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Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol. 33 Issue 256
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

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Chandrayaan finds water source

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists analysing the remote sensing data from India's Chandrayaan-1 lunar mission have found that high energy electrons from the Earth may be forming water on the Moon.

The team led by researchers from the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Manoa in the US discovered that these electrons in Earth's plasma sheet are contributing to weathering processes — breaking down or dissolving of rocks and minerals — on the Moon's surface.

The research, published in the journal *Nature Astronomy*, found that the electrons may have aided the formation of water on the lunar body.

Knowing the concentrations and distributions of water on the Moon is critical to understanding its formation and evolution, and to providing water resources for future human exploration, the researchers said.

The new finding may also help explain the origin of the water ice previously discovered in the permanently shaded regions of the Moon, they said. Chandrayaan-1 played a crucial role in the discovery of water molecules on the Moon. The mission, launched in 2008, was the first Indian lunar probe under the Chandrayaan programme.

Solar wind, which is composed of high energy particles such as protons, bombards the lunar surface and is thought to be one of the primary ways in



which water has been formed on the Moon.

The team investigated the changes in surface weathering as the Moon passes through Earth's magnetotail, an area that almost completely shields the lunar body from solar wind but not the Sun's light photons.

"This provides a natural laboratory for studying the formation processes of lunar surface water," said Shuai Li, an assistant researcher at the UH Manoa School of Ocean.

"When the Moon is outside of the magnetotail, the lunar surface is bombarded with solar wind. Inside the magnetotail, there are almost no solar wind protons and water formation was expected to drop to nearly zero," Li said.

Li and co-authors analysed the remote sensing data that were collected by the Moon Mineralogy Mapper instrument, an imaging spectrometer, onboard India's Chandrayaan-1 mission between 2008 and 2009.

They, specifically, assessed the changes in water formation as the Moon traversed through Earth's magnetotail, which includes the plasma sheet.

"To my surprise, the remote sensing observations showed that the water formation in Earth's magnetotail is almost identical to the time when the Moon was outside of the Earth's magnetotail," said Li.

"This indicates that, in the magnetotail, there may be additional formation processes or

new sources of water not directly associated with the implantation of solar wind protons. In particular, radiation by high energy electrons exhibits similar effects as the solar wind protons," he explained.

This finding and the team's previous study of rusty lunar poles indicate that the Earth is strongly tied with its Moon in many unrecognised aspects, the researchers added. Chandrayaan-1 was launched by the ISRO in October 2008, and operated until August 2009. The mission included an orbiter and an impactor.

India successfully landed Chandrayaan-3 mission, with a rover and a lander, near the Moon's enigmatic south pole

last month, becoming the first country to do so.

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has been making headlines since the Vikram Lander, successfully touched down on the moon's surface on August 23, 2023. Accompanied by the Pragyan rover, the mission has been tirelessly exploring the enigmatic lunar south pole region, revealing new insights about Earth's celestial neighbour.

However, as the mission reaches its critical juncture, the question arises: What will happen to Pragyan Rover and Vikram after their initial 14 active days on the moon's surface? Both Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover have been put in sleep mode by ISRO.

It was not possible to continue the studies during the lunar night because the Moon temperature dips lower than — 200 degrees Celsius and the equipment is not developed to withstand the harsh weather conditions and the batteries would get depleted. However, if they do not awaken then they will stay on the Moon as "India's lunar ambassador."

As per reports, it is possible that solar panels equipped in the lander and the rover will be charged after sunrise and it will be able to continue the exploration, however, it is doubtful. According to a Space.com report, space missions should be equipped with radioisotope heater units to survive the severe cold and the Chandrayaan-3 mission does not have any heating mechanism that can protect its functions.

J&K forces use drones to smoke out terrorists

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Indian Army recalibrated its response on the ground to flush out a group of terrorists believed to be hiding inside a cave-like structure in the densely forested area of Garole near Kokernag in the South Kashmir district of Anantnag. The encounter in the area has been ongoing since late Tuesday night.

According to reports from the ground, the joint team of security forces, including elite commandos of the Special Forces, employed modern weapons, including Heron drones, on Friday to conduct a series of blasts inside the jungle area in an effort to force the terrorists out of their hiding places. Surveillance drones were also utilised to closely monitor the movements of the terrorists. Despite the heavy use of firepower and other tactical measures, the terrorists remained elusive. Grenade launchers were employed by troops to target the group of terrorists, but significant progress could not be made.

The joint security forces continued to maintain a tight cordon in the area to prevent the terrorists from escaping and exploiting the dense vegetation to their advantage. Senior Army and J&K Police officials visited the encounter site to boost the morale of the joint security forces.

The movement of the civilian population near the encounter site has been restrict-



ed by the security forces. The entire area has been cordoned off, with additional reinforcements rushed to the area.

Colonel Manpreet Singh, the commanding officer of 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Aashish Dhonchak, also from the same battalion, and DSP Humayun Muzamil Bhat were martyred in action during the gunfight on Wednesday. The last rites for both decorated Army officers were conducted with full military honours in their native villages on Friday, where their loved ones bid them a tearful farewell.

Meanwhile, a Lashkar-e-Teyyiba (LeT) terror module was uncovered in Baramulla district with the arrest of two militant associates and the recovery of arms and ammunition from them, as reported by the police on Friday. The two terrorist associates of the LeT outfit were apprehended in

Uri area of Baramulla in north Kashmir, according to a police spokesperson. He identified the two as Zaid Hassan Malla, a resident of Mir Sahib Baramulla, and Mohammad Arif Channa, from Stadium Colony Baramulla.

During their personal search, two Glock pistols, two pistol magazines, two pistol silencers, five Chinese grenades, and 28 live pistol rounds were retrieved from their possession, the spokesperson stated.

"They were involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the behest of Pakistan-based terror handlers and its further distribution to LeT terrorists for carrying out terror activities," the spokesperson added.

A case under the UAPA and the Arms Act has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

₹45,000 cr defence buys OK'd

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to indigenous manufacturing of weapons, the Government on Friday approved nine acquisition proposals totaling over ₹45,000 crore. These deals include procurement of 12 SU-30 fighter jets, light armoured multipurpose vehicles (LAMV) and air to surface missiles.

The acceptance of necessity (AoN) for these deals were given in a meeting of Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) here chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The DAC is the apex body to approve acquisition proposals by the three Services.

All the procurements cleared on Friday will be made from Indian vendors under "Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)/Buy (Indian)" category which will give substantial boost to the Indian defence industry towards achieving the goal of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

Giving details of the deals,



Defence Ministry officials said the AoN for procurement of 12 SU-30 MKI Aircraft with associated equipment from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was accorded.

At present IAF has nearly 260 fourth generation SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft.

To enhance protection, mobility, attack capability and increased survivability of Mechanised Forces, the DAC accorded the AoN for procurement of LAMV and Integrated Surveillance and Targeting System (ISAT-S). The apex

body also cleared a deal for procurement of High Mobility Vehicle (HMV) Gun Towing Vehicles for swift mobilisation and deployment of Artillery Guns and Radars.

The DAC also approved procurement of Next Generation Survey Vessels for the Indian Navy which will greatly enhance its capabilities in performing Hydrographic Operations.

The DAC also gave the nod for proposals of the Indian Air Force which included avionic upgradation of Dornier Aircraft

to improve the accuracy and reliability for operations. The go-ahead for avionics upgrade of the Dornier fleet is considered significant as technical snags were reported in the aircraft on a number of occasions earlier this year, sources said.

The procurement of Dhruvastra short range Air-to-Surface Missile as a potent Indigenous Precision Guided Weapon for indigenously built ALH Mk-IV Helicopters was also cleared by the DAC.

During the meeting, Rajnath stated that it is time to upgrade the ambitions towards indigenisation. "Rather than a threshold of 50 per cent indigenous content for IDDM projects, we should aim for a minimum 60-65 per cent indigenous content," he said.

Rajnath directed the Chief of Defence Staff, Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) to work towards increasing the minimum indigenous content threshold in consultation with the Indian Industry.

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Outrage over strays' round-up

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Civic authorities are facing criticism for rounding up stray dogs and cattle before and after the recently concluded G20 Summit in Delhi.

Animal rights activists have asserted on social media that "seemingly cruel methods of capture and relocation of strays" violated the guidelines set forth by the Animal Welfare Board of India and the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules of 2001.

Besides, the activists have raised concerns that dogs are being released haphazardly from the shelters where they were housed during the Summit. Delhi has over 60,000 stray dogs, according to Government data.

The activists lamented the lack of proper coordination in the operation and noted that stray dogs were being captured from areas outside the New Delhi district limits, which had no relevance to the G20 event.

They alleged that the release process lacked proper tagging of the dogs' original locations and coordination with local caretakers, thereby increasing the likelihood of the dogs being relocated.

The harmful rods used in certain cases to grab strays have been prohibited for use, and the use of ropes appears to be inhumane, said activists. It is evident from footage that the dogs, who are yelping, appear to be frightened, disoriented, and visibly suffering

due to mishandling, they pointed out.

The animal activists have formally submitted a memorandum to Mayor of Delhi Dr Shelly Oberai, asking for addressal of their concerns.

Animal rights activist and the founder of the House of Stray Animals (HSA) dispensary Sanjay Mohapatra voiced his criticism of the methods employed in capturing dogs.

He emphasised that the guidelines established by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) stipulate the use of nets exclusively for relocating dogs.

However, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has refuted all these allegations and informed the Delhi High Court that the process of releasing stray dogs captured before the G20 Summit has already been initiated.

The submission was made by MCD's counsel before a division bench consisting of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula during a public interest litigation (PIL) plea regarding the procedures employed by the MCD for capturing and subsequently releasing street dogs in Delhi during special events such as Independence Day, Republic Day, and most recently, the G20 Summit.

Several videos circulating on social media show dogs being captured with metal wire and relocated to shelters, sparking outrage among animal rights activists.

Continued on Page 2

India's Tejas raring to go

SWARN KUMAR ANAND ■ NEW DELHI

Tejas Dhingra, a 26-year-old show jumper from Gurugram, is poised to make waves at this year's Asian Games in Hangzhou in China, representing India in three prestigious equestrian events. Alongside his new but trusted companion, Stan, Tejas is set to take on the challenge with passion and determination.

Born to Neeraj and Meenakshi Dhingra, a dynamic business duo in Gurugram, Tejas embarked on his equestrian journey at the tender age of four, a time when most are still finding their footing. However, for him, the connection with horses was instinctual — a calling that would ultimately shape his destiny.

Tejas reminisced, a glint of passion in his eyes, while speaking with *The Pioneer*, "I started riding at the age of 4. In fact, I can say that I learned horse riding even before I learned to walk properly."

Tejas' father, Neeraj, speaks with immense pride about his son's unwavering commitment. "Tejas has consistently demonstrated a remarkable level of discipline and determination. It is something that has truly set him apart and shaped his character over the years. This exceptional trait has consistently set Tejas apart throughout his journey," remarked Neeraj.

Tejas' achievements read like a chronicle of triumphs. As a four-time national equestrian champion, he has not only dominated national competitions but has also consistently held his ground in the top 20 in Asia since 2019 in FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) show jumping events. His list of accomplishments is not just a testament to his skill, but also a tribute to the indomitable spirit that propels each of his rides.

However, Tejas' journey to the Asian Games has not been without its trials. Faced with unexpected challenges, his path to the Asian Games was a

challenging gallop, marked by trials demanding not only skill and precision but also a deep emotional bond with his former partner, the German stallion, "Tiens Keys".

Then, in February, fate dealt a new challenge. Restrictions prevented the team from flying their horses to China, necessitating a swift transition to European mounts. In the face of these unexpected challenges, Tejas and his steadfast companion "Stan" rose to the occasion, forging a bond that spoke volumes of their shared determination.

The foundation of his ascent lies in unwavering discipline and determination, qualities that define not only a champion, but also serve as an inspiration to us all. His dedication does not end in the arena. Balancing a demanding job at Google with rigorous training, he vividly portrays a relentless pursuit. "I used to rise at 4 am, then train for about 4-5 hours in the morning before heading to the office, where my

day would end at 10 pm."

Currently stationed in Germany, Tejas is immersed in rigorous training, pitting his skills against equestrians from every corner of the globe. His sights are set on the 2028 Olympics, a testament to his unyielding belief that his best is yet to come.

Behind every great athlete stands a mentor, and Tejas is no exception. Trained by some of the best coaches from around the world, he has been honed under the expertise of Karl Schneider in Germany and Beeya Vohra in India. Karl Schneider, a stalwart in show jumping, has notched over 100 victories in the advanced class. Beeya Vohra's influence on Tejas' journey is immeasurable.

As he prepares to represent his nation on the grandest stage of the Asian Games equestrian events beginning on October 3, Tejas rides with the hopes and dreams of a nation on his capable shoulders, poised to soar to new heights.



Congress MLA arrested in Nuh violence case, 144 imposed

PARVESH SHARMA ■
GURUGRAM/CHANDIGARH

Congress MLA Mamman Khan has been arrested in connection with the July 31 Nuh violence on Friday as the administration imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 in the district and suspended mobile Internet services for two days.

The Ferozpur Jhirka legislator, who was named as an accused in an FIR lodged after the communal clashes, was arrested late on Thursday night and remanded to two days custody. The charges in the FIR include promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion. The vio-

lence had occurred at mainly three to four places in the Nuh district.

Addressing a press conference in Nuh along with Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata, Superintendent of Police Narendra Bijarniya said on Friday that Mamman Khan has been arrested. During the investigation into incidents of violence that took place around Barkali Chowk Nagina, some accused were interrogated and "the MLAs name came to the fore," the SP said.

To a question about the charges against the Congress legislator, the police officer said, "In the acts of vandalism and arson that took place at Nagina's Barkali Chowk, he is

accused of provoking people and inciting violence."

When asked if any such evidence has come to the fore which points to the legislator's involvement in a larger conspiracy behind the Nuh violence, the SP replied, "From the details which have emerged during the investigations so far, his involvement is there." To a question on whether the legislator was physically present on the day of violence, Bijarniya claimed that from the information which has emerged so far, he was present there shortly before the violence occurred.

Several people were injured in the Barkali Chowk violence while government cars, includ-



ing police vehicles, were damaged and an oil mill was burnt, the SP said.

He added that 60 FIRs have been registered in the Nuh violence and 330 people arrested,

the police officer said.

Security has been beefed up across the district, especially in and around the court complex in Nuh where Khan was produced by the police during the day. The court sent him to police custody for two days. In an order, Home Department Additional Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad said mobile Internet and bulk SMS services have been suspended for two days with effect from 10 am on Friday "to stop the spread of misinformation and rumours through various social media platforms, such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter".

A Vishva Hindu Parishad-led procession was attacked by mobs in Nuh on July 31. Six

people were killed, most of them during the attack. A cleric died in an attack on a mosque in adjoining Gurugram.

Several FIRs were registered after the violence, including one at a police station in Nuh on August 1. Khan had been issued a notice under CrPC Section 160 (requiring his presence before police) in connection with the August 1 FIR.

To another question, SP said that during the interrogation of many of the accused, it came to the fore that they were in direct contact with the MLA. Bijarniya said the probe into the incidents of arson and vandalism around Barkali

Chowk Nagina on the day of Nuh violence points that there might have been contact between the MLA and youths who were involved in spreading misleading and inflammatory propaganda on social media.

Nuh Deputy Commissioner Dharendra Khadgata said that internet services in the district have been shut down for two days and prohibitory orders under Section 144 put into effect until further orders to maintain law and order following the arrest of the Ferozpur Jhirka legislator. People in the district have been appealed to offer Friday prayers from their homes, he said.

Mumbai's iconic double-decker buses bid adieu

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

In an end to an era when people would romanticise the travel by road in Mumbai after their memorable experience of sitting on the upper deck of a double-decker bus, the iconic non-AC red coloured double-decker buses — which were fascinating part of many Bollywood films over the years — faded into history in the country's commercial capital on Friday.

Ending the 87-year-old history that saw people enjoy the travel by double-decker buses in Mumbai to get a ring side view of a beautiful city and its roads, the BrihanMumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) ran the last of the non-AC red double-decker bus service between Agarkar Chowk and SEEPZ bus stations on Friday morning.

Come October 5, the BEST will also be pulling out three



existing open-roof double-decker buses, which are used for carrying tourists for the purpose of sightseeing in Mumbai, from the city roads.

Capturing the start of the last journey of a double-decker service between Agarkar Chowk and SEEPZ bus stations in north Mumbai, Mumbai Heritage posted a video on its X handle saying: "Goodbye Double-Decker Bus. The Last Double Decker bus (non-AC) leaving from Marol Depot today morning."

Introduced in 1937, the red-coloured double-decker buses were an integral part of the transformation of Bombay into Mumbai in 1996.

They reflected the spirit of then Bombay and now Mumbai. Not many old-time Mumbaikars have forgotten the rush among the people to grab the upper deck seats in a double-decker bus.

At one stage, the BEST would operate as many as 900 double-decker buses in the metropolis.

However, the number of double-deckers has dwindled over the years.

What came as a straw that broke the camel's back was the fund-starved BEST's decision in 2008 to stop introduction of new buses on its fleet. The last count of the double-decker buses plying on the Mumbai roads was mere seven.

Confirming the pull-out of the double-decker buses from the city roads, a senior BEST said: "There are seven double-decker buses in the BEST fleet metropolis. These include three open deck buses.

All these buses have completed 15 years of their codal life. Today, the non-AC double-decker buses are going off the city roads. We will take off the open-deck buses on October 5".

Mumbaikars cherish their fond memories of their travel by double-decker buses on social media. "My last ride today on Mumbai's iconic and favourite vehicle - the red double-decker BEST bus.

I had fond memories of travelling in this bus during my childhood days, especially on the top deck window seat. Bye Bye Double Decker BEST", advocate Hetal Panjari said.

Mumbai Congress President Prof Varsha Gaikwad, who has lived all her life in the metropolis, wrote: "Farewell to a childhood memory that has stayed with us so long - the BEST double-decker bus.

As it takes its final ride today, we thank these iconic red buses for the countless memories, the fun and the efficient rides they provided.

While we welcome the new EV buses, nothing can replace the feeling of the wind on your face as you sit in the front row of the top tier of the bus".

"Spent my college life commuting in double-decker buses whenever the route allowed. To get the front seat on the upper level was the best. Especially in the monsoon," another user of X (formerly known as Twitter) wrote.

BJP overhauls organisational structure in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a strategic move aimed at bolstering its prospects in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Uttar Pradesh unit of Bharatiya Janata Party has undertaken a significant overhaul of its organisational structure at the district and city level.

This reshuffle has witnessed changes in leadership positions in over 75 per cent of the districts across the state. Among the new appointees 23 are Brahmins and 39 are OBCs among the prominent castes which has got prominence in the reshuffle.

The long-anticipated organisational reshuffle within the BJP came to fruition on Friday, with the appointment of new presidents in 98 districts and city units.

"Discussions regarding these changes had been ongoing for approximately two months.

"The party leadership has prioritised maintaining a delicate balance of social and regional representation, a factor seen as critical for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," a senior BJP leader said.

Out of the 98 districts affected by this restructuring, a substantial 69 district heads are new appointees, while only 29 retain their positions. However, eyebrows have been raised over the limited representation of women in this new lineup, as only five women have been appointed as district presidents.

Notable among the newly appointed leaders is Anand Dwivedi, who has assumed the charge of president of Lucknow city, and Vinay Pratap Singh, who now leads Lucknow district.

Murmu: India needs efficient multi-modal transport system

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said the country needs an efficient multi-modal transport system for which rail, road, air and water transportation should be dealt with in a holistic approach rather than in isolation.

Addressing a group of 213 probationers (2019, 2020 and 2021 batches) from different services of the Indian Railways at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, she said unlike any commercial organisation the railways is a social lifeline of the country. Besides, it carries the dreams of ordinary people and at the same time, its nationwide connectivity showcases nation's diversity, the President said.

NIA raids 9 locations in ISIS Jharkhand module case; 1 held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday said it raided nine locations in a multi-State crackdown in the ISIS Jharkhand module case and arrested one person for his alleged role in the conspiracy to spread terror in the region.

The case relates to the ISIS module that was exposed with the arrest of an Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) student in July this year. The student, Faizan, had come in contact with radicalized individuals connected with ISIS during his stay near the AMU campus.

Searches were conducted at the premises of suspects at nine locations across six states as part of Thursday's crackdown, during which one Rahul Sen alias Omar was arrested and a host of incriminating material, including electronic/digital devices (laptops, pen drives, mobile phones), one knife, a veil and several ISIS related documents were seized, the NIA said in a statement.

The raids were conducted in Siwan district in Bihar, Jaunpur, Azamgarh and Maharajganj districts of Uttar Pradesh, Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, Ludhiana in Punjab, South Goa in Goa, Yadgir in Karnataka and Mumbai in Maharashtra, it said.



"Omar, 23, was arrested from Ratlam for his active role in the terror conspiracy, including dissemination of ISIS propaganda through social media platforms for radicalisation and recruitment of gullible youth for carrying out various terror-related activities," the agency said, adding, several incriminating materials/data, including videos pertaining to the ISIS, were also seized.

The case was registered by the NIA on July 19, 2023 under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code like criminal conspiracy and promoting enmity between different groups and provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

On July 20, 2023, one Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) operative, Faizan Ansari, was arrested by the NIA.

NIA investigations had revealed that Faizan, aged about 19, had hatched the Jharkhand terror module conspiracy, along with his asso-

ciates and unknown others, through social media platforms, with an intention to aid and abet terror activities by providing active support to the ISIS, a proscribed terrorist organisation, and disseminate the outfit's propaganda.

The conspiracy was aimed at unleashing violent terror attacks in India on behalf of ISIS and recruiting youngsters to work for the banned outfit.

Faizan, a BA Hons Economics student of AMU, used to stay at a lodge near the University campus. While studying there, he came in contact with some radicalized individuals who were in contact with ISIS operatives. They formed a closed group, which was trying to influence others to join ISIS.

