmfinancialarc.com](http://www.jmfinancialarc.com)

**E-Auction Sale Notice- 9833143013**  
That Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd (formerly known as Dewan Housing and finance corporation Ltd) have assigned a pool of Loan (including below mentioned Loans) together with underlying security interest created thereof along with all the rights, title and interest thereon under Section 5 (1) (b) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") with an assignment agreement dated March 29, 2023 ("the Assignment Agreement") in favour of JMFINANCIAL (JM) (herein referred as Assignee) acting in its capacity as trustee of JMFINANCIAL - Aranya - Trust. It is to notify that PCHFL is authorized and appointed to act as Service provider / Collection agent to facilitate all operational and procedures processes vide Assignment / Service Agreement. Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:

Loan Code / Branch / Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Property Address - final	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Outstanding Amount (22-08-2023)
Loan Code No. 2550000283, Netaji Subhash Place (Branch), Ajay Kumar Bhalla (Borrower), Anju Bhalla (Co Borrower 1) Arun Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	Dt: 26-10-2017, Rs. 1301557/-, (Rs. Thirteen lakh One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Seven Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent - Flat No. 184, Second Floor, Block-N, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201002 Boundaries as: North: Road (Below) South: Entry East: Road (Below) West: Flat No. 191	Rs. 80,190/- (Rs. Eight lakh One Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	Rs. 80,190/- (Rs. Eight lakh One Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	Rs. 31,75,864/- (Rs. Thirty One lakh Seventy Five Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Four Only)
Loan Code No. 2730000471, Dwarka (Branch), Amit Bajpai (Borrower), Atul Bajpai (Co Borrower 1) Ritu Bajpai (Co Borrower 2)	Dt: 21-01-2020, Rs. 27,13,052/-, (Rs. Twenty Seven lakh Thirteen Thousand Fifty Two Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent - Third Floor, Flat No. C(Rhs) Kh-364, Min Extended, Lal Dora Brijwasan, Newdelhi, New Delhi- 110061, Delhi. Boundaries as: North: Part of Property Thereafter Other Proper South: Part of Property Thereafter Road 25 Ft East: Part of Property There After West : Gali 17 Ft	Rs. 21,14,100/- (Rs. Twenty One lakh Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Only)	Rs. 2,11,410/- (Rs. Two lakh Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Ten Only)	Rs. 52,79,525/- (Rs. Fifty Two lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Five Only)
Loan Code No. 25500001206, Netaji Subhash Place (Branch), Raman Kumar (Borrower), Raddha Devi (Co Borrower 1)	Dt: 24-05-2021, Rs. 13,37,389/-, (Rs. Thirteen lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Nine Only)	All The Piece and Parcel of The Property Having an Extent - Property No T 184 Third Floor Rear Side Kh. No. 18 VIII, Bindapur Block T Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi/ Delhi - 110059 Boundaries as: North : Road 25 Feet South: Gali- 10 Feet East: Part of Plot West: Plot No-T-185	Rs. 10,20,600/- (Rs. Ten lakh Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Only)	Rs. 1,02,060/- (Rs. One lakh Two Thousand Sixty Only)	Rs. 23,87,960/- (Rs. Twenty Three lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Sixty Only)

**DATE OF E-AUCTION: 30-09-2023, FROM 11.00 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M (WITH UNLIMITED EXTENSION OF 5 MINUTES EACH), LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: 29-09-2023, BEFORE 4.00 P.M.**  
**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT TO THE BORROWER/GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR**  
For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.jmfinancialarc.com/Home/Assets> for sale OR <https://www.bankauction.in>  
The above mentioned Borrower/Guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned in section 13(2) notice in full with accrued interest till date before the date of auction, failing which property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost from borrower/guarantor.

Date: 14-09-2023  
Place: Delhi

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)  
(Aranya - Trust)



# Sensex rises for 9th day in a row

Nifty closes at record high as banking, metal shares gain

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rose for a ninth straight session while Nifty closed above the record 20,000 mark for the first time on Wednesday as positive macroeconomic data triggered buying in banking, energy and telecom shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex bounced back from early lows to trade near its all-time high levels at 67,565.41 in day trading. Sensex hit the all-time

intra-day high of 67,619.17 on July 20, 2023.

The barometer finally settled at 67,466.99, up 245.86 points or 0.37 per cent, extending its gains to a ninth straight session - the longest winning streak in last five months. As many as 20 Sensex shares closed in the green while 10 declined.

The broader Nifty closed above the 20,000 mark for the first time, rallying 76.80 points or 0.38 per cent to 20,070, its all-time closing high. Of 50 Nifty shares, 31 closed higher and 19 declined.

Among the Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel rose the most by 2.72 per cent. Titan, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Power Grid, NTPC and Tata Motors were among the major gainers.



Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Nestle, JSW Steel, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra and Maruti were the major laggards.

"The domestic indices resumed an upward trajectory despite weak global cues. The cooling of domestic CPI infla-

tion to 6.83% in August and the rise in industrial production data reaffirmed the robustness of the Indian economy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

The contraction in the UK economy and a rise in oil prices have created a level of uncertainty in the global market. Also, investors await US inflation data, which holds global significance as it will provide insights into the Fed's policy outlook, Nair added.

Retail inflation declined to 6.83 per cent in August after touching a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, mainly due to softening prices of vegetables, but still remains above the Reserve Bank's comfort zone.

telecommunication consumer durables climbed 1.24 per cent, energy gained 1.19 per cent, oil & gas (1.13 per cent), metal (1.04 per cent), commodities (0.96 per cent) and bankex (0.89 per cent).

