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INDIA GOES BALLISTIC ON TERROR

Crackdown on Khalistani terrorists; NIA seizes Pannun's properties

RAKESH KUMAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Tightening its noose around Canada-based 'designated individual terrorist' Gurbat Singh Pannu, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday confiscated the house and land of the self-styled general counsel of the outlawed Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) outfit in Amritsar and Chandigarh.

This is the first time that the NIA has confiscated the properties of an absconding accused under a relevant section of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The action, which comes as a big boost to the country's crackdown on the so-called Khalistani "terror and secessionist network being operated from various countries", including Canada, followed confiscation orders passed by the NIA Special Court, SAS Nagar, Mohali.

Pannu has been on NIA's radar since 2019, when the anti-terror agency had registered its first case against the terrorist, who has been playing a major role in promoting and commissioning terror acts and activities, and spreading fear and terror in Punjab and elsewhere in the country through his threats and intimidation tactics, the agency said.

Non-bailable warrants of

arrest were issued against Pannu by the NIA Special Court on February 3, 2021, and he was declared a "Proclaimed Offender (PO)" on November 29 last year.

NIA investigations have revealed that Pannu's organisation, Sikhs for Justice, was misusing cyberspace to radicalise gullible youth and to instigate them to undertake terrorist crimes and activities.

It further emerged during the NIA investigations that Pannu was the main handler and controller of the SFJ, Sikhs for Justice was declared as an "Unlawful Association" by the Government of India, vide a notification dated July 10, 2019.

"Pannu, who was declared a 'designated individual terrorist' by the Centre through a notification dated July 1, 2020, has been actively exhorting Punjab-based gangsters and youth over the social media to fight for the cause of independent state of Khalistan, challenging the sovereignty, integrity and security of the country," the NIA said in a statement.

Recently, Pannu has been in the news for issuing blatant threats to senior Indian diplomats and government functionaries in public forums. He had also threatened Canadian Hindus a few days back, asking them to leave Canada and claiming that they had adopted a "jingoistic approach" by



House of Gurbat Singh Pannu, chief of banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) confiscated his immovable properties in Chandigarh on Saturday

siding with India.

The properties confiscated on Saturday include 46 kanal agricultural land situated in Village Khankot, Amritsar, and 1/4th share of House Number 2033, Sector 15/C, Chandigarh.

These properties were earlier attached following orders passed by the government in

two different cases. The properties have now been confiscated on the court's orders under section 33(5) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967, in the case RC-19/2020/NIA/DLI dated April 5, 2020, registered under sections various sections of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act. The case was originally registered as FIR number 152 dated October 19, 2018, at Police Station Sultanwind, Amritsar (City) and later transferred to the NIA.

A total of 10 accused, including Pannu, have so far been charge-sheeted in the case.

Pakistan is haven for terrorists: India at UN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ UNITED NATIONS

Rejecting Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar's statement on Kashmir, India has termed that country as "home and patron" to the largest number of proscribed terrorist entities and urged Islamabad to take action against perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks.

Making this assertion in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) late on Friday, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Petal Gahlot also asked Pakistan to refrain from engaging in "technical sophistry".

She enunciated India's stand in its Right of Reply in the UNGA after Kakar raised the Kashmir issue in his address at the General Debate during the high-level 78th session of UNGA.

"Pakistan has been the home and patron to the largest number of internationally proscribed terrorist entities and

individuals in the world. Instead of engaging in technical sophistry, we call upon Pakistan to take credible and verifiable action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks, whose victims await justice even after 15 years," Gahlot said in the scathing response.

She said Pakistan needs to take three-fold action for there to be peace in South Asia. "First, stop cross-border terrorism and shut down its infrastructure of terrorism immediately. Second, vacate Indian territories under its illegal and forcible occupation, and third, stop the grave and persistent human rights violations against the minorities in Pakistan."

In his address earlier, Kakar said Pakistan desired peaceful and productive relations with all its neighbours, including India. "Kashmir is the key to peace between Pakistan and India," he said.

Gahlot reiterated that the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral part of India. "Matters

pertaining to the UTs of J&K and Ladakh are purely internal to India. Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on our domestic matters."

The Indian diplomat asserted that as a country with one of the world's worst human rights records, particularly when it comes to minority and women's rights, Pakistan "would do well to put its own house in order before venturing to point a finger at the world's largest democracy."

India stressed that Pakistan has become a "habitual offender" when it comes to misusing the august forum of the United Nations to peddle "baseless and malicious" propaganda against India.

The First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN said the member states of the United Nations and other multilateral organisations are well aware that Pakistan does so to "deflect the international community's attention away from its own abysmal record on human rights."

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ABVP dominates DUSU polls

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) won three out of four seats contested in the 2023 Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) elections held on Friday, while a candidate of the Congress-affiliated National Students' Union of India (NSUI) won the race for DUSU vice president post.

ABVP's Tushar Dedha won the post of DUSU president, defeating NSUI's Hitesh Gulia by 3,115 votes. Dedha received 23,460 votes, while Gulia received 20,345. Dedha had previously won the election for college cultural coordinator at Satyawati College in 2016. He was also an executive council member at DUSU.

Dedha, attributing the victory to ABVP's positive campus activism, said, "ABVP's dedication to issue-based campaigning resonated with the diverse student body of Delhi University."

NSUI's Abhi Dahiya secured the position of vice-president. Dahiya received 22,331 votes and defeated ABVP's Sushant Dhanekar by a margin of 1,829 votes. Dahiya, currently pursuing a Master's degree in Buddhist Studies, received 22,331 votes, defeating his closest competitor, ABVP's Dhanekar, by 1,829 votes.

ABVP's Aparajita and Sachin Baisla won the positions of secretary and joint secretary,



ABVP's Tushar Dedha (president), Aparajita (secretary) and Sachin Baisla (joint secretary) and others after they won in the DUSU election in New Delhi on Saturday

respectively. While Aparajita defeated NSUI's Yakshana Sharma by a margin of 12,937 votes, Baisla defeated the NSUI's Shubham Kumar Chaudhary by a margin of 9,995 votes.

Hailing from Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, Aparajita completed her BA (Honours) degree in history from Dyal Singh College. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Buddhist Studies. Baisla graduated from Ramanujan College and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Buddhist Studies.

As the results were announced, students from the metro station to the campus released balloons into the air, broke out in dance, and showered the winners with flower petals. Security at both DU

campuses was heightened, and barricades were deployed as preventive measures to avoid any untoward incidents.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the winning candidates of the ABVP. "Hearty congratulations to all the workers of the council on the landslide victory of ABVP in the Delhi University Students Union elections. This victory reflects the faith of the young generation in the ideology that puts national interest first. I have full confidence that the workers of the council will continue to work with determination to keep the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and the spirit of nationalism alive among the youth," Shah posted on X.

Union Minister Kiren

Rijiju also posted on X, congratulating the ABVP. He wrote: "#ABVP sweeps #DUSU. Rahul Gandhi campaigned in Delhi University Students Union election which helped ABVP to increase its vote share! Congratulations to all the Winning Candidates of ABVP, its cadres as well as all the well-wishers!"

BJP MP and party youth wing president Tejasvi Surya posted, "Congratulations to Team ABVP on winning the DUSU elections. A clear indication of the ideological positions that our students and young people are taking in the country. Vande Mataram."

The DUSU election was conducted after a gap of three years. The DUSU elections were last held in 2019. The polls could not be held in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, while possible disruptions to the academic calendar prevented their conduct in 2022. The students' union election recorded a voter turnout of 42 per cent. A total of 24 candidates were in the running for the four positions of DUSU president, vice-president, secretary, and joint secretary. The election took place on Friday, with around one lakh students eligible to vote. The counting of votes for the DUSU's central panel positions of president, vice-president, secretary, and joint secretary concluded on Saturday evening.

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Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar presents a Indian cricket team jersey to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath looking on, during the foundation stone laying ceremony of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi on Saturday. The Uttar Pradesh Government said that it has spent ₹121 crore to acquire the land for the stadium, while the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will spend ₹330 crore on its construction. To be built near the Ring Road in Rajatlab area, the stadium is likely to be ready by December 2025. The spectators' gallery of the stadium would resemble the steps of the ghats of Varanasi. This will be Uttar Pradesh's third international cricket stadium after Kanpur and Lucknow

UP women constables seek gender change for inclusivity

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

In an unprecedented development, five women constables of the Uttar Pradesh Police have submitted applications to the office Director General of Police seeking permission for gender change. Among these applicants is a female constable currently stationed in Gorakhpur, a revelation that has raised concerns and prompted discussions among officers.

While this marks the first instance of its kind in the police department, authorities are now exploring how to address this complex issue. Reports indicate that the

Allahabad High Court had previously declared gender change a constitutional right in a similar case, adding a legal dimension to the matter.

However, the DGP's office has taken a proactive approach by requesting that letters be issued to police district captains where these women constables are deployed, facilitating counselling sessions for them to better understand their circumstances and decisions.

One of the constables, Karishma (name changed), is posted in Gorakhpur. She revealed that she submitted an application to the DGP's office, where she also underwent enquiries about her situation.



Karishma cited gender dysphoria as the primary reason for her request, and she attached a medical certificate to support her application.

As of now, there has been no official decision from the Lucknow headquarters regarding this matter.

However, Karishma expressed her intent to pursue legal action if a favourable resolution is not reached, emphasising her desire to undergo gender transition. Karishma, a resident of Ayodhya, joined the Uttar Pradesh Police force in 2019 and was initially posted in Gorakhpur.

Her journey towards gender transition began in February 2023, when she

approached various authorities, including the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Additional Director General (ADG), and the Gorakhpur headquarters.

She explained that her experiences included the gradual realisation of changes in her hormone levels, prompting her desire to transition from female to male.

To facilitate her request, Karishma sought counseling from a prominent doctor in Delhi, who diagnosed her with gender dysphoria. She attached the doctor's report to her application for gender change. Once she obtains the necessary permission, Sonam plans to initiate the gender transition

process.

In recent times, Karishma's demeanour and behaviour have evolved to align more with traditional male characteristics. She adopts a masculine hairstyle and clothing style, even riding a Pulsar motorcycle.

Karishma's daily attire consists of pants and shirts, and she enjoys shooting, exemplifying her inclination towards traditionally male activities.

Her childhood experiences were marked by discomfort when wearing skirts or engaging in activities stereotypically associated with girls.

The case of the female constable in Gonda mirrors Karishma's, as she has also submitted an application to

the Allahabad High Court for gender change.

In response, the Allahabad High Court asserted that sex change is a constitutional right of an Indian citizen, emphasising that denying or failing to acknowledge this right in modern society would only exacerbate Gender Identity Disorder Syndrome.

The court directed the UP Director General of Police (DGP) to promptly address the female constable's application. Karishma and four others now harbor hope that they will receive justice, inspired by the High Court's decision, marking a significant step forward in recognising transgender rights.

Nijjar not religious figure, but terrorist: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, whose killing led to a row between India and Canada, was not a religious and social figure but a terrorist who was involved in running terrorist training camps and funding terror acts, sources have said.

Nijjar was a close associate of Gurdeep Singh alias Deepa Heranwala, who was involved in the killing of around 200 people in Punjab during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Heranwala belonged to the banned Khalistan Commando Force.

Nijjar, who was killed by unidentified assailants on June 18 at a parking lot of a Sikh gurdwara in British Columbia, had escaped to Canada in 1996 fearing arrest by police here and indulged in illegal activities like drug smuggling and extortion in Canada to arrange funding for terrorist activities, sources said.

Nijjar was also involved in training youths at a terror camp in British Columbia to carry out attacks in India,



they said.

Over the years, Nijjar assumed the role of 'Operation Chief' of Khalistan Tiger Force, or KTF, a banned terror group.

In 2020, he was accused by the government of being actively involved in "operationalising, networking, training and financing" KTF members.

In 2012, Nijjar visited

Pakistan also sent 1 million Pakistani rupees to Tara, sources said.

In 2014, Nijjar planned a terror attack on Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters in Sirsa in Haryana on directions of Tara. However, the attack could not take place because Nijjar was denied Indian visa, they said.

Nijjar allegedly muscled his way into the post of president of the local gurdwara in Surrey in Canada in 2021, forcibly deposing his cousin, Raghbir Singh Nijjar, the incumbent, with threats of violence.

The National Investigation Agency has registered several cases against Nijjar as well as issuing an Interpol Red Corner Notice for raising a module in Canada involving Khalistani separatist Mandeep Singh Dhaliwal.