Faizan had also propagated ideological videos of ISIS in order to influence and recruit vulnerable youngsters for carrying out violent attacks in India. "He was in the process of radicalising neo-converts and bringing them into the terrorist fold to expand the ISIS cadre and footprint in India. Further, he was in contact with foreign-based ISIS handlers, who were guiding him in spreading ISIS ideology. He had also contemplated doing 'Hijrat' (migration) to a foreign ISIS conflict theatre after completing his task in India," it added.

Congress top leadership to meet to mull strategy for 2024 LS polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/ HYDERABAD

Congress top leadership is scheduled to meet during the weekend in its Congress working Committee (CWC) at Hyderabad to deliberate on evolving a strategy for upcoming Assembly polls in five states, the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and undertaking of the Bharat Jodo Yatra's second leg from East to West.

This will be the first meeting of the reconstituted CWC under party chief Mallikarjun Kharge which will also see the presence of former Congress chiefs Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and the new entrant in the party's apex body Priyanka Gandhi.

The holding of the CWC meeting in Telangana's capital is as an attempt to boost the party's campaign in the poll-bound state and send out a clear message that it would go all-out to oust the BRS Government in the assembly elections.

On Sunday evening, which



is celebrated as Telangana National Integration Day, the party will hold a "mega rally" near Hyderabad, where it will announce five guarantees for the Telangana assembly election.

Sources said the preparations for the upcoming assembly polls in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram, as well as the strategy to take on the BJP-led NDA in the 2024 general elections, would be chalked out during the meet.

The meeting comes at a time when over two dozen

opposition parties have formed the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to challenge the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) unitedly in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The reconstituted CWC, the party's top decision-making body chaired by party chief Kharge, has 39 regular members who will hold their first meeting on Saturday while deliberations will continue on Sunday with an extended CWC session that will include all state party chiefs and CLP leaders.

₹45,000 crore defence buys OK'd

From Page 1

The Government has focused on fast development of the Indian defence industry and earmarked 75 per cent of this year's defence capital procurement budget for buying weapons and systems from local manufacturers.

India set aside 68 per cent of the military's capital acquisition budget for making indigenous purchases in 2022-23, 64 per cent in 2021-22, and 58 per cent in 2020-21. In the Union Budget announced on February 1, India set aside Rs 5.94 lakh crore for defence spending in 2023-24, with the allocation almost 12 per cent higher than that in last year's budget estimates, and about 2 per cent more compared to that in the revised estimates for 2022-23.

India allocated Rs 5.25 lakh crore for military spending in last year's budget, Rs 4.78 lakh crore in 2021-22, and Rs 4.71 lakh crore the year before.



Around Rs one lakh crore has been set aside for domestic procurement this year, compared to Rs 84,598 crore, Rs 70,221 crore and Rs 51,000 crore in the three previous years.

Moreover, the Government has stopped import of more than 250 weapon and allied systems including warships, artillery guns, light combat aircraft, basic trainers, a variety of helicopters, radars, and different types of ammunition. The Services will now have to procure indigenously designed and manufactured weapon systems.

"She is nurturing the INDIA because she has fears that the Alliance might come to power... on the other hands she also wants to keep her avenues to the BJP open which is the reason she joined the presidential party in the G20 meeting barely a day after criticizing the Centre's bid to change the name of India to Bharat," Bhattacharya.

In support of his arguments that Banerjee might be the first to quit INDIA alliance, he said there were negotiations going on between her party and the saffron outfit on the number of seats that she can leave for the BJP in Bengal.

"I have information that the TMC is talking with the BJP on the number of seats... while the BJP wants at least 22 seats she is not willing to leave more than 7 — this is all in lieu of sparing Abhishek Banerjee and her family members from arrest in the scams that the central agencies are investigating," the senior counsel who has spearheaded a number of cases — from Sharada to Narada to all other scams including the latest recruitment scam — said.

On the other hand Banerjee is also scared of a Congress-led Opposition

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

At a time when the BJP has Agone to town over Congress and Left's alleged bonhomie with the Trinamool Congress in Delhi while they have daggers drawn at each other in Bengal, Senior CPI(M) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya has launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee calling her joining the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance an instance of political opportunism.

"Much is being spoken about her joining the INDIA alliance but it is my assumption that she will be the first to quit the Alliance because this has been her style of politics... she is a student of opportunistic school of politics," Bhattacharya, a senior counsel in Calcutta High Court said.

According to Bhattacharya, a former Mayor of Kolkata, Banerjee has been the ideal example of how a person ran with the hare and hunted with the hound.

"She is nurturing the INDIA because she has fears that the Alliance might come to power... on the other hands she also wants to keep her avenues to the BJP open which is the reason she joined the presidential party in the G20 meeting barely a day after criticizing the Centre's bid to change the name of India to Bharat," Bhattacharya.

In support of his arguments that Banerjee might be the first to quit INDIA alliance, he said there were negotiations going on between her party and the saffron outfit on the number of seats that she can leave for the BJP in Bengal.

"I have information that the TMC is talking with the BJP on the number of seats... while the BJP wants at least 22 seats she is not willing to leave more than 7 — this is all in lieu of sparing Abhishek Banerjee and her family members from arrest in the scams that the central agencies are investigating," the senior counsel who has spearheaded a number of cases — from Sharada to Narada to all other scams including the latest recruitment scam — said.

On the other hand Banerjee is also scared of a Congress-led Opposition



alliance coming to power in Delhi which is why she has been nurturing the INDIA alliance too.

There are two reasons for this: first of all she will extract all the benefit of being on the ruling side if the INDIA comes to power and secondly she will be able to get the entire opposition behind her if her talks with the BJP fails and if the Enforcement Directorate or the Central Bureau of Investigation knocks at her family's door, the senior CPI(M) leader said.

Meanwhile regarding her talks with the Congress the Trinamool — which has no love lost with the Bengal Congress leaders — is known to have offered only two seats to the tri-colour party whereas the Pradesh Congress is loath to settle for anything less than seven seats of Murshidabad, Jangipur, Behrampur, Malda North, Malda South, Raiganj and a seventh seat which is still undecided.

Banerjee's trepidations — leading her to hold talks with two opposition groups — stems from the fact that post recruitment scam her popularity has suffered immensely in the minority belt that accounts for about 30 per cent of the electorate.

This is the reason why even after recording a thumping victory in the violence-torn panchayat elections the TMC is not sure of getting the minority votes, a Congress leader who recently left the TMC said.

"You will notice that most of violence and murders in the panchayat elections took place in the Muslim dominated areas which means that the TMC is not confident in these areas and had to resort to massive violence... which will not be possible in the general elections... hence her fears and hence she is trying to keep both the BJP and the Congress in good humor," said.

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA
Athletic Stadium, Cujira, Bambolim - Goa.
Email :- ed.tsag-goa.gov.in Website :- www.tsag.org

TENDER NOTICE
(E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)
(https://eprocure.goa.gov.in)

No. NGS/SportsEquipments/2023/Badminton/3358 Dt :- 15/09/2023

The Executive Director, Sports Authority of Goa (SAG) on behalf of Governor of Goa invites online percentage bids "Supply & Installation of Badminton Sports Equipment for the 37th National Games, Goa 2023 [2nd Call]"

TENDER SCHEDULE

a) Last date for Online Submission of Tender is 18/09/2023 upto 15:00 hrs.
b) The Technical Bid will be OPENED on 18/09/2023 at 16:00 hrs.
c) The date of opening of the Financial Bids will be conveyed through letter of Corrigendum (which shall be uploaded on https://eprocure.goa.gov.in website only)

For Detailed Tender Notice & for participation please Visit https://eprocure.goa.gov.in

Sd/ (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients Smt. Usha Jain W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Jain and Sh. Vinod Kumar Jain S/o Late Sh. Dhan Prakash Jain are interested in purchasing the property No. 1/5040, Old No. 1439A/38A, Old Plot No. 43, Khaera No. 215, Village Sikdarpur, Street No. 1, Babri Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 from its owners viz. (1) Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta (2) Sh. Yogesh Kumar and (3) Sh. Dinesh Kumar Gupta and a Sale Agreement dated 16.07.2023 also executed between both the parties.

If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, should send their claims alongwith the documentary evidence within 15 days from the publication of this notice to my clients, Mob-9811985636.

CHAMBER No. D-206, KARAIKUNDA COURT, SHAHADARA, DELHI-110032

ANKUR VERMA ADVOCATE

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Renuka Rawal acquired the Property bearing No. R-5/71, area measuring 200 sq. yards, i.e., 167.23 sq. meters, Situated at residential colony known as Raj Nagar Ghazabadi, Tehsil & Distt. Ghazabadi vide Transfer Deed dated 20.05.1993, Doc No. 633 Above said owner has misplaced the Original Lease Deed dated 13.06.1972. Doc. No. 19719 SRO- Ghazabadi executed by GDA in favour of Mr. Anar Singh and Original Allotment Letter, Original Possession Certificate/Slip issued by GDA in favour of Mrs. Renuka Rawal. Any person who has the same mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Now, Mrs. Renuka Rawal is mortgaging the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 05 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhwani/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-IT, Tower: (B-08), Nelloj Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9667071721/ 981828636(M).

Outrage over strays'

From Page 1

A video, compiled by the People for Animals India, shows seemingly untrained workers using metal wires and nooses to pickup dogs off the ground before hurriedly stuffing them into their vehicles and sometimes tiny enclosures.

The Congress has also shared a disturbing video of

authorities, belonging to the MCD, rounding up stray dogs and relocating them to different areas within the national Capital. They said the conditions at these centres were not fit to keep these dogs due to a lack of sufficient watering bowls and ventilation, among other things.

Moreover, the dogs were

picked up without collars or being tagged. The People For Animals (PFA) was reached out by air travellers at Terminal 2 of IGIA airport who spotted "screaming and yelping" dogs being "dragged by neck" using wires by "what looked like class 4 untrained workers" before being bundled into vehicles, the statement said.

4 workers die after lift falls from 14th floor in Noida West

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Four workers died on Friday after a service lift had a free fall from the fourteenth floor at an under-construction group housing society in Greater Noida West, also known as Noida Extension. Five other workers suffered injuries and were admitted to the district hospital in critical condition, the police said in a statement. The incident took place around 8.30 am at the under-construction site of Amrapali Dream Valley Society, the police added. This long-stalled project is being completed by the state-run NBCC. According to a police official, the service lift which was carrying the workers from the ground floor had a free fall from the fourteenth



floor. District Magistrate Manish Verma said, "Four workers died in the incident while five others were hospitalised in a critical condition." Verma, who visited the injured at the hospital and inspected the under-construction site as well, said the matter is being investigated and action would be ensured against anyone found guilty. "We will recommend financial compensation for the victims as per the law and guidelines of the Labour Code. The matter is under investigation as of now," Verma said. The deceased workers have been identified as Ishfaq Ali (23) of Bihar's Balrampur district, Arun Tanti Mandal (40) of Bihar's Banka, Vipot Mandal (45) of Bihar's Katihar and Aris

Khan (22) of Amroha district in Uttar Pradesh. Those injured have been identified as Asul Mustaqeem, Abdul Mustaqeem, Kuldeep Pal, Kaif, Arbaaz Ali — natives of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the police said. Officials of the construction company could not be immediately contacted for their response. Other senior officers including Police Commissioner Laxmi Singh and Greater Noida Authority CEO NG Ravi Kumar also visited the site for inspection. Meanwhile, the police have asked the workers living in under-construction buildings near the incident spot to vacate the premises. DM Verma said that the police have cited "precautionary measures" for evac-

uating these residents. Construction workers said the sudden police order for removal has left them worried. "Thousands of workers, including women, live within the project premises. Where would we find shelter all of a sudden now?" a worker who hails from Bihar's Katihar district told PTI, requesting not to be named. Another worker from West Bengal claimed the ambulance arrived at the spot half an hour after the incident. "The incident took place around 8.30 am. Initially, a small ambulance came and took three workers with it. Later a small pickup truck arrived in which the other five injured workers were sent to hospital," the worker said. Additional police force

and PAC personnel arrived at the society around 2 pm and began removal of labourers and their families. Friday morning's incident comes within 50 days from the death of a 72-year-old woman in a group housing society in Noida inside a lift that malfunctioned. The woman possibly died of a heart attack. Uttar Pradesh currently does not have any law to regulate the installation, maintenance or usage of lifts, even as residents in Noida and Greater Noida have been raising demands for it time and again. After the elderly woman's death, UP Power Minister A K Sharma had informed the state assembly on August 10 that promulgation of the Lift and Escalator Act in the state was under process.

Civil Services Authority meet soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the postponement of several meetings, the National Civil Services Authority (NCCSA) is expected to meet on September 20. The agenda of the meeting includes extravagant and obscure expenditure violation/circumvention of environment protection/heritage zonal plan while constructing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence. The other agenda of the meeting includes disciplinary action against the officers involved in demolition of listed heritage monument and constructing a bungalow for the then CEO, Delhi Jal Board, irregularities in the construction of Rani Jhansi flyover and Lokpal Bench Order dated September 15, 2020, among others. As per the agenda note regarding extravagant and



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal File Photo

residence and as the file contains subject matter in which PWD officials recorded on files that as per requirement of the "CM" major changes have been made in the drawings of the interiors, resulting in deviation in total work done and sanctioned amount. "It is informed that the original file will be made available during the meeting of the authority. In case chairperson of the authority/Chief Minister would like to verify the authenticity of the certified copy of the file provided to him vis-a-vis the original file," reads the agenda note. Other items like follow-up on the proposal regarding transfer/posting of Grade-I (DASS) and posting and Transfer of Grade-II (DASS) officials have withdrawn from the agenda as NCCSA has jurisdiction for transfer/posting in respect of only Group-A Officers, DANICS and IAS.

The chairperson of the authority/Chief Minister has asked to provide the following information regarding all IAS and DANICS officers serving in the Delhi government, on or before August 15. The information sought by the chairperson regarding officers awaiting for their postings include vacancy position of IAS and DANICS Officers in Delhi; their current charge; duration for which they have been holding the charge; their additional charges and duration for which they have been holding their additional charges. The officers who are waiting for their postings include 1989-batch IAS officer Umang Narula, 2011-batch officers Ajay Kumar Bisht, Anil Kumar Singh, 2017-batch officer Yash Chaudhary, 2019-batch officers Rishita Gupta and Lakshay Singhal, and 2013-batch officer Kirti Garg.

Grave lapses in building classrooms: Vigilance Department to Lokayukta

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Vigilance Department has submitted a detailed report to the Lokayukta, highlighting irregularities and lapses on the part of various officials of Public Works Department, Education and public functionaries in construction of 12,748 classrooms for the Government-run schools. Citing a vigilance report, Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Friday demanded a CBI probe into an alleged "scam" in construction of classrooms in Delhi Government schools and said on the instructions of Arvind Kejriwal, 7,180 classrooms were reduced to 4,126 but the monetary budget was not reduced. "Besides, a new name has come in the report, that of Tewatia Chauhan and Sharma Architect, this is the

same architect which did the scam worth crores of rupees by constructing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Sheeshmahal located at 6 Flag Staff Road without proper tendering. Not only this, the report has revealed that the role of Babbar and Babbar Associate was also found suspicious," Tiwari said. As per the report, it has to be ascertained whether the contractor who was awarded contracts of class rooms by Education Department in Priority-I project i.e. Tewatia Construction Pvt. Ltd. has any connection with M/s Tewatia Chauhan & Sharma Architects Pvt. Ltd that were awarded contract in construction of 6 Flag Staff. It further added that with regard to the allegation of 34 contractors, some of them being workers/members of Aam Aadmi Party or relatives is

concerned, it is observed that proper procedure to award contract was not followed and short time was given for submission of bids and sanctions were split into smaller parts in violation of rules and regulations. Addressing a press conference along with party leaders Harish Khurana and Praveen Shankar Kapoor, BJP MP alleged that the report was submitted by the Vigilance Directorate to Lokayukta last month. "Not only this, the project above Rs 100 crore is brought to the cabinet and then it is also sent to the Lieutenant Governor, but at the behest of Kejriwal, the entire project was divided into 16 small parts and this entire project was launched on 19 October 2015. It was approved by PWD Minister Satyendra Jain," he said.

Pvt drones banned in Noida, 144 to be extended ahead of Prez Murmu's visit



STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Ahead of President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Greater Noida next week, the Gautam Buddha Nagar Police on Friday passed an order banning the use of private drones in the area. The restrictions under CrPC Section 144 restriction in the district are likely to be extended as a precautionary measure, a senior police officer said. The President is expected to inaugurate the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UP ITS) to be held from September 21 to 25 at the India Expo Centre and Mart, the police said.

Man rapes stray dogs in Rajouri Garden, FIR filed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A person has been booked for allegedly sexually abusing stray dogs in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden area. The FIR was lodged at the Rajouri Garden police station based on a complaint by a woman, who is an animal activist, and a member of the People for Animals (PFA). On the other hand incidents of dogs posing threat to residents surfaced. In one case a woman ended up at AIIMS with a fractured leg and in need of corrective surgery after being chased by a pack of dogs at her residential complex. According to police, the complainant alleged that the accused has been sexually abusing stray dogs for quite some time, the police said. She said she reported the matter to police after coming across videos and pictures of the act that were circulated on social media. "As a member of PFA, I am making this complaint as per the urgency of the



matter. I have attached pictures in support of the complaint. I request you to take immediate action against the person by registering a case," the woman said in her complaint. The PFA member also told the police that she was concerned as the accused could be capable of committing hideous atrocities against women in future. A case under Section 377 (unnatural offences) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act has been registered against the man, the police said, adding further investigation is underway.

Earlier in February, the police had booked a man for allegedly sexually abusing a female dog in Inderpuri here. The matter came to light after a neighbour of the accused, who recorded a video of the incident, lodged a police complaint and a case was registered against the accused. A similar incident was reported on February 28 from the JJ Colony in Delhi's Indrapuri area where a drug addict man had allegedly raped a stray dog. In yet another incident of stray dog menace, a woman ended up at AIIMS. Security camera footage of the incident shows a woman coming down the stairs from her flat when five to six dogs run towards her. One of them crashes into her, causing her to trip and fall with her leg twisted. The dogs then saunter away. The woman, 56-year-old Anu Dogra, was taken to the AIIMS Trauma Center for treatment, where she will undergo a surgical procedure.

Rai's travel to New York cleared: Centre informs HC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday told the Delhi High Court it has granted political clearance to Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai to travel to New York from September 15 to 21 to attend Columbia India Energy Dialogue. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed Justice Subramonium Prasad that political clearance has been granted for Rai's travel in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case but it should not be made a precedent and that the order shall be restricted to this case only. While recording the submission made by the law officer, the High Court disposed of the Aam Aadmi Party leader's petition in which he sought quashing of the Central Government's order denying him political clearance to travel abroad for the programme.

Construction of viaduct of Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor a new milestone

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), has achieved a new milestone with the construction of a viaduct of the Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor crossing over the existing viaduct of the Delhi Metro's Blue Line corridor successfully. The under-construction Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor is being built for a semi-high-speed regional rail service named 'RAPIDX' by the NCRTC. "Being constructed as a part of a long-term strategic solution to the pollution and congestion conundrum of Delhi, the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor has achieved an important milestone in Delhi. The construction of the viaduct of the RRTS corridor crossing over the viaduct of the Blue Line of the Delhi Metro corridor has been completed successfully," the NCRTC said in a statement. The viaduct of the RRTS corridor crosses the



Delhi Metro corridor at a height of about 20 metres, at a point near the New Ashok Nagar metro station. "Carrying out construction work at such a height over the existing and already operational metro track successfully is a big achievement from the engineering point of view," a senior official said. "Moving from Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station towards New Ashok RRTS station, the elevated alignment of the RRTS corridor is crossing the viaduct of the Blue Line of Delhi Metro which provides services to a large number of people every day," the official said. To ensure

convenience and safety of commuters travelling from this station, "construction of this part of viaduct has been done during the night time only" with the help of 'Tarini', a launching gantry. In this process, segments of the girders were lifted and joined together to construct the full span of the viaduct, the statement said. The NCRTC received unwavering support from the DMRC during this whole construction and the construction was completed safely by the NCRTC with uninterrupted services of the metro, officials said.

"In view of the intensive security of the President of India and other VIPs, it is necessary to ban the operation of private drones," Additional DCP (law and order) Hridesh Katheria said in the order passed under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. "I pass this order that drones will not be operated by any private person or organization from September 20 to 25. Violation of this order will be punishable under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code," Katheria added in the order. Other prohibitions, including restrictions on large gatherings, processions and protests under CrPC Section 144 are already imposed across Noida and Greater Noida in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh adjoining Delhi. The Gautam Buddha Nagar Police on September 5 had issued an order, enforcing CrPC section from September 6 to 15 across Noida and Greater Noida to "maintain peace and harmony" during upcoming festivals and important public meetings.