Industrials, IT, auto, capital goods and services were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Tokyo ended in the green. European equities were trading lower. The US markets ended in negative territory on Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.66 per cent to USD 92.56 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,047.19 crore on Tuesday after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

# Bank of India raises ₹2,000 crore through bonds

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State-owned Bank of India on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 2,000 crore through tier II bonds at a coupon rate of 7.88 per cent.

The amount was mopped up on the electronic bidding platform of the NSE, the bank said in a statement.

The bank said it received 83 bids worth Rs 3,770 crore against the Rs 2,000 crore offer.

The money will be used to augment the overall capital of the lender and enhance the long-term resources in



accordance with the Reserve Bank of India guidelines, it said. The amount will not be used to finance any particular project, the lender added.

# RR Kabel IPO subscribed 25 per cent on Day 1 of offer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of wires and cables manufacturer R R Kabel Limited was subscribed 25 per cent on the first day of bidding on Wednesday.

The IPO received bids for 32,78,072 shares against 1,33,17,737 shares on offer, according to NSE data.

The category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) was subscribed 36 per cent and the portion for non-institutional investors received 29 per cent subscription.

The IPO has a fresh issue of up to Rs 180 crore and an offer for sale of up to 1,72,36,808 equity shares.

Price range for the offer is Rs 983-1,035 per share. At the upper end of the price band, the issue will fetch up to Rs 1,964 crore.

On Tuesday, TPG-backed RR Kabel Ltd said it has mobilised Rs 585.62 crore from



anchor investors.

The company runs five manufacturing units - one each cable and wire units in Waghodia in Gujarat and in Silvassa in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and a commercial lightings plant in Bengaluru and one each fast moving electrical goods (FMEG) units in Roorkee in Uttarakhand and Gagret in Himachal Pradesh. As much as 88 per cent of its revenue

comes from cables and wires. The company proposes to utilise Rs 136 crore of the net proceeds from the fresh issue to pare down debt.

RR Kabel, a part of the RR Global Group, had a net profit of Rs 214 crore on a revenue of Rs 4,386 crore in FY22.

Axis Capital, Citigroup Global Markets India, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) and JM Financial are the managers to the offer.

# GMR Group bags ₹2.4K crore order to install smart meters in UP



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GMR Smart Electricity Distribution Private Ltd has bagged Rs 2,469.71 crore smart meter installation project in Uttar Pradesh, the company said on Wednesday.

The total contract value (inclusive of GST) for Agra and Aligarh zone is about Rs 2,469.71 crore, it said.

The GSEDPL will install, integrate and maintain 25.52 lakh smart meters in the aforementioned areas, GPUIL said.

The project is expected to be completed in 27 months, it added.

"GMR Group receives LOA for smart metering project from Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (DVVNL)," GPUIL said in a regulatory filing.

The project is expected to be completed in 27 months, it added.

# ESR Group to invest ₹360 crore for 57 acre logistic park in Odisha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ESR Group on Wednesday announced that it has acquired 57 acres of land in Cuttack, Odisha to develop a logistic park with an investment of about Rs 360 crore.

ESR Group, one of the leading asset managers in Asia Pacific, in a statement, said it has acquired 57 acres of land in Cuttack with a total development potential of 1.2 million square feet.

ESR Group will make an investment of about Rs 360 crore for the construction and development of ESR Cuttack Logistics Park.

Abhijit Malkani, CEO of ESR India, said, "ESR Cuttack Logistics Park assumes a pivotal role in reshaping the next phase of expansion for e-commerce, retail, and 3PL customers."

The steadfast growth of online and retail consumers in Odisha has motivated us to



expand in the region and offer a best-in-class facility integrated with green building features, he said.

ESR Cuttack Logistics Park was acquired with one operational building, which is now fully leased and occupied by one of India's largest e-commerce companies.

ESR is on track to complete the construction of the second building. The park is projected to accommodate six buildings.

ESR Cuttack Logistics Park is a multi-building facility strategically located in

Odisha, the eastern part of India, where the availability of large scalable development sites is rare, the company said.

This marks ESR's foray into Odisha.

The demand for logistics facilities has surged due to the resilient growth of Odisha's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) over the last 10 years at 7.9 per cent annually on average (excluding Covid-19 year 2020-21), alongside increased income and purchasing power as well as robust digital penetration, the company said.

# Tesla looking at sourcing components worth USD 1.9 billion from India: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US-based electric vehicle maker Tesla is looking to source components worth around USD 1.9 billion this year against USD 1 billion in the last year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

The minister said that going forward, demand for electric vehicles will increase and it will help in pushing the growth of the sector.

"Tesla already last year bought one billion dollars of components from I think all of you sitting here... I have the list of companies who supply to Tesla. This year their target is nearly USD 1.7 billion or USD 1.9 billion what they mentioned," he said here at an annual session of ACMA.

When asked about foreign firms looking to invest in India



as part of their China plus one strategy, Goyal said that global companies are coming to India because of its attractiveness.

"I totally debunk and reject the China plus one theory. That's not what is going to drive India... India of today stands on its own feet. The India of today has offerings for the rest of the world... Both for investment

and trade," he said.

Goyal added that India provides them good business environment, skills, managerial talent, a big market, and demand generated by 1.4 billion people.

"It's a rules-based economy... it's a young democracy... One of the fastest growing large economies. All of this makes it a compulsive invest-

ment destination.

"Therefore companies around the world have gone beyond the China-plus-one story, they have gone beyond the ABC philosophy of anything but China, they have gone beyond friend-shoring or near-shoring and is looking at India as a trusted partner, he added.

The electric auto industry, as it grows worldwide, will see growth in India also, he said.