Nijjar was also the head of Canada chapter of Sikhs For Justice, another banned terrorist organisation.

He had also organised violent anti-India protests in Canada and threatened Indian diplomats, sources said.

Nijjar had also given a

call to ban Indian Embassy officials to participate in various programmes organised by local gurdwaras in Canada.

India and Canada are embroiled in a diplomatic row over the killing of Khalistani Nijjar in June.

The row erupted following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in his killing.

India on Tuesday rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

In reflection of hardening of its position, India on Wednesday advised all its nationals living in Canada and those contemplating travelling there to exercise "utmost caution" in view of growing anti-India activities and "politically-condoned" hate crimes as well as "criminal violence" in that country.

India on Thursday announced temporarily suspending issuance of visas to Canadian citizens in view of "security threats" faced by its high commission and consulates in Canada.

Trudeau used shared intelligence to level allegations, confirms US

PTI ■ TORONTO

Admitting for the first time, a top United States diplomat has confirmed that there was "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" that had prompted Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's offensive allegation about Indian agents' involvement in the killing of a Khalistani extremist on Canadian soil, according to a media report on Saturday.

There was "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" that informed Trudeau's public allegation of a "potential" link between the government of India and the murder of a Canadian citizen, CTV News Channel, Canada's 24-hour all-news network, reported quoting the US Ambassador to Canada David Cohen.

"Five Eyes" network is an intelligence alliance consisting of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. It is both surveillance-based and signals intelligence (SIGINT).

Trudeau had on September 18 made an explosive allegation of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, in Surrey in British Columbia on June 18.

India has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

It also expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

In 2020, India designated Nijjar, 45, as a terrorist.

The CTV's report is based on its exclusive interview on CTV's programme 'Question Period with Vassy Kapelos' that is to air on Sunday.

CTV quoted Cohen as saying that he confirmed: "There was shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners that helped lead Canada to make the statements that the Prime Minister made."

"In the days since, as diplomatic tensions continue to ratchet up - from Canada reassessing its staffing in India,



to India suspending visa services for Canadians - there have been swirling questions about what intelligence is at the centre of this story, who was aware of it, and when," the CTV report said.

It further added that while Cohen would not comment on whether the intelligence informing the Canadian government's investigation was both human and surveillance-based, or whether it included signals intelligence of Indian diplomats, the US envoy to Canada did say "there was shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners that helped lead Canada to making the statements that the PM made."

This is the first admission by any US government official about the sharing of intelligence by Five Eyes partners with Canada even when there were multiple unofficial and non-official reports about the same.

The CTV report also mentioned that there were reports from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and The Associated Press that the intelligence Trudeau was speaking of did not come from Canada alone and that additional information was provided by an unspecified member of the intelligence-sharing alliance.

"He (Cohen) made this comment while denying a Washington Post report alleging that weeks before Trudeau's bombshell declaration, Ottawa asked its closest allies, including the US to publicly condemn the murder and that overture

was rebuffed," the CTV said. "Very bluntly, I will say that - and you know me well enough - that I'm not in the habit of commenting on private diplomatic conversations," Cohen was quoted as saying.

"Look, I will say this was a matter of shared intelligence information," he said and added: "There was a lot of communication between Canada and the United States about this, and I think that's as far as I'm comfortable going," Cohen said.

Cohen's comments came as Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is "deeply concerned" about the allegations raised by Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau against India and Washington was "closely coordinating" with Ottawa on the issue and wants to see "accountability" in the case.

Speaking at a press conference in New York on Friday, Blinken said the US has engaged directly with the Indian government on the issue and the most productive thing would be the completion of this investigation.

"We have been consulting throughout very closely with our Canadian colleagues - and not just consulting, coordinating with them - on this issue. And from our perspective, it is critical that the Canadian investigation proceed, and it would be important that India work with the Canadians on this investigation. We want to see accountability, and it's important that the investigation run its course and lead to that result," Blinken said.

Set up helpline for Indian students, NRIs in Canada, EAM urged

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar on Saturday urged External Affairs minister S Jaishankar for setting up a helpline for Indian students and NRIs in Canada amid a diplomatic row between the two countries.

In his letter to the Union Minister, Jakhar while highlighting the concerns of citizens residing in Canada, urged him to release a detailed statement listing out the measures being taken by the Centre for the safety of the country's citizens in Canada until the eventual resolution of this issue.

"This, I am sure, would go a long way in assuaging the sense of deep anxiety, panic and indecision prevailing amongst our people living in Canada and especially in students waiting to go abroad for studies. An assurance from your office

would certainly lay to rest the doubts and insecurity of our students who are rightfully concerned about their study plans," Jakhar wrote in the letter.

He suggested issuing a WhatsApp contact number for Indian students planning to go abroad to get in touch with authorities in case they need any information or guidance.

"I would also request you to institute a dedicated helpline number on which our NRIs and students can contact and seek help from Indian Consulates. A WhatsApp number can be released for Indian students planning to go abroad to get in touch with authorities in case of need and guidance," Jakhar wrote in his letter.

"In the wake of unsubstantiated allegations against the Indian Government by the Canadian Prime Minister; the

diplomatic relationship between the two countries has understandably been on a downward spiral. PM Justin Trudeau has made these absurd and malicious charges only to cater to his domestic political compulsions," the Punjab BJP chief said. "The government of India has taken the right stand by strongly countering PM Trudeau's outburst and has asked for evidence, which does not seem forthcoming," he added.

"While I hope that PM Trudeau realises his folly at the earliest and the matter is resolved in an amicable manner, it is our citizens, a big chunk of them Punjabis, who are likely to be impacted by the current impasse, including the suspension of visas by the Indian Government to keep a security check on entry into India," the letter read.

Canada shared evidence of 'credible allegations' with India, says Trudeau

PTI ■ TORONTO

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said Canada has shared with India evidence of "credible allegations" about the involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar many weeks ago and wants New Delhi to "commit constructively" with Ottawa to establish the facts on this serious matter.

Tensions flared between India and Canada early this week following Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Nijjar on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to



Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"I just want to simply say that we've shared those allegations, those credible allegations with India for weeks. We are working with our partners," Trudeau said on Friday in a press conference with the visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"And what we are asking is for India, to commit constructively with Canada to establish the facts on this situation. We're there to work with them. And we have been for weeks now," Trudeau said in response to a question.

Controversy erupts in RS over sloganeering in visitors' gallery

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

After the political fracas from Lok Sabha over the Ramesh Bidhuri-Danish Ali row, now a controversy has erupted in Rajya Sabha as political sloganeering allegedly happened in the visitors gallery soon after the "Women Reservation Bill" was passed in the night of Thursday which in complete violation of rules and regulations of the visitors manual of the Parliament.

This took place where even 'whispering' is not allowed by the guarding marshals at every two rows of seatings.

It might be noted that during the two days of Parliament proceedings women visitors including female artists and actresses were in full occupancy in both the house-Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - to witness the introduction, discussion and then the passage of the historic women reservation bill as known as Nari Shakti Vandan Vidhiniam.

Sources said female visitors including college and school going students from neighbouring states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh visited Parliament to witness the proceedings. Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi has written to Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar that a group of people sitting in the Visitor's Gallery was heard sloganeering, creating a ruckus in the precincts of the House.

"The incident in question not only caused a commotion but also raised serious questions about the enforcement of rules and regulations within the esteemed House. I write to you with grave concern and deep disappointment regarding the shocking incident that unfolded in the Rajya Sabha on



September 21, 2023, during the Special Session," Chaturvedi said in her letter a copy of which is with The Pioneer.

A senior Parliament official said stringent security measures are followed and marshals are deployed to restrict the visitors from doing any activities, talking etc.

"This incident occurred in clear violation of Rule 264, which explicitly outlines the conduct expected of individuals in the Visitor's Gallery during parliamentary sessions," official said. As per the rules and conduct of business proposition in the Parliament, Rule 264 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha lays out the regulations for visitors.

"Admission to Visitors' Galleries of Rajya Sabha is regulated by the regulations made in pursuance of Rule 264 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha. Under the regulations, a member can apply for a visitor's card for a person who is known to him personally or in select cases, for those who have been introduced to the member by a person who is personally known to him. It is in the latter class of cases that members are to exercise utmost care. Members are advised to bear in mind that they are responsible for any untoward incident or undesirable thing happening in the galleries as a result of anything done by holders of cards issued at the request of such members.

UN vows to provide TB treatment to 45 million people by 2027

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Providing life-saving treatment for up to 45 million people between 2023 and 2027, including up to 4.5 million kids and up to 1.5 million people with drug-resistant tuberculosis; provide up to 45 million people with preventive treatment, including 30 million household contacts of people with tuberculosis among others are the part of the political declaration that have been adopted by the UN at a high level meeting in New York.

According to a statement here, all the UN Member States adopted the declaration on the Fight Against Tuberculosis in New York at the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The Declaration contains the most ambitious targets to date in the fight against TB. If countries follow through on their commitments, it will put the world on track to ending TB by 2030 and providing life-saving treatment for 45 million people between 2023 and 2027.

Member states also committed to increasing annual global TB funding levels to over four times the current level (USD5.4 billion) towards reaching USD22 billion annually by 2027, increasing to USD35 billion by 2030.

They agreed to mobilize this funding through domestic and international investment mechanisms, innovative financing mechanisms, and costed action plans. Member states also committed to mobilize USD5 billion a year by 2027 for tuberculosis research and innovation - a five times increase from the current USD1 billion a year - towards the development of



point of care diagnostics, vaccines for all forms of tuberculosis, and shorter, safer and more effective treatment regimens.

Lucia Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership hoped that the commitments will be seriously implemented.

"This Declaration contains clear targets for the fight against TB. The TB community should be proud of their amazing work done to secure these targets.

However, we know commitments alone aren't enough and Declarations will gather dust without further action. In 2018 member states promised to provide USD13 billion a year in annual TB funding by 2022, yet they're providing less than half that amount - who is accountable for the failure to follow through on this promise?", she said.

This is why we need strong accountability efforts and tools to hold leaders and all of us accountable to reaching their promises.

This starts with translating the global targets and commitments to national level, which Stop TB Partnership is currently working on, and ensuring civil society and TB communities have the resources and tools to ensure leaders follow through on their commitments, she added.

My son joined BJP as per mother Mary's decision: AK Antony's wife

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A disclosure made by Elizabeth Antony, wife of AK Antony, the seniormost leader of the Congress about their son's joining the BJP has taken Kerala politics by storm. "I knew about my elder son Anil Antony's decision to join the BJP much earlier. This move was due to my prayers to Mother Mary of the Kreppasanam Marian Retreat Centre in Alappuzha," Elizabeth told the religious congregation recently, the video of which went viral since Saturday morning.

Delivering the Holy Testimony in praise of "Mother Mary of the Marian Retreat Centre", Elizabeth said the decision made at the Chinthan Shibir of the Congress Party held at Rajasthan that children of the leaders (except that of the Nehru-Gandhi clan) would not be allowed in party's leadership position had upset Antony and their two sons.

"Anil, our elder son, did his engineering degree from India and passed out from Wharton Institute in the USA with the hope of working for India as well as Congress. Though he had great offers from US companies, he opted to return to India to work for the country and the Congress. But the party's decision not to allow him to follow the footsteps of his father upset Anil. By that time I had turned to Mother Mary and entered into a covenant with Her for my husband and children. Antony had a series of ailments and was incapable of walking without help from others. That was why he opted to retire from active politics and returned to our home at Thiruvananthapuram. Subsequently he was elected to the Congress Working Committee and he is fine and healthy now," said Elizabeth.

Pakistan is haven for terrorists: India at...

From Page 1

Citing a "glaring example" of the systemic violence against minorities in Pakistan, Gahlot referred to the large-scale "brutality" perpetrated against the minority Christian community in Jaranwala in the country's Faisalabad district in August 2023, where a total of 19 churches were gutted and 89 Christian houses burnt down.

"Similar treatment has been meted out to the Ahmadiyyas whose places of worship" have been demolished.

The condition of women belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, notably Hindus, Sikhs and Christians, remains deplorable, she said.

According to a recent report published by Pakistan's own human rights commission, an estimated 1000 women from minority communities are subjected to abduction, forced conversion and marriage in Pakistan every year, Gahlot added. A Pakistani diplomat took the floor to exercise Islamabad's Right to Reply to India's response.

India fields its young diplomats posted at its Permanent Mission in New York to give scathing and hard-hitting responses to Pakistan's Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers, who repeatedly raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in their annual addresses to the high-level General Assembly sessions.