Counselling programme organised

Ghaziabad: On the occasion of Engineers' Day on Friday students of IPEC (Indraprastha Engineering College) in Ghaziabad officially launched COPE (Counselling and Outreach for Peer Empowerment), a student-led community initiative dedicated to fostering open dialogues about mental health pressures experienced by the present day youth. COPE is a professional programme by Mpower, an initiative of Aditya Birla Education Trust that works towards providing much-needed support and resources for addressing mental health challenges within the student's community in colleges. This student-led initiative represents a significant step forward in promoting a proactive and empathetic approach to mental well-being, by nurturing peer-to-peer engagement, offering guidance and creating a safe haven for candid conversations about mental health. SR

DU polls: Candidates pulling out all stops to woo voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress-affiliated NSUI and BJP-affiliated ABVP on Friday announced its list of candidates for the September 22 Delhi University Students' Union polls. Hitesh Gulia, a final-year Law Centre-I student, will contest for the president's post as NSUI candidate. The 23-year-old completed his graduation from Shaheed Bhagat Singh College. The CPI (M)-affiliated SFI too announced its final list of candidates and has named Arif Siddique as its candidate for the president's post, Ankit for vice-president, Aditi Tyagi for secretary and Nishtha Singh for joint secretary. Tushar Dedha, ABVP candidate for the president's post, completed his graduation from Satyawati College and currently pursuing a Masters degree in Buddhist Studies. He joined the ABVP in 2015. Sushant Dhankar, contesting for the vice-president's post, holds a BA (Honours) degree in English, having grad-



ABVP, candidates Panel for Delhi University Students' Union elections, (president) Tushar Dedha, (vice president), Sushant Dhankar (secretary), Aprajita (JT secretary), Sachin Baisla at North Campus in New Delhi on Friday



NSUI candidates Panel for Delhi University Students' Union elections, (president), Hitesh Gulia (vice president), Abhi Dahiya (secretary), Yakshna Sharma (JT secretary), Shubham Kumar Chaudhary at North Campus in New Delhi on Friday

uated from Satyawati College. The Haryana-native is currently pursuing his Masters degree in Buddhist Studies. Dhankar is also a state-level shooting champion. Aprajita, contesting for the post of secretary, hails from Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. She completed her BA (Honours) degree in History from Dyal Singh College and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Buddhist Studies. Sachin Baisla, the ABVP candidate for joint secretary, graduated from Ramanujan College. He is pursuing a Masters degree in Buddhist Studies. In the last elections in 2019, the ABVP won three posts while the Congress-affiliated National Students' Union of India (NSUI) bagged the secretary's post. The students' union elections could not be held in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 while academic disruption staled the last years DUSU polls. NSUI has fielded Abhi Dahiya for the post of vice-

president while Yakshana Sharma for the post of secretary. Shubham Kumar Chaudhary is contesting for the post of joint secretary. From demands to scrap the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme to improving hostel infrastructure, introducing Delhi Metro concession passes for students and installing sanitary pad vending machines on college campuses — DUSU hopefuls are pulling out all stops to woo voters to their side. The students' outfits in the fray for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections have made a plethora of promises in the lead up to the polls, hoping to clinch the support of those still undecided about their electoral choices. The ABVP on Wednesday organised a Chhatra Garjana rally on the north and south campuses of Delhi University. It said in a statement that the rally was aimed at addressing crucial issues such as provision for Delhi Metro concession passes for the students.

BJP raps Congress for boycott of TV anchors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday took a dig at the Congress over the Opposition INDIA bloc's decision to boycott 14 broadcast media anchors, saying shunning media or any other institution will do it no good the party can only benefit by boycotting Rahul Gandhi as he has no strength.

Addressing a Press conference here, BJP national spokesman Sambit Patra asked if the list of journalists that the opposition alliance will boycott is more of a "target list", indicating that they will be slapped with criminal cases and will not be spared. If they are targeted by some people, including members of these parties, then who will be responsible, he posed.

He said there is no institution in India that this opposition alliance has not attacked, be it the Election Commission or courts, he said.

"If there is someone who is



not up to it and who the Congress should indeed boycott for its own benefit, then his name is Rahul Gandhi... Your leader has no strength. Who all will you boycott? If you have to boycott and move ahead, then boycott your leader," said the BJP leader.

Patra said the Congress has a history of going after the media, citing the first amendment brought by Jawaharlal Nehru to curb absolute freedom of expression, the Emergency promulgated by Indira Gandhi and the defamation law proposed by Rajiv

Gandhi.

Congress leaders questioned the existence of Lord Ram while the likes of Bihar minister and RJD leader Chandra Shekhar targeted Ramchaitmanas.

These leaders are not boycotted but journalists questioning these parties about corruption in states ruled by them and saying "good things" about G20 and India are boycotted, he said.

"Netas can raise questions on God but journalists can't question these netas," Patra said.

On another issue, he hit out at the opposition for Congress leader Saifuddin Soz's and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah's pitch for talks with Pakistan, saying the remarks came soon after the death of security officials in an encounter with terrorists in Kashmir.

He said the INDIA bloc should boycott leaders like them than journalists.

Nipah more fatal than Covid, don't take it lightly: ICMR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As Nipah virus keep surfacing from Kerala, Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) DG Rajeev Bahl warned that the pathogen should not be taken lightly given that the mortality rate among those infected with the deadly virus is much higher compared to that of Covid-19 pandemic.

So far till Friday, a total of six people have tested positive for the deadly Nipah virus in the Southern State, out of which two have succumbed to the infection.

"While Covid had a mortality rate of two to three per cent, Nipah has a death rate of 40 to 70 per cent," Bahl rang an alarm bell, even as a Central health team is in Kerala to assist the Health Department of the State Government.

Asserting that they are making all efforts to contain the spread of the deadly virus in the southern state, the ICMR DG said, "We do not know why the cases keep surfacing. In 2018, we found the outbreak in Kerala was related to bats.

"We are not sure how the infection passed from bats to humans.

The link could not be established. Again we are trying to find out this time. It



always happens in the rainy season."

According to the ICMR DG, India will be procuring 20 more doses of monoclonal antibody from Australia for the treatment of Nipah virus infection.

"We got some doses of monoclonal antibody from Australia in 2018. Currently, the doses are available for only 10 patients," he said.

"...20 more doses are being procured. However, the medicine needs to be given during the early stage of the infection. Only phase 1 trials to establish the safety of the medicine have been done outside. Efficacy trials have not been done. It can only be given as compassionate use medicine," Bahl said.

While globally the antibody has been successfully given to 14 patients, no one in India has been administered

Declare mayhem by rain in Himachal as national disaster: Priyanka to PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday to declare the destruction caused by heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh a "national disaster", just like the Kedarnath tragedy of 2013.

In a letter to Modi, Priyanka also sought financial assistance for providing relief to the victims and their families as well as for rebuilding the state. Flash floods and landslides triggered by the rains wreaked havoc in Kullu and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh on July 14 and 15.

Priyanka, who visited the affected areas earlier this week, said apart from being the land of gods, Himachal Pradesh is also a state of true, simple and hardworking people. "The women, farmers, employees, businesspersons and youth of Himachal are very hardworking and self-respecting. Today, the same people are facing an unprecedented crisis. Floods and landslides have caused massive destruction in the state," the Congress general secretary said in her letter to the prime minister.

She said more than 16,000

animals and birds have died in the state, including 10,000 poultry birds and more than 6,000 cows, buffaloes and other domestic animals. More than 13,000 houses and buildings have been completely or partially damaged, she added.

"Large parts of the Shimla to Parwanoo National Highway and the Kullu-Manali-Leh Highway have been completely damaged. Many roads in the state have been completely or partially damaged. The state has suffered a loss worth thousands of crores," Priyanka said in her letter in Hindi. The Congress government in the hill state is making every possible effort at its level to deal with the devastation, she noted.

Since the onset of monsoon on June 24 till September 12, Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses to the tune of Rs 8,679 crore. As many as 165 landslides and 72 flash floods were reported during monsoon. Of the 111 deaths in landslides, 94 were reported from Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Solan districts, while 18 of the 19 deaths due to flash floods were also witnessed in these districts. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has pegged the losses at Rs 12,000 crore and urged Modi to declare the calamity a national disaster.

Navin appointed as Officiating Director of ED

NEW DELHI: The Government on Friday appointed IRS officer Rahul Navin as Officiating Director of ED.

He is currently working as Special Director in ED. Navin belongs to 1993 IRS batch. PNS



ED seizes ₹417 crore assets in Mahadev app betting case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has conducted searches against the money laundering networks linked with Mahadev app in cities like Kolkata, Bhopal and Mumbai among others and retrieved a large volume of incriminating evidence. Post the searches, the agency has frozen/seized proceeds of crime worth Rs 417 crore.

The ED is investigating Mahadev Online Book Betting app which is an umbrella syndicate arranging online platforms for enabling illegal betting websites to enroll new users, create user IDs and laundering of money through a layered web of benami bank accounts.

"Investigation into the matter has revealed that Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal who hail from Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, are the main promoters of Mahadev Online Book and are running their operations from Dubai. Their Mahadev Online Book is run from a central Head Office in UAE and operates by franchis-



ing "Panel/Branches" to their known associates on 70 per cent to 30 percent profit ratio. Large scale hawala operations are done to siphon off the proceeds of betting to off-shore accounts," the ED said in a statement.

Large expenditure in cash is also being done in India for advertising of betting websites and self-aggrandizement necessary to attract new users and franchise (panel) seekers.

The ED had earlier conducted searches in Chhattisgarh and arrested four accused persons including the chief liaison of this betting syndicate which was organizing payment of the bribes to senior government functionaries as 'protection money', the agency said.

Following the searches, the ED has found that Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal have created an empire for themselves in the UAE. The sudden and illegal riches are being openly flaunted by them.

In February 2023, Chandrakar got married at RAK, UAE, and for this marriage ceremony, the promoters of Mahadev app spent around Rs 200 crore in cash. Private jets were hired to ferry family members from Nagpur to UAE. Celebrities were hired to perform in the marriage. Wedding planners, dancers, decorators etc were hired from Mumbai and hawala channels were used to make payments in cash, it said.

As per the digital evidence gathered by ED, Rs 112 crore was delivered via hawala to an events management company in the name of R-1 Events Pvt Ltd of Yogesh Popat and hotel bookings costing Rs 42 crore were done by paying in cash in AEDs.

Searches were conducted by ED at the premises of Yogesh Popat, one Mithilesh and other linked organizers and evidence

relating to the receipt of Rs 112 crore hawala money is crystallized, it said.

Subsequently, searches were conducted on the angadias named by Yogesh Popat. The searches resulted in seizure of unaccounted cash of Rs 2.37 crore. The probe revealed that many celebrities have been endorsing these betting entities and performing at their functions in return for hefty fees layered through dubious transactions, but ultimately paid from the proceeds of online betting, it said.

The ED conducted searches at the premises of Rapid Travels of Dheeraj Ahuja and Vishal Ahuja at Bhopal. This entity was responsible for the entire ticketing operations of the Mahadev app promoters, family, business associates and even for the celebrities who were endorsing betting websites like fairplay.com, reddyanana app and Mahadev app.

The illicit cash earnings from the betting panels were cleverly deposited by Ahuja brothers with the main ticket providers, and the wallet bal-

ance was used to book domestic and international tickets. Rapid Travels was involved in making travel arrangements for most events of Mahadev group including the annual star-studded events organised in UAE in the month of September.

The ED probe also revealed that one Kolkata-based Vikash Chhapariawas was a key player handling all the hawala related operations for the Mahadev app.

The agency conducted searches at his known premises and at his associates like Govid Kedia. It was found that with the help of Kedia, Vikas Chhaparia through his entities Perfect Plan Investments LLP, Exim General Trading FZCO and Techpro IT Solutions LLC was investing heavily in the Indian stock market by way of Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) route. Cash derivative and other security holdings worth Rs 236.3 crore in the name of entities beneficially owned by Chhaparia have been frozen by ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Will extend summons to Kavitha by 10 days: ED

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In some relief to BRS leader K Kavitha, the Enforcement Directorate on Friday told the Supreme Court it will extend by 10 days the summons issued to her for appearance in the Delhi excise police case.

The ED had issued the summons dated September 4 to Kavitha, the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, calling for her appearance at the agency's Delhi office on Friday.

She approached the apex court with an application seeking directions to restrain the ED from calling her by way of notice or summons under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during the pendency of her petition that is being heard by the top court in which she has sought protection from coercive action by the anti-money laundering agency.



Section 50 of the PMLA deals with powers of authorities regarding summons, production of documents, to give evidence etc.

The application also sought a stay on the operation of the September 4 summons or any other summons and "all coercive measures relating thereto". The application came up for hearing before a bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia.

Senior advocate Vikram Chaudhary, who appeared for Kavitha along with advocate Nitesh Rana, told the bench while her previous petition is

pending before the apex court, the ED has summoned the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) MLC for September 15.

In her petition which is pending before the top court, Kavitha has sought protection from coercive action and challenged the summons issued earlier to her by the ED in the case.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju, representing the ED, told the bench that Kavitha had appeared before the agency earlier and, if she has any difficulty, the date of summons will be extended.

"She has appeared twice. If she is busy, we will extend the date by another 10 days," Raju told the bench.

When the court fixed September 26 for hearing Kavitha's pending petition, her counsel urged the bench that the summons be deferred till then. "Do I need to record it or you will do it?" Justice Kaul asked Raju.

कार्यालय- नगर पंचायत तपोवन टिहरी गढ़वाल

पत्रांक- 444 / होलिडिंग शुल्क / 2023 2024 दिनांक 02.09.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर पंचायत तपोवन जिला टिहरी गढ़वाल के अधीन सम्पूर्ण नगर क्षेत्रान्तर्गत प्रचार प्रसार हेतु होलिडिंग शुल्क लगाने की निविदा दो लिफाफा प्रणाली (प्रथम तकनीकी एवं द्वितीय लिफाफा वित्तीय) के तहत शीलबन्ध निविदायें उल्लिखित शर्तों के अधीन दिनांक 29.09.23 को कार्यालय समय तक स्वयं आकर अथवा पंजीकृत डाक से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा दिनांक 30.09.23 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे के बाद कार्यालय समय तक खोली जायेगी निविदा खोलते समय निविदादाता उपस्थित रह सकता है। विस्तृत सूचना एवं अन्य निविदा शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ सलॉन है जो कि कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्य दिवस पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत/निरस्त करने का अधिकार प्रशासक महोदय/अधिशासी अधिकारी को होगा।

अधिशासी अधिकारी प्रशासक
नगर पंचायत तपोवन नगर पंचायत तपोवन

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Rajinder Kumar Sharma is the owner of Property House Tax Bearing No. 222, in Ward No. 1 i.e. (222/1), area measuring 140 sq. yds., Gali No-11, Situated in the Residential colony known as Adarsh Nagar, Gurgaon-Haryana, 122001. The said property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 08.08.1981 having Registration No. 2488, has lost/misplaced Original Sale Deed dt. 24.09.1976, having Registration No. 2483, as per FIR dated 14.09.2023 in the police station Gurgaon Sadar. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.



I, Shri Vivek Satyawali S/o Shri Ram Dutt Satyawali have to inform that I have misplaced the Original Allotment, Share Certificate and Possession Letter of 201, Karishma Apartments, 27, LP Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092.

PD(158)A

SC extends protection to 4 Editors Guild members in Manipur cases



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday extended by two weeks the protection from coercive action it has granted to four members of the Editors Guild of India (EGI) in connection with two FIRs lodged against them in Manipur for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra sought the response of the complainant, who had lodged the FIRs against the EGI and its four members, asking as to how the offence of promoting enmity between different ethnic groups was made out against them.

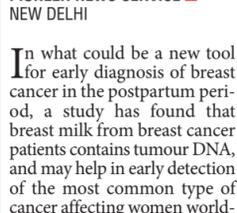
The Manipur government, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, said the top court may protect the EGI and the members for some more time and let the plea be transferred to the Delhi High Court if the bench wished so. On September 11, the top court extended till Friday the protection from coercive action to the EGI and its members. It had

also sought the view of the Manipur government on whether to transfer their plea for quashing the FIRs and other relief to the Delhi High Court for adjudication.

On September 4, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said a police case had been filed based on a complaint against the president and three members of the Editors Guild of India, and accused them of trying to "provoke clashes" in the state. A second FIR against the four had the additional charge of defamation. The initial complaint against the EGI president and its three members was filed by Ngangom Sarat Singh, a retired engineer who had worked for the state government. The second FIR was lodged by Sorokhaibam Thoudam Sangita of Khurai in Imphal East district.

Besides EGI president Seema Mustafa, those who have been booked are senior journalists Seema Guha, Bharat Bhushan and Sanjay Kapoor. They visited the state between August 7 and 10 to study media reporting on the ethnic violence.

Breast cancer patients' milk contains tumour DNA: Study



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In what could be a new tool for early diagnosis of breast cancer in the postpartum period, a study has found that breast milk from breast cancer patients contains tumour DNA, and may help in early detection of the most common type of cancer affecting women worldwide.

The tumour DNA, known as circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA), can be detected through liquid biopsy in breast milk, even before breast cancer can be diagnosed using conventional imaging, as per the research published in the journal Cancer Discovery.

The findings were made by Spanish researchers at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital in Spain after a breast cancer patient diagnosed while pregnant with her third daughter raised concerns about the potential risk of her tumour being passed through her breast milk to her second daughter. "The patient brought us a sample of breast milk that she had stored in her freezer. So, thanks to her, that's where our project started, because although we know that breast cancer is not transmitted through breast milk, we decided to analyse the sample in search of markers that could help us in our research," said Dr. Cristina Saura, head of the Breast Cancer Group at the university's Institute of Oncology (VHIO).

CBI arrests Revenue Inspector for bribery, recovers ₹6.5 Lakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday said it has arrested a Revenue Inspector, Jammu Cantonment Board for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 1 lakh from the complainant and recovered Rs 6.5 lakh and property documents during searches at his premises.

A case was registered on a complaint alleging that the accused Revenue Inspector Ashok Kumar was demanding a bribe of Rs 2 lakh.

It was further alleged that the complainant was residing in a residential quarter inside Jammu Cantonment since 1991. An eviction order was issued by the Jammu Cantonment Board to the complainant's mother on August 23.

It was also alleged that the accused demanded a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from the complainant for not evicting him from the residential quarter and for making allotment entry in the name of his mother, in the records.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused while accepting a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from the complainant.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused which led to the recovery of cash of Rs 6.50 lakh and property documents.

In a separate case, the agency arrested then Inspector and Dock Examiner, Mundra Port (now Superintendent of Customs, Jamnagar) and a private person in a bribery of Rs



2 lakh. A case was registered against then Inspector and Dock Examiner, Mundra Port (Gujarat), Nitin Sharma on the allegations of demanding undue advantage of Rs 7 lakh from the complainant towards clearance of containers during his tenure of posting at Mundra Port.

The accused allegedly threatened the complainant that if the demand of undue advantage was not fulfilled, he would not allow them to work smoothly as Custom House Agent.

The CBI laid a trap and caught a private person Shubham Sharma who allegedly acted as a conduit of said public servant while accepting undue advantage of Rs 2 lakh from the complainant as per directions of then Inspector and Dock Examiner, Mundra Port.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused including at Mundra and Jamnagar which led to recovery of cash of Rs 9.50 lakh and incriminating documents from the premises of accused public servant.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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 (₹.)	Name of Branch
1.	Rajesh Kumar / Sangeta Devi/ Mahavir Singh Rawat/ LBGUR00005966320	Double Storey Villa No. 4, Khata No. 791, (Fasli Year 1422 To 1427) Khasra No. 793 Min, Situated At Mauza Raiwala, Pargana Parwa Doon, Tehsil Rishikesh Distt. Dehradun/ September 13, 2023	December 19, 2022 Rs. 30,68,859/-	Delhi & NCR /Dehradun/ Yamuna Nagar

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 16, 2023 Place : Delhi/NCR Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Preparations for Dev Deepawali Mahotsav discussed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Various cultural programmes will be organised at the ghats before the Dev Deepawali Mahotsav to provide a platform to the winners of Kashi Sansad Sanskrit Mahotsav (KSSM) to showcase their talent. Chairing a meeting at his office on Friday held to discuss the preparations for the Dev Deepawali Mahotsav to be celebrated at the end of next month, Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma directed the officers concerned to work as a team in this direction. The DC directed to hold various cultural programmes at the ghats a week before the Dev Deepawali Mahotsav to provide an opportunity to the winners of KSSM to showcase their talents at a bigger platform.

Sharma directed the officers of Municipal Corporation to clean the ghats, remove silt from there and decorate them with attractive lighting. He asked the officers of Tourism department to organise fire-works and laser show on the occasion of Dev Deepawali. He directed the officers to start tender process for arranging diyas, oil and other things to illuminate the ghats with earthen lamps on this auspicious occasion. He directed to instal façade lighting. The DC



Divisional Commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma chairing a meeting on Friday regarding the preparations for Dev Deepawali Mahotsav.

directed officials to ensure the delivery of earthen lamps and wicks at least 20 days before the Mahotsav and added that 'kunds', ponds and other important places of the city should also be cleaned and decorated on Dev Deepawali Mahotsav. The DC directed the officers of VDA to start preparations for developing the tent city across Ganga river.

He directed the police officers to ensure proper

arrangement at ghats for the smooth bathing on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima and also start preparations for installing bathing jetties and cruise.

Meanwhile the Divisional Commissioner has cautioned the officers to discharge their duties regarding the Kashi Sansad Sanskrit Mahotsav sincerely because Prime Minister and local Member of Parliament Narendra Modi himself is keeping a close

watch on it. The district level programme under the Mahotsav is scheduled to be organised from September 17 and hence, all preparations regarding it should be completed before it as its rehearsal will be conducted on Saturday, the DC directed the officers concerned. Reviewing the preparations for the KSSM at his office here on Thursday, the DC expressed deep displeasure over the laxity shown in this direction and directed

the incharges of all five zones and three blocks to release the list of the winning participants. The DC directed to decorate the selfie points well. The PM Modi is visiting on September 23 in view of these programmes and will reward the winners, the DC said.

NEW ARRANGEMENT: To ensure permanent solution to streetlight related problems, the Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC) has decided to change the present system and develop the arrangement of one zone, one agency for the inter-departmental and simplified coordination.

There are about 55,000 streetlights in the urban area which were installed under various schemes by different agencies such as VMC, Smart City, PWD, Tourism, VDA, National Highway Authority, District Urban Development Authority (DUDA) etc, Municipal Commissioner (MC) Sipu Giri said and added that maximum about 40,000 streetlights were installed by the PSU EESL of Government of India. At present the computerised CMS Automatic Control System controls 11,000 lights but local people and public representatives could not know which agency main-

tains the non-functional streetlights and so there is a need for coordination among the respective departments., he said. To make inter-departmental and simplified coordination, the present arrangement has been abolished and a new arrangement of one zone, one agency has been developed under which one agency will be given the responsibility of installing and ensuring the functioning of streetlights in one zone, he added. Power tripping and high voltage are also the major reasons behind the streetlight becoming out of order. Hence dedicated phase wiring of streetlights is proposed to be laid and thereafter there will be separate electric wiring for these streetlights to solve this problem permanently.