In many cases, for example in taxis, and public transport buses, India is already seeing electric vehicles becoming a very compulsive investment case.

"...As we get large scale production... We will start enjoying the fruits of economies of scale, will start enjoying the fruits of new technologies, innovation R&D coming into India, he said.

# 'More than 100 paper mills likely to come under PAT scheme'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

More than 100 paper mills are expected to come under the energy efficiency scheme Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) by next year as players are adopting technology to reduce their energy footprint, an industry body said on Wednesday.

The paper industry has reduced its specific energy consumption by 20 per cent in the last five years, the Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) said in a statement.

Integrated paper mills in India are generating over 40 per cent of the power consumption by utilising the biomass from the pulping process, the IPMA said.

"More than 100 paper mills are expected to come under the ambit of the PAT scheme in the



next year," IPMA Vice President Vadiraj Kulkarni said in his address at Paper Tech 2023.

Specific water and energy consumption is being reduced continuously to lessen the carbon footprint, he added.

IPMA said it has welcomed the government's Carbon

Credit Trading Scheme 2023 under which an Indian Carbon Market would be constituted.

The existing PAT Scheme would be subsumed under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, with both widening and deepening of sectors covered, in the next 2-3 years.

This will be an important

step towards the country achieving net-zero in GHG emissions.

Under the PAT, energy savings certificates are issued to plants that achieve their targets. These certificates can be traded on Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) and Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL).

# PFC gets shareholders' nod to issue bonus shares

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has received shareholders' approval to issue bonus shares by capitalising up to Rs 660.02 crore in its securities premium account.

"All business items proposed for the 37th AGM of the company have been approved with requisite majority," a BSE filing said.

The PFC had proposed to issue bonus shares by capitalising securities premium account to the extent that each shareholder is entitled to a new equity share of Rs 10 each for every four equity shares of Rs 10 each.

The proposal was listed for the annual general meeting (AGM) held on September 12.

The PFC's board, at its meeting on August 11, recommended issuing bonus shares to shareholders in the proportion of 1:4 by capitalising Rs 6,60,02,03,520 in the securities premium account.



The company also got shareholders' approval to appoint Parminder Chopra as its Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).

Pursuant to the Ministry of Power order on August 14, 2023, the board of directors, on the recommendation of

the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, appointed Chopra as the CMD with immediate effect.

Chopra's appointment on the board of the company required shareholders' approval, as per Sebi regulations.

# Govt exempts investment trusts, ETFs from capital gains tax in GIFT City

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has exempted units of investment trusts and ETFs issued by entities based in GIFT City or traded in exchanges there from capital gains tax.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified the exemption from capital gains tax any unit of investment trust; a unit of a scheme; and a unit of an Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) launched under the International Financial Services Centres Authority (Fund Management) Regulations, 2022.

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT)-IFSC is being promoted as a tax-neutral enclave for the financial sector.

Nangia Andersen LLP Partner-Financial Services Sunil Gidwani said currently, the law provides for exemption from capital gains tax on various securities either trading on the stock exchanges in GIFT city or securities issued by



entities set up in GIFT city.

"The new fund regime provides for funds to be set up as investment trusts, and hence, the law required the inclusion of units issued by such trusts for the purpose of exemption from capital gains.

"Similarly ETF listed and trading on the stock exchanges in GIFT city would now qualify for capital gains tax exemption. These changes would further expand the scope of incentives available for funds and stock market trading in IFSC," Gidwani added.

AKM Global Tax Partner Amit Maheshwari said the

notification is in line with the objective of making the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) a hub for financial services in the world and incentivising non-resident investors on a recognised stock exchange.

"It is important to note that to take advantage of this exemption, the consideration for such a transaction should be paid or payable in foreign currency. The securities, which are added through the new notification, include (i) a unit of Investment Trust, (ii) a unit of a Scheme, and (iii) a unit of an exchange-traded fund.

# Rupee falls 2 paise to close at 82.97 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee depreciated by 2 paise to close at 82.97 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by a surge in crude oil prices and strong American currency overseas.

However, a positive trend in domestic markets and upbeat macroeconomic data from India cushioned the downside for the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.92 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 82.89 and 82.99.

The rupee finally settled at 82.97 (provisional) against the US dollar, down 2 paise from its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 82.95 against the US currency.

"The Indian rupee depre-

ciated on Wednesday on strong Dollar and surge in global crude oil prices. However, positive domestic markets and upbeat macroeconomic data from India cushioned the downside," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

The dollar gained on expectations that the US Fed may hike interest rates one more time this year.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on rising US dollar and surge in crude oil prices. Risk aversion in global markets may also weigh on the rupee.

However, a positive tone in domestic markets may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may remain cautious ahead of US CPI data. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.70 to Rs 83.30," Choudhary said.



# Germany stun France in friendly

AP ■ DORTMUND

Veteran forward Thomas Mueller kick-started Germany's post-Hansi Flick era, scoring early to set the Euro 2024 hosts on the way to a 2-1 friendly win over France in Dortmund on Tuesday.

Flick's sacking on Sunday triggered Rudi Voeller's return to the dugout for the first time since 2005.

The interim coach brought Mueller back into the starting line-up and the move paid off early, Mueller scoring four minutes in.

Mueller's Bayern team-mate Leroy Sane scored with three minutes remaining to double his side's lead.

Sane gave away a penalty just a minute later. France captain Antoine Griezmann converted but Germany held on for a 2-1 win — just their second victory in seven games since the Qatar World Cup.

"Our early goal was good for us," Muller said at the final whistle.