ABVP dominates...

From Page 1

DUSU polls data showed a higher voting percentage than in 2019 when a turnout of 39.90 per cent was recorded, though it fell short of the nearly 11-year-high figure of 2018. The turnouts in 2018 and 2017 were 44.46 per cent and 42.8 per cent, respectively.

The DUSU elections have consistently been a direct contest between the ABVP and the NSUI. The Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, a student wing of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), decided to abstain from the polls. This decision came after the party's top leadership directed CYSS campus leaders to withdraw from the race, fearing a loss would "impact the image of the Delhi Government", where the AAP is in power.

As India's largest central university with students from across the country, the outcome of the DUSU election holds significant political implications. Student politics may not be directly influenced by state or national-

level politics, but the outcome of the students' union elections does create a positive atmosphere for the parties, as a large number of youth vote and express their preferences in these polls. For aspiring young politicians, being elected to the DUSU is seen as a stepping stone to party politics. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, senior Congress leader Ajay Maken, and Delhi's BJP president Satish Upadhyay are among the many national and state-level politicians who began their political careers at DUSU.

In 2019, ABVP won three posts, while NSUI won the secretary post. Similarly in 2018, the ABVP won three posts, including the coveted president's post while NSUI bagged the secretary's post. In 2017, NSUI bagged the president and vice president posts while ABVP emerged victorious on the remaining two posts. In the previous election, ABVP had the upper hand over its arch-rival by winning three posts and restricting NSUI to the post of

joint secretary. In 2014 and 2015, ABVP achieved a clean sweep in the polls. In 2013, ABVP's candidates secured three posts while NSUI had won the post of secretary. In 2012, NSUI had bagged three posts. In 2011, ABVP had secured three posts except the president's post, which was won by NSUI. In 2010, ABVP secured three of the four seats, leaving the joint secretary's post to NSUI. In 2009, an independent candidate, backed by ABVP, had won the president's post, while Samajwadi Chhatra Sabha, the students' wing of Samajwadi Party won the joint secretary's post.

ABVP and NSUI won the posts of vice president and secretary respectively. In 2008, ABVP bagged the president's post while NSUI bagged the remaining three posts on the panel. In 2007, NSUI performed a clean sweep, while in 2006, it bagged three posts, barring the vice president's. In 2005, NSUI again won all four posts.

Brawl over iPhone 15 late delivery

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Angered over their Apple iPhone 15 not being delivered on time they ordered, two customers went to a popular electronics store in North Delhi and beat up their employees. The incident took place at a Croma store in Roop Nagar's Bungalow Road on Friday. A video has emerged on social media in which it can be seen that a fight has broken out between the customers and the employees of Croma Store in Kamla Nagar. The fight has been caught on camera and the video of the fight is doing rounds on social media. The incident took place on Friday has drawn attention due to the release of Apple's iPhone 15 series in India.

The video reveals a heated exchange of punches and verbal insults between two customers. It is alleged that the



fight erupted as the employees at the store refused to sell the iPhone 15 Pro to the customer to which the customer got furious and started to fight with the employee. It shows such was the customers' rage that even the intervention of over 10 other employees could not prevent their colleagues from being beaten up very badly.

At one point, the accused can be seen ganging up on one of the staff members. They rain blows on him and tear his t-

shirt even as he tries to protect his head by looking down and putting his hands over it. Witnesses reported that tensions flared when the customer's request for the iPhone 15 Pro was denied, leading to a furious outbreak and physical altercations.

According to Delhi police, they have arrested two customers and registered a case against them under sections of the Criminal Procedure Code pertaining to breach of peace.

"After receiving a PCR call about the incident, the police reached the showroom where they were told by the staff that the two accused -- Jaskirat Singh and Mandeep Singh -- had booked an iPhone-15 at the Croma centre, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said. Following the incident, preventive action under Section 107/151 of the Criminal Procedure Code was taken against the duo and both were arrested on Friday, the DCP said.

The duo picked up a fight with the employee as the store failed to deliver their booked phone on Friday, the expected delivery date, Kalsi said.

Apple had launched the iPhone 15 Series in India and the phone was made available at stores in the country on Friday. Apple on Friday started selling the iPhone 15 series,

which comes in the price range of Rs 79,900 to Rs 1,99,900. Apple has for the first time made available the 'made-in-India' iPhone on the same day it started selling the devices in the country and other parts of the globe.

Excitement was high among the iPhone users to upgrade their iPhone to 15 series. The customers lined up outside the stores where the phones were available to buy the phone. Videos also emerged on social media where huge crowds were seen outside the stores to buy the iPhone 15 series.

A long queue was witnessed outside the Apple Store in BKC and also in New Delhi's Saket. One of the customer stated that he stood up for more than 8 hours to become the first person to buy iPhone 15 in India outside the BKC store.



ABVP supporters celebrate after victory in the DUSU election in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

'Ram Rajya' should encompass quality free education, healthcare: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday emphasised the importance of universal access to quality education and healthcare while addressing a gathering at an event in Delhi. He expressed the view that if one were to envision an ideal society akin to 'Ram Rajya,' it should encompass the provision of excellent and free education as well as healthcare services for all its citizens.

The Chief Minister inaugurated a new outpatient department (OPD) building at the Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, which is run by the Delhi government. He also took the opportunity to interact with patients at the facility.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new OPD building at Aruna Asaf Ali hospital, Kejriwal also said that every-

body should have access to good education and healthcare and the AAP-led Delhi government is trying to work in that direction.

Healthcare and education are the focus areas of the Delhi government and expansion is going on in a major way, he said, adding that there are currently around 10,000 beds at all city government-run hospitals put together. Eleven new hospitals are being built and the infrastructure of old facilities is being upgraded, he said, adding 16,000 new beds will be added.

Drawing a connection to the upcoming Dusshera and Diwali festivals, Kejriwal mentioned the veneration of Lord Ram. He acknowledged the ideal of 'Ram Rajya' and, while admitting that it might be a distant goal, emphasized that it should encompass the fundamental principles of providing

excellent and free education and healthcare to all members of society, regardless of their economic status.

"'Ram Rajya' is being spoken of. I cannot say that we can reach near 'Ram Rajya'. But if we imagine 'Ram Rajya', it should have good and free education and good and free healthcare for all," Kejriwal said.

Good education and healthcare should be there for all, whether rich or poor and "our government is trying to work in that direction", he added.

Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, local MLA Parlad Singh Sawhney and senior officials of the health department were also present on the occasion. Kejriwal also said building of new hospitals and augmenting of infrastructure and facilities at existing



hospitals will align Delhi's health system with international standards and the WHO's parameters.

The Delhi government has spent approximately Rs 22.8 crore to construct the three-storey new OPD block at Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, apart from the ground floor. The block houses 25 consultation rooms, two elevators, and two staircases. It took nearly a year to complete this construction, the chief minister's office (CMO) later said in a statement.

The old block lacked required space and other facilities. The new block is spacious, centrally air-conditioned with availability of rooms for specialists, he said. Previously, around 800-1,000 patients were coming to the hospital daily, now this number could increase 2-3 times after the opening of the new OPD block, the chief

minister said.

"On one hand, we tried to improve the condition and quality of government hospitals, built many mohalla clinics and polyclinics...On the other side, we have managed to provide healthcare facilities for free. All medicines, tests, treatment, and operations are free in government hospitals," he added.

Located along Rajpur Road, Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital is a 100-bed multispecialty hospital providing round-the-clock services, and 45 major surgeries and 38 emergency surgeries are conducted at it per month, it said. The CMO in the statement shared data about the upcoming 11 hospitals.

The 11 hospitals being built will have 10,000 beds. These include hospitals at Sirasapur (1,164 beds), Jwalapur (691 beds), Madipur (691 beds), Hastsal (691 beds), Shalimar

Bagh (1,430 beds), Sultanpuri (525 beds), Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya Annexe (610 beds), GTB Hospital Annexe (1,912 beds), Sarita Vihar (336 beds), Guru Gobind Singh Hospital Annexe (1,565 beds) and Kirari (485 beds), the statement said.

Under brownfield projects, 10 hospitals being taken up, adding 6,505 beds. These projects include a new block at Lok Nayak Hospital (1,570 beds) and augmentation of beds at Satyawadi Raja Harish Chandra Hospital, Narela (773 beds); Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Rohini (1063 beds); among other hospitals, besides a casualty block at Lok Nayak Hospital (with 384 beds), the statement said. Currently, 537 Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics are functional, out of which five are Mahila Mohalla Clinics, it added.

Miffed at delay, LG recalls files on CBI prosecutors' selection

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking serious note in delay by the Delhi Government in the appointment of Special Public Prosecutors (SPPs) for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases, Lt Governor(LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena has recalled all proposals for appointments and referred the same to Home Ministry for speedy disposal.

Giving details of this development, officials said here on Saturday Invoking Rule 19 (5) of the Transaction of Business of GNCTD Rules, 1993 in public interest, Saxena recalled all the files and referred the same to Home Ministry for necessary appointments or notifications under section 24(8) of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

These extremely important files had been pending at the level of the Home Minister, GNCTD since February 2023, after having moved between him and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in January 2023, they said.

The LG has taken serious note of the delay by GNCTD to issue notification for appointment of SPPs thereby resulting in stalling the progress of trials in POCSO cases in various special courts of the National Capital for the last nine months.

The CBI in December 2022 had requested for issuance of notification for appointment of CBI senior public prosecutors or prosecutors under section 32 of the POCSO Act for trial of POCSO cases in various courts in Delhi and a reminder was sent on March 15, this year. Saxena noted that the file in this regard had been inordinately delayed, while it kept moving from the Minister-in-charge to the Chief Minister.

"The file with a proposal to this effect has been pending since January this year. Initially the file was submitted by the Home Department to the Minister-in-Charge on January 11 this year and subsequently it was forwarded to the Chief Minister on January 16, who returned it to the Minister-in-Charge on February 6," officials said.



The officials further said that Kailash Gehlot is the Minister-in-Charge (Home Department) since March 9, 2023.

Gehlot replaced Satyendar Jain, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in money laundering case.

The cases relating to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are sensitive in nature and as per law the trial in these cases are to be completed within one year from the date of cognisance of offence and the delay in appointment of SPPs will adversely affect the case of investigating agency and may give undue benefits to the perpetrators of crime against innocent children.

The L-G House officials also said that it was noted that such sluggish and insensitive approach in dealing matters relating to cases of rape and POCSO Act, tantamount to extending undue benefits to perpetrators of such heinous crime.

"Owing to the delay, the Home Department moved for approval of the L-G in this matter. Accordingly, Saxena accorded approval to the proposal for obtaining the nod of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for appointment notification of SSP or PP of CBI as SPPs in the POCSO cases," the officials said.

They further said that since the issue of appointment was pending at the level of Minister-in-Charge (Home), Principal Secretary (Saxena), proposed that the matter be referred to the MHA for invoking the powers of Central Government under section 24(8) of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), and approval of MHA be obtained and conveyed to the CBI.

Rain brings relief from scorching heat in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national capital witnessed a sudden change in the weather on Saturday afternoon as rains coupled with gusty winds lashed parts of the city bringing relief to the residents from sultry weather. Several parts of the national capital, including east Delhi, Shahdara, northeast Delhi, and south, witnessed heavy rains after a cloudy weather. The rainfall was a significant respite for the city's residents as they have been experiencing scorching heat over the past few days.

Around 11 vehicles were damaged in east Delhi's Dilshad Garden area in the rain when a school's wall collapsed on them. The wall, located at Mukherjee School, which borders SG Pocket in Dilshad

Garden, also brought down some trees and part of the school's railing. The other incidents of trees falling were reported in northwest Delhi's West Shalimar Bagh, Block BF in Shalimar Bagh, and Gujranwala Town in north Delhi's Model Town area. The heavy downpour has led to traffic jams and waterlogging in several parts of the capital city. The Safdarjung observatory, the city's main weather station, recorded 15.2 mm rainfall, the Delhi University observatory logged 24.5 mm and the Ridge observatory 25 mm, the MeT said.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Rohit Meena, the backsides of Mukherjee School which touches SG Pocket of Dilshad Garden also took down with it a few trees



and the railing of school. The DCP said several vehicles parked by residents of the SG Pocket, along the wall were damaged. A total of 11 vehicles have minor or major damages. "No person was injured, he added.

The other incidents of trees falling were reported in northwest Delhi's West Shalimar Bagh, Block BF in Shalimar

to the residents of the national capital from sultry weather, officials said.