The power theft could also be checked after the dedicated phase wiring by the CMS Automatic Control System, he said. A talk has been held with senior officers of EESL to provide immediate relief to the dwellers till the implementation of new arrangement, he said, adding that a Whatsapp group of corporators and officers has also been formed and the streetlights are being functional by launching a ward-wise drive.

Retd AU prof falls prey to fraudsters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A retired professor of Allahabad University (AU) fell prey to fraudsters and was deprived of ₹1.5 crore. He came to know about the fraud when his bank account was put on hold. An FIR against nine persons has been lodged with the Colonelganj police. Retired Professor Jagdish Narayan Purwar, now 71, was approached by some persons from Delhi who introduced themselves as attached to the Finance Ministry. They won the confidence of the professor who invested ₹1.5 crore on their advice. After this a fraud took place in Gujarat and an FIR was lodged in this connection, following which the account of the professor in State Bank of India University branch was put on hold. When Purwar contacted the bank officials, he was told that an FIR had been lodged against the company in which he had invested, so his account was put on hold. Smelling something fishy, when the professor asked the above persons to pay back his money, they switched off the number. Prof Purwar has lodged FIR against Pankaj

Kapoor, Pankaj Bhadoria, Rajiv Dixit, Puja Lamba, Vikas Kumar and four others.

BC MAHAKUMBH: To counter the allegations of neglecting the OBC in a big way, the Bharatiya Janata Party is all set to organise a Backward Class Mahakumbh in the Sangam City in November. Home Minister Amit Shah and party chief JP Nadda are expected to address this OBC Mahakumbh, Sangam Lal Gupta, MP from Pratapgarh, said while talking to mediapersons. This state level convention is to be organised by the Pichhada Varg Morcha (OBC Cell) of the BJP this year itself to counter the allegations of the opposition parties who brand the BJP as anti-OBC. Besides Amit Shah and JP Nadda, a good number of union ministers and chief ministers of different states will also participate in this OBC Maha Kumbh, he claimed. Gupta claimed that over three lakh persons, belonging to backward castes, will attend this OBC Mahakumbh. The final date and venue will soon be decided to ensure that preparations for holding such a big convention are completed on time.

CFM Angola Railway delegation visits Banaras Locomotive Works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A two-member delegation of Caminho De Ferro De Moçamedes (CFM) Angola Railway along with the officers of the RITES Limited, a prime transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm, on Friday visited Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), here to see the diesel and electric locomotive manufacturing facilities.

The delegation included PCA/Chairman of the Board of Directors Antonio Colelho Fernando da Cruz and Director of the Technical Office Nelson Ernesto Ngumbe while the SDGM of RITES, Limited Sumer Singh accompanied them.

On reaching the BLW Administration Building, the Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME)/Production and Marketing Sunil Kumar welcomed the delegation and thereafter, CFM Angola Railway delegation held a meeting with the General Manager of BLW Basudev Panda. In the meeting, various aspects related to railways were discussed. It is noteworthy that three diesel locomotives manufactured by BLW have been exported to Angola in the past.



A two-member delegation of Caminho De Ferro De Moçamedes (CFM) Angola Railway and the officers of the RITES Limited seeing the diesel and electric locomotive manufacturing facilities during the visit to BLW on Friday.

The high level delegation visited various shops of BLW Workshop like New Block Shop, Light Machine Shop, Engine Test Shop, Loco Assembly Shop etc. During the workshop visit, the delegation was informed about the

various stages of manufacturing of diesel and electric locos and was also shown the state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities of locos available at BLW.

A high-level meeting of senior officials of BLW with the representatives of Angola and

RITES officials was also held in the Hall of Fame of the Administration Building. The Chief Design Engineer RR Prasad gave detailed information about the production activities of BLW since its construction till now, present man-

ufacturing facilities, standard certification, export etc.

During the meeting, the delegation was assured that BLW is ready to provide full cooperation in the field of railways. The BLW officials and delegation also shared information related to railways among themselves and also discussed manufacturing of railway engines according to the geographical location of Angola. The delegation was impressed by the design capabilities, construction facilities and cleanliness available at BLW. After the meeting, the loco model was given as a gift to the delegation.

Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PME) Prabir Kumar Saha, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCE) SK Srivastava, Chief Design Engineer (CDE)/Diesel Loco RR Prasad, Chief Design Engineer/Electric Loco PP Raju, Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME)/Production and Marketing Sunil Kumar and Chief Electrical Engineer (CEE)/Loco Arun Kumar Sharma were among those who were present in the meeting. The vote of thanks was proposed by Deputy Chief Marketing Manager Vaibhav Sohane.

Advocates resume work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Advocates from across the state have resumed working in the court from Friday. After talking to the chief secretary of the state, the UP Bar Council has announced this late on Thursday night.

Lawyers in all the courts, including Allahabad High Court, started their work as before. For this, UP Bar Council president Shiv Kishore Gaur sent a letter to all the Bar Association presidents and secretary of the state, directing them to end the strike from September 15 and go back to judicial work. Following the lathicharge on lawyers in Hapur, advocates across the state went on a strike from August 29, boycotting judicial work. On Thursday lawyers from across the state had also burnt the symbolic effigy of the chief minister. The lawyers had announced to fight an all-out battle. They were making a strategy to surround the assembly. President Shiv Kishore Gaur said the chief secretary has given assurance that the cases registered against the advocates during the movement are being withdrawn. In this, injured lawyers will be given compensation by the government. A committee has been formed to implement the Advocates Protection Act in the state. It has also been assured by the chief secretary that all

the top officers or police officers who are guilty in this act have been transferred. After the talks with the chief secretary in Lucknow, the lawyers returned to their work from Friday.

SUSPENDED: The two TTEs who were arrested by the Vigilance team with liquor and money in Prayagraj Express, were suspended on Thursday evening. This action has been taken by DRM Prayagraj division. The suspended TTEs are RK Yadav and Ramlakhan. They were arrested by the Railway vigilance team on Wednesday. The vigilance released both the TTEs after interrogation but the interrogation report has been kept confidential for now. But before this, both of them have been suspended. The duty of both of them was in Prayagraj Express.

The next action will be taken after the vigilance report comes. CPRO of NCR, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay said action has been taken by DRM to suspend both of them. He said only after the report comes it will be decided what to do next. The vigilance team was keeping an eye on train number 12418 Down Prayagraj Express running from New Delhi to Prayagraj. Even on Tuesday night the Vigilance team was moving around the 2 TTEs who were on duty there. Till they came to Prayagraj, every activity of TTEs was being monitored. Information

about liquor and money was obtained on the way.

ED INVESTIGATION: Builder and property dealer of Lucknow Mohit Jaiswal, who had been thrashed by Atiq and his gang men in Deoria Jail, had been deprived of ₹75 lakh in one day. His firm had transferred ₹50 lakh to Atiq and ₹25 lakh to his wife, Shaista Parveen. The gangster had utilised the same amount for buying properties in Jhusi, Phulpur, and in city areas. All the above properties have been attached by the Enforcement Directorate. During ED investigations it had come to fore that the firm of Mohit had been grabbed by Atiq's henchmen Farooq Ahmad and Zaki Ahmad. They had also taken money from another Lucknow-based builder Mohammad. After kidnapping Mohit Jaiswal, they took him to Deoria Jail where he was beaten up black and blue and was compelled to sign papers at gun point. The signed paper was his resignation from the post of director of his firm, which was grabbed by Farooq and Zaki to transfer money to Atiq and Shaista. When ED went deep into the issue while investigating money laundering case, they came across the above developments and transfer of ₹75 lakh from the firm to Atiq and Shasta after Farooq and Zaki took over the firm of Mohit Jaiswal by force.

AD (H&FW) appeals to people to keep houses, surrounding areas clean

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Additional Director (AD), Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Dr Manjula Singh has emphasised on launching a drive the entire year to prevent communicable disease and appealed to people to keep their houses and adjoining areas clean and add burnt mobil oil or anti-larvae chemical to stagnant water to prevent spread of diseases such as dengue and viral fever.

In view of the rise in the cases of dengue and viral fever in the district, Dr Manjula, along with the incharge of divisional entomological team Dr Amit Kumar Singh, senior lab technician Parashuram Giri, insect collection worker Sanjeet Kumar, incharge of district team sector-I Ajay Kumar Mishra and team of Domestic Breeding Checker (DBC) visited some areas of the city on Thursday to test the larvae of mosquitoes. During a visit to Kaivalyadham Colony, Dr Manjula and team found heaps of garbage in many vacant plots and larvae (aedes) of mosquitoes in the drinking bowl of animals near a hospital. The team members got the bowl cleaned. Dr Manjula and team also visited the houses in the colony and made the resi-



dents aware about dengue and other mosquitoes-borne diseases. The DBC team sprinkled anti-larvae and also destroyed the source of this disease. During the visit to Gayatri Nagar Colony, waterlogging was also found in some houses because of no facility of drainage and the team sprinkled the anti-larvae and residents were also made aware about it. Dr Manjula laid an emphasis on launching a drive the entire year to prevent communicable diseases and appealed to people to keep their houses and adjoining areas clean to prevent diseases such as dengue and viral fever. She also appealed to people to add burnt mobil oil or anti-larvae chemical to stagnant water, change the water cooler once in a week, use mosquito net while sleeping, wear clothes covering the whole body and visit a health centre after noticing symptoms of fever.

Integrated Nikshay Day observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Health department on Friday observed Integrated Nikshay Day at the health centers and health and wellness centres of the district under the National TB Elimination Programme and the PM TB Free India Campaign.

The tuberculosis screening of the patients visiting the Outpatient Department (OPD) was conducted at health centres and health and wellness centres and sputum of symptomatic persons was collected and also sent for testing. Apart from this, leprosy, kala-azar and filariasis were also examined and persons with possible symptoms were referred for testing.

District Tuberculosis Officer Dr Piyush Rai distributed nutrition buckets among 10 TB patients at the urban community health centre in Durgakund and said that the diet with protein and vitamin is necessary for the TB patients besides the regular consumption of the medicines.

The objective of Integrated Nikshay Day is to identify the maximum TB patients and also ensure their treatment, he said and added that the treatment of TB is possible but there is a need to complete the course of treatment without the gap of even a single day.

The facility of TB test is available all the health centres and government hospitals and one should immediately get one's test after noticing its



The nutrition bucket being distributed to a TB patient at a health centre

symptoms, he said, adding that the family members of TB patients should also get their health tested once in 15 days or a month.

DPC Sanjay Chaudhary informed that if TB is identified in the early days, the patient is cured with complete treatment of six months and added that if TB treatment is left incomplete, it takes a serious form and appears as multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB. To ensure that TB patients do not become drug resistant, the Health department and the District TB Control Unit are doing regular follow-up of the patients. Not

only this, ₹500 per month is sent directly to the patient's account as a nutrition allowance under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, he informed.

District PPM Coordinator Naman Gupta informed that the nutrition buckets were provided to as many as 25 TB patients at Kashi Vidyapith TB Unit and added that the nutrition buckets were distributed to about 218 TB patients at various health centres and TB units of the district.

Dy CMO Dr Amit Singh, Dr Yatish Bhuvan Pathak and others were present at the CHC in Durgakund on the occasion.

DM reviews progress of Mission Indradhanush

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan reviewed the progress of Mission Indradhanush 5 at the Collectorate on Thursday. Reviewing the progress CHC/PHC-wise the DM took the medical officer incharge Gursandi to task for poor progress. For the poor progress the MOICs of Padari, Chunar and Halia were also taken to task and warned to improve the progress. The district magistrate directed the Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS to ask BDOs to hold inter-departmental meetings with CDPOs and other officials concerned to ensure cent per cent vaccination of pregnant women and children up to five years and even those who were left out during Covid. The ANMs were asked to mention the due date of further vaccination. For the success of the Mission Indradhanush 5 the DM instructed the DSO to take help of ration shopkeepers and ensure vaccination as per the norms. The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr CL Varma, DSO, ACOMO and other officials concerned.

Meanwhile DM Priyanka Niranjan has issued an order

to not to issue permission for shutdown without following the protocol. The DM has made it clear that the shut down on phone was a risky task hence it should be done as per the norms.

INSPECTED: Divisional Commissioner Dr Muthukumarasamy B inspected Vindhya Corridor project along with DM Priyanka Niranjan on Thursday. During the inspection the divisional commissioner expressed discontent over the tardy progress in work and took the project manager UPRN to task for laxity. He directed the working agency to complete all streets, roads and paths prior to Navratri in view of Navratri Mela.

Regarding decoration works the DC made it clear that no compromise should be made with the quality. The DC inspected the entry gates of VIP road and New VIP road and issued the necessary directions. During the inspection of Parikrama Path he directed the working agency to ensure the levelling of Kotwali road in a proper way and complete the stone work prior to Navratri Mela. During the inspection the divisional commissioner was accompanied by DM, city magistrate, SLAO Neeraj Patel and other officials concerned.

ARRESTED: The GRP arrested three persons along with two mobile phones and ₹1,900 cash on Thursday. On the direction of Station House Officer (SHO) Anil Kumar Tripathi the GRP personnel were on routine patrol when three suspicious persons were caught from the platform at Chunar railway station. After taking them into custody the police recovered two stolen mobile phones and cash during frisking.

As per the GRP the value of the recovered material was around ₹21,900. After completing the legal formalities the accused were sent to jail. The accused were identified as Rajan Singh of Bargawaan village under Chunar police station.

Meanwhile the Ahraura police have arrested a member of cow smuggling gang on Thursday. Chhangur Yadav of Tihassa village under Chakiya police station, Chandauli, was at large after his name came to light in a case of cow smuggling registered at Ahraura police station. On being tipped off by an informer the police raided the place, nabbed the accused and sent him to jail.



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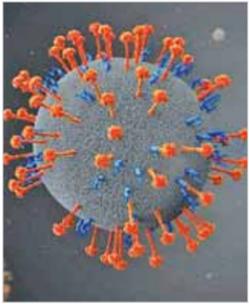
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Take guard!

Nipah virus threatens to become a full-blown crisis; the time to act is now

Human life is vulnerable to not only foreseeable, major threats, such as an asteroid impact or nuclear war, but even to innocuous, invisible pathogens that have the potential to wipe off the entire human race from the face of the earth. If ever a bigger proof was needed, there was the cataclysmic brush with the Coronavirus-19 barely three years ago. The world was forced down on its knees and there was such a dearth of necessary material for the victims' last rites that mass cremations had to be resorted to. By the grace of God, nothing as severe or wide-prevalent yet, but we are in for another shock. Another deadly virus, Nipah, is posing a threat to human life, albeit on a smaller scale. The Nipah virus is currently spreading in Kerala at an alarming rate. It has already claimed five lives and hundreds of other people are showing its symptoms. The virus, a deadly zoonotic pathogen, has emerged as a significant public health concern in recent years. Authorities have been forced to



shut educational institutions in Kerala and the entire country is on high alert. The virus is primarily transmitted from animals to humans, and occasionally from humans to humans, making it a challenging pathogen to control. Nipah virus' natural reservoirs are fruit bats (sounds familiar?). These bats shed the virus in their saliva, urine and faeces, contaminating fruits and other surfaces which come in contact with their excreta.

When humans consume these contaminated fruits or get in close contact with the infected animals, they expose themselves to contracting the virus. Human-to-human transmission occurs through

direct contact with the body fluids of infected individuals, posing a significant risk in healthcare settings. Climate change and urbanisation may have contributed to the geographical spread of the virus as it alters the distribution of fruit bat populations. In a 2018 outbreak in India, it swiftly snuffed out 21 lives. First identified in Malaysia in 1999, Nipah virus outbreaks have since been reported in several countries, including India, Philippines and Bangladesh. There are stark similarities between the Covid-19 and Nipah viruses: Nipah is highly fatal with a 40-70 per cent fatality rate, has no cure and spreads fast. The good news is that the monoclonal antibody has been delivered in Kozhikode by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which can help in treating those infected. The antiviral is the only option available to the government as of now, though its efficacy has not been clinically proven. In this scenario, the only sensible and practical approach is containment and surveillance while creating public awareness without creating panic. The search for a vaccine is ongoing; an effective vaccine could protect individuals at high risks of exposure, such as healthcare workers and people living in outbreak-prone regions. We must fight and defeat the Nipah virus much the same way as we did the Coronavirus.

PICTALK



The Golden Temple being decorated on the eve of the first 'Parkash Purab of Guru Granth Sahib', in Amritsar PTI

Why is G20 Summit a resounding success?

The Summit's success showcased India's capability to unite the world and assume leadership roles in developmental and geopolitical matters

In a recent turn of events at the G20 summit, it was notably Xi Jinping's absence that caught the world's attention. Some speculate that his decision to skip the summit was hailed by other G20 nations. They managed to reach a consensus on a joint communique, a significant achievement given the uncertainty just days before this annual diplomatic gathering.



while compromise. They saw it as a means to strengthen India's standing as a rising power capable of countering China's global influence.

President Joe Biden took the lead in this effort, recognizing India as a key partner in isolating China and Russia, while reinforcing the U.S.-led world order. This outcome reflects Washington's increasing awareness of the concerns of the "Global South," with India playing a central role as its guide. Some analysts interpreted the softened stance on Russia-Ukraine as a Western concession, but it can also be seen as a concerted effort to ensure India's success.

Failing to reach an agreement would have been a significant setback for India, especially for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had staked much on this summit ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. One of the summit's defining moments was President Biden's meeting,

where he discussed initiatives to provide additional funding to developing countries. In a notable photo op, Biden stood alongside World Bank President Ajay Banga (the first Indian American in this role), Prime Minister Modi, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa—key members of the BRICS group, excluding China and Russia. This bloc's expansion poses a challenge to the advanced economies of the Group of Seven (G7).

The United States also announced a separate agreement with India, the European Union, Saudi Arabia, Israel and other Middle Eastern nations to establish an extensive rail and maritime network in the region. President Biden praised this as a "transformative regional investment." This move could potentially reshape the dynamics of the Middle East, emphasizing economic cooperation over human rights concerns. Xi Jinping's decision to skip the G20 summit, his first absence since taking office in 2013, marked a significant departure from his previous



BISHAL KUMAR SAHA

approach.

Last November, he portrayed himself as a statesman seeking positive international relations. China's negotiators, by contrast, risked appearing overly critical, even raising minor issues like Modi's use of a Sanskrit phrase and the U.S.'s bid to host the G20 in 2026. India, on the other hand, seized the opportunity to assert its global leadership position. Prime Minister Modi called it a historic moment, while his chief negotiator, Amitabh Kant, referred to India as the representative of the entire Global South. The summit's outcome showcased India's ability to unite the world and assume leadership roles in both developmental and geopolitical matters. The G20 Summit in New Delhi underscored India's growing influence on the global stage and its pivotal role in challenging China's dominance. It marked a significant shift in international dynamics, with India emerging as a key player in shaping the future of global diplomacy and development. (The writer is a researcher. The views expressed are personal)

The evolution of India to Bharat

Changing our nation's name is an assertion of cultural continuity, affirmation of national pride and repudiation of colonial vestiges



KS RADHAKRISHNAN

The decision to potentially rename India as Bharat has ignited a spirited discourse about identity, history and culture. This proposed alteration transcends a mere linguistic shift; it holds profound implications for the nation's collective consciousness. During his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the imperative to liberate the nation from a subservient mindset, highlighting the need to discard colonial vestiges. What may elude many is that 'Bharat' is the ancient nomenclature for India, rooted in Sanskrit antiquity, symbolising a cultural continuum and national identity antedating the colonial era. The transition from 'Bharat' to 'India' marks a profound journey of cultural, political and linguistic evolution.

Historical Origins

Both "India" and "Bharat" possess deep historical roots in the nation's annals. The term "India" finds its genesis in the Indus Valley Civilisation, a sophisticated society dating back to 3300 BCE. Conversely, "Bharat" finds its roots in the legendary king, Bharata, a forefather of the esteemed Kuru Dynasty, from whom the name is believed to have emanated. His reign epitomised prosperity, unity and a fervent adherence to dharma.

The characterisation of India as the "land of the Hindus" had not solely a religious connotation; it was also linked to the Indus. The term 'India' shares a similar origin story. As per research from the Pune-based Bhandarkar Oriental Institute, the earliest documented mention of the term 'Bharat' can be traced to the Rig Veda and the pivotal Dasarajna war, in which Sudas of the Bharata clan emerged victorious. The legitimacy of 'Bharat' as a descriptor is widely acknowledged, and its adoption might very well become customary in official protocols and foreign affairs communications.

Colonial Influence

In the epoch of Mughal dominion, 'Hindustan' was commonly employed to denote the subcontinent. Nevertheless, with



the advent of British colonisation, 'India' gained ascendancy due to its derivation from the river Indus, a pivotal geographical feature of the region. The linguistic and administrative sway of the British gradually propelled the widespread adoption of 'India' in official documentation, albeit never entirely erasing 'Bharat' from the collective memory of the Indian populace.

Significance of Name Change

The contemplation of renaming "India" to "Bharat" transcends a mere semantic alteration. For many, it embodies a profound immersion into India's opulent cultural and historical essence. Advocates contend that this change could galvanise national unity, fostering a renewed sense of pride in India's rich heritage. It emphasises the diversity that is India, unifying under a shared, indigenous term. "Bharat" harmonises intimately with Hindi, projecting a more authentic representation of the nation's diverse culture. Advocates posit that this renaming could potentially galvanise national unity and rekindle pride in Indian heritage.

Official Recognition

In 2016, an appeal was presented in the Supreme Court of India to amend Article 1 of the Constitution, officially acknowledging 'Bharat' along-



DR AMBEDKAR AGREED THAT THERE WAS A LONG HISTORICAL TRADITION THAT ALLUDED TO THE ENTIRE LAND BY THE NAME OF 'BHARAT'

side 'India'. The plea contended that employing 'Bharat' would evoke a sense of pride in the nation's culturally rich heritage. Although the plea was not granted, it ignited a nationwide discourse on the relevance of 'Bharat' in contemporary times. Advocates argue that using a term from vernacular languages preserves linguistic diversity and bolsters the nation's cultural tapestry.