"We knew we'd have a lot to do. It wasn't easy for us with this bad run, and the departure of Hansi Flick at the end of the week was a crazy situation."

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen was relieved.

"It was balm for the soul. It was a curious and difficult few days, so it's all the nicer that we were able to end it with a win," he said. "That was what we needed."

Fresh from Thursday's 2-0 Euro qualifier victory over Ireland, France's fifth straight win since losing the 2022 World Cup final on penalties to Argentina, coach Didier Deschamps made six changes



including benching star striker Kylian Mbappe.

Deschamps' counterpart and old friend Voeller — the two won the Champions League with Marseille in 1993 — made just three changes to Flick's final line-up, including returning Mueller to centre-forward for the first time since Qatar.

The home crowd at Borussia Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park rallied behind their embattled side.

The fans did not need to wait long to celebrate, Mueller rewarding Voeller's faith by opening the scoring four minutes in, chesting down a spinning Benjamin Henrichs cross

and blasting in from close range. Mueller's first Germany goal since June 2022 lifted his confidence perhaps a little too much. The Bayern forward tried a mid-air backheel from a Florian Wirtz cross but scuffed the ball wide.

Germany were energised and direct. Even an injury to

captain Ilkay Gundogan midway through the first half failed to take the wind out of their sails. Gundogan was replaced by 32-year-old debutant Pascal Gross.

## 'LONG WAY TO GO'

Slotting in alongside the impressive Emre Can in midfield, Gross showed no signs of

nerves, barking instructions at his teammates as he sought to direct Germany's attack.

With nothing but pride at stake, France were in cruise control throughout, their best chance falling to Randal Kolo Muani midway through the second half.

With German goalie ter Stegen on the floor having kept out a fierce effort from Aurelien Tchouameni, Kolo Muani, who left the Bundesliga for Paris Saint-Germain at the start of the month, slipped with an open goal begging.

With three minutes to go, Sane ran onto a perfect through ball from Kai Havertz, and slotted in his second goal in two games. Sane quickly turned villain, bringing down Eduardo Camavinga just one minute later.

Griezmann converted the penalty for a fifth goal in Germany-France fixtures, the most of any player. "I wouldn't say we lacked desire, but we weren't as effective as usual, and at this level that comes at a price," said Tchouameni.

"Overall, I don't think we played a bad game. We knew they were a team in trouble, and they got into the game very well, while we were a little less effective."

"It's never a pleasure to lose, but that's the game after all."

Germany's last win over France was a 1-0 victory in the quarter finals of the 2014 World Cup, they have failed to win any of their last six meetings.

"It's great to win against France," said Mueller. "It was fun, but we don't need to overstate it. We still have a long way to go, but it was a small burst of emotional liberation."



# England beat Scotland

AP ■ GLASGOW

Jude Bellingham stole the show with a goal and assist as England extended their 24-year unbeaten run against Scotland in a 3-1 friendly win to mark the 150th anniversary of the first meeting between the nations.

Phil Foden and Harry Kane were also on target as the Three Lions tamed the roar of Hampden Park and Scotland's five-game winning streak on Tuesday. The hosts had high hopes of a famous victory in football's oldest international fixture after impressive wins over Spain and Erling Haaland's Norway in recent months to close in on qualifying for Euro 2024.

But Scotland suffered a sobering evening as England proved a class apart.

Bellingham was the pick of Gareth Southgate's stars as the Real Madrid midfielder revelled in the number 10 role he has shone in for the Spanish giants in the early weeks of the season.

"It's just a freedom role really," said Bellingham. "I know it depends on the system we play

and we've got so many amazing players to accommodate.

"The team comes first always. I really enjoyed playing in that position today."

Southgate hailed the 116th clash between the sides as the renewal of a "great sporting rivalry" on the eve of the game.

However, the ugly side of the animosity between the two sets of supporters was on show even before a ball was kicked.

After the English national anthem was drowned out by a chorus of booing, a minute's silence for former Scotland manager Craig Brown was disrupted by the away fans.

Once the action got underway Scotland were second best, even if it took England over half an hour to make their dominance show in the scoreline.

"We knew playing against England was going to be difficult but if you want to learn as a team, you have to play against the best teams," said Scotland boss Steve Clarke.

"We didn't want to lose to our old enemy, but sometimes in football you have to take your medicine."

# Rubiales insists Hermoso kiss was 'mutual' and 'consented'

AP ■ MADRID

Former Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales continued to insist his kiss on Jenni Hermoso's lips after the Women's World Cup final was "a mutual act", in an interview broadcast on Tuesday in the United Kingdom.

World Cup-winning Spain midfielder Hermoso, 33, says the kiss was not consensual and a Spanish judge has summoned Rubiales to appear in court on Friday in a sexual assault investigation. Rubiales, who stood down from his post on Sunday, three weeks after the incident during the final medal ceremony following Spain's Sydney triumph, maintains his version is the "truth".

"What we had is a spontaneous act, a mutual act, an act that both consented to, which was driven by the emotion of the moment, the happiness, so I maintain that that is the truth of what happened," Rubiales told TalkTV show Piers Morgan Uncensored. The 46-year-old described the kiss as "non-sexual", having previously compared his behaviour to how he would act with his daughters.

"My intentions were noble, enthusiastic, 100 percent non-sexual, 100 percent, I repeat, 100 percent," said Rubiales.

The former federation chief, who was provisionally suspended by FIFA before he resigned, said the kiss occurred in a moment of jubilation.

"You can imagine if you win



the lottery or hopefully soon one day the war in the Ukraine finishes, I mean celebrations will go on up and down the globe," said Rubiales. "People don't ask permissions, it's just a happy, happy time and people celebrate."