Delhi on Saturday recorded a minimum temperature of 27 degrees Celsius, three notches above the season's average, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Several parts of the city, including east Delhi, Shahdara, northeast Delhi and south, witnessed rain during the day.

The traffic was also reportedly affected in several parts of the national capital, including along the Delhi-Gurgaon border. "Traffic is affected on Outer Ring Road in the carriageway from Bhairon Mandir towards Savitri flyover due to uprooted of a tree near Paras flyover. Kindly avoid the stretch," the Delhi Traffic Police wrote on X.

"Traffic is affected on

Mathura Road in the carriageway from Ashram towards Badarpur due to waterlogging near Aali village. Commuters are advised to plan their journey accordingly," they said in another post. Commuters took to social media, complaining about the traffic after the rain.

One of the users wrote that the traffic was bad at Ajmeri Gate while another talked about the traffic jam at Ber Sarai-JNU junction.

The rain led to massive traffic congestions from Modi Mill to Chirag Delhi Flyover, Anad Vihar-Dilshad Garden stretch, Bharat Nagar, from Kirby Place to Nangal Raya flyover, Bawana Road, near professor Joginder Singh Marg T-point, Janakpuri to Andhra School, Kakaji Mandir road and in front of Nand Nagri depot, said others.

Worker injured in Noida lift crash dies after battling for 8 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The last surviving member of a team of construction workers injured in the lift crash at the Amrapali Dream Valley in Noida Extension died on Saturday after battling for life for eight days, police officials said.

There were nine workers on the service lift which crashed from the 14th floor of an under-construction tower at the project in the morning of September 15. State-run NBCC is completing the mega housing project started in 2011 by the now-beleaguered Amrapali Group under Supreme Court monitoring.

While four workers had died after the lift crash on September 15 itself, another four succumbed during treatment at the district hospital in Noida the next day, the officials said.

"Mohd Kaif, 20, a native of Meerut district, was admitted to the hospital in an injured condition. He died in the hospital on Saturday. The post-mortem is being carried out and legal procedures are underway," a police spokesperson said.



According to a hospital official, Kaif passed away around 1 am on Saturday and the body has been handed over to his family.

He was on ventilator support since hospitalization as the body was not supporting respiration while his brain had also stopped working, the official said.

An FIR in connection with the lift crash was lodged at the local Bisrakh police station under IPC sections for negligence with respect to machinery and for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, among other charges.

Four officials of Giridhari Construction private limited, hired by NBCC, have been already arrested by the police, which have prima facie found that the service lift was operated negligently despite rain in the early hours of September 15, according to officials.

Chargesheet filed on Pragati Maidan tunnel robbery of delivery agent

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch on Saturday filed a 1,400-page charge sheet in connection with the gunpoint robbery of a delivery agent and his associate inside the Pragati Maidan tunnel here, officials said.

The police had arrested 11 people and apprehended a juvenile during the investigation, they added.

The incident took place on June 24 when a delivery agent working with a private firm in Chandni Chowk and his associate were going to Gurgaon in a taxi to deliver a bag of cash, the police had said.

When the duo entered the Pragati Maidan tunnel, four men on two motorbikes blocked their way and robbed them of about Rs 2 lakh, they had alleged.

During the investigation, the police analysed the CCTV footage of the area and call records of the suspects. Based on local intelligence and technical analysis, the police arrested 11 accused and apprehended a juvenile in the case, a senior police officer said.



After conducting a thorough investigation and collecting all evidence, a charge sheet with 1,417 pages was filed before the Patiala House Court on Saturday against the 11 accused persons under Sections 395 (dacoity), 397 (robbery or dacoity with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt), 212 (harbouring offender), 412 (dishonestly receiving stolen property), 468 (forgery for cheating), among others, of the Indian Penal Code and Section 25/27 of the Arms Act, the officer said.

The next hearing is scheduled for October 3.

An investigation report on the juvenile's involvement in the crime has already been filed before the Juvenile Justice Board.

Man dies days after shooting self with PSO's weapon

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man died days after he allegedly shot himself from the weapon of his personal security officer (PSO) in South Delhi's Greater Kailash area, police said on Saturday.

The deceased was politically active and "associated with the BJP", Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Chandan Chowdhary said.

On Wednesday, information was received that Karan Banka, a resident of Greater Kailash-1, slipped in his bathroom and suffered a head injury. He was admitted to Max Hospital in Saket, the DCP said.

Police reached the hospital where they were informed that Banka had suffered a gunshot injury. He shot himself in his bathroom, she said. Banka's father, who saw him lying in the bathroom, rushed him to hospital, she said.

There was an entry wound on the right temple and exit from the left. Karan had hired a personal security officer. The weapon was licensed and belongs to his PSO Dinesh, Chowdhary said.

Former Min Goel collects soil from memorial sites of several leaders

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Vijay Goel on Saturday collected soil from the memorial sites of several Prime Ministers and other great leaders in Delhi as part of the Meri Maati-Mera Desh campaign.

Accompanied by Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Goel started the soil collection campaign from Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat.

Goel had earlier announced that he would collect soil from the memorials of great personalities in Delhi as part of the campaign.

Under the Meri Maati-Mera Desh campaign announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, soil was collected from memorials of different prime ministers situated near Rajghat, he said in a statement.

Soil was collected from the memorials of Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Chandrashekhar and Socialist leader Jagjivan Ram, it added.

Citizens should feel law belongs to them: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said in International Lawyers Conference that "the law belongs to them" and that Government is trying to draft new laws in India "in simple language". Inaugurating the Bar Council of India's (BCI) two-day "International Lawyers Conference 2023", he also flagged concerns about cyber terrorism and money laundering besides the use of artificial intelligence for destructive purposes.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud was the chief guest of the programme. Modi said these dangers do not recognise borders and jurisdiction and called for collaborative efforts among legal frameworks of different countries to deal with them.

"When danger is global, then the manner to deal with it should also be global," he said.

The prime minister cited the example of cooperation between air traffic control sys-

tems of all countries to ensure air travel and said preparing a global framework to deal with these dangers is not about one government or country.

Besides CJI, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice of the United Kingdom Alex Chalk KC, Attorney General for India R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Bar Council of India chairman and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra and others, including several judges of the apex court, were present at the event.

Commenting on the legal system, he said the language used to write laws and in the judicial process plays a big role in ensuring justice.

"We in the Indian government are thinking that law should be produced in two ways. One draft will be in the language you are used to," he said to the audience drawn from the legal field. "The second draft will be in a language which the country's common man can understand. He should consider the law his own."

Modi said there had been a practice of drafting laws in a complex manner.

One of the aspects of justice delivery on which there is very little discussion is the language and the simplicity of law, the prime minister noted.

He said the government is trying to make laws simple and understandable to the common man but the system has been born and brought up in the same framework and he was trying to pull it out of that.

Modi said that he has a lot to do and a lot of time for it. "So I will keep doing it," he said.

"We have made the first beginning in the Data Protection law," the prime minister said, referring to attempts to draft laws in simple language. He also welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to provide the operative part of a judgment to the litigant in his language.

Dubbing the Indian Penal Code and the Evidence Act as colonial-era laws, the government had recently introduced the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya



Sakshya Bill to replace the IPC, Evidence Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure. Referring to the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament, he said this will give new direction and energy to women-led development. He also spoke of the G20 Summit and the successful Chandrayaan mission.

With India working hard to achieve the goal of becoming a developed country by 2047, it requires the base of a strong and impartial justice system, he said. Impartial justice has a big role in the growing faith of the world in India,

Modi added. Speaking on alternate dispute resolution, the prime minister said with the increasing complexity of commercial transactions, the ADR mechanism has gained currency all over the world.

To systematise the informal tradition of dispute resolution in India, the government has enacted a law on mediation. Similarly, Lok Adalats are also playing a big role and they have settled nearly seven lakh cases in the last six years.

Speaking on the occasion, CJI Chandrachud said institutional collaboration is the pre-

cursor to solution finding while adjudicating judicial questions and it also plays a significant role in increasing access to justice.

He said it is utopian to think that there will be a day when "we find perfect solutions with no challenges to the justice delivery".

"However, it is definitively not utopian to aspire for a world where nations, institutions and most importantly individuals are open to engage with and learn from one another without feeling threatened or belittled," Chandrachud said.

He said that while the Constitution provides for separation of power among the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, it also creates a space for institutions to learn from each other and deliver justice.

"Institutional collaboration is a precursor to solution finding not only while adjudicating judicial questions but it also plays a significant role in increasing access to justice," Justice Chandrachud said.

In his speech, the CJI said that instead of addressing spe-

cific challenges to justice delivery, he seeks to present an "umbrella framework" to address these challenges and find innovative solutions.

Referring to engagement between nations, institutions and individuals, Justice Chandrachud said, "It is in this engagement that I believe lies the framework to find usual solutions."

Knowledge sharing is a two-way street and decisions of the Indian Supreme Court are being regularly cited and relied upon by foreign courts, he said.

"At the administrative level too, the Indian judiciary must remain receptive to collaborating with various nations. India has played a pivotal role by constructing the Supreme Court buildings in Mauritius and in Bhutan," the CJI said.

He said that drafting of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly is a classic example of engaging beyond partisan lines.

"We find the same bi-partisan effort and this is something to which we, as citizens of India must be proud, has

gone into the passing of the women's reservation bill in Parliament recently," Justice Chandrachud said.

He further said, "In our tendency to emphasise differences, we often forget the abundant examples of collaboration between institutions to further the interest of justice. This holds true not only in lofty constitutional challenges but more frequently in the everyday interaction between the courts and the government."

Citing an example, the CJI said a constitution bench of the Supreme Court is presently hearing a challenge pertaining to whether a person holding a driving licence for light motor vehicles can drive a commercial vehicle under the Motor Vehicles Act.

"Instead of viewing the case as an adversarial challenge, the court and the government are collaborating to protect the livelihoods of millions of drivers across the country," he said, adding that the ultimate aim of different institutions is the same and that is the progress and prosperity of the nation.

Jaishankar holds talks with Quad leaders on visit to attend UNGA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/NEW YORK

External Affairs S Jaishankar has commenced his nine-day visit to the United Nations and the US by holding bilateral and multilateral meetings with his global counterparts. He exchanged views on strengthening bilateral ties and issues of common concern as he arrived in New York for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

Jaishankar hit the ground running shortly after landing in New York early Friday morning,



beginning his hectic schedule for the day with the Quad Foreign Ministers meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

A joint readout of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting

issued after the meeting reaffirmed the group's "unwavering support for the United Nations, the enduring importance of upholding mutually determined rules, norms, and standards, and to deepen Quad cooperation in the international system".

Jaishankar held bilateral discussions with Kamikawa, Japan's new top diplomat and exchanged perspectives on "our Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

"Delighted to meet Foreign Minister of Japan Yoko Kamikawa at #UNGA78. Discussed our regional, multilateral and global cooperation and taking them forward," Jaishankar said on X.

Jaishankar also met Wong for bilateral discussions. "Great to catch up with FM @SenatorWong of Australia on #UNGA78 sidelines. Noted the positive trajectory of our ties and discussed specific steps to take them further. Our exchange of regional and global assessments are always valuable."

Later, he held discussions with South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira under the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) grouping.

"A very productive IBSA meeting with Foreign Ministers Mauro Vieira and Naledi Pandor on #UNGA78 sidelines. The Joint Communiqué demonstrates the strength of our South-South solidarity," he said.

In a heartwarming gesture, Pandor and Vieira applauded and congratulated India when Jaishankar told them about the passage of the landmark Women's Reservation Bill in the Indian Parliament.

In his bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, Jaishankar said he had a "good conversation on connectivity, economic linkages and regional dynamics".

One Nation, One Election panel to seek views of parties, Law Commission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The high-level committee on simultaneous elections headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind in its first meeting on Saturday decided to invite political parties and the Law Commission to seek their views on holding synchronised polls in the country.

Home Minister Amit Shah, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, former Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission chairman N K Singh, former Lok Sabha secretary general Subhash C Kashyap and former chief vigilance commissioner Sanjay Kothari attended the meeting.

The committee, according to a statement said, decided to invite recognised national parties, parties having governments in states, those having their representatives in Parliament, other recognised state parties "for seeking suggestions/view points on the issue of simultaneous elections in the country".

In addition, the committee will also invite the Law Commission for its suggestions and view points on the issue of simultaneous elec-



tions, a law ministry statement said.

Noted lawyer Harish Salve joined the meeting virtually.

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was not present in the meeting, the statement noted.