The name 'Bharat' encapsulates a profound affinity for the land, culture and traditions of the Indian subcontinent. It serves as a poignant reminder of the age-old wisdom and philosophies that have sculpted the nation over millennia. By embracing 'Bharat' as a concurrent identity, India pays homage to its roots and exalts the diversity that defines its character. The Constituent Assembly, convened in 1946, engaged in extensive discussions regarding the country's nomenclature. The majority advocated for the original name, Bharat.

Dr Ambedkar agreed that there was a long historical tradition that alluded to the entire land by the name 'Bharat'. But he also said that there was no reason to go so much into history to justify the name since the name Bharat was quite commonly used by people. Dr Ambedkar suggested that a way out could be to have the phrase 'India, that is

Bharat..' in the Constitution. The National Anthem has a verse "Bharat Bhagya Vidhata", where again we find the mention of Bharat.

The ancient Sangam Tamil literature has also mentioned the term Bharat in its verses. The Sangam literature historically is known as 'the poetry of the noble ones that connotes the ancient Tamil literature and is the earliest known literature of South India.

The Modi government's recent decision to extend invitations to G20 summit delegates in the name of "President of Bharat" and "Prime Minister of Bharat" underscores a deliberate choice. While not negating 'India', the emphasis on 'Bharat' aligns with the BJP's de-colonisation endeavour, seeking to reassert India's Hindu heritage and sever ties with a colonial past.

Should "Bharat" assume a more prominent role in official parlance, it would signify a significant shift in India's self-perception and international representation. This change would resonate not only with a deep-rooted historical narrative but also evoke a sense of pride in the nation's rich heritage. Ultimately, it encapsulates India's ongoing journey of self-definition in a global context.

(The writer is a political activist and an advocate; the views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'CORRUPTION KA HAIWAN'

Sir — Posters featuring former CM of MP and the state's Congress chief Kamal Nath as 'Corruption Ka Haiwan' (Monster of corruption) were put up across Bhopal. The posters used Kamal Nath's face in the style of Shah Rukh Khan's film 'Jawan,' in which the actor's face is covered with bandages. Congress workers were seen removing the posters put up in the city. Notably, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress have been engaging in a war of words for the past couple of days over the issue of corruption. It should be clarified that corruption, inflation, communal riots, etc, have never been seen as much as they have been seen in the recent ruling government. 'Jawan' reflects the current conditions of the country. Therefore, they all should do something for public welfare instead of indulging in rhetoric.

Tauqueer Rahmani | Mumbai

ASIAN CUP FOOTBALL PLAYER SELECTION

Sir — Last year, in the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, players were selected 48 hours before the match against Afghanistan in Kolkata on the advice of an astrologer, and two key players were dropped at the last minute due to bad weather and an unfavorable day. There has been a tradition of reaching the truth through logic and debate for thousands of years in Indian society. Recently, resorting to astrology to assess a player's ability has become a question mark for civilised society. The purpose of the match is to compare and honor the physical abilities and skills of the competing teams. The Football Federation also paid ₹10 to 12 lakh to this astrologer for two months.

An official said that if a professional astrologer is hired to improve the team, what is wrong with that? The question is whether belief in an astrologer, religion, or God is a personal choice. But if players start being identified based on planets and zodiac signs as an institution and that too in the sports field, you will find the youth of the country engaged in correcting their

Salute to our martyrs!



I condole the death of an Army colonel and major, a DSP, a soldier, and an SPO in two separate encounters between terrorists and security forces, and the entire country is condemning this act of terror in unison. The news

of the death of five security personnel, including two officers while fighting the terrorists, is very sad. The entire country is condemning this act of terror as one voice. Tributes to the martyrs. The country will always remain indebted to them and their families. My deepest condolences to their families.

On Wednesday, during an encounter between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, two Army officers and a DSP of Jammu and Kashmir died in the gun battle, while two militants, an army personnel, and a special police officer (SPO) were killed in an encounter between security forces and ultras in Rajouri district of Jammu. With this, all is not well in Jammu and Kashmir under the present regime at the center.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

planetary positions instead of sweating it out on the field in the evening. The sooner this frustrated thinking is ended, the better it will be for the country.

N Ashraf | Mumbai

INDIA CHAMPIONS MULTILATERALISM

Sir — The New Delhi G20 declaration adopted by leaders has demonstrated India's great ability to be a champion of multilateralism and bring the world together on global developmental issues and conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine crisis, said India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on Wednesday. The green development pact, a key part of the declaration, offers a great opportunity for the Indian automotive and components sector to become the global leader in electric and sustainable mobility. This has demonstrated India's great ability, firstly, to be a champion of multilateralism, and its great ability to bring developing countries and all emerging markets together. The declaration has a huge focus on climate action, climate finance, and at the heart of it is a green development pact, which has a major implication for the auto-

mobile sector. This is based on the fact that 20 is on a journey of success that has not been seen in other countries so far.

India's presidency of the G20 marked a significant milestone in the nation's diplomatic journey. As it took the helm of this influential global forum, India embraced the responsibility with a commitment to addressing pressing global challenges. During its tenure, India not only played a pivotal role in shaping critical discussions on issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and economic recovery but also showcased its leadership on the international stage. India's presidency was characterized by a proactive approach to fostering cooperation, inclusivity, and consensus among G20 member countries. It exemplified India's aspiration to contribute meaningfully to the global discourse, making it a memorable and impactful chapter in the country's diplomatic history.

Mohammad Taukir | West Champaran

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FIRST COLUMN

'WABI SABI' IS AN ARTISTIC SENSITIVITY

It represents a precious cache of wisdom that values tranquillity and beauty



SAKSHI SETHI

Charles Darwin wrote: "It is not the strongest or most intelligent species that survive, but rather the most flexible and adaptable."

For ages, Japanese culture has been steeped in tradition and has been known for its unique concepts that have often helped individuals lead a more fulfilling and honouring life. From the twelfth century precisely till date, the term Wabi Sabi has evolved and is referred more precisely to the delightful consideration of what is old and worn.

Wabi-Sabi is a Japanese aesthetic as well as a philosophical concept that emphasises finding beauty in imperfections, accepting the incompleteness and impermanence of life and embracing the natural world. The concept of wabi-sabi can be observed in almost every possibility be it nature, art, food, design, architecture, relationships and even selves. In many art forms in Japan, this notion of prettiness through imperfection is present. One such example is the quintessential artistic application of kintsugi, a Japanese craft for repairing broken pottery.

The term is difficult to define but is typically used to refer to accepting and honouring the imperfect. It is easily applied in everyday life. When an individual embraces Wabi-sabi, they realise that nothing is permanent—even fixed objects are subject to change and taint. By embracing Wabi-Sabi, we learn to let go of our need for perfection and find contentment in the present moment. One just needs to shift their perspective from chasing perfection to appreciating. Nowadays, appreciating the things we have, the people we love, the experiences we have and the opportunity to weave into self-lives is losing its value.



Practising the art of wabi-sabi represents a precious cache of wisdom that values tranquillity, harmony, beauty, and imperfection and at the same time strengthens an individual's resilience in the face of materialism. Wabi Sabi has always valued the acceptance of imperfection. It focuses on gratitude for what we already have, rather than always hankering for something new. It recognises the course of time and its sublime damages. By creating a powerful shift in perspective, an individual feels at peace and content in the current moment.

Often at times we all come up with a situation where we may feel frustrated, feel that things are not as we would like them to be, we wish that some things should have lasted longer and others to be over sooner. We suffer that our plans didn't go as we expected but practising the art of Wabi-Sabi can help us adapt healthily to the changes and endless cycles of life. Practising the art of mindfulness daily to focus on breathing, body sensations or emotions. Reflecting and writing about the moments allow an individual to cultivate perspective and feel a sense of accomplishment and empowerment. It is really important to give love to the scars that have marked lives; one must not forget that each one of them adds value to their personal history.

Remember, learning shifts a person from victim to creator, allowing them to adapt and cultivate a resilient attitude toward change, loss and transition. Wabi Sabi is an artistic sensitivity as much as a temporary feeling of beauty.

(The writer is an educator. Views expressed are personal)

Focus on putting a halt to student suicides



DEVESH VIJAY

Aspiring career-seekers should be given proper counselling to deal with exam-related stress and trained to handle depression and despondency



The spate of suicides by students aspiring for premium undergraduate degrees has shocked the nation lately. Several commentators have naturally expressed alarm at such tragic curtailment of bright lives in their primes. (Pioneer, September 3). To address the menace, measures have also been suggested for reducing examination stress and for the expansion of career opportunities in diverse fields to save pupils from the gloom of severely limited options presently. Along with this, curbs on coaching institutes that maximise admissions without taking into account the aptitudes and talents of half-informed parents and pupils have also been rightly advocated.

These are promising but inadequate measures for addressing the plague of depression and despondency afflicting a section of our bright adolescents increasingly. Indeed, a broader understanding of the malady of suicides is crucial to escape partial solutions and the predicament of applying remedies that only worsen the disease inadvertently.

THE MENTAL PLAGUE

To begin with, we need to acknowledge that the rise in suicides today is not confined to students alone but appears among youngsters (aged 15-29 years) as a whole and, at a slower rate, in our total population too. Secondly, this phenomenon is not confined to India and is being witnessed even more alarmingly in countries like the USA, Russia, the UK etc., among girls and young women. Thus, the number of student suicides, in India, rose from 9905 to 13089 between 2017 and 2021. However, suicides in our population as a whole rose from 10.5 per lakh to 12 per lakh over the same period. Even more significantly, the proportion of youngsters' suicides among all suicides rose most sharply and constitutes a third



THE ENTRY OF AN AGGRESSIVE COACHING CULTURE, EVEN IN MOFUSSIL TOWNS, AND THE GAPING LACK OF DECENT JOBS FOR EDUCATED YOUTH FURTHER ADDED TO THE GLOOM AROUND OUR STRUGGLING YOUTH

(The writer is an associate professor (retired); views are personal)

of all suicides now.

These figures, however, tell us only about registered suicides, as per the National Crime Records Bureau website and are expected to report only about a fifth or even a tenth of actual cases, given the stigma and criminal implications of the act, according to several intensive studies reported in the Indian Journal of Psychiatry. As pointed out above, global suicide rates have also risen in most countries since the late 2000s. For example, in the USA, among adolescents (15 to 19 years old), the incidence of suicides rose from 8 per lakh in 2012 to 12 per lakh in 2021. (Refer ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

Thus, the problem of youth suicides is only partly a consequence of exam stress. More significantly, the trend of rising suicides among Gen Z (born between 1995 and 2010) and Gen Alpha (born in the last decade) has been even worse in the West than in emerging economies. A lot is happening in youth culture lately that is worrisome and demands understanding as well as action from the government as well as civil society.

THE PARADOX

suicides youth graph on the outside, youngsters' worlds seem much more happening and comforting in all countries now. Many advancements are striking in youths' upbringing today including a rise in welfare support from the state, the arrival of many more gadgets and conveniences as well as greater respect and freedom for youthful ways across cultures. Besides this general improvements in living

standards, life expectancy, literacy and awareness etc. and the expansion of 'freedoms' in the post-modern world (including slow improvements in pedagogy and teachers' and parents' attitudes towards students), over the past two generations, were also expected to reduce stress among students and youth in general.

Contrary to expectations, however, clear signs of rising ailments, mental health issues and suicides among the young have emerged, as signalled above. This paradoxical trend has been explained often concerning the increased suffering brought by an explosion of expectations, created by greater exposure to social media that enveloped young lives, especially after the late 2000s, even in the countryside. Within India, simultaneously, the entry of an aggressive coaching culture, even in Mofussil towns, and the gaping lack of decent jobs for educated youth further added to the gloom around our struggling youth.

DEEPER CAUSES

But anxieties spawned by social media exposure and bleak employment prospects are not the only ills overwhelming our youth today; the multiplication of lethal drugs, eroding family ties and relationships, rising divorces and incidence of childless couples, ailments related to junk foods and sedentary, air conditioned living and the general egotism amidst receding 'faith' especially among youth, all seem to be constructing increasingly fragile adolescent psyche.

More indirectly, the rise of woke ideologies in post-modern set-

tings (incentivising every conceivable minority and victim card, and breakdowns in the face of presumed micro-aggression) have also played a role in the 'coddling' of young minds. Lastly, we need to reflect and research whether soft parenting and teaching themselves (which were promoted to alleviate stress among pupils) could be aggravating mental fragility and promoting suicides for reasons our ancestors would never have.

REMEDIES

What remedial action can we propose in this dire context? A major strategy to try would be revamped pedagogy or education that gives formal and credited stress on character building through meditation and fitness training as well as free use of biographies and biopics (self-chosen by pupils from libraries or online) in pupils' assessment and every level. Secondly, career guidance and counselling (including free online consultancy with accessible reputed professionals) need to be made available in all senior schools to save students from uninformed career choices. Thirdly, reasonable curbs on anonymous trolls on social media platforms and reappraisal of laws and customs eroding family ties also need serious consideration. Lastly, it is worth noting that any investment in a culture of hope ushered by pending reforms in our aged police, lower judiciary welfare delivery etc. would offer a maximum boost to the morale of Gen Alpha which is now at the cusp of serious technological disruptions in employment and social life.

Rural girls in hilly areas have a right to play and shine

Young women in Uttarakhand's rural areas must be provided with facilities for sports so they can excel in games of choice and break the glass ceiling

In a recent viral sensation, a captivating two-minute video featuring the French men's football team took the internet by storm. The clip showcased the players in action, exuding unmatched passion and boundless energy on the field. But here's the twist that left viewers astonished: halfway through, it was unveiled that the spirited athletes on display weren't the men's team but rather the immensely talented women's football squad. What made this revelation all the more intriguing was that the entire montage was, in fact, a meticulously crafted deepfake. This creative advertisement served as a powerful reminder that in the world of sports, gender should never be a limiting factor.



MEENA LINGDIYA

(The writer is a student from Ganigaon village in Bageshwar, Uttarakhand. The views expressed are personal. Charkha Features)

In India, however, sport is largely associated with men and masculinity as women struggle hard to create a space for themselves in the field. A report published by BBC in 2020 revealed that less than 30% of Indian women played any sports. It also revealed that 37% of respondents said female athletes are not feminine enough, and 38% said sports featuring women are not as entertaining as sports featuring men. These gender biases in the realm of sports become particularly pronounced in rural areas, where women must confront deeply ingrained patriarchal norms and challenges to secure the basic freedom of venturing beyond their homes, let alone pursuing sports.

In the remote villages of



Garur block of Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand, girls are still denied the opportunity to play. Even in schools, they are discouraged from participating in sports. Despite their interest in sports, girls from Ganigaon village, like Kavita, a 12th-grade student, feel restricted. Kavita says, "It is essential for girls to play. When I was in 10th grade, I had a strong desire to play, but my family didn't allow me to go

out. They said, 'What's the point of playing? Focus on your studies.' But I believe that sports should now be considered a subject within education. Schools and colleges are starting to teach sports as a subject, where girls can build their future. However, in our village, girls are still discouraged from playing."

Another 18-year-old girl from the same village, Hema Rawal, says that girls in her vil-

lage are not encouraged to play. Even if a girl wants to excel in sports and is good at it, she is not allowed to play. In such cases, family members argue that after marriage, there will be no time for sports, and household chores will take precedence. This is why our talents, identity, and aspirations are suppressed because we are not given opportunities. Geeta Devi, a 25-year-old girl from Lamchula, says, "It is true that just as playing is essential for boys, it is equally important for girls. The freedom that boys have should also be given to girls. They have the right to live life on their own terms. If a girl wants to make her future in sports, she should have that right. In our village, we need to raise our voices for girls to play because people

think, 'What will girls achieve by playing? Ultimately, they will have to prioritize marriage and the household chores.'"

Rajni Devi, at the age of 45, fondly reminisces about her childhood when she and her friends used to engage in spirited play. Whenever they would play games like "gullidanda", onlookers made fun of them. This is a game for boys, they would taunt. This made Rajni question why such boundaries existed. They couldn't even play with the toys we liked. To her, it seemed like an unnecessary restriction for girls like her, who hailed from a humble rural background. Back then, they had little exposure to the wide world of sports, where girls could carve their destinies just as boys did. Today, as girls con-

tinue to make strides in various fields, there remains a persistent gender bias in the realm of sports. At times, it's puzzling how society fails to recognize that playing sports is equally crucial for girls. They, too, have the right to shape their lives according to their passions.

Social worker Neelam Grandy from the nearby Charson village emphasizes that playing is just as essential for staying healthy as eating and education. "For girls, sports are just as essential as they are for boys. It is the prevailing gender biases that complicate girls' access to sports." To address this issue, we must endeavour to transform mindsets while concurrently establishing an environment that provides girls with facilities to play.

Community members in Seattle demand justice for Jaahnavi

PTI ■ SEATTLE

Demanding justice for Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula and the resignation of two Seattle police officers, more than 200 people from different communities held a rally at an intersection where she was struck and killed by a speeding police patrol car.

Kandula, 23, was struck by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave when she was crossing a street on January 23. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 kmh) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. 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.

More than 200 people on Thursday took to the Seattle intersection where Kandula was fatally struck by an officer's cruiser in January, the Seattle Times newspaper reported.

They called for accountability for the officer who killed her and for a police union leader's comments about the crash, which some described as "disgusting" and "abhorrent."

Participants at the rally in South Lake Union called for the resignation of Auderer and the officer who struck Kandula, Dave.

Speakers at the rally criticised the police system, saying it is built on white supremacy, and the criminalising and



undervaluing of the lives of Black and Indigenous people and other people of colour, the report added.

Signs read "Jail killer cops," "Justice for Jaahnavi," and "End

police terror." People living in nearby apartments came to join the crowd.

Seattle resident Rafael McPeck said he hoped to send a message that police officers

can't get away with killing someone while speeding through city streets or making comments questioning the value of someone's life.

"It's absolutely disgusting," said McPeck, a member of the Seattle Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, which organised the rally.

Another rallygoer, Kyla Carrillo, expressed anger at the number of months that have elapsed without accountability for Kandula's death.

Carillo said she remembered attending a protest in January after Kandula was killed, adding that she and others gathered won't stop until Kandula receives justice and can then rest in peace.

"I don't understand how many times the Seattle Police

Department can show us they don't care about people's lives," she said. Auderer, the vice president of the Seattle Police Officers Guild, reportedly on a phone call with Union President Mike Solan, appears to talk about what might happen if the victim's family sued the department.

"Yeah, just write a check. USD 11,000. She was 26 anyway. She had limited value," Auderer said during the call.

In response, Governor Jay Inslee said on Thursday, "It's hard to think of more hurtful things to say to magnify the scope of an already terrible tragedy than what is said in that video."

"I was heartbroken. I was disgusted," said Joel Merkel, a co-chair with the Seattle

Community Police Commission. "What the community wants. What the police commission wants is a culture change in SPD. "The most important thing is that the investigation is done fair and impartially."

Deepali Jamwal owns a dance studio a block from where the fatal collision happened. "After he said she is dead, and he laughed it is haunting me," said Jamwal. "I just want everyone to come together and fight for justice for Jaahnavi. She was one of us and this feels too close to home."

The officer who hit and killed Kandula has not been criminally charged. "The people that are in charge of enforcing the rules are not made accountable when they break them.

The system is failing," said Ray Mitchell, with the Seattle Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression (SAARPR). Kandula was set to graduate this coming December with a master's degree in information systems from the Seattle campus of Northeastern University. Her family said she was working toward supporting her mother in India.

India has taken up Kandula's case with the US government as well as with local officials in Washington state.

"Recent reports including in media of the handling of Ms Jaahnavi Kandula's death in a road accident in Seattle in January are deeply troubling," the Consulate General of India in San Francisco tweeted on Wednesday.

Pak SC scraps amendments made to anti-graft laws

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

In a landmark ruling, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday scrapped the recent amendments to the country's anti-graft laws and restored corruption cases against public office holders, including former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who was one of the major beneficiaries of the changes. The apex court was announcing its reserved decision on jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's plea filed last year, challenging the amendments made to the accountability laws by the then government led by former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, the younger brother of Nawaz Sharif.

Nawaz Sharif, 73, is scheduled to return to Pakistan on October 21 from London, ending his four-year-long self-exile.

A three-member bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah issued a reserved judgment by a 2-1 majority. Justice Shah disagreed with the major-

ity verdict. Annulling the changes by the government headed by Shehbaz Sharif, the court declared that amendments, like limiting the jurisdiction of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the anti-corruption watchdog, to the cases involving over Rs 500 million, were against the Constitution.

It restored corruption cases against public officeholders. The court directed that the cases withdrawn after NAB's jurisdiction was limited to investigating cases below Rs 500 million be fixed for hearing in accountability courts. It also declared the verdicts issued by the accountability courts null and void in light of the amendments made to the laws and directed the NAB to send the record to the relevant courts within seven days.

"Chairman Imran Khan stands vindicated yet again as the Supreme Court has put a halt to NRO 2 by declaring NAB Amendments illegal, and reopening the corruption cases against the cabal of crooks," a post that appeared on the jailed former prime minister's X account said.

Kakar refuses to give out general election date

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar on Friday refused to give a date for the country's general elections, asserting that it was the job of the election authorities. Kakar was speaking at a press conference after a meeting at the PM House when he was asked if he would like to set a date for the upcoming national elections.

"If I were to announce elections, I would be engaging in an unlawful act, and as a journalist, you should be aware that if you steer us towards illegal actions and pose questions that might tempt us to break the law, then what should my response be?" he said.

He was asked the same question earlier this week and responded that it was for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to decide a date.

The date for the general

elections has become a controversial matter in Pakistan as polls should be held within a constitutionally mandated 90-day period after the dissolution of the National Assembly, which was done on August 9.

However, just days before the end of its term, the previous government endorsed the results of the countrywide census.

The decision made it mandatory for the election commission to devise new electoral districts before elections, for which it has been provided 120 days by the country's constitution.

The ECP has announced to complete the delimitation process by November 30 and then announce election schedules, which are expected to be held in January. However, President Ari Alvi and some political parties insist the elections should be held within 90 days.