However Rubiales reiterated that he had asked permission for the kiss, which he described

as "a peck", and accepted that as president of the federation, the act was wrong.

"Of course, I have said it from the beginning, I made a mistake, and I apologised in a sincere manner," he said.

"A president can give a hug, but needs to act in a more diplomatic and colder way."

# Olmo, Orban to miss several weeks with injury

AP ■ LEIPZIG

Without forward Dani Olmo and captain Willi Orban for several weeks after both players picked up knee injuries on international duty, the Bundesliga club confirmed on Tuesday.

Spain forward Olmo will miss "a few games" while Hungary defender Orban "will be out for ten weeks", the German Cup winners tweeted.

Olmo returned from Spain

duty earlier in the week and underwent tests to diagnose the injury to his right knee.

The forward, who extended his deal at the club until 2027 in June, has been in stellar form for Leipzig this season, scoring five goals and assisting once in four competitive games.

Orban also injured his right knee. Leipzig host Augsburg this Saturday, before travelling to face Swiss side Young Boys Bern next Tuesday in the Champions League.

# Man Utd announce new shirt deal with Qualcomm

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United have announced a bumper sponsorship deal with US-based Qualcomm Technologies, whose Snapdragon brand will replace the TeamViewer logo on their shirts from next season.

The Premier League club, who did not reveal the financial details of the deal, were reportedly targeting an agreement worth £60 million (\$75 million) per year. It is understood the figure equals or even surpasses the previous biggest shirt deal in football history. Qualcomm has been one of United's global partners since last year.

"Manchester United plc has agreed to an expanded strategic collaboration with Qualcomm Technologies, Inc, that will see the Snapdragon brand displayed on the front of the club's famous shirt," the club said in a statement confirming the agreement. It added: "Under the expanded agreement, Snapdragon will become Manchester United's front of shirt partner from the start of the 2024/25 season, featuring on the home, away and third kits of the men's and women's teams."

United have not won the Premier League since 2013. Erik ten Hag's team have won just two of their first four league matches this season, with fans voicing their frustration at unpopular owners the Glazers.

# Argentina triumph without Messi

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO

World champions Argentina still shined in a 3-0 victory over 10-man Bolivia in La Paz on Tuesday to maintain their winning start to South American World Cup qualifying.

Brazil also have the maximum six points from two games after a superb 90th-minute winner from Marquinhos against Peru in Lima for the only goal of the match.

But Marcelo Bielsa's Uruguay suffered a setback, giving up the lead to end with a 2-1 defeat at Ecuador.

Messi, who has had a hectic schedule with his club Inter Miami, watched his teammates from the bench but was not listed as a substitute, having complained of tiredness after scoring the winner in Thursday's 1-0 victory over Ecuador.

Despite the absence of their talisman Lionel Messi's side had too much firepower for Bolivia with goals from Enzo Fernandez, Nicolas Tagliafico and Nicolas Gonzalez securing an impressive victory.

The lively Julian Alvarez had a hand in Argentina's opener in the 31st minute, feeding Angel Di Maria, whose low cross was turned in by Fernandez, who had made a perfectly timed run into the box.

Argentina went in at the break with a 2-0 lead after Tagliafico met a floated Di Maria free-kick with a header that looped over Viscarra.

The three-time World Cup winners were in total control after the break with Alvarez hit-



ted just before the break when Torres rose to power home a header from a Moises Caicedo cross.

A penalty award gave Ecuador the opportunity to take the lead after the break but Enner Valencia's woeful effort from the spot flew wide.

But Torres showed his value again to grab the winner, sliding into a crowded box to turn in a low cross from 16-year-old Kendry Paez.

Venezuela defeated Paraguay 1-0 at home thanks to Salomon Rondon's injury-time penalty to raise hopes of making the World Cup for the first time in their history. The hosts thought they had the lead in the 78th minute when Yangel Herrera fired home, but the referee's review at the monitor concluded that the midfielder had handled the ball — to the fury of the home crowd.

But the technology worked in Venezuela's favor in stoppage time when it spotted that Paraguan defender Ivan Piris had handled during an aerial challenge in the box and Rondon confidently tucked away the spot-kick.

Colombia had to settle for a point in a disappointing goalless draw in Santiago, Chile.

After an impressive start to his reign in charge of Uruguay, Argentine Bielsa saw his team lose to two goals from Ecuador defender Felix Torres in Quito.

Uruguay took the lead in the 38th minute through Agustin Canobbio but the home side lev-

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# Olympic qualification tough but retirement is not on mind: Saina

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Saina Nehwal is aware that qualifying for the Paris Olympics will be "tough" for her but the injury-ravaged Indian shuttler has no plans to quit badminton and would do everything under the sun to resurrect her career.

Laid low by a spate of injuries, including a recurring knee issue, and other health problems, the 33-year-old from Hyderabad has found it tough to stay fit to consistently turn up at the BWF World Tour events.

Her ranking has plummeted to number 55 in the world.

"I get inflammation in my knee whenever I train for an hour or two. I am not able to bend my knee so a second session of training is not possible. The doctors have given me a couple of injections. Of course the Olympics is near and it is tough (to qualify)," Saina told reporters.

"But I am trying my level best to come back. The physios are helping me but if the inflammation doesn't reduce, it will take little more time to recover. I also don't want to play half-heartedly and results will also not come."

"If you are trying to compete against An Seyoung, or Tai Tzu Ying or Akane (Yamaguchi), it won't happen with just one



hour of training. The level has improved so much. So when you are playing such high level players, you need a high level game," Saina said.