After he was named in the committee, Chowdhury had written to Shah "declining to serve on the committee".

The government had, on September 2, notified the eight-member "high-level" panel to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

Describing the meeting as introductory in nature, people aware of the details said it was called to discuss the roadmap on how to go about the mandate given to the panel.

Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and any other laws and rules that would require amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elections.

It has also been tasked to suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and "specifically suggest the phases and time-frame within which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go..."

It will also examine and recommend if the amendments to the Constitution would require to be ratified by the states.

Certain amendments to the Constitution require a ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies.

The committee will also analyse and recommend possible solutions to scenarios such as a hung house, the adoption of a no-confidence motion or defection or any such event in case of simultaneous elections.

The panel has also been asked to recommend "necessary safeguards for ensuring the continuity of the cycle of simultaneous elections and recommend necessary amendments to the Constitution so that the cycle of simultaneous elections is not disturbed".

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Sh. Amarjeet Singh, Civil Judge Junior Division, Amritsar
PBAS02-000313-2023
Next Date:- 02-11-2023
M/S SHANKER TRADERS AMRITSAR THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR ROHIT BHALLA, I/O CARRYING ON ITS BUSINESS AT 841, GALI No. 4, JAWAHAR NAGAR, PARTAP BAZAR, CHHETARTTA, AMRITSAR
VERSUS
PAUL SALES PVT. LTD. THROUGH ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR / MANAGING / PARTNERS AND AUTHORIZED PERSON, CARRING ON BUSINESS AR A-94/3, SECTOR 58, NOIDA (UP)
SUIT FOR MANDATORY INJUNCTION DIRECTING THE DEFEDENT TO RETURN TO BLANK SIGNED SECURITY CHEQUES I.E. CHEQUES NO. 000700 AND 000701, BOTH DRAWN ON ICICI BANK, BRANCH CHHETARTTA
Notice to :-
PAUL SALES PVT. LTD. THROUGH ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR / MANAGING / PARTNERS AND AUTHORIZED PERSON, CARRING ON BUSINESS AR A-94/3, SECTOR 58, NOIDA (UP)
In the above titled petition the accused could not be served. It is ordered that the accused should appear in person through counsel on 02-11-2023 at 10 am.
For details logon to https://highcourthd.gov.in/?trs=district_notice&district=amritsar
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 15-09-2023
(Amarjeet Singh) Civil Judge Junior Division, Amritsar / UID NO. PB00356

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client, Farid Ahmed is mortgaging Built-up Property with Roof Rights Bearing No. 59-A, Area Measuring 113 Sq. Yds. Out of Plot No. 28, Kila No. 3, Situated in the Layout Plan of Gali No. 5, Rashid Market Extension, in the Area of Village Khurji Khas, Illaga Shahdara Delhi-110051 with Hero Housing Finance Limited, Currently Owned by Mr. Farid Ahmed S/O Late Mohd. Farooq by virtue of Registered Sale Deed Executed by (1) Mrs. Sarwan Begum (2) Mr. Jalajudin (3) Mohammad Ayub (4) Mr. Enamul Hassan (5) Mr. Juned (6) Mr. Afsar Ahmed (7) Mrs. Lajla Hagar of Mohd. Farooq S/O Mohd. Farid Dated 13.07.2022 Doc. No. 6277 SR-VIII Delhi. Any person/bank/financial institution having any claim/right. Lien any objection whatsoever in regard to above Property, Should Notified to the undersigned: Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under Address through Registered A/d within 15 Days from the date of publication of this notice failing which claim, Lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.
Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile no. 9811215181

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public that Mr. Vishwanath Sahai is absolute owner of Property bearing No. 15, area measuring 300 Sq. Yds., in Block-C, situated in the colony known as Greater Kailash No. 1, situated at Village Yakub Pur, New Delhi by way of Registered Will, dated 11.08.2006, Doc No-3453, executed by Mrs. Prem Vaili in favour of his son Mr. Vishwanath Sahai. Now Mr. Vishwanath Sahai intends to sell the above property to Mr. Gaurav Jain, Mr. Saurabh Jain, Mr. Girish Kumar Jain and Mrs. Anita Jain, who are mortgaging the above said property with RBL Bank & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-HL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110094 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636(M) Email ID: delhi.ncr@vnrth.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE
"It is known to all that the original allottee of residential flat no. 502, Tower Alexandra, Block-A, Grand Omaxe, Sector-93 B, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Pravin Khurana and Mrs. Jyoti Khurana has sold the said flat on 10th June 2023 through their attorney Mrs. Latesh Thakur duly appointed as such vide power of attorney by Mr. Pravin Khurana on dated 30.08.2011, duly attested by Vice Consul, Consulate General of India, Chicago, USA and endorsed with endorsement No. 2578 and Mrs. Jyoti Khurana W/o Mr. Pravin Khurana on dated 12.08.2011 duly attested by Vice Consul, Consulate General of India, Chicago, USA with endorsement No. 2577 and only General Power of Attorney is executed and agreement to sell of the same is not executed because the agreement to sell is not executed so with the help of this public notice, it is hereby informed that the transfer of this flat goes in favor of Mr. Srinivas Hanumanappa Kasal and Mrs. Naveena Kasal W/o Mr. Srinivas Hanumanappa Kasal" if any one/one has/have any objection then he/she/they will submit his/her/their objection in the residential division of Noida Authority alongwith the proofs within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Sd/- Ankit Mathur Advocate

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छोगो)
Phone No.-07762-222911, Fax No.-07762-222923
Email :-nraigarh@yahoo.com,
Website- WWW.nagarniganraigarh.com
क्रमांक 366/01/स्वा.वि./न.पा.वि./2023 रायगढ़ दिनांक 19.09.2023

!! द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना पत्र !!
नगर पालिक निगम रायगढ़ द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए सफाई सामग्री प्रदाय कार्य स्वारथ निगम हेतु एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत डेकेटारों/प्रदायकों/फर्म/विक्रेता से निविदा प्रपत्र "रा" में नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ की वेबसाइट uad.cg.gov.in/www.nagarniganraigarh.com से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड कर पूर्ण रूप से परकर निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क, सी.डी. के माध्यम से दिनांक 03.10.2023 अपरान्ह 04.00 बजे तक सील पोस्ट/पंजीकृत डाक से मुहर बंद निविदाएं त्रि-सिकाफा पद्धति से आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्राच निविदाएं दिनांक 03.10.2023 को सायं 04.30 बजे उपस्थित निविदाकारों अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष जौसी जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य 750-00 है जो वापसी योग्य नहीं है।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (लाख में)	अमानत राशि (रुपये)
1.	स्वारथ निगम सफाई सामग्री क्रम।	17.97	17970 ₹

नोट:- कार्य का अन्य विवरण एवं निगम शर्तें कार्यालय में कार्यालयीन अवधि में देखा जा सकता है। "स्वच्छ पर्यावरण के लिए कुशलतापूर्वक करें पाठिसीप का प्रयोग न करें"।
हस्ता/ -
कार्यालय नगरीयता नगर पालिक निगम रायगढ़ (छोगो)

Controversy erupts in RS over sloganeering in visitors' gallery

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

After the political fracas from Lok Sabha over the Ramesh Bidhuri-Danish Ali row, now a controversy has erupted in Rajya Sabha as political sloganeering allegedly happened in the visitors gallery soon after the "Women Reservation Bill" was passed in the night of Thursday which in complete violation of rules and regulations of the visitors manual of the Parliament.

This took place where even 'whispering' is not allowed by the guarding marshals at every two row of seatings.

It might be noted that during the two days of Parliament proceedings women visitors including female artists and actress were in full occupancy in both the house-Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha-to witness the introduction, discussion and then the passage of the historic women reservation bill as known as Nari Shakti Vandana Vidhiyam.

Sources said female visitors including college and school going students from neighbouring states of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh visited Parliament to witness the proceedings.

Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi has written to Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar that a group of people sitting in the Visitor's Gallery was heard sloganeering, creating a ruckus in the precincts of the House.



Sabha lays out the regulations for visitors.

"Admission to Visitors' Galleries of Rajya Sabha is regulated by the regulations made in pursuance of Rule 264 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha. Under the regulations, a member can apply for a visitor's card for a person who is known to him personally or in select cases, for those who have been introduced to the member by a person who is personally known to him. It is in the latter class of cases that members are to exercise utmost care. Members are advised to bear in mind that they are responsible for any untoward incident or undesirable thing happening in the galleries as a result of anything done by holders of cards issued at the request of such members.

Chaturvedi has alleged that over 50 visitors were able to raise slogans in favour of the treasury benches and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a matter of grave concern.

"In response to this serious breach, Members from the opposition parties walked out in protest," the Shiv Sena (Uddhav) leader said.

Through the letter Chaturvedi has urged the Chairman that the incident be thoroughly investigated to identify how such a breach of security and decorum was possible within the confines of the Rajya Sabha.

The individual responsible for the disruption must be held accountable for their actions. Any MP found to be involved in facilitating this incident should also face appropriate consequences, the Member of the Opposition bloc India said.

A day earlier the usage of unparliamentary words by Lok Sabha BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri on BSP MP Danish Ali came to the fore and went viral on social media fuelling enough political scramble across the country. Ruling BJP and Opposition members have condemned the act by Bidhuri.

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Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com
Letter No. : 4306(i)/Nivida-01/2023-24 Dated : 22/09/2023

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 26/09/2023 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	PD PWD Almora Construction of Govindpur to Dangikhola - Titarmuchchi- Querala Motor Road in Someshwar Constituency district Almora Under CM Ghosmt No- 216/2021 (Length-3.00 Km. & 18 mt Span Bridge)	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 5.72 Lac	60 Days	15 Months (including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Road & Bridge work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking
2	PD PWD Bageshwar Damankaran work in Devnai- Chaukhutiya Motor Road Km 1, 2 & 3 in Block Garur Constituency and district Bageshwar under State Sector. (Length-3.00 Km)	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 4.22 Lac	60 Days	15 Months (including With Raining Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking

Can't give exact dates: Pak's poll body

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's top election body has said that it is not possible to give an exact date for general elections due to technical reasons, a day after the country's political parties demanded an exact polling date from the election commission.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has come under fire for its failure to announce a specific date for the upcoming elections after it announced on Thursday that polls would be held in the "last week of January 2024."

A senior ECP official said that it was "not technically possible" to make an official announcement for the date of the general elections.

He said that doing so will demand a kick-start to a formal process that must follow specific timelines in the lead-up to the election, the Dawn newspaper reported on Saturday.

Elaborating on this justification, the official said that under Section 57 of the Elections Act, the announcement of a polling date should be followed by issuing an election schedule, which sets the entire electoral cycle in motion.

This 'cycle' involves the filing of nomination papers,

Military's manipulation absolutely absurd: Pak PM

United Nations (AP): Pakistan's interim prime minister said he expects parliamentary elections to take place in the new year, dismissing the possibility that the country's powerful military would manipulate the results to ensure that jailed former premier Imran Khan's party doesn't win.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said it's the Election Commission that is going to conduct the vote, not the military, and Khan appointed the commission's chief at the time, so "why would he turn in any sense of the word against him?"

Pakistan has been in deepening political

scrutiny, and decisions and appeals on their acceptance or rejection. Each step has to be completed under a set timeline.

The ECP is facing criticism for its failure to hold elections within 90 days of the dissolution of Parliament on August 9.

Commenting on the "uncertainty surrounding the election date," Pakistan Peoples Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira said that a level playing field and a clear and transparent election process were essential. Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party also questioned the ECP's authority to announce the elec-

tion date. A media report quoted PTI leader Ali Zafar as saying, "The election commission's election date is beyond the constitutional date."

The constitution mandates that elections should be held within 90 days of the assemblies' dissolution.

However, the ECP said it has valid reasons for the delay as it has been determining new electoral districts on the basis of a new census. The delimitation will be completed on November 30.

Then a 54-day period would be given for filing of nominations which would be followed by elections, accord-

ing to the ECP. But the logic given by the ECP has failed to stop criticism.

The Dawn newspaper reported that PATTAN and Coalition38 — a body of more than 150 civil society organisations and labour unions — issued a joint statement regretting that the ECP had further deepened the prevailing uncertainty by giving an extremely vague statement about the next general elections.

They said the ECP's statement was violative of Article 48(5a) of the Constitution, which binds the president to announce a date for general elections within 90 days of the

dissolution of an assembly. They also regretted "with deep anguish" that the ECP had eroded its credibility and the public's trust by taking u-turns and violating the orders of the superior courts.