Rishi Sunak vows to ban bully dogs in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Friday vowed to ban a dangerous breed of dog known as American XL Bully behind a number of recent attacks, most recently believed to be behind a man's death this week in Staffordshire.

The British Indian leader issued a video message to say he shared the public's "horror" over the spate of attacks and that he had ordered urgent work to define and ban the American XL Bully dog breed. The issue has been in the headlines since last week when an 11-year-old girl suffered serious injuries after being attacked in Birmingham by a similar breed. "The American XL bully dog is a danger to our communities, particularly our children," said Sunak in his message recorded at 10 Downing Street.

"I share the nation's horror at the recent videos we've all seen. Yesterday we saw another suspected XL bully dog attack, which has tragically led to a fatality. It is clear this is not about a handful of badly trained dogs, it's a pattern of



behaviour and it cannot go on," he said.

Sunak pointed out that under current laws, owners already have a responsibility to keep their dogs under control, but he wanted to reassure people that he is urgently working on ways to stop these attacks. "Today I have tasked ministers to bring together police and experts, to firstly define the breed of dog behind these attacks, with the view to then outlawing it. It is not currently a breed defined in law, so this vital first step must happen fast. We will then ban the breed under the Dangerous Dogs Act and new laws will be in place by the end of the year,"

said Sunak. "These dogs are dangerous. I want to reassure the public that we will take all necessary steps to keep people safe," he added.

Members of the public tried to help as the latest victim was attacked by two dogs outside a property in Stonnall, Staffordshire in the West Midlands region, on Thursday afternoon, while police said they stopped some children leaving a nearby primary school for "safety reasons".

The critically injured man was taken to hospital where he was later declared dead.

"Ambulance staff administered advanced life support and advanced trauma care to him at the scene," a West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesperson said. "Treatment continued en route to Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he was conveyed by land ambulance for further treatment. Unfortunately, after arrival at the hospital, despite the best efforts it became clear that nothing more could be done to save him and he was confirmed deceased," the spokesperson said.

China sending Vice President to represent country at UNGA session

AP ■ TAIPEI

China is sending Vice President Han Zheng to the UN General Assembly's annual high-level debate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



said Friday, suggesting that the country's most senior diplomat, Wang Yi, will not attend.

This year's gathering of world leaders at United Nations headquarters in New York starts Monday with a sustainability summit. The weeklong general debate gets underway on Tuesday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has not attended the UN session in person for several years. He participated via video conference during the first two years of the coronavirus pandemic.

Wang Yi attended last year and generally represented China at the UN. Wang is the head of the foreign affairs committee of China's Communist Party. He was not mentioned in the ministry's announcement.

Han is a past member of the Politburo Standing Committee, an elite group of leaders within the party. He retired from that position but assumed the position of vice president in March. Han's continued political career parallels the one of Wang Qishan, who played an influential role in the past several years in managing the tense US-China relationship. Wang led the Communist Party's disciplinary body and was a member of the Politburo Standing Committee. He retired at the end of 2017 but was brought back to serve as vice president in 2018. The absence of Beijing's top leader at the General Assembly may not be as conspicuous as Xi not attending the Group of 20 summit that took place in India earlier this month. The British government announced in August that Prime Minister Rishi Sunak would not attend the upcoming UN session. French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin also do not plan to be there.

Pakistani father charged with murder of 10-year-old in UK

PTI ■ LONDON

A Pakistani father, his female partner and his brother who were part of an international hunt after a 10-year-old girl was found dead in a town in south-east England were on Friday charged with her murder after being flown in from Pakistan.

The UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said it authorised charges against Urfan Sharif, 41, Beinash Batool, 29, and Faisal Shahzad Malik, 28, related to the murder last month of Sara Sharif in Woking, Surrey. The trio appeared at Guildford Magistrates' Court and have been remanded in custody.

"The CPS has authorised Surrey Police to charge Urfan Sharif with the murder of his 10-year-old daughter Sara. Charges of murder have also been authorised against Beinash Batool, Mr Sharif's partner, and his brother Faisal

Shahzad Malik," the CPS statement said.

"A further charge of causing or allowing the death of Sara has been authorised against all three individuals," it said.

All three were arrested on Wednesday evening at Gatwick Airport as they disembarked a flight from Dubai after they had been traced by police in Pakistan.

Surrey Police had discovered Sara Sharif's body at a residential address in Woking on August 10 following an emergency call, which was made by a man identifying himself as the girl's father and was later traced to Islamabad. A post-mortem examination found Sara Sharif had sustained "multiple and extensive injuries".

The police force said the girl's mother, Olga Sharif — of Polish origin, had been informed of the latest developments and was being sup-

ported by specialist officers.

Sara's five siblings, aged between one and 13 years old, also travelled to Pakistan with Sharif, Batool and Malik. Earlier this week, they were found by police in Pakistan at the home of Sharif's father and have since been moved to a government childcare facility in the country.

The CPS said as criminal proceedings are now active, all those charged have a right to a fair trial.

"It is extremely important that there should be no reporting, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice these proceedings," it said. Investigation into the case led to the involvement of international agencies, including Interpol, the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), to progress enquiries with the Pakistani authorities.

Libya evacuates flooded city as searchers look for missing 10k

AP ■ DERNA

Libyan authorities evacuated residents from an inundated city Friday and limited access to it, as searchers dug through mud and hollowed-out buildings for 10,000 people missing and feared dead in flooding that has already killed more than 11,000. Authorities warned that disease and explosives shifted by the waters could claim yet more lives. Two dams collapsed in exceptionally heavy rains from Mediterranean storm Daniel early Monday, sending a wall of water several metres high gushing down a valley that cuts through the city of Derna.

The unusual flooding and Libya's political chaos contributed to the enormous toll. The oil-rich state has been split since 2014 between rival governments in the east and west backed by various militia forces and international



patrons. The disaster has brought rare unity, as government agencies across Libya's divide rushed to help the affected areas. But relief efforts have been slowed by the destruction after several bridges that connect the city were destroyed.

Heaps of twisted metal and flooded cars littered Derna's streets, which are caked in a tan

mud. Teams have buried bodies in mass graves outside the city and in nearby towns, Eastern Libya's health minister, Othman Abduljaleel, said.

But officials worried that thousands more were yet to be found. Bodies "are littering the streets, washing back up on shore and buried under collapsed buildings and debris,"

said Bilal Sablough, regional forensics manager for Africa at the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"In just two hours, one of my colleagues counted over 200 bodies on the beach near Derna," he said. Divers are also combing the coastal waters off of the city.

Adel Ayad, a survivor of the flood, recalled watching as the waters rose to the fourth floor of his building.

"The waves swept people away from the tops of buildings, and we could see people carried by floodwater," among them his neighbours, he said.

To allow emergency crews to do their work, residents would be evacuated from Derna and only search-and-rescue teams would be allowed to enter, Salam al-Fergany, director general of the Ambulance and Emergency Service in eastern Libya, announced late Thursday.

TikTok hit with \$368 mn fine under Europe's strict data privacy rules

AP ■ LONDON

European regulators slapped TikTok with a USD 368 million fine on Friday for failing to protect children's privacy, the first time that the popular short video-sharing app has been punished for breaching Europe's strict data privacy rules.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission, the lead privacy regulator for Big Tech companies whose European headquarters are largely in Dublin, said it was fining TikTok 345 million euros and reprimanding the platform for the violations dating to the second half of 2020.

The investigation found that the sign-up process for teen users resulted in settings that made their accounts pub-

lic by default, allowing anyone to view and comment on their videos. Those default settings also posed a risk to children under 13 who gained access to the platform even though they're not allowed.

Also, a "family pairing" feature designed for parents to manage settings wasn't strict enough, allowing adults to turn on direct messaging for users aged 16 and 17 without their consent. And it nudged teen users into more "privacy intrusive" options when signing up and posting videos, the watchdog said. TikTok said in a statement that it disagrees with the decision, "particularly the level of the fine imposed." The company pointed out that the regulator's criticisms focused on features and settings dating back three

years. TikTok said it had made changes well before the investigation began in September 2021, including making all accounts for teens under 16 private by default and disabling direct messaging for 13- to 15-year-olds.

Most of the decision's criticisms are no longer relevant as a result of measures we introduced at the start of 2021 — several months before the investigation began," TikTok's head of privacy for Europe, Elaine Fox, wrote in a blog post.

The Irish regulator has been criticized for not moving fast enough in its investigations into Big Tech companies since EU privacy laws took effect in 2018. For TikTok, German and Italian regulators disagreed with parts of a draft decision

issued a year ago, delaying it further.

To avoid new bottlenecks, the Brussels headquarters of the 27-nation bloc has been given the job of enforcing new regulations to foster digital competition and clean up social media content — rules aimed at maintaining its position as a global leader in tech regulation. The Irish watchdog also examined TikTok's measures to verify whether users are at least 13 but found they didn't break any rules.

The regulator is still carrying out a second investigation into whether TikTok complied with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation when it transferred users' personal information to China, where its owner, ByteDance, is based.

Joe Biden to impose more Iran sanctions

Washington (AP): President Joe Biden marked the anniversary Friday of the Iranian woman who died while being held by the country's morality police by announcing the US will impose more sanctions on Iranian people and firms that will target "some of Iran's most egregious human rights abusers."

Mahsa Amini had been detained by Iran's morality police for allegedly wearing her headscarf too loosely in violation of laws that require women in public to wear the Islamic headscarf. The 22-year-old died three days later in police custody. Biden said the US reaffirms its "commitment to the courageous people of Iran who are carrying on her mission." They are inspiring the world with their resilience and resolve.

Princess Diana's sweater smashes records to sell for \$1.1 million

AP ■ LONDON

A red sweater adorned with a flock of sheep worn by the young Princess Diana has sold at auction for USD 1.1 million, many times its presale estimate and a record for an item owned by the late royal.

The playfully patterned wool jumper featuring a single black sheep in a grid of white ones was bought by an unidentified bidder at Sotheby's online Fashion Icons sale.

The auction house had valued it at between USD 50,000 and USD 80,000 ahead of two weeks of bidding that ended Thursday.

With 15 minutes left until the sale closed, the highest offer stood at USD 190,000, but leapt to USD 1.1 million after a final flurry of bids. The pre-



vious record for a piece of Diana memorabilia was USD 604,800 for a Victor Edelstein-designed ballgown sold by Sotheby's in January.

The sale also smashed the existing auction record for a sweater, the USD 334,000 paid in 2019 for Kurt Cobain's green cardigan from Nirvana's MTV Unplugged concert. The 19-year-old Lady Diana Spencer was photographed in the eye-catching ovine garment at a polo match in June 1981, soon

after her engagement to Prince Charles, who was then heir to the British throne.

Diana was already becoming a style icon — and one of the world's most photographed women — and the moment gave a big boost to designers Sally Muir and Joanna Osborne, who made the sweater for their small knitwear label Warm and Wonderful.

A few weeks later, Muir and Osborne received an official letter from Buckingham Palace explaining that Diana had damaged the sweater and asking whether it could be repaired or replaced.

The original was returned, showing damage to a sleeve the designers thought might have been caused by snagging on Diana's diamond and sapphire engagement ring.

Kim gets a close look at Russian fighter jets

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected Russia's most advanced fighter jet as he toured an aircraft factory Friday on an extended trip that has raised concerns about banned weapons transfer deals between the increasingly isolated countries. Since entering Russia aboard his armoured train on Tuesday, Kim has met President Vladimir Putin and visited weapons and technology sites, underscoring deepening ties between the two nations locked in separate confrontations with the West. Foreign governments and experts speculate Kim will likely supply ammunition to Russia for its war efforts in Ukraine in exchange for receiving advanced weapons or technology from Russia.

On Friday, Russia's state media published videos showing Kim's train pulling into a station in the far eastern city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur and Kim's convoy sweeping out of the station on the way to the city's aircraft factory.

Russia's Cabinet later released video showing Kim, on an elevated platform, looking at the cockpit of the Su-57



In this photo released by the Khabarovsk Krai region government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, looks at a military jet cockpit while visiting a Russian aircraft plant that builds fighter jets in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, about 6,200 kilometers (3,900 miles) east of Moscow, Russia, Friday.

Russia's most sophisticated fighter jet - while listening to its pilot, Kim beamed and clapped his hands when a Su-35 fighter jet landed after a demonstration flight.

According to a Russian Cabinet statement, Kim visited a facility producing Sukhoi SJ-100 passenger planes as well, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

"We have shown one of

our leading aircraft plants to the leader of (North Korea)," Manturov said in the statement. "We are seeing potential for cooperation in the aircraft-making and other industries, which is particularly acute for solving our countries' task of achieving technological sovereignty."

Kim travels next to Vladivostok to view Russia's Pacific fleet, a university and other facilities, Putin told

Russian media after he met with Kim on Wednesday.

Putin on Friday briefed Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko about his summit with Kim. During their meeting in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Lukashenko suggested that Belarus could join Russia and North Korea in "three-way cooperation."

It was Kim's first foreign trip since April 2019, when he visited Vladivostok for his first meeting with Putin. The 2019 Russian visit came two months after Kim failed to win badly needed sanctions relief from the United States during a second summit with then U.S. President Donald Trump in Vietnam.

Kim's earlier trip was likely primarily meant to seek Russian help to overcome the brunt of the U.S.-led sanctions. But this time, Putin appears to be desperate to receive North Korean conventional arms to replenish his exhausted inventory in the second year of Russia's war in Ukraine. Experts say Kim, in return, would seek Russian assistance to modernize his air force and navy, which are inferior to those of rival South Korea while Kim has devoted much of his own resources to

his nuclear weapons program.

Asked whether Russia asked North Korea to send troops to fight alongside Russian soldiers in Ukraine, Putin flatly dismissed the idea, calling it "sheer nonsense," according to Russia's state media.

Putin reiterated that Russia would abide by U.N. sanctions, some of which ban North Korea from exporting or importing any weapons. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov separately said that no agreements on bilateral military cooperation were signed after the Putin-Kim meeting Wednesday.

Experts say it's highly unlikely for North Korea to participate in the Russia-Ukraine war, though it has publicly supported Moscow's invasion. But they say North Korea and Russia aren't likely to publicize any deals on weapons supplies to avoid stronger international criticism. The Kim-Putin summit took place at the Vostochny Cosmodrome, Russia's most important domestic launch center. The venue is probably linked to North Korean struggles to put into space an operational spy satellite to monitor U.S. and South Korean

military movements. Asked if

Russia and North Korea could cooperate in space research, Putin said: "That's why we have come here. (Kim) shows keen interest in rocket technology. They're trying to develop space, too." Since last year, the US has accused North Korea of providing ammunition, artillery shells and rockets to Russia, likely much of them copies of Soviet-era munitions. South Korean officials said North Korean weapons provided to Russia have already been used in Ukraine.

On Thursday evening, the national security advisers of the US, South Korea and Japan talked by phone and expressed "serious concerns" about prospective weapons deals between Russia and North Korea. They warned that Moscow and Pyongyang would "pay a clear price" if they go ahead with such deals, according to South Korea's presidential office.

After a meeting in Seoul discussing the allies' nuclear deterrence strategies, U.S. and South Korean officials on Friday stepped up their condemnation of the recent moves by Russia and North Korea.

Russia's Putin meets Belarusian President

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted a meeting Friday with his Belarusian ally, who suggested that Minsk could join Moscow's efforts to revive an old alliance with Pyongyang after this week's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko made the proposal as he met with Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, where the Russian leader said he would brief him on Wednesday at the Vostochny spaceport in Russia's Far East.

"I would like to inform you about the discussion on the situation in the region, which was quite important, and also to touch on the most acute issue, the situation in Ukraine," Putin said at the start of the meeting.

Lukashenko responded by saying that "we could think about three-way cooperation," adding that "I think a bit of work could be found for Belarus to do there as well."

Kim on Friday continued his trip by visiting an aircraft factory in Komsomolsk-on-Amur to see the latest Russian fighter jets. On Saturday, he is

scheduled to arrive in Russia's port of Vladivostok where he is expected to see Russian Pacific Fleet warships and visit a university.

The US and its allies believe that Kim will likely supply ammunition to Russia for use in Ukraine in exchange for receiving advanced weapons or technology from Moscow, a deal that would violate the UN sanctions against Pyongyang that ban any arms trade with North Korea.

Putin said after meeting Kim that Russia will abide by the UN sanctions and he reaffirmed the pledge Friday.

"We never violate anything, and in this case we have no intention to violate anything," he told reporters. "But we certainly will look for opportunities for developing Russian-North Korean relations."

Putin's meeting with Lukashenko was their seventh this year. Lukashenko, who has relied on Russian subsidies and political support to rule the ex-Soviet nation with an iron hand for nearly three decades, allowed the Kremlin to use Belarusian territory to send troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

American, two Russians blast off in Russian spacecraft

AP ■ MOSCOW

One American and two Russian space crew members blasted off Friday aboard a Russian spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on a mission to the International Space Station.



NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara and Roscosmos cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub lifted off in the Roscosmos Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft at 8:44 p.m. local time (15:44 GMT, 11:44 a.m. EDT). O'Hara will spend six months on the International Space Station while Kononenko and Chub will spend a year there. Neither O'Hara nor Chub have ever flown to space before, but they are flying with veteran cosmonaut Kononenko, who has made the trip four times already.

Zelenskyy may visit Washington

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is expected at the White House and on Capitol Hill next week as he visits the US during the United Nations General Assembly. Zelenskyy's trip comes as Congress is debating President Joe Biden's request to provide as much as USD 24 billion in military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine as it fights the Russian invasion.

An administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive visit, said Zelenskyy will meet with Biden at the White House next Thursday. The trip to the Capitol was confirmed by two congressional aides granted anonymity to discuss the plans.

The Ukrainian president made a wartime visit to Washington in December 2022 and delivered an impassioned address to a joint meeting of Congress. At the time it was his first known trip outside his country since Russia invaded in February of that year.

In his speech to cheering lawmakers, Zelenskyy thanked Americans for helping to fund the war effort and said that the money is "not charity," but an "investment" in global securi-

ty and democracy. Details of Zelenskyy's visit next week were not yet being made public. It was first reported by Punchbowl News.

The White House National Security Council declined to comment on Zelenskyy's plans, including whether he would meet with Biden at the White House.

Meanwhile, the Treasury and State departments announced they were imposing new sanctions on more than 150 individuals and entities connected with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the US was "continuing our relentless work to target Russia's military supply chains and to deprive (Russian President Vladimir) Putin of the equipment, technology, and services he needs to wage his barbaric war on Ukraine."

Congress is increasingly divided over providing additional funding for Ukraine as the war is well into its second year. Biden has sought a package of USD 13.1 billion in additional military aid for Ukraine and USD 8.5 billion for humanitarian support. It also includes USD 2.3 billion for financing and to catalyze donors through the World Bank.

EU faces deadline on extending Ukrainian grain ban

AP ■ LONDON

The European Union faced a Friday deadline to decide whether to extend a ban on Ukrainian food from five nearby countries that have complained that an influx of agricultural products from the war-torn nation has hurt their farmers.

Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria still allow grain and other Ukrainian food to pass through on the way to parts of the world in need. The five EU members have said food coming from Ukraine has gotten stuck within their borders, creating a glut that has driven down prices for local farmers and hurt their livelihoods.

The issue has threatened European unity on supporting Ukraine as it fights Russia's invasion.

The leaders of Poland and Hungary have called for a renewal of the import ban on Ukrainian agricultural products, threatening to adopt their own if the EU doesn't act.

"For the moment, it seems that the bureaucrats in Brussels don't want to extend it," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said in a Friday radio interview. "If they don't

extend it by today at midnight, then several countries banding together in international cooperation — the Romanians, the Poles, the Hungarians and the Slovaks — are going to extend the import ban on a national level."

Earlier this week, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that if the ban was not renewed, "we will do it ourselves because we cannot allow for a deregulation of the market."

Government officials reiterated that Friday. Poland's governing Law and Justice party is trying to attract farmers' votes in an October 15 parliamentary election. In a turnaround, Bulgaria lawmakers on Thursday approved resuming imports of Ukrainian food products. Finance Minister Asen Vassilev says the ban has deprived the government of tax revenue and led to higher food prices.

Ukraine praised Bulgaria's decision and urged other countries to follow suit.

"We believe that any decision, either at the European or national level, that will further restrict Ukrainian agricultural exports will not only be unjustified and illegal, but will also harm the common economic

interests of Ukraine, EU member states and the entire European Union, and will have a clear destabilising effect on the global food market," Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

EU spokespeople declined to comment until a decision is made but said at a briefing that officials are in contact with the member states. In July, Russia pulled out of a UN-brokered deal allowing Ukraine to ship grain safely through the Black Sea.

Routes through neighbouring countries have become the primary way for Ukraine — a major global supplier of wheat, barley, corn and vegetable oil — to export its commodities to parts of the world struggling with hunger.

Recent attacks on Ukraine's Danube River ports have raised concerns about a route that has carried millions of tons of Ukrainian grain to Romania's Black Sea ports every month.

It's meant road and rail routes through Europe have grown increasingly important. They aren't ideal for agriculture-dependent Ukraine either, whose growers face higher transportation costs and lower capacity.

Dominican Republic to close all borders with Haiti

AP ■ DAJABON (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)

The Dominican Republic's president announced on Thursday he would close all borders with neighbouring Haiti starting Friday in a dispute over a canal on the Haitian side that would use water from a river along their frontier. President Luis Abinader said air, sea and land borders would close at 6 am local time on Friday and would remain shuttered "until necessary," signalling that last-minute talks between the countries had failed to head off the closure.

It is a rare move for the Dominican Republic, and could hit economies in both countries, though it will be most acutely felt in Haiti.

The closure is a response to the excavation of a canal by a farming group on the Haitian side that targets waters from the Massacre River, which runs along the border shared by the two countries on the island of Hispaniola.

The International Crisis Group said work on the canal had been suspended since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise, and that it resumed based on inaction by the Haitian government, "which has failed to respond to the problems created by the drought in the agricultural area of the Maribou plain."

The organisation has seen no evidence "that suggests there are any major politicians or powerful businesspeople behind it, as the Dominican government has claimed," according to Latin American and Caribbean consultant Diego Da Rin.