The former world number 1 last played at the Singapore Open in June this year. It was her sixth tournament of the season. She managed just one quarterfinal finish in 14 events in 2022, while a semifinal finish at Orleans Masters was her best performance in 8 events in 2021.

"If you are thinking about the knee showing inflammation after a training, then in tournament also if it shows up after one round, then it will be a negative sign."

"I am trying to sort out that first. Playing is easy, to maintain the body, to

not have any niggles is what is important. Hopefully with the guidance of physios and Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, let's see how I recover and comeback. It all depends on practice."

The two-time world championships medallist Saina last won a title in January 2019 at the Malaysia Masters.

While knee has been a recurring issue, she also had problems with groin and ankle, besides being diagnosed with acute gastroenteritis with mild pancreatitis in the past.

Asked about retirement, Saina said: "Woh toh sab ko karna padta hai (everyone has to retire someday)... There is no deadline. Everyone is going to stop when you feel the body is not supporting you."

"But at the moment I am trying. As a sports person, it is my duty to try because I love the game and I have been playing for so many years."

"But if it doesn't happen, then it means, how much I have tried. I have done everything, I mean I shouldn't have any regret. My target is not to play Asian Games or Olympics because I have achieved a lot in those tournament and of course it could have been better if I would have been able to play, but let's see how it goes."

# TANISHA-ASHWINI ENTER HONG KONG LAST 16

PTI ■ KOWLOON

Indian women doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the Hong Kong Open Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.

Tanisha and Ashwini beat Chinese Taipei's Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun 21-19, 21-19 to set up a clash with top seeded Japanese duo of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara.

Asian Games bound Lakshya Sen, however, withdrew from the tournament due to slight strain in his back.

"He has almost recovered but with the Asian Games round the corner, we didn't want to risk playing today without being 100 per cent. He will be fine in a few

days," coach Anup Sridhar told PTI.

Priyanshu Rajawat suffered a 13-21, 14-21 loss to Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama, while Aakarshi Kashyap went down 18-21, 10-21 to German Yvonne Li.

Malvika Bansod defeated China's Zhang Yi Man 21-14, 21-12 in another women's singles match. Men's doubles pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala lost to Korea's Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol 14-21, 19-21.

In mixed doubles, B Sumeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa also went down 16-21, 21-16, 18-21 to Malaysia's Chen tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei, while Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy lost 19-21, 10-21 against Singapore's Hee Yong Kai terry and Tan Wei Han Jessica.

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

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This is to bring to your notice that Dilip Kumar Churania/ Poonam Churania / Akshaj Jewels Private Limited, (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR0001877256 & LBDEL0001879648 located at Flat No.- MC-12A01, Moon Court, Tower-5, Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida- 201307. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.  
The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated September 05, 2023 informing that Jaiprakash Associates Limited, has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.  
Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.  
Dated: September 14, 2023 For ICICI Bank Limited  
Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd-

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The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated September 05, 2023, informing that JAIPRAKASH ASSOCIATES LIMITED, has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.  
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Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd-



# Pakistan, Sri Lanka face-off for place in Asia Cup final

PTI ■ COLOMBO

An injury-hit Pakistan will have the tough task of taming a high-spirited Sri Lanka when they lock horns in a Super 4 match here on Thursday for a place in the Asia Cup final.

Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka have two points and the winner of the virtual knock-out game will progress to the final on September 17.

India have already secured a place in the summit clash after they defeated Sri Lanka by 41 runs in a Super Four game on Tuesday. Rohit Sharma's men lead the table with four points.

However, Pakistan will have more lines on their forehead ahead of their crunch game against the Lankans.

In all probability, they will not be able to summon pacers Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah as both of them have been rendered doubtful with respective injuries. Pakistan have added Shah Nawaz Dahani and Zaman Khan, a 22-year-old slinger pacer who can hit 150 kmph clicks, as back-ups for the remainder of Asia Cup. But that is just one part of their bag of worries. Pakistan batting is yet to hit the top gear in the tournament, except a 342 for six against minnows Nepal in the Asia Cup opener at Multan. However, largely they are dependent on their openers — Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq — and captain Babar Azam for big runs.

They need some runs from the likes of Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Agha, and urgently too. Iftikhar Ahmed showed his big-hitting prowess with a blistering hundred against Nepal, but he needs to do that more consistently against better oppositions.

Sri Lanka are definitely one of them. Pakistan had defeated them by seven wickets in a league match but the past will not hold for anything on the



tomorrow. While defeating Bangladesh and stretching India, the Lankans under Dasun Shanaka have shown that they are not mere pushovers despite the absence of some first-choice players.

Sri Lanka too were hit hard by injuries in the run-up to the tournament as key players like Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera and Lahiru Kumara were ruled out.

It has forced them to field a young side lacking in experience and exposure but players such as Dunith Wellalage, Matheesha Pathirana and Maheesh

Theekshana have come up with some impressive efforts in the tournament.

That said the home side will hope for some more consistency from their pacers — particularly from Kasun Rajitha, who has taken four wickets from as many matches but gave away nearly six runs an over in all the games.

So, Lanka might hope for their spinners to come to party once again as they were exemplary against India on a pitch that offered plenty of turn and grip. They had cut through India's strong top-order with left-arm spinner

Wellalage taking five wickets.

Hence, Lanka could offer a similar pitch to Pakistan as it can also nullify their pace battery led by left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi.

## SQUADS

**Pakistan:** Babar Azam (captain), Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Haris, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Fahem Ashraf, Haris Rauf, Mohammad

Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Afridi, Saud Shakeel, Tayyab Tahir (travelling reserve), Shah Nawaz Dahani, Zaman Khan (back-ups for injured Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah).