"We also note with deep concern that the ECP, instead of holding elections within 90 days of the dissolution of National Assembly, began delimitation of constituencies which was not only based on a flawed and highly politicised population census but [was] also not mandatory under the Constitution," the statement issued by the civil society coalition said.

The arrests were carried out during intelligence-based operations in Rawalpindi, Attock, Bahawal Nagar, Lahore, Jehlum, Sheikhpura and Bahawalpur districts of Punjab, the counter-terrorism police said. Police recovered nearly 5 kgs of explosives, one IED bomb, 29 detonators, 49 feet protective fuse wire, prima cards, one pistol, one SMG rifle with 80 bullets and banned literature from the possession of the terrorists.

The CTD said the arrested terrorists belong to ISIS (Daesh), TTP, Tehreek Jafariya Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militant groups.

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The CTD said the terrorists had planned sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations, which was, however, foiled by the law enforcement agency.

Police have registered eight cases against the arrested terrorists and shifted them to an undisclosed location for interrogation.

Kakar resigned as a senator last month after outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and opposition leader Raza Riaz chose him as caretaker prime minister to oversee the elections and run the day-to-day affairs until a new government is elected. Kakar said that when the commission sets an exact election date his government "will provide all the assistance, financial, security or other related requirements."

Asked whether he would recommend judges overturn Khan's conviction so he could run in the elections, the prime minister said he wouldn't interfere with decisions by the judiciary.

The increase in political activity in the PML-N camp comes after the September 15 Supreme Court of Pakistan's ruling that scrapped the recent amendments to the country's anti-graft laws and restored corruption cases against several public office holders, including Nawaz Sharif.

blocked traffic on one of the city's main expressways, saying migrants living in the streets outside the shelter were causing problems.

Mexico is also where most of the synthetic opioid fentanyl is produced for the US market, using precursor chemicals smuggled in from China.

Bárceña's comments came just a day after López Obrador announced he will skip the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in November in San Francisco because his country "has no relations" with Peru.

López Obrador previously claimed Peru's current government was installed by a coup and that he still considers ousted president Pedro Castillo to be the country's legitimate leader. Both countries recalled their ambassadors following those comments.

It would not be the first time that López Obrador has skipped international meetings in the United States because of who else was or wasn't invited.

It has every intention of being the first. And the Communist Party's motives are clear. They're building a massive, cutting-edge military, capable of threatening America and dominating Asia and beyond," the former two-term South Carolina governor said.

"In some respects, China's military is already equal to the US armed forces. In other areas, they're beating us. China's leaders are so confident, they're sending spy balloons into our skies and building a spy base just off our shores in Cuba.

"Make no mistake: The Communist Party is preparing for war. And China's leaders intend to win," she claimed.

Major terror bid foiled in Pakistan

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan's law enforcement agencies foiled a major terror plot to target key installations in the Punjab province and arrested 13 terrorists, mostly belonging to the banned Islamic State (ISIS) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), police said on Saturday.

According to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police, it conducted 83 intelligence-based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism and arrested 13 suspected terrorists with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

The CTD said the arrested terrorists belong to ISIS (Daesh), TTP, Tehreek Jafariya Pakistan and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militant groups.

The arrests were carried out during intelligence-based operations in Rawalpindi, Attock, Bahawal Nagar, Lahore, Jehlum, Sheikhpura and Bahawalpur districts of Punjab, the counter-terrorism police said. Police recovered nearly 5 kgs of explosives, one IED bomb, 29 detonators, 49 feet protective fuse wire, prima cards, one pistol, one SMG rifle with 80 bullets and banned literature from the possession of the terrorists.

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WORLD BRIEFS

LEBANESE TROOPS RESCUE 27 FROM SINKING BOAT
BEIRUT: The Lebanese army and the country's civil defence rescued early on Saturday 27 migrants whose boat was sinking off the coast of north Lebanon, the military said in a statement. The army did not say where the migrants were heading nor did it give their nationalities. Over the past years, thousands of Lebanese, Syrians and Palestinian migrants took the dangerous trip from Lebanon across the Mediterranean seeking a better life in Europe. Such migrations intensified since the country's historic economic meltdown began in October 2019. Lebanon has hosted refugees for years. It has some 805,000 UN-registered Syrian refugees, but officials estimate the actual number to be between 1.5 million and 2 million. Lebanon is also home to tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees and their descendants, many living in 12 refugee camps scattered around the country.

5 DEAD, OVER 100 INJURED IN TAIWAN FACTORY FIRE
BEIJING: A fire and subsequent explosions at a golf ball factory in southern Taiwan killed at least five people and injured more than 100 others, and five people are still missing. The fire began on Friday night at the factory in Pingtung county and raged overnight. Three firefighters were among the dead, authorities said. Rescuers were still looking for four factory workers and one firefighter who remained unaccounted for, officials said. More than 100 people were taken to the hospital with injuries. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen in a speech in Taipei on Saturday expressed her condolences to the families of the victims and said she would travel to Pingtung to visit those affected by the disaster, according to Taiwanese news outlet Focus Taiwan. Tsai said the Pingtung county government had set up an emergency operation centre to offer assistance to those impacted by the fire.

UYGHUR SCHOLAR SENTENCED FOR LIFE IN CHINA
BEIJING: A prominent Uyghur scholar specialising in the study of her people's folklore and traditions has been sentenced to life in prison, according to a US-based foundation that works on human rights cases in China. Rahile Dawut was convicted on charges of endangering state security in December 2018 in a secret trial, the San Francisco-based Dui Hua Foundation said in a statement Thursday. Dawut appealed but her conviction was upheld, the foundation said. "The sentencing of Professor Rahile Dawut to life in prison is a cruel tragedy, a great loss for the Uyghur people, and for all who treasure academic freedom," John Kamm, executive director of the Dui Hua Foundation, said in a statement. Dawut was a professor at Xinjiang University and founder of the school's Ethnic Minorities Folklore Research Centre. She disappeared in late 2017 amid a brutal government crackdown aimed at the Uyghurs, a Turkic, predominantly Muslim ethnicity native to China's northwest Xinjiang region. For years, her exact status was unknown, as Chinese authorities didn't disclose her whereabouts or the nature of the charges against her.

INDIAN GETS JAIL TERM FOR MONEY LAUNDERING
WASHINGTON: An Indian national has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for conspiring to commit money laundering, the US Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado has said. Dhruv Jani, 40, has also been ordered to pay USD 1.1 million restitution, a media release issued on Friday said. According to the plea agreement, starting in January 2020, Jani was part of a conspiracy to launder funds obtained through a government official imposter scheme. Victims in the US were contacted by telephone and coerced into believing that they were under investigation by 'agents' of federal law enforcement agencies. Federal prosecutors said the victims were told that their identities had been connected to a criminal incident, that their imminent arrest and/or deportation from the United States had been ordered by law enforcement and that the only way to avoid arrest and/or deportation was to pay the 'government' large sums of money. The 'agent' then convinced the victim to package and ship the cash to alleged government officials via Federal Express or United Parcel Service. Many of these victims were also directed to mail packages of cash to individuals in other states.

9 CROATIAN SOCCER FANS DETAINED FOR VIOLENCE
ZAGREB: Croatian police have arrested nine soccer fans sought on European warrants for involvement in deadly violence last month in Greece, state television station HRT reported on Saturday. Greece has issued arrest warrants for 10 fans of Croatia's Dinamo Zagreb soccer club, but one of them remains at large, the report said. Croatia's Justice Ministry said in a statement it had been informed of the warrants by the Croatian police. The fans, members of the so-called Bad Blue Boys fan group, are suspected of taking part in the August violence in Athens that killed one person. Dozens of other Croatian soccer fans already have been detained in Greece over the violence, during which a 29-year-old Greek fan was stabbed to death outside AEK Athens stadium, prompting the cancellation of a Champions League qualifier against Dinamo Zagreb. Amateur video of the attack showed dozens of youths wielding bats and iron bars running past the stadium as flares and firebombs exploded. Ten people were injured.

'AIR STRIKES KILLED MANY REBELS IN CONGO'
KAMPALA: Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni said on Saturday that recent airstrikes against rebels with ties to the Islamic State group in eastern Congo have killed "a lot" of the militants, possibly including a notorious bomb maker. The statement issued by the president's office didn't provide details on the September 16 airstrikes targeting the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, a shadowy extremist organisation blamed for regular violence targeting civilians from bases in Congo's volatile east. The airstrikes targeted four ADF camps located between 100-150 kilometres from the Uganda border, according to Museveni's statement. Uganda and Congo launched joint military operations against the ADF in 2021. Meddie Nkalubo, a Ugandan bomb maker with the ADF, was likely killed in the airstrikes, according to the statement.

YEMEN'S LEADER RENEWS CALL FOR SEPARATE STATE
UNITED NATIONS: The head of Yemen's Southern Transitional Council, an umbrella group of heavily armed and well-financed militias, has said that he will prioritise the creation of a separate country in negotiations with their rivals, the Houthi rebels. Aidarous al-Zubaidi's comments, in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, come days after the conclusion of landmark talks in Riyadh between the Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia, which leads a coalition fighting them in the country's civil war. The remarks signal that his group might not get on board for a solution without inclusion of a separate state's creation. Al-Zubaidi has a dual role in Yemeni politics — he is vice president of the country but also the leader of a separatist group that has joined the internationally recognised coalition government seated in the southern city of Aden. His trip to the high-level leaders meeting of the UN General Assembly was aimed at amplifying the call for southern separatism, which has taken a backseat to discussions aimed at ending the wider war. Earlier this year, the head of the country's internationally recognised government brushed aside the issue.

JUNTA ACCUSES UN CHIEF OF BLOCKING PARTICIPATION
ABUJIA: The military government that seized power in Niger has accused United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of "obstructing" the West African nation's full participation at the UN's annual meeting of world leaders in order to appease France, Niger's former coloniser, and its allies. The decision to not allow the junta's envoy to speak at the UN General Assembly in New York could "undermine any effort to end the crisis in our country," Col Maj Amadou Abdramane, a spokesman for the officers who deposed Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum in a July coup, said late on Friday. The junta had wanted Niger's former ambassador to the United Nations, Bakary Yaou Sangare, who was made foreign minister after the coup, to speak on its behalf at the General Assembly. However, Bakary did not receive credentials to attend after the deposed Nigerien government's foreign minister sent the world body a letter "informing of the end of functions of Bakary as permanent representative of Niger to the United Nations," Stéphane Dujarric, Guterres' spokesperson, said.

Nawaz to return home as planned: Shehbaz

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Insisting that there was no change in party supremo Nawaz Sharif's plan to return to Pakistan next month, former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif has said his elder brother would present an 'agenda of progress' on October 21, media reports

said here on Saturday. Ending his self-imposed exile in London, 73-year-old Nawaz, also the three-time prime minister, is expected to return to Pakistan on October 21 and lead the PML-N party in the general election declared to be held in January 2024. He had left Pakistan on 'medical grounds' in 2019. "Nawaz Sharif will return to a

resounding welcome in Lahore, and will then address the nation at a rally at Minar-i-Pakistan where he will present the party's plan to tackle poverty, unemployment and improve the economic situation," Shehbaz told reporters after a meeting with Nawaz, party vice president Maryam Nawaz and former finance minister Ishaq Dar at London, the Dawn newspaper report-

ed. The increase in political activity in the PML-N camp comes after the September 15 Supreme Court of Pakistan's ruling that scrapped the recent amendments to the country's anti-graft laws and restored corruption cases against several public office holders, including Nawaz Sharif.

Ukraine targets key Crimean city

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine on Saturday morning launched another missile attack on Sevastopol in occupied Crimea, a Russian-installed official said, a day after an attack on the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet left a serviceman missing and the main building smoldering.

Sevastopol was put on air raid alert for about an hour after debris from intercepted missiles fell near a pier, Gov. Mikhail Razvozhayev wrote on the messaging app Telegram. Ferry traffic in the area was also halted and later resumed.

Loud blasts were also heard near Vilne in northern Crimea, followed by rising clouds of smoke, according to a pro-Ukrainian Telegram news channel that reports on developments on the peninsula. Crimea, illegally annexed by Russia in 2014, has been a frequent target for Ukrainian forces since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of the neighboring country almost 19 months ago.

Ukraine's intelligence chief, Kyrylo Budanov, told Voice of America on Saturday that at least nine people were killed and 16 injured as a result of Kyiv's attack on the Black Sea Fleet on Friday. He claimed that Alexander Romanchuk, a Russian general commanding forces along the key southeastern front line, was "in a very serious condition" following the attack.