Abinader in recent days suspended issuing visas to Haitians and closed the border near the northern town of Dajabon, paralysing a key economic lifeline for Haitians who buy and sell goods there several times a week. Those who live in Haiti but work in the Dominican Republic also cross the border daily.

SL Prez appoints committee to probe accusations on 2019 Easter terror attacks

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday appointed retired Supreme Court Justice S I Imam to head the probe committee to investigate the allegations made by a British channel on the 2019 Easter terror attacks by an Islamist extremist group that killed 270 people, including 11 Indians. UK's Channel 4 aired a documentary titled 'Sri Lanka's Easter Bombings - Dispatches' alleging the involvement and complicity of certain government officials, including intelligence service chief Major General Suresh Sallay, in orchestrating the 2019 Easter suicide bombings. It called the attacks a "crafted act" aimed at forcing a political change in favour of the Rajapaksa brothers - a charge denied by them.

The probe committee will also have two other members, a former commander of Sri Lanka Airforce and a legal luminary, the President's media division said. The attacks that took place on April 21, 2019, were carried out by nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS. A series of devastating blasts tore through three Catholic churches in predominant Catholic areas during the Easter killing nearly 270 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500.

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

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NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No USCL/259 Tender ID: 2023_UAD_307384_1 Dated 14/09/2023

Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Interested parties for "Selection of Agency to Design, Develop, Operate, Manage & Maintain Integrated Smart Parking System at various Parking Lots developed for Shri Mahalak Mahalok at Ujjain on PPP Basis-2nd Call". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Earnest Money Deposit	10,00,000/-
Cost of Document	30,000/-
Probable amount of Contract	NA
Purchase of Tender Start Date	14/09/2023
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	29/09/2023 up to 17:00 hrs

For more details, please visit <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

APPENDIX IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 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 to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 17.10.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 18,80,957/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLO100487596 (Earlier LAN CODE 00002543 of DHFL), by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 06.09.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 07.09.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SUDHARSHAN DEY, SHILPA DEY and ABHISHEK PODDAR.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY			
ENTIRE THIRD FLOOR WITH ROOF / TERRACE RIGHTS OUT OF PROPERTY NO. RZ - B - 22, LAND AREA MEASURING 41,805 SQ. MTR. I.E. 50 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 80/14/1, GALI NO. 8, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE PALAM, AND COLONY KNOWN AS MAHAVIR ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI - 110045, WITH THE PROPORTIONATE AND FREE - HOLD RIGHTS OF THE LAND UNDER THE SAID PROPERTY WITH ONE TWO - WHEELER PARKING RIGHT IN THE STILL AND THE AFORESAID PROPERTY IS BOUNDED AND BUITED AS UNDER:			
EAST :	GALI 5 FT. WIDE	NORTH :	OTHER'S PROPERTY
WEST :	ROAD 15 FT. WIDE	SOUTH :	OTHER'S PROPERTY

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 09.09.2023 Place : NEW DELHI

APPENDIX IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 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 to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 17.10.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 1,20,89,300/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Only) i.e. Rs. 29,32,749/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Nine only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNO10026846; and Rs. 91,56,551/- (Rupees Ninety One Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHENO100270187, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 06.09.2023 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 07.09.2023 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from JAGDEEP KAPOOR, GAURAV KAPOOR, PARVINDER KAPUR, RASHMI KALIA and PAMMI CAR BAZAR (THROUGH THEIR PARTNERS).

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 2,32,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Two Lakh Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 23,20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY			
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEING HOUSE CONSTRUCTED ON PLOT BEARING NO. 199, (D - 199) AREA MEASUREMENT 153 SQ. MTRS., SITUATED IN BLOCK 'D' SECTOR - 49, NOIDA - 201301, UTTAR PRADESH. BOUNDARIES:			
NORTH :	PLOT NO. D - 200	EAST :	PLOT NO. D - 174
SOUTH :	PLOT NO. D - 198	WEST :	12 MTR. WIDE ROAD

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 09.09.2023 Place : NOIDA

Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Striking Hollywood writers to resume negotiations next week

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Contract talks that could end Hollywood's writers strike are set to resume next week, studios said on Thursday. The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents the industry's studios, streaming services and production companies in union negotiations, said in a statement that they had reached out to the Writers Guild of America on Wednesday and the two sides agreed to resume negotiations



eager to reach a fair deal, and to working together with the WGA to end the strike," the statement said.

There are no talks yet planned to settle the actors strike.

Writers have been on strike for 4 1/2 months over issues including pay, job security and regulating the use of artificial intelligence. A previous attempt to restart talks fell flat. The two sides had a handful of meetings in mid-August, including one that included the heads of Disney, Netflix and Warner Bros. Discovery.

Sensex, Nifty hit new lifetime highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty darted up to fresh lifetime highs on Friday, propelled by a rally in global markets and renewed foreign capital inflows.

Besides, buying in telecom, auto and tech stocks also helped markets to settle with gains, traders said.

Rallying for the 11th day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 319.63 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at a record closing of 67,838.63. During the day, it rallied 408.23 points or 0.60 per cent to hit its fresh all-time intra-day high of 67,927.23.

The Nifty went up by 89.25 points or 0.44 per cent to end at its all-time closing high of 20,192.35. During the day, it advanced 119.35 points or 0.59 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 20,222.45.

"Nifty scaled fresh life highs on Friday, rising for the third consecutive session to end at a record close. Sensex rose for the 11th day, the longest streak of gains since October 2007," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,239.72 points or 1.86 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 372.4



points or 1.87 per cent. "Domestic equities continued their winning streak following their global peers boosted by better-than-expected Chinese and US economic data as well as optimism that the European Central Bank may be close to peak interest rates," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Bharti Airtel was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.37 per cent, followed by Mahindra & Mahindra, HCL Tech, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra,

HDFC Bank, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Axis Bank and Nestle. Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv and NTPC were among the laggards. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.27 per cent, and midcap index gained 0.09 per cent.

Among the indices, telecommunication jumped 1.67 per cent, auto rallied 1.48 per cent, tech (1.07 per cent), IT (0.76 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.61 per cent). Commodities, FMCG, utilities, services and oil & gas

were the laggards. "Global equities rose Friday after better-than-expected Chinese economic data added to expectations that tightening campaigns by the world's biggest central banks were close to over," Jasani said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Shanghai settled lower. European equities were trading in the green. The US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Thursday as they bought equities worth Rs

294.69 crore, according to exchange data. "The market is inching towards a new direction with renewed buying in auto and IT stocks in expectation of strong festive demand and a strong deal wins. Better-than-expected economic data from China and stimulus hopes further added optimism in global markets."

"The ECB (European Central Bank) hinted at a potential pause in rates due to receding inflation, while investors are now focused on central bank meetings next week, with the US FED, BoE (Bank of England), and BoJ (Bank of Japan) set to announce their rate decisions," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.26 per cent to USD 93.94 a barrel. "Further lower CPI and wholesale inflation in India are comforting amid the global inflationary scenario."

"Thus, we expect the overall positive momentum to continue, especially in large-cap, while sectoral rotation is likely to be seen in broader market. Next week, the US interest rate decision is due where Fed is expected to take a pause, which might bring relief to global markets," Khemka said.

'India sent strong message with G20 historic consensus'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

By forging an "unprecedented and historic" consensus on the first day of the G20 leaders summit, India sent a strong message to the world that it has arrived, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

The G20 adopted the New Delhi Leaders Summit Declaration on September 9, which is seen as a major breakthrough amid conflicting world views on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

"Every global leader from both sides of the divide in a very broken world wanted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the G20 Presidency of India to succeed, and we were able to forge an unprecedented and historic consensus on the first day itself of the G20 leaders summit, sending a strong message to the world that India has arrived," Goyal said while addressing a CII event on Clean Energy.

He said the world also has seen India's capacity and capability, whether it was during the Covid pandemic or tackling the challenges that have emerged



from the conflict in Ukraine. "...The world has seen India's leadership led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has seen the capability of 140 crore Indians to be able to provide the world with a better deal," the minister said.

Goyal also took a jibe at certain opposition political parties "who were almost being gleeful" that India will not be able to have an outcome document. He said nation endorses effort being made to position India as a global leader, and this was too unfortunately sought to be politicised.

The minister further said larger companies in renewable energy space should be looking at integrating with global companies by engaging in collaborations and partnerships.

India-UK FTA talks: 'Good progress' on bilateral investment agreement: Official

New Delhi: The talks on the proposed free trade agreement between India and the UK are moving and there is "good progress" on issues such as rules of origin and bilateral investment treaty (BIT), a senior official said on Friday.

These were few of the issues where there were differences between the two sides. "Many things are moving very fast. Like rules of origin and bilateral investment treaty, there is a good progress. Negotiations are happening... Towards the end of the deal, it is the difficult issues which are to be closed and therefore it requires more time and more deliberations," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters here.

He said that mobility is also one of the subjects which is being negotiated. The 'rules of origin' provision prescribe that minimal processing should happen in the FTA country so that the final manufactured product may be referred as goods originating in that country.

Under this provision, a country that has inked an FTA with India cannot dump goods from some third country in the Indian market by just putting a label on it.

Tata, UK okay 1.25 bn pound investment for Wales plant



PTI ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

The United Kingdom on Friday announced a joint investment package with Tata Steel worth 1.25 billion pounds, including a government grant of 500 million pounds, for the country's largest steelworks in Wales that will help protect

thousands of jobs and boost the British economy. The government's grant has been dubbed as one of the largest British government support packages in history and a "defining moment" for the country's steel industry. As part of the agreement, the Indian steel giant is expected to invest GBP 1.25 bil-

lion, including the government grant, in a new electric arc furnace and related facilities for greener steel production at Port Talbot in South Wales, currently the UK's largest single carbon emitter.

"This investment will modernise and secure a more sustainable future for the UK steel industry. It will also protect thousands of skilled jobs in the long-term and help grow the economy," UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in a post on social media platform X. Tata Steel UK employs over 8,000 people, including at Port Talbot, which was under serious threat without substantial investment. The company also supports around 12,500 further jobs in the upstream supply

chain. The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) on Friday said the proposal, which is subject to information and consultation processes led by Tata Steel, has the potential to safeguard over 5,000 jobs across Britain.

"The UK government is backing our steel sector, and this proposal will secure a sustainable future for Welsh steel and is expected to save thousands of jobs in the long term," UK Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch said.

According to her, this is a historic package of support from the UK government and will not only protect skilled jobs in Wales but also "grow the UK economy, boost growth and help ensure a successful UK

steel industry". Tata Steel and the UK government have announced a joint agreement on a proposal to invest in state-of-the-art electric arc furnace steel making at the Port Talbot site with a capital cost of 1.25 billion pounds, inclusive of a grant from the government of up to 500 million pounds, the company said in a statement.

The new electric furnace is to replace the existing coal-powered blast furnaces, which are nearing the end of their effective life, and reduce the UK's entire carbon emissions by around 1.5 per cent as a result.

The proposal is subject to relevant regulatory approvals, information, and consultation processes, and finalisation of

detailed terms and conditions. "The agreement with the UK government is a defining moment for the future of the steel industry and indeed the industrial value chain in the UK," said Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran, who had been working with the government in developing a "transition pathway" for sustainable steelmaking in the UK.

"The proposed investment will preserve significant employment and presents a great opportunity for development of a green technology-based industrial ecosystem in South Wales. We look forward to working with our stakeholders on these proposals in a responsible manner," he said.

Exports down 6.86% to \$34.48 bn in Aug; trade deficit at \$24.16 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports declined 6.86 per cent to USD 34.48 billion, the seventh month in a row, in August this year due to a fall in shipments from key sectors like petroleum and gems and jewellery on subdued global demand.

The trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) during the month remained almost flat at USD 24.16 billion. However, it widened on a sequential basis, as it was USD 20.67 billion in July.

According to the government data released on Friday, imports also declined, ninth month in a row, by 5.23 per cent to USD 58.64 billion against USD 61.88 billion recorded in August 2022. Cumulatively, exports during April-August this fiscal contracted by 11.9 per cent to USD 172.95 billion.

Imports during the five-month period fell by 12 per cent to USD 271.83 billion. The trade deficit narrowed to USD 98.88 billion against USD 112.85 billion during April-

August 2022. Briefing media about the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that there is some improvement and it is a "good sign for us". India's exports contracted by 15.88 per cent in July.

He added that till July, there was a pessimism, but now green shoots are visible. "It means the global situation is improving."

The trade deficit, which has always been a concern, but the figures (August) are looking good. It is a soothing factor for the economy," Barthwal told reporters here.

He, however, expressed concerns over rising interest rates in Europe, which may impact their manufacturing and Indian shipments.

Exports sectors, which recorded negative growth in August, include tea, coffee, rice, spices, leather, gems and jewellery, textiles, and petroleum products.

However, 15 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in August including iron ore, electronic goods, oil seeds, cashew, carpet, engineering, pharma and marine products.

Rupee falls 12 paise to close at 83.15 against US dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee fell 12 paise to settle at 83.15 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, dragged down by rising crude oil prices and a strong greenback against major rivals overseas.

However, a positive trend in domestic markets restricted the downside for the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.02 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 82.98 and 83.20.

The rupee finally settled at 83.15 (provisional) against the US dollar, down 12 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee closed 2 paise lower at 83.03 against the US dollar. "The Indian rupee traded in the narrow range amid dollar inflows from the FTSE rebalancing while the



nationalised bank bought the dollar on behalf of oil importers," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Spot USD/INR is expected to consolidate between 82.70 to 83.15 before next week's three major central banks' (Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), Bank of England (BoE) and Bank of Japan (BoJ) policy decisions. "The dovish ECB hike and another round of strong US activity data sent the dollar index (DXY) on another rally above 105," Parmar said. Parmar further

added that the dollar may correct a bit lower in the near term, but the risks remain skewed towards further strengthening, or at least until the US activity picture starts to show some cracks. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell by 0.19 per cent to 105.20.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.28 per cent to USD 93.96 per barrel. On domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 319.63 points or 0.47 per cent higher at 67,838.63. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 89.25 points or 0.44 per cent to 20,192.35. According to exchange data, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in capital market on Thursday as they purchased shares worth ₹294.69 crore.

Tea sector to witness 8% decline in exports: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The tea industry is likely to witness an 8 per cent year-on-year decline this fiscal due to decreasing export volume following the rise in supply from Sri Lanka, a report said on Friday. The operating profitability of the industry will fall for the second year in a row, shedding 100 basis points (bps) to 5 per cent due to lower realisation, Crisil Ratings said in a report.

Profitability had fallen 150 bps last fiscal, primarily because of an increase in wages, the report said, adding that in FY23, wages that constitute 20 per cent of total input cost were hiked by 15 per cent. However, low leverage and negligible capital expenditure (capex) will keep credit profiles stable, the report stated. The tea industry will report 8 per cent year-on-

year degrowth in revenue this fiscal, led by a decline in export volume, the agency said. "Domestic demand, which accounts for 82 per cent of sales volume, should remain steady at 1,100 million kg this fiscal."

However, exports, which make up 18 per cent by volume and 30 per cent by value, may slide 12 per cent year-on-year to 200 million kg. Last fiscal, the export volume had increased 14 per cent due to lower production in Sri Lanka, a major tea exporting country," Crisil Ratings Director Nitin Kansal said.

India, with a share of 11 per cent, is the fourth-largest tea exporter after China, Kenya and Sri Lanka. This fiscal, increased supply of Sri Lankan tea will impact demand for Indian produce as their production is expected to rebound following better availability of

fertilisers and pesticides, said the report.

Sri Lanka predominantly produces orthodox tea, which sees good demand globally because of its quality, and the country accounts for 50 per cent of the global trade. This will lower the realisation of Indian tea companies, with domestic production seen stable at 1,350 million kg this fiscal.

The consequent decline in operating profitability will reduce cash accrual by 40 per cent this fiscal, the Crisil Ratings report noted.

"Low capex intensity and stable working capital cycles will keep borrowings under control. So, the capital structure of tea companies would remain stable, with gearing expected below 0.50 times as of March 31, 2024, in line with historical trend."

Gold climbs ₹210; silver jumps ₹700

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price jumped Rs 210 to Rs 59,810 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid strong cues in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at Rs 59,600 per 10 grams in the previous trade. Silver also climbed Rs 700 to Rs 73,700 per kilogram. In the global markets, gold and silver were trading higher at USD 1,916 per ounce and USD 23.02 per ounce, respectively.

"The dollar index pulled back from its highest level since March and this was seen as a key factor driving some flows towards the gold price. "However, further gains are capped by strong US macro

data that continue to point to an extremely resilient American economy and support the case for further policy tightening by the Fed before the end of the year," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities of HDFC Securities, said.



NPS data revealed addition of 5.2 cr payrolls: SBI report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO and new pension system (NPS) data revealed addition of 5.2 crore payrolls, including 47 per cent fresh jobs, in the last four years, said a recent SBI study.

Since April 2018, the government has been releasing monthly payroll data (EPFO, NPS and ESIC) based on the recommendation given by Ghosh and Ghosh in the study titled, "Towards a Payroll Reporting in India."

"If we analyse the EPFO payroll data trends for the last four years, net new EPF subscriber addition during FY20 to FY23 was 4.86 crore," said the recent SBI's research report 'Ecowrap'. This number, however, consists of new payroll (first payroll), second payroll

(rejoined/resubscribed members) and formalised payrolls. "We subsequently estimated the net new payroll (first job/fresh job) adjusted for re-joined/re-subscribed members and formalization (based on ECR data)."

"As per our calculation, the actual net new payroll was 2.27 crore during FY20 to FY23. The first job is 47 per cent of the total net new payroll," said the report authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI.

According to the report, the second job (or the exited members who re-joined and re-subscribed) stood at 2.17 crore during the four-year period ended FY23. "Increase in formalisation was at 42 lakh in these years, is also a good news," the report said.

Job Pakka Fair offers 3000+ opportunities

New Delhi: CADD Centre, a global leader in skill development, is hosting Job Pakka Fair 2023 on September 16. India's largest talent search event, Job Pakka Fair 2023 caters to civil engineering, EEE/ECE, IT/computer science, architecture, banking, sales & marketing, and more. CADD Centre is committed to facilitating 5000+ placements across six cities.

The event is scheduled to take place at the Greater Noida Institute of Technology and will offer all the necessary facilities for one-on-one interviews facilitating spot offers. More than 80 prominent companies, represented by their technical leaders and HR executives, will conduct interviews and extend job offers to selected candidates on the same day.

Portal for agri-statistics launched to provide data on agriculture

New Delhi: The government on Friday launched a unified portal for agri-statistics (UPAg) that will empower stakeholders to access credible and objective data for taking informed decisions. The UPAg, developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, is a crucial component of digital public infrastructure for agriculture.

The portal aims to address the data related governance challenges such as lack of standardised and verified data, which make it difficult for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to make informed decisions. After launching the portal, think tank Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand said it is a groundbreaking move to address the complex governance challenges facing Indian agriculture. "This innovative

platform, designed to streamline and enhance data management in the agricultural domain, marks a significant step towards a more efficient and responsive agricultural policy framework," he said in a statement.

He also stated that higher the objectivity of data, lower is the scope of judgment in policy making, which translated into stable, transparent and informed decisions. Stating that the portal should ensure data credibility, Chand said a research suggests that one US dollar invested in data generated USD 32 impact. Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja said UPAg Portal was being envisaged as a public good wherein users will benefit by reduced search costs and access to credible, granular

and objective data. The UPAg portal will have key features such as 'data standardisation', 'data analysis', 'granular production estimates', 'commodity profile reports', and 'plug and play'.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER NOTICE
EM/MP/PP/MS-31/2021/PP-1/25 Dt: 12/09/2023
Name of the work "Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of 04 Nos of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations." Estimated cost: Rs.5,28,50,000/- excluding GST. Last date & time of submission of bid: Dt.04.10.2023 upto 1715 Hrs. Refer our Website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and www.paradipport.gov.in.
Sd/- Sr. Dy. Materials Manager
MM Division, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/48/2023-24 Dtd.14/09/2023

Srikanth eyes elusive Asian Games medal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

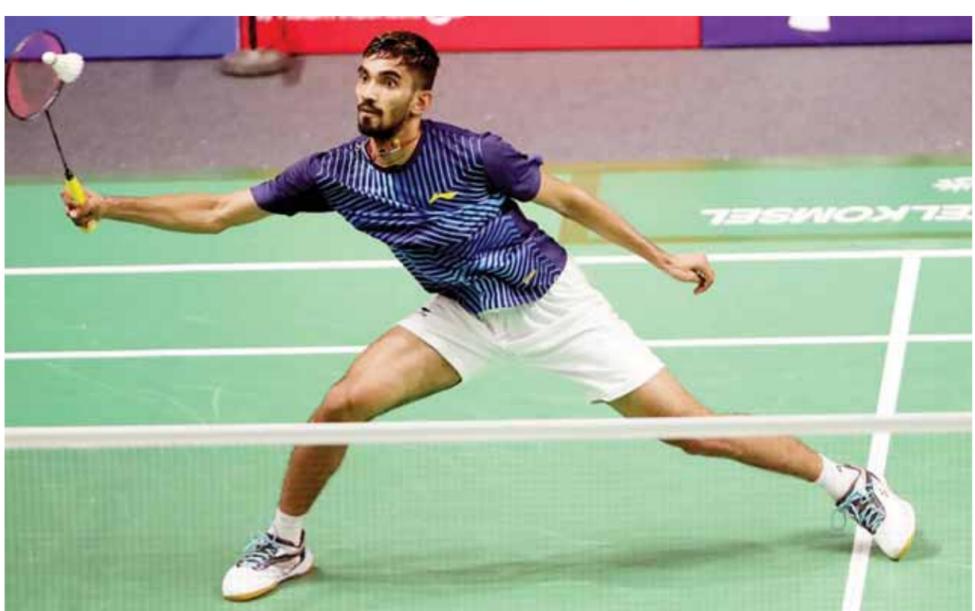
His form a bit wobbly, India's Kidambi Srikanth is trying to iron out the flaws and hoping to be third time lucky, as he chases an elusive Asian Games medal in Hangzhou.