**Sri Lanka:** Dasun Shanaka (captain), Pathum Nissana, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kusal Janith Perera, Kusal Mendis (vice-captain), Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Matheesha Pathirana, Kasun Rajitha, Dushan Hemantha, Binura Fernando, Pramod Madushan.



## Naseem out of Asia Cup

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Pakistan were on Wednesday dealt a big blow as fast bowler Naseem Shah has been ruled out for the remainder of the Asia Cup due to a shoulder injury. Naseem's unavailability will hurt Pakistan badly ahead of their must-win clash against Sri Lanka on Thursday.

Pakistan will take on Sri Lanka in a virtual semifinal here, with the winner progressing to Sunday's final against India.

The Pakistan Cricket Board named 22-year-old Zaman Khan, who is yet to make his ODI debut, as Naseem's replacement in the 17-member squad, while also calling up fast bowler Shah Nawaz Dahani.

"Right-arm fast bowler Zaman Khan has replaced Naseem Shah in Pakistan's 17-player squad for the ongoing men's ODI Asia Cup 2023," the PCB said in a statement.

"Zaman joined the team in the morning today and will train with the squad at the RPICS in the evening," the board added.

Naseem suffered the injury during the game against India, and left the field after bowling 9.2 overs without any wicket.

"Naseem injured his right shoulder during the match against India. He continues to be monitored by the team's medical panel that is taking all necessary precautions keeping in mind the ICC men's Cricket World Cup 2023," the PCB said.

India piled up their joint-highest ODI total of 356 for two against Pakistan, who also missed the services of Haris Rauf due to side strain. He did not bowl when the game was completed on the reserve day on Tuesday.

"Haris Rauf, who did not bowl on the reserve day of Pakistan vs India contest as a precautionary measure, continues to recover well after he felt discomfort in his right flank on the first day of the match," the PCB updated.

"These two fast bowlers are our assets and the team's medical panel will provide them the best possible care ahead of the all-important World Cup."



## Gill attains career-best 2nd spot in ODI rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Opener Shubman Gill has achieved a career-best second position and is the highest-ranked among three Indian batters, who are now in the top 10 of the ICC Men's ODI rankings issued on Wednesday.

The other two Indians in the top-10 are skipper Rohit Sharma (8th) and the peerless Virat Kohli (9th).

Last time, three Indian batters were in ODI's top-10 list, it was way back in January, 2019.

At that time, Rohit, Kohli and out-of-favour veteran Shikhar Dhawan were the three batters.

Gill, who had scored 58 and figured in a 121-run opening partnership with Rohit Sharma in the Asia Cup match against Pakistan, has moved up one spot while Indian skipper and Kohli have gained two places each in the latest chart released by the global cricket body.

Rohit has scored three successive half-centuries so far in the ongoing Asia Cup while Kohli advanced, thanks to his unbeaten 122 against Pakistan.

Pakistan also have three batters in the top-10 with less than a month to go for the start of the ICC men's ODI World Cup.

Captain Babar Azam is at

the top and enjoys a lead of more than 100 rating points over Gill, while Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman are in fifth and 10 positions, respectively.

The latest weekly update, that also considers performances in three matches of the South Africa-Australia series and two matches of the England-New Zealand series, saw South Africa's Temba Bavuma closing in on a top-10 place after striking three centuries and two half-centuries in his last eight ODIs. He has advanced 21 places to 11th position while his previous best was 25th.

Australia players Davis Warner (up one place to fourth), Travis Head (up six places to 20th) and Marnus Labuschagne (up 24 places to 45th) have made significant progress as has the Indian pair of KL Rahul (up 10 places to 37th) and Ishan Kishan (up two places to 22nd).

New Zealand's Trent Boult is up to joint-second place among bowlers while Australia leg-spinner Adam Zampa is in the top five of the bowling rankings for the first time after taking four wickets in the second match against South Africa.

Indian left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has gained five places to reach seventh position after grabbing nine wickets in two Asia Cup matches.

## Very happy to get big wickets of Kohli, Rohit: Wellalage

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Dunith Wellalage wrecked Indian top-order with a five-wicket haul in an Asia Cup Super 4 match and the young Sri Lankan left-arm spinner said he will cherish the big wickets of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Wellalage grabbed five wickets conceding 40 runs, which helped Sri Lanka restrict India to 213.

Apart from Kohli and Rohit, Wellalage also dismissed Hardik Pandya, Shubman Gill and KL Rahul.

"For me, Virat Kohli is the No. 1 batsman. I am very happy to have got those two (Kohli and Rohit) big wickets. I trust my basics, and trust myself," said Wellalage in the post-match press meet.

The 20-year-old said he was trying to bowl a wicket-to-wicket line against a set of experienced batsmen.

"The batters were set and India had got off to a fabulous start. I just tried to bowl wicket to wicket. Once we got those three wickets in three overs, we were able to put India under pressure.

"There was turn and when you put the ball in the right area, you could unsettle the batsmen. But I would have been happier with a win," said Wellalage.

Despite limiting India to 213, Sri Lanka could only manage 172 to lose the match by 41 runs.

Later, Wellalage also made a good impression with the bat, making 42 off 46 balls.

The left-handed batter shared a 63-



run alliance for the seventh wicket with Dhananjaya de Silva that revived the Lankan hopes of a win.

"I just tried to support him. We didn't want to take any risks. His plan was to try and get closer to India's total," he said.

Sri Lanka will face Pakistan in a virtual knockout match on Thursday, and the winner will set up a title clash with India on September 17.