Budanov's claim could not be independently verified, and

he did not comment on whether Western-made missiles were used in Friday's strike. The Russian Defense Ministry initially said that Friday's strike killed one service member at the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, but later issued a statement that he was missing.

Ukraine's military also offered more details about Friday's attack on Sevastopol. It said the air force conducted 12 strikes on the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, targeting areas where personnel, military equipment and weapons were concentrated. It said two anti-aircraft missile systems and four Russian artillery units were hit.

Crimea has served as the key hub supporting Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. Sevastopol, the main base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet since the 19th century, has had a particular importance for navy operations since the start of the invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine has increasingly targeted naval facilities in Crimea in recent weeks while the brunt of its summer counteroffensive makes slow gains in the east and south of Ukraine, the Institute for the Study of War said. Military experts say it is essential for Ukraine to keep up its attacks on targets in Crimea to degrade Russian morale and weaken its military.

Elsewhere, Ukraine's military said Saturday that Russia launched 15 Iranian-made Shahed drones at the front-line Zaporizhzhia region in the southeast.

Mexican president seeks meeting with Biden on migration issue

Mexico City (AP): Mexico's top diplomat Alicia Bárceña has said that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador wants to travel to Washington DC in early November to meet with US President Joe Biden about immigration, development aid and drug trafficking.

The statement comes after a surge in migrants moving through Mexico forced the closure of some US-Mexico border crossings and led Mexico's largest railway company to halt about 60 train runs because so many migrants were hopping aboard freight cars. Most appear to be Venezuelans, and many said they had crossed through the jungle-clad Darien Gap that connects Colombia and Panama.

Bárceña told a news conference in New York Friday that migrant shelters in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, are 95 per cent full and that the Mexican government is 'very worried' about the border closures and the migrant surge, especially given Mexico's rocky relationship with Texas



Migrants who crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico to the US work their way through concertina wire on Friday in Eagle Pass, Texas

Gov. Greg Abbott. In the past, Abbott has tightened border truck inspections and strung a series of floating barriers in the Rio Grande to try to deter migrants.

Bárceña suggested that more should be done to stem the flow of migrants through the Darien Gap, and that lifting US economic sanctions against Venezuela 'could also help us return some people to their home countries.'

There were signs that some

in Mexico, too, were getting overwhelmed by the surge in migrants.

Bárceña said about 1,400,000 migrants were waiting to register for transit or asylum papers in the southern Mexican city of Tapachula, near the border with Guatemala, adding 'we need reinforcements, because it is impossible to process 1,400,000 people.'

And early Friday, a few dozen residents who live near an overcrowded migrant shelter in Mexico City briefly

China an existential threat to US: Haley

Washington (PTI): Describing China as an 'existential threat' to the US and the world, Indian-American Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has claimed Beijing is 'preparing for war.'

China has spent half a century plotting to defeat America and in some respects, the Chinese military is already at par with the US armed forces, Haley said in a major policy speech on the economy in the key early primary State of New Hampshire on Friday.

Her speech comes two days after her India-American Republican rival Vivek Ramaswamy delivered a foreign policy speech on China in Ohio. Both Haley and

Ramaswamy have emerged as popular GOP candidates after former US president Donald Trump.

'Strength and pride are essential to our national survival, especially in the face of Communist China. China is an existential threat. It has spent half a century plotting to defeat us,' Haley said.

She alleged that China has taken America's manufacturing jobs.

"It's taken our trade secrets. Now it's taking control of critical industries, from medicines to advanced technology. In record time, China has gone from an economically backward country to the second biggest economy on earth," she said.

"It has every intention of being the first. And the Communist Party's motives are clear. They're building a massive, cutting-edge military, capable of threatening America and dominating Asia and beyond," the former two-term South Carolina governor said.

"In some respects, China's military is already equal to the US armed forces. In other areas, they're beating us. China's leaders are so confident, they're sending spy balloons into our skies and building a spy base just off our shores in Cuba.

"Make no mistake: The Communist Party is preparing for war. And China's leaders intend to win," she claimed.

95 million Pakistanis under poverty: World Bank

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Poverty in Pakistan shot up to 39.4 per cent as of last fiscal year, with 12.5 million more people falling into the trap due to poor economic conditions, the World Bank has said, as it urged the cash-strapped country to take urgent steps to achieve financial stability. The Washington-based lender on Friday unveiled draft policy notes that it prepared with the help of all stakeholders for Pakistan's next government ahead of the new election cycle. The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Poverty in Pakistan rose within one year from 34.2 per cent to 39.4 per cent, with 12.5 million more people falling below the poverty line of the USD 3.65 per day income level, according to the World Bank. About 95 million Pakistanis

now live in poverty, it said. "Pakistan's economic model is no longer reducing poverty, and the living standards have fallen behind peer countries," said Tobias Haque, the World Bank's lead country economist for Pakistan.

The global lender urged Pakistan to take urgent steps to tax its 'sacred cows' — agriculture and real estate — and cut wasteful expenditures in an effort to achieve economic stability through steep fiscal adjustment of over 7 per cent of the economy.

Pointing out that the increase in poverty was consistent with ground realities, the World Bank identified low human development, unsustainable fiscal situation, over-regulated private sector, agriculture and energy sectors as the priority areas for reforms for the next government.

It proposed measures — immediately increase the tax-to-GDP ratio by 5 per cent and cut expenditures by about 2.7 per cent of GDP — aimed to put the unsustainable economy back on a prudent fiscal path.

The lender's note on strengthening government revenues showed a host of measures to improve the revenue-to-GDP ratio by 5 per cent through the withdrawal of tax exemptions and increasing the burden of taxes on the real estate and the agriculture sectors. The World Bank is deeply concerned about the economic situation of today," Haque said.

He added that Pakistan is facing serious economic and human development crises, and is at a point where major policy shifts are required.

"This may be Pakistan's moment for significant policy

shift," said Najib Benhassine, the country director for Pakistan at the World Bank.

Pakistan has the capacity to collect taxes equal to 22 per cent of the GDP, but its current ratio is only 10.2 per cent — showing a gap of more than half, according to the World Bank note. The lender proposed reducing distortive exemptions to generate taxes equal to 2 per cent of the GDP. It wanted an increase in taxes on land and property to collect another 2 per cent of GDP in revenues and generate another 1 per cent of the GDP from the agriculture sector.

The World Bank proposed a mandatory use of CNIC (Computerised National Identity Card) for transactions, particularly of assets.

It also proposed reducing energy and commodity subsidies, implementing a single

treasury account, and imposing temporary austerity measures in the short term to save about 1 per cent of the GDP equivalent expenditures.

In 2022, the government's deposits in commercial banks amounted to over Rs 2 trillion, and due to its sovereign borrowings in the absence of use of this idle cash, an amount of Rs 424 billion was paid in interest, the World Bank said.

For the medium term, it proposed reducing federal development and current expenditures on provincial nature projects, reducing spending on loss-making entities, and improving the quality of development spending to save about Rs 1.4 trillion. The cumulative impact of these short- to medium-term savings is 2.7 per cent of the GDP.

Pakistan is heavily subsidising the agriculture sector,

leading to low productivity, the global lender said, adding that the government can reduce Rs 328 billion in spending by winding up ministries that fall in the provincial domain.

It said that another Rs 70 billion can be saved by devolving the Higher Education Commission to the provinces, and Rs 217 billion savings can be ensured through cost sharing of BISP (Benazir Income Support Programme) with the provinces.

This comes as inflation soared to 27.4 per cent in August after the cash-strapped country received USD 1.2 billion from the Washington-based International Monetary Fund in July, a part of the USD 3 billion bailout programme for nine months to support the government's efforts to stabilise the country's ailing economy.

Two big semiconductor proposals under process, says Vaishnaw

PTI ■ SANAND
Two big semiconductor proposals are under process and expected to take shape in the coming few months, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Without divulging specifics of the proposals, the minister said the projects will focus on a special area where India can emerge as a leader at the global level.

While speaking with PTI on the sidelines of the ground-breaking ceremony of Micron's semiconductor plant, Vaishnaw said that the global semiconductor company is noticing the progress made by India in the segment and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's capability to execute large and complex policy decisions.

"This has developed India as a major trusted geography in which global industry players want to come. We can see in the coming few months at least two more large semiconductor proposals taking shape," Vaishnaw said.

He said that there are some specific areas where India can take the lead and the focus of the semiconductor projects will be



Union Minister for Railways and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, leaders and officials from Micron Technology and Tata Project during a 'Ground Breaking Ceremony' at Micron Technology, in Sanand, Gujarat. (Insert) Vaishnaw addresses during the 'Ground Breaking Ceremony' PTI



in areas that can help the country export technology to other parts of the world.

The minister said that the

The minister said semiconductor demand is expected to grow to Rs 5 lakh crore in coming years from about Rs 2 lakh crore.

"India is already a very large design hub. With manufacturing coming to India, the entire process and value chain will come to our country and Bharat will become a major semiconductor hub in coming years," Vaishnaw said.

Micron Senior Vice President Gursaran Singh at the event said that the company has boarded the first set of 34 employees for the plant.

Five suppliers of Micron including SIMTEC are evaluating possibilities to set up their plant in India, according to government officials.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the Micron facility in Gujarat marks the beginning of an exciting journey in India's semiconductor ecosystem, in making India a semiconductor nation. "Micron's state-of-the-art modern facility will serve as a beacon for all investors, manufacturers, and participants in the global semiconductor ecosystem, encouraging them to partner with India," Chandrasekhar said.

Micron plant, for which construction has started, will start producing the first chip from December 2024 onwards.

Memory chip maker Micron in June announced setting up a semiconductor assembly and test plant in Gujarat entailing a total investment of USD 2.75 billion (around Rs 22,540 crore). Micron will invest up to USD 825 million in setting up

the plant in two phases and the rest of the investment will come from the Centre and the state government.

The company has roped in Tata Projects for phased construction of the new assembly and test facility in Sanand.

Phase 1 will include 500,000 square feet of planned cleanroom space, and will start to become operational in late 2024.

TRAI moots PLI scheme to spur telecom gear production

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

TRAI has mooted 'concurrent PLI scheme' focussing on components and sub-assembly manufacturing to facilitate collaborative production activities, as it released an extensive set of recommendations to promote manufacturing of networking and telecom gear in India through tax benefit, dedicated master fund and other sweeteners.

With a sharp gaze on goals of scaling domestic production and local value addition in global value chains, TRAI in its recommendations favoured additional two per cent benefit under the design-led PLI scheme for product lines meeting a certain criteria, while also talking of a dedicated 'Networking and Telecommunications Equipment Development' fund.

In order to spur innovation and encourage industry's drive towards beneficially owned resident Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), lower corporate income tax has also been recommended. This would apply if the enterprise is continuously engaged in R&D driven manufacturing and attains half of its turnover based on IPRs owned, TRAI said in its recommendations.

A dedicated Telecom Soft-



ware Development Fund with initial committed corpus of Rs 1,000 crore should be established under Public-Private Partnership mode with Rs 3,000 crore minimum corpus, by seeking participation from venture capital funds, TRAI said.

In context of PLI scheme, TRAI has recommended that there should be a concurrent PLI scheme focussing over components and sub-assembly manufacturing to facilitate collaborative manufacturing activities.

Further, the schemes should imbibe local value addition norms in its future-format and higher incentives proportionate to value addition should be available," a TRAI release said.

Under the design-led PLI scheme, it said, beyond the one per cent benefit, another slab of additional two per cent benefit

be introduced for such product lines that yield minimum local value-addition of 75 per cent where the components by value terms, used in the manufacturing of the specific end products are manufactured in India.

Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) should be nudged to deploy indigenously manufactured equipment by reducing their Applicable Gross Revenues on annual net basis, by an amount equivalent to the aggregate certified value of such indigenous products deployed in respective telecom networks during a financial year.

This shall widen market access for indigenous manufacturers, TRAI reasoned.

Apart from the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and Preferential Market Access (PMA), the formula suggested by the sector regulator to the government also touched upon areas like catering to financing requirement, tax relief, promoting entrepreneurship, telecom products development clusters, and treating 'telecom software' as a separate product category.

"To spur innovation and to encourage industry's drive towards beneficially owned resident Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), lower corporate income tax has also been recom-

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our client intends to enter into a transaction with Elan Limited and certain other land owning / collaborator / developer entities in relation to lands situated at Sector- 66, 67, 70, 84 and 106 Gurugram, Haryana (mentioned in schedule below).