A former world number one, Srikanth, who has endured a topsy-turvy 2023 to fall to world number 21, finished at the round of 16 and 32 in 2014 and 2018 editions of Asian Games at Incheon and Jakarta respectively.

The 30-year-old from Guntur, who has won medals in major events such as the Commonwealth Games and World Championships, earned his place in the Asian Games team after topping the selection trials. Now he wants to make full use of the opportunity to add to his success.

"I didn't have great memories in Asian Games, the last two times I didn't do well in individual events. So this time, if I can play well really than probably can make something for myself," Srikanth told PTI.

"So for me it is quite simple because I have won medal in every other big event except for Asian Games and Olympics, both of which happen once in four years, so this is an oppor-



tunity for me to go and make full use of it this time."

Syed Modi remains the only Indian men's singles player to win a medal -- bronze -- at the Asian Games. He won in the inaugural edition in 1982.

Asked if it adds to the pressure, Srikanth said: "I don't really look at it like that. For me it is more about what I am doing. For me it is about I have an opportunity now and I want to do well."

Talking about his preparation, he said: "For Games like these, say Olympics, world championships, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, the preparation will be a little different compared with any other super series events.

"We have 10-15 events every year, but Asian Games happen every four years and you have to earn your entry in the team. Sometimes even if you are in the top 20 you might not get into Asian Games.

"It is one of the toughest event in badminton. It is an Asian dominated sport and it is going to be tough. To win medal you have to be at your best, really have to try thinking about winning the Asian Games."

Srikanth, however, hasn't been on fire since fashioning

Super series titles, said he is picking the brains of chief coach Pullela Gopichand to regain his lost touch.

"I am talking to Gopi bhैया and understanding what he thinks because he has been travelling in last few months, so trying to understand what are the areas that I need to work on. I am taking his inputs and trying to do it," he said.

"The coach (Mahardi) came in May but I have been playing a lot of tournaments so didn't get much time to really train with him. I think he is still really trying to understand what my natural style is and then trying to prepare programme accordingly.

"It is such a crucial year, we really don't have time to take things slowly, that is one of the reasons I am trying to talk to Gopi bhैया, because he has been training me so many years."

The qualification period for the 2024 Olympics began from May 1 and Srikanth is currently at 22 in the Race to Paris rankings, behind HS Prannoy (3) and Lakshya Sen (6).

"Olympic qualification will always be there in my mind but at the moment I just want to perform consistently. If I can do that in super series and Asian Games then automatically, I will be there in top 12," he said.

"I am looking to perform, probably play semifinals and win some tournament and it will take care of rankings, so I am just focused on performance than ranking."

India haven't won a men's team medal in last 37 years. The country had claimed three bronze medals in men's team events in 1974 Tehran, 1982 New Delhi and 1986 Seoul.

However, India will be going to the Asian Games as the Thomas Cup winners this time.

"It is just a year after Thomas Cup win. We could do well there because all of us could perform on that day when it mattered, so if we can replicate that then we definitely have a chance," Srikanth said.

"We haven't done well as a team in recent past in Asian Games, we won bronze very long time back.

"See every country will come with their best possible team. There won't be easy matches. Individually we have done well. Obviously we have a chance. We have to come together as a team and just have to take it when it is there."



Saurabh finishes 30th in Rio WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Competing in his first major international event in over a year and a half, former world number one Saurabh Chaudhary finished 30th in the men's 10m air pistol event on day one of the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Rio De Janeiro.

The multiple time World Cup gold medalist Saurabh, whose last senior ISSF event was in Cairo in February-March in 2022, shot 572 in the 60-shot qualification round to finish 30th as he failed to advance to the final on Thursday.

Sagar Dangi finished sixth in the event. The 21-year-old shot 157.4 in the final and was the lone Indian to make it to the top eight stage.

Sagar shot 581 in the qualification round to finish second in the 62-strong field. Among the other Indians in the fray, Shravan Kumar shot 576 to finish 15th while Kedarling Uchaganve, competing for ranking points only, shot 576.

Italian Federico Maldini won gold in the event.

A 16-member Indian team is taking part in the Rio World Cup in as many as seven Olympic events. The other gold of the day went to Armenia in the women's 10m air pistol, where India had no representative.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian squash player Dipika Pallikal feels the presence of former world number one James Willstrop and former world champion Grégory Gaultier, in their Asian Games camp, will benefit the team immensely.

She is preparing for the Games at the Indian Squash Academy here.

Speaking to PTI during an interaction on the sidelines of the Asian Games camp, she said, "It's been a good session with them (Greg and James). I have played at the same club as James. So, we have known each other for a long time. It's really nice to have them here and sharing their experiences with us.

"I think initiatives like Greg and James coming down is a great one. It will really help us do well, and hopefully, this trend carries on, and they (SRFI) cater it to the juniors as well,

Training with Gaultier and Willstrop will really help us do well: Dipika

because having them near the juniors and sharing their experience will be great.

The 31-year-old Dipika has won four medals at the Games (three bronze and a silver) and would be eager to win the gold this time around.

Talking about her motivation and what keeps her going, she said, "I don't play in the professional circuit anymore, so it's very hard to keep myself motivated. I have been true to my goals, which I want to achieve. My love for the sport gets me going."

When asked about the pressure to deliver as a senior



player, she noted that while there is no extra pressure on her, she is happy being a part of the team.

"Not really (any pressure). I know for a fact that I will lend my hand to any of the juniors in the team. I have obviously been one of the juniors in the team, and now, I am a senior in the team.

"It's been a long career and journey. I am just happy being a part of the team."

Elaborating on her preparations for the Games, she added, "We still have three more weeks to go for the com-

petition, so we are just trying to fine-tune. We have all trained really hard and worked towards this moment."

Rating India's chances at the Games, Dipika maintained that the key would be to take it one match at a time, besides highlighting that all the players are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

"We have five categories, and in all of them, we are in it to win it. We are seeded very high in all the draws, but it's the Asian Games at the end of the day, and everyone's working hard for it and coming out to play their best.

"The main goal is to get through each category first, obviously, the team events first, followed by the singles and the doubles. Simply, take it one match at a time, and the results will come," she continued.

"Everyone's professional, know what their capabilities are, besides knowing who they are playing against. Everyone knows their game plans.

"The main thing is to stay focused because people get carried away, as because it's the Asian Games that comes once in four years. But, whatever I have experienced for the last 20 years of my career, things will come and go."

"It's just about enjoying that moment, being there for each other and being surrounded by positive thoughts. We are a happy bunch, we get along pretty well, and hopefully, we can make some good memories in China as well."

My aim is to be Formula 1 world champion with Ferrari: Leclerc

AP ■ SINGAPORE

Charles Leclerc has said his overriding aim is "to be world champion with Ferrari" first before any other rival team on the Formula One grid.

Leclerc was speaking in Singapore ahead of this weekend's 15th round of a season that has proved underwhelming for the Scuderia.

"It's been difficult (the first half of the season) but I'm motivated at 200 percent to get back to last year's form with the car and to once again be fighting for wins," he said.

"Because that's where Ferrari deserves to be," insisted Leclerc, who finished second to Red Bull's Max Verstappen in 2022 but is lagging in sixth place ahead of Sunday's race at Marina Bay.

The 25-year-old from Monaco said it was evident



Ferrari had work to do to catch up on rampant Red Bull after finishing fourth in the season-opener in Bahrain.

"After the first race, we realised we weren't at the level we wanted to be at. But there was a huge response from the team," said Leclerc.

"We're aware we have to make up for lost time, there's still lots of work to be done."

He said the situation had been hard to accept, but once recognised all the focus went on trying to produce a car that could compete with Verstappen and his Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez.

With Verstappen going for

his 11th consecutive win and Red Bull having won every race this season, Leclerc recognises Ferrari have their work cut out to gain a win this term.

"To be very honest and realistic I think that for this year it's going to be very complicated," he said.

"But I don't think we'll be able to match Red Bull," he cautioned.

Looking to a brighter future in 2024, Leclerc, whose five race wins have been at the wheel of his Ferrari, said: "Everything is possible for next season with the aim to fight alongside Red Bull."

Leclerc joined the team of his dreams in 2019 with a contract that runs until the end of next season, but he made clear he wants to stick around until he can land Ferrari's first world title since Kimi Raikkonen in 2007.

Navarro stuns Sakkari to reach San Diego semi-finals

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Qualifier Emma Navarro of the United States upset world number nine Maria Sakkari of Greece, winning in a third-set tie-break, to reach the semi-finals of the WTA's San Diego Open on Thursday.

On a strong day for Americans, former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin and Danielle Collins also advanced to the last four.

Kenin will meet 61st-ranked Navarro on Friday while Collins will be up against fourth-seeded Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic, who triumphed against Brazil's Beatriz Haddad Maia.

The 22-year-old Navarro won 6-4, 0-6, 7-6 (7-4) against Sakkari in two hours and 13 minutes.

It was the New Yorker's first win against a top-10 player and continued a good tour-



World number 93 Kenin reached her first WTA semi-final since Hobart in January.

"I'm super happy, I played really well. Good matches under my belt definitely gives me a lot of confidence, so I'm doing everything right," said Moscow-born American Kenin.

"My mindset is there. I'm feisty, energetic, and it's all good," she added.

Collins, who lost to Ash Barty in the 2022 Australian Open final, eliminated France's 10th-ranked Caroline Garcia 6-2, 6-3, in only 67 minutes.

"I felt like I was really feeling my shots and my game, so I was really in a good head-space and flowing the whole match," said Collins.

Collins, ranked 43rd, will have a tough task against Krejickova after she defeated seventh seed Haddad Maia 6-4, 6-3.

Potapova made 15 double faults and landed only 46.4 percent of her first serves to fall in 78 minutes.

The love of playing Davis Cup is missing now for players: Bopanna

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Davis Cup has become just another tournament for the current generation of players.

On the other side, Davis Cup is one tournament where it is believed across the globe that rankings won't matter every time. Even the tiny tennis nations sometimes succeed in flooring the behemoths.

And that belief came from the team unity, proper planning and passionate support coming from the bench and the teammates who would shout their hearts out to support the player on the court from the sidelines.

"There used to be fantastic team atmosphere, which has been kind of lost in the last couple of years. And we need to bring that back," Bopanna said.

"Davis Cup is all about team camaraderie, spending time with the team, being together, everybody coming together. And I think that is a little missing link.



We need to bring it back to have a successful team."

Bopanna, who made his debut in 2002, spoke his mind on the current state of affairs in the side but even he does not know how the team has reached this point.

He struggles to find an appropriate answer but tries to make sense of the situation.

"There's no particular reason why it's happened. I think, in a way, it is just ourselves trying to find each other, you know, understand that the (ATP) Tour is different, Davis Cup is different."

"I have a feeling tennis has become more like a job, not only in the Davis Cup, but in general everybody comes, plays the matches, goes, 30 weeks they travel, they have their own coach, their own physio and everything.

"When I came into the team, it did not matter who

(players) had what differences. In the locker room, that camaraderie was there, no matter what. That is missing."

"Everybody is just focussed on what they need to do (for themselves) and not really figuring out what is (the) best scenario for the team."

Bopanna has played with both Paes and Bhupathi in his career, which will end with his 33rd tie on Sunday.

He actually grew up in their shadow and had to wait for a long time to be the leader of the side in terms of bringing experience to the table.

He paired with Paes seven times in Davis Cup and shared the court with Bhupathi on two occasions.

Talking about those days, Bopanna said playing with the two legends was "extremely different."

"I had to adapt myself to play with anyone on any side...

See what I can bring in. With Leander, I would set up in the net, play that kind of style when he could come to his best. With Mahesh, we would play with a lot of power, both our returns went very quickly. Mahesh had a big first serve.

"When you are trying to play different combinations, you are constantly learning, how can I match up to this person. I have always played with somebody who has played big tennis.

"So, with Leander, I had to unlearn a lot of things to get back and play with him. That was also difficult because I was not used to a lot of things, the chip return, the lob return."

Ask Bopanna what did he learn from them and it again came to team unity.

"The number one thing I learned from these two is fighting till the last point, keep your differences aside and when you are playing for the country,

bring in 200 per cent. Both of them brought that."

Bopanna won't say that it becomes easy to say 'no' to playing for India.

"I don't feel so (but) the love of playing Davis Cup is missing. That is why they haven't been there and don't probably understand. They just look at it as another tournament. The Davis Cup atmosphere... Is why at 43, I'm coming out to play, is what changed my life."

Bopanna said communication with the players is key. Tennis will remain an individual sport but still talking to players, listening to their issues is the key going forward.

"I still want to be very much involved in tennis, because I communicate with all the players all the time. I'm constantly asking them, their calendar, what they're doing, what they're playing, suggestions of what can be done."

SHAKIB, HRIDOY GUIDE BANGLADESH TO 265/8

PTI ■ COLOMBO
Shakib Al Hasan and Towhid Hridoy exploited the reduced firepower in India's bowling attack to score half-centuries and guide Bangladesh to a healthy 265 for 8 in their Asia Cup Super Four match here on Friday.

Shakib played an innings that suited a captain, scoring 80 off 85 balls and Hridoy supported him with a stubborn 81-ball 54, after India put them to bat.

In the context of the tournament, the match did not carry much significance as India have already qualified for the final. They will face Sri Lanka in the summit clash on Sunday.

Hence on the periphery, it made sense that India rested five first-choice players in — Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav.

It also gave India a chance to hand an ODI debut to Tilak Varma, while Mohammed Shami, Suryakumar Yadav, Shardul Thakur and Prasidh Krishna too got some game time.

But in the larger scheme of things, India achieved two goals. The performance was just enough to send a message to Sri Lanka about their readiness for the big day.

The performance of the fringe players might have come as an assurance to the team management about the availability of back-up for any eventuality, such as the continued uncertainty over Shreyas Iyer's fitness.

And none could have



offered a happier omen to them than Shami's spell with the new ball. The veteran pacer started the day's proceedings on a cracking note, disturbing the

stumps of Litton Das. Shami made the ball move off the seam that tiny bit to beat Das, who failed to get behind the ball.

Thakur (3 for 65) too got into the act in his own style. He was the most expensive of India bowlers going over six runs an over, but kept chipping at

Bangladesh line-up with a couple of wickets. Shakib, who added 101 runs for the fifth wicket with Hridoy, made a confidence-

Changing rules for one team will put cricket in peril: Arjuna

PTI ■ COLOMBO
Slamming the decision to add a reserve day only for the Asia Cup Super Four match between India and Pakistan, former Sri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga on Friday said favouring one team will put cricket in peril.

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) move to add a reserve day for the Indo-Pak match in Colombo had raised several eyebrows, despite inclement weather being listed out as the reason.

"You take the Asia Cup. You have rules before the tournament, but before that one game (India v Pakistan), they changed the rules. Where is ACC? Where is ICC?", Ranatunga asked during an interaction with select media outlets. Ranatunga said changing rules of a tournament to suit one or two teams would put the

game in jeopardy, and slammed ICC and ACC for inaction.

"I am not very comfortable when you have a tournament, where you change rules for one team. You are looking at a disaster in the future," the World Cup winning skipper fumed.

"I feel very sad for ICC and ACC because they just want to hold the positions. Former cricketers too don't open, simply because they need the bucks," he said.

Ranatunga, using caustic sarcasm, said he would not be surprised if India's World Cup match against Pakistan at Ahmedabad gets a reserve day.

"I won't be surprised if they change the rule before the India-Pakistan game (in World Cup). ICC will keep their mouth shut and say 'OK, do it'. ICC just talks rubbish, nothing happens," he said.

There were predictions for rain in Colombo during the

Asia Cup, and Ranatunga criticised the ACC for not exploring venues outside the city such as Hambantota to conduct the Super 4 and final matches.

"Why did they play in Colombo when you have places like Hambantota? That ground was built to play cricket during the rainy season. And you come to Colombo to play in the Asia Cup. What is ACC doing?" said Ranatunga.

Ranatunga said world cricket should not be governed by one board or individual, and cited the Asia Cup scheduling issue as a case in point.

"Why do the other countries allow that (poor scheduling) to happen? Because the BCCI is powerful, or one particular person is powerful. No, it can't happen like that. They should have given an extra day for all the games if that was the case," said Ranatunga, without taking names.

boosting fifty for himself after struggling to make an impact recently.

The left-hander was severe on Axar Patel, hammering the left-arm spinner for two consecutive sixes, but there was not much support for him from the other end except for the young Hridoy.

The Shakib-Hridoy partnership also rescued Bangladesh from total disaster which they appeared to have headed at 59 for 4 in the 14th over.

But they could not expand their knocks as Shakib was cleaned up by Thakur, while Shami accounted for Hridoy.

However, Nasum Ahmed

(44 off 45 balls) pushed Bangladesh past the 250-run mark as Indian bowlers lost some direction.

India could have brought curtains on Bangladesh innings much quicker had they held on to three catches - Suryakumar, Tilak and KL Rahul being the offenders.



Talent like Bumrah shouldn't play all formats: Vaas

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A once-in-a-generation fast bowler like Jasprit Bumrah shouldn't be playing all three formats in order to avoid injuries and prolong his career, feels World Cup winning Sri Lankan legend Chaminda Vaas.

Vaas stressed that Indian selectors and team management must carefully choose the right formats and adapt strategies to keep a tab on Bumrah's workload management.

"Players like Bumrah have a unique action, and we must protect individuals of such caliber. They can't play in all formats. We need to identify the suitable format and manage their participation accordingly," Vaas told reporters here on Friday.

Vaas shared insights into the pivotal role of safeguarding unique talents like Bumrah and nurturing their cricketing journey. Vaas emphasized the importance of managing players like Bumrah, known for their unconventional bowling actions.

The left-arm pacer great feels that both skipper Rohit Sharma and the peerless Virat Kohli will come out all guns blazing to win

the World Cup for India.

"We all know that Virat is special player and the way he performed for the last decade is extraordinary. Even Rohit, I'm pretty sure that they will give their 100% playing for India. All the fans are waiting to see these two performing. And I'm sure that they will go all out and trying to do well for India," said Vaas.

Further, Vaas emphasized the critical role of nurturing emerging Lankan talents like Matheesha Pathirana to elevate them to the stature of global stars such as Bumrah and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Vaas highlighted that it is imperative for Sri Lanka Cricket to safeguard these budding talents, effectively manage their workloads, and ensure their gradual development.

"Pathirana is still young. He is still 20 and he has long way to go. But it's up to Sri Lanka cricket establishment to protect him. If you are going to play 50 overs, we need to take care of him not to play all the games and especially Matheesha and taking care of him is very important," said Vaas.

'I've a lot of respect for Rohit, he never backs down to anyone'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

South Africa great AB de Villiers has showered his respect for Rohit Sharma, stating that the Indian skipper is a "fighter" and "never backs down to anyone".

Rohit is currently leading India in the ongoing Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, where he has been their highest run-scorer, collecting 194 in four innings at an impressive average of 64.66 and a strike rate of 108.98, including three half-centuries.

Talking on his YouTube channel, de Villiers highlighted how Rohit began slowly in the ODIs before becoming the fastest to gain 10,000 runs in the format.

"Rohit was fourth slowest to 2,000 runs, but the second fastest to 10,000. How's that for a comeback? I have a lot of respect for him," he said.

"The first time I watched him play, I thought this guy has got something special to offer. What I like most about him - from a very young age, he's always had a fighting spirit. He would not back down to anyone." Rohit is the sixth Indian to enter the 10,000 ODI runs club



after Virat Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, MS Dhoni and Rahul Dravid. He is also the second-fastest to do so after former skipper and current teammate Kohli.

De Villiers also recollected how Rohit took on fierce South African pacers Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel during a Durban Test.

"I think of a Test match in Durban where he just wouldn't stand back to Dale Steyn or Morne Morkel or any of our fast bowlers. He would make eye contact," he said.

"If anyone chirped him, he would be right in their face, chest out. I always liked that."

Uncertainty shrouds Naseem's availability for WC opening matches

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has cast doubts on the possibility of pacer Naseem Shah's timely recovery for their initial matches in the upcoming World Cup in India.

However, their ace pacer Harris Rauf is "recovering well" from a side strain and will be fit

in time for their opening match against the Netherlands at Hyderabad on October 6, the skipper has said.

The duo picked up niggling injuries during Pakistan's Super Four clash against India in the Asia Cup and were sitting on from the sidelines when the team crashed out of the tournament after losing to Sri Lanka in Colombo on Thursday.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has not yet released any official timeline regarding Naseem's rehabilitation process following a right shoulder injury.

In light of this, Babar Azam expressed uncertainty regarding Naseem's fitness for the start of the tournament.

"I'll tell you later... Not telling you our Plan B now. But, yes, Harris Rauf is not bad. He's just got a little bit of a side strain, but he's recovering before the World Cup.

"Naseem Shah also... They have a couple of miss matches, I don't know (how long) the recovery (is), but in my opinion, Naseem Shah also (will be) in the World Cup later on. But let's see," he added. The 20-year-old injury-prone Naseem had a back problem when he was 17 years old and it kept him out for 14 months.

India rise to 2nd in ODI rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Having stormed into the Asia Cup final, India have climbed to second place, ahead of Pakistan who have lost the No. 1 ODI rankings following their elimination from the tournament. The Babar Azam-led side, who lost to Sri Lanka in a last-ball thriller for their second successive defeat in the 'Super Four', slipped two places to No. 3 with 115 points in ICC's mid-week update.

Two points ahead of India (116), Australia are now the No. 1 ODI side as the race for the top spot has intensified ahead of next month's World Cup.

Both the teams are also set to clash in a three-match ODI



series in India beginning on September 22 ahead of their World Cup opener in Chennai on October 8.

Australia have climbed to No. 1 on the back of their back-to-back defeats in South Africa but their loss in the third ODI at Potchefstroom by 111

runs may have given an opening to India. The fourth and penultimate ODI of the South Africa-Australia rubber is slated on Friday, while the series finale is on Sunday.

India will play the Asia Cup final against co-hosts Sri Lanka on Sunday.

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