Wellalage hoped his side could make it to the final.

"We have played four matches so far and we are happy that we have won three of them. The larger picture is that we have got one more game remaining.

"We still have a chance to make it to the finals, and hopefully we will pull it off," he added.

## I was a little nervous on my comeback: KL

PTI ■ COLOMBO

India batter KL Rahul admitted that he was a bit nervous ahead of his comeback game against Pakistan but grew in confidence once he spent some time in the middle before going on to complete a memorable hundred.

In a rain-marred Asia Cup match, Rahul struck an unbeaten 111 and then kept wickets for the entire duration in his first match for India since March.

"I am happy with how the last two games have gone. I was a little nervous initially but as I started facing a few balls I felt alright," said Rahul in the post-match press conference on Tuesday night after India's 41-run win over Sri Lanka.

Rahul said his strong preparations during the rehabilitation period at the NCA helped him prepare for his return.

"I was thinking that I will be in the playing 11 and that's how I prepared. I was confident that I can still go there and do the job," said Rahul.

The 31-year-old said he was given a clear idea about his role in the team as a middle-order wicket-keeper batter.

"The team management has also told me that this will be my role - batting in the middle-order and keeping wickets," said Rahul. In that context, the Bangalore man said he worked on his wicketkeeping during his time at the NCA.

"I have been keeping wickets for the last couple of years. So, it is not new to me. I think I started keeping in 2019 when Rishabh (Pant) got concussed against Australia.



"During my time at the NCA, I have worked on my keeping with the coaches there. Hopefully, I can do both the roles well," he added.

Rahul patted Kuldeep Yadav, India's highest wicket-taker in ODIs this year, for upgrading his skills and coming back as a better bowler.

"I am really enjoying watching him bowling and I can see that he has developed a few new tricks that are giving some results to him.

"We keep talking between the overs about the strategy to be adopted to get a bats-

man out or how to keep a set batsman away from the strike. His rhythm has also been good in the last two matches," said Rahul.

Dunith Wellalage produced a wonderful solo effort for Sri Lanka on Tuesday, taking five wickets and scoring an unbeaten 42 off 46 balls to stretch India.

Rahul rated him the most dangerous Sri Lankan bowler on that day.

"He got five wickets and got the job done for his team. He looked the most dangerous bowler from the Sri Lankan attack. Obviously, Asalanka also picked up a few wickets later on," said Rahul.



## Markram, spinners keep SA alive

AP ■ POTCHEFSTROOM

South Africa's spin bowlers backed up a century by Aiden Markram as the hosts ended Australia's winning streak with a 111-run victory in the third one-day international at the JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom on Tuesday.

Markram hit 102 not out in a South African total of 338 for six. South Africa survived a furious assault by David Warner and Travis Head before bowling out Australia for 227.

Australia won the first two games in the five-match series after sweeping a Twenty20 series 3-0.

The tourists looked on track for another win when Warner and Head thrashed 79 for the first wicket off only 48 balls.

Australia were 104 for one at the end of the 10-over power play, the second time in a row they reached three figures while fielding restrictions were in place.

But left-arm spinners Tabraiz Shamsi (two for 29) and Keshav Maharaj (two for 37) changed the course of the match on a spin-friendly pitch before fast bowler Gerald Coetzee (four for 50) finished off the Australian innings.

Maharaj also made a key intervention in the field with a direct-hit run-out of Warner,

who made 78 off 56 balls before slipping and losing his shoe as he set off for a single.

"We needed a positive one," said South African captain Temba Bavuma.

"The batters knuckled down and we were banking on the wicket assisting the spin bowlers and it's exactly what it did.

"The power play didn't go as well as we wanted but the way we clawed it back was exactly what we're looking for."

Australian captain Mitchell Marsh said the loss was "a little slip-up" in conditions which are likely to be replicated during the World Cup in India next month.

"Hopefully we learnt a lot from it," he said. Quinton de Kock (82) and captain Temba Bavuma (57) gave South Africa an ideal start with an opening stand of 146 in 22.5 overs.

But Australia were able to slow down the scoring, with part-time off-spinner Travis Head making good use of a slow, dry pitch to bowl unchanged and take two for 39 in 10 overs.

Markram and Marco Jansen gave the innings late impetus with a sixth-wicket partnership of 63 off 31 balls which was ended by a sensational diving left-handed catch by Sean Abbott on the cover boundary off Nathan Ellis.

## Naveen-ul-Haq returns as Afghanistan announce WC squad

PTI ■ KABUL

Pacer Naveen-ul-Haq returned to the ODIs for the first time in over two years as Afghanistan on Wednesday included him in its 15-member squad for the World Cup next month in India.

Haq, who had a run-in with star India batter Virat Kohli in the last edition of the Indian Premier League, last played in ODI in January 2021.

He has featured in seven ODIs to date, grabbing 14 wickets at an average of 25.42, with best figures

of 4 for 42.

Middle-order batter Hashmatullah Shahidi will lead the side. Besides Haq, Afghanistan's pace attack comprises Fazalhaq Farooqi, Abdul Rahman and Azmatullah Omarzai.

The spin attack will be led by Rashid Khan, who will be supported by Mohammad Nabi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Noor Ahmad.

As for its batting, the top order comprises Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmat Shah, while skipper Shahidi and Najibullah Zadran will man the



middle order.

The likes of Karim Janat, Mohammad Saleem, Sharafuddin Ashraf and Suliman Safi were left out of the World Cup team.

**AFGHANISTAN SQUAD:** Hashmatullah Shahidi (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Alikhil (wk), Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Abdul Rahman and Naveen-ul-Haq.