If any person / entity / Bank or Financial Institution having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, estate, share, demand or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of these lands or any part thereof by way of sale, transfer, exchange, assignment, charge, gift, covenant, trust, license, tenancy, share, sub-tenancy, inheritance, claim, lease, sub-lease, lien, mortgage, easement, devise, bequest, hypothecation, encumbrance, possession, development rights, possession in part performance, partnership, family arrangement/settlement, its pendens, decree or order of any Court of Law or otherwise howsoever by operation of law or otherwise, is hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, with notarized documentary proof, to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no adverse right, title, interest, share, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever exists in or upon or in respect of the these lands and the title and possession of the owners mentioned below to the these lands is clear and marketable.

SCHEDULE

Project Elan Empire (RERA registration number 37 of 2021) being developed on plot Commercial 1 in Project Marbella having land area measuring 1.4625 acres at Sector - 66, Gurugram (Village Maidawas, Tehsil Badshahpur) comprised in Rectangle No. 17 Killa Nos. 4/21min (0-5), 7/2 (4-10), 13min (2-9), 14/1min (2-5) and 14/2/1min (2-5) owned by Elan City LLP [part of License No. 97 dated 18.11.2010 issued by DTCP Haryana].

Project Elan Epic (RERA registration number 30 of 2018) having land area measuring 4 acres at Sector-70, Gurugram (Village and Tehsil Badshahpur) comprised in Rectangle No. 78 Killa Nos. 17/2 (2-4), 17/1 (4-19), 17/2 (0-19), 23/1 (2-1), 23/2 (4-16), 24/1 (2-1) 25/1 (3-16) and 24/2 (4-16) owned by Elan Limited [part of License No. 148 dated 02.08.2008 issued by DTCP Haryana].

Project Elan Town Centre (RERA registration number 23 of 2018) having land area measuring 1.733 acres at Sector-67, Gurugram (Village and Tehsil Badshahpur) comprised in Rectangle No. 123 Killa Nos. 17/1 (4-19), 17/2 (0-19), 24/3 (0-14), 18/1 (0-16.67), 24/1/1 (0-9), 24/1/3 (0-10) and 24/2 (5-10) owned by Elan Buildcon Private Limited [part of License No. 84 dated 28.08.2012 issued by DTCP Haryana].

Project Elan Miracle (RERA registration number 190 of 2017) having land area measuring 5.91875 acres at Sector-84, Gurugram (Village Hayatpur and Tehsil Gurugram) comprised in Rectangle No. 64 Killa No. 23/2 (2-7), Rectangle No. 65 Killa Nos. 3/3 (3-4), 4 (7-6), 7 (6-18), 8 (8-0), 13 (3-18), 2/2 (6-4), 3/1 (4-11), 9/1 (4-19) owned by Elan Buildcon Private Limited [part of License No. 34 dated 12.06.2014 issued by DTCP Haryana].

Land measuring 24.43 acres at Sector - 106, Gurugram (Village Pawla Khusrupur Tehsil Kadipur) comprised in Rectangle No. 18 Killa Nos. 21 (8-0) and 22/2 (4-0), Rectangle No. 19 Killa Nos. 24 (8-0), 25 (8-0), 16/2 (4-0), 23 (8-0), 2/2 (4-0) and 22/1 (3-1), Rectangle No. 21 Killa No. 5 (5-12), Rectangle No. 22 Killa Nos. 4 (8-0), 13 (8-0), 3 (8-0), 18/2 (3-5), 8 (8-0), 14 (8-7), 1/1 (6-5), 1/2/1 (0-12), 2/1/1 (1-0), 2/3 (3-5), 9/1 (4-8), 12/2 (5-3), 18/3 (1-3), 5 (7-3), 6 (8-0), 15/1 (4-0), 27 (0-17), 7 (8-0), 1/2/2 (1-3), 2/1/2 (0-10), 2/2 (2-7), 9/2 (3-12), 10 (5-16) and 12/1 (2-0), Rectangle No. 23 Killa Nos. 1 (8-0), 2 (8-0), 3 (4-7), 9/2 (3-9) and 10 (7-13) owned by Elan Avenue Limited [part of License No. 80 dated 17.8.2012 issued by DTCP Haryana].

Land measuring 5.45 acres at Sector - 106, Gurugram (Village Pawla Khusrupur Tehsil Kadipur) comprised in Rectangle No. 17 Killa Nos. 20 (6-2), 21/1 (0-2) and 22/1/1 (0-3-7), Rectangle No. 18 Killa Nos. 16/1 (0-4), 16/2 (1-0), 24 (2-13), 14 (7-2), 18/1 (7-6), 15/1 (3-6), 13/2 (1-5), 17 (8-0), 23 (6-0) and 27 (1-7), Rectangle No. 19 Killa Nos. 19/1 (5-12), 20 (8-0), 21/1 (7-16) and 21/2 (0-4), Rectangle No. 20 Killa Nos. 16 (8-0) and 25 (8-0), Rectangle No. 22 Killa Nos. 26 (0-17) and 22/1min (0-7) Rectangle No. 23 Killa No. 4/1 (2-0), Rectangle No. 24 Killa Nos. 21/2/1 (0-11) and 21/2/2 (0-16) and lands comprised in Village Daulatabad, Tehsil Kadipur in Rectangle No. 48 Killa No. 5/15 (1-9-1) owned by Elan Avenue Limited.

Agricultural lands measuring 5.06875 acres at Sector - 106, Gurugram (Village Pawla Khusrupur, Tehsil Kadipur), comprised in Rectangle No. 23 Killa No. 6/1 (6-4), 6/2 (1-16), 7 (5-15), 14/3 (2-0), 15 (8-0) 16 (5-5), 27 (0-11) and Rectangle No. 24 Killa No. 10/2 (1-16), 11/1 (7-0), 20/1 (2-4) owned by Kay Kay Towers Limited Liability Partnership.

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TRAI recommends measures to boost telecom infra in North Eastern States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
TRAI has issued recommendations for bolstering telecom infrastructure in North East, suggesting parleys with the state governments to harmonise their respective 'right of way' policies with related Central rules, as well as favouring provision of electricity to telecom sites on priority at utility tariffs.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) noted that while a number of initiatives have been taken by the government to improve telecom connectivity in the northeastern states, there is still a lack of high-speed mobile-based internet and fixed broadband connectivity, mainly due to the inadequate transmission bandwidth (optical fibre, Microwave and satellite). "The Northeast states continue to grapple with a significant digital divide due to various reasons such as inhospitable terrain conditions, poor availability of power supply, transmission media related limitations, poor return of investment

prospects for TSPs, and Right of Way (RoW) related issues," the sector regulator said in a release.

The northeastern Region (NER) comprises the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura - together they form part of the East Himalayan region.

The latest recommendations by TRAI assume significance given that while average tele-density of India (as of April 2023) stood at 84.46 per cent, the tele-density in Assam state is 71 per cent and that of Northeast Licensed Service Area consisting of six states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura is 79.6 per cent.

The digital divide hampers the region's socio-economic growth, restricts access to essential services and information, and exacerbates the developmental gap between the Northeast and the rest of the country, TRAI noted.

US Treasury Secy: India needs to grow at 8% to make transformational changes in lives of people

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has the potential and should aim to grow at 8 per cent annually to bring about transformative changes in the lives of millions of people by around 2050, said noted economist and former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers here on Saturday.

India's GDP growth in 2022-23 was 7.2 per cent against 9.1 per cent in 2021-22. According to the Reserve Bank of India's projections, India's GDP will likely grow 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Summers clarified that 8 per cent growth was not his forecast on



the basis of current policy, but added, "given India's potential, even in a more challenging world economy, I believe that it is an imaginable goal."

"An eightfold expansion in the economy is transformative in the lives of hundreds of millions of peo-

ple. I think it is something to target as India defines its greatness in this next century."

In his lecture on "The World is on Fire", organised by the CII in partnership with Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), the eminent economist also dwelt extensively on climate change and the role of multilateral development banks.

He said the multilateral development banks are immensely important as international institutions.

On the multilateral development bank's (MDB) agenda, DEA Secretary Ajay Seth said the G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration

gave a strong call for bigger, better and more effective MDBs with a stronger financing capacity as well as enhanced representation of the global south.

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran was also present on the occasion.

Director General at Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Chandrajit Banerjee said the leadership on the task force for strengthening and reforming MDBs was a crucial part of the work done under India's G20 presidency, and the recommendations of the task force even found place in the G20 communique.

Updater Services garners ₹288 cr from anchor investors ahead of IPO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Integrated facilities management company Updater Services Ltd on Friday said it has raised Rs 288 crore from anchor investors days before the launch of its initial public offering (IPO).

The firm has allotted 96 lakh equity shares to 18 funds at Rs 300 apiece, which is also the upper end of the price band, according to a circular uploaded on the BSE website late Friday night.

Among the anchor investors that participated in the bidding are Nomura Singapore, Citigroup Global Markets Mauritius Pvt Ltd, BNP Paribas Arbitrage, Societe Generale, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund (MF), Bandhan MF and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Company.

The initial share sale, with a price band of Rs 280-300 per share, will be open for public subscription during



September 25-27.

The Rs 640-crore IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 400 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of up to 80 lakh equity shares by a promoter and existing shareholders.

Under the OFS, Tangi Facility Solutions Private Ltd, India Business Excellence Fund-II, and India Business Excellence Fund-III will be selling shares of the company.

The IPO is expected to fetch Rs

624 crore and Rs 640 crore at the lower end and upper end of the price band respectively.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for payment of debt, funding working capital requirements, pursuing inorganic initiatives, and general corporate purposes.

About 75 per cent of the issue size has been reserved for qualified institutional investors (QIBs), 15 per cent for non-institutional investors, and the remaining 10 per cent for retail investors. Investors can bid for a minimum of 50 equity shares and in multiples thereof.

The company offers integrated facilities management services and business support services to its clients. It caters to customer segments across sectors such as FMCG, manufacturing and engineering, BFSI, healthcare, IT/ITES, automobiles, logistics and warehousing, airports, ports, infrastructure, and retail.

Respond to intimation of past tax demands for faster refund: I-T dept to taxpayers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The income tax department on Saturday asked taxpayers to respond to intimation from the I-T department regarding outstanding demands of previous years to facilitate faster clearance of refunds for 2022-23 fiscal.

With some taxpayers taking to social media about receiving intimation from the I-T department regarding past unsettled tax demands, the department in a post on 'X' said, this is a taxpayer-friendly measure where an opportunity is being provided to assesses in line with "principles of natural justice".

SIDBI signs pact with DLAI to boost fintech sector

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) on Saturday said it has inked an agreement with the Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI) to boost the country's fintech sector. SIDBI and DLAI have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to this effect.

The MoU aims for collaborations with SIDBI to develop standard protocols to expedite the adoption of digital lending partnerships including alliances between banks and Lending Service Providers (LSPs), co-lending

collaborations among others, according to a statement. SIDBI will also provide resource support to eligible DLAI member NBFCs and also explore Assignment and Securitisation transactions, it added.

"We are happy to work with the industry on other important aspects like standard protocols, customer protection, grievance redressal, among others to facilitate faster adoption of digital lending," SIDBI CMD Sivasubramanian Ramann said.

As a part of its business strategy,

SIDBI is using digital technology and partnerships to directly reach out to micro enterprises and will explore offering its credit products through the DLAI members, he added.

Under the agreement, SIDBI and DLAI will explore partnerships for its 'Prayaas' Scheme for informal enterprises, co-lending, GST Sahay, Express loan, green financing, and other direct credit schemes. "This partnership signifies an important step in India's fintech journey for enhancing their role in financing the MSME sector.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 288/SS(D)-355/Spares Dated: 22.09.2023
Dy.CE/ Substation Design/ TS Organization. PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Design, Manufacture, Testing at firm's works & at PSPCL site and supply of 2 nos. (Each) 'Prime mover/ Puller/ Truck of reputed make suitable for pulling trailer along with 62MT Pay Load and Trailer for transportation of Heavy Power Transformer/ other material with maximum Payload Capacity of 62MT from one place to another in Punjab state complete with all accessories (ready for use in field) along with all the requisite Govt. clearances, RCs and set of Mtc. tools & tackles. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 26.09.2023 (11:00 AM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov>.

76155/12/2215/2023/28150 Dated CHD :- 9/27/23

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद् धार जिला धार म.प्र.
Email- cmohar@mpurban.gov.in
क्रमांक/5186/लो.नि. शाखा/2023 धार दिनांक 21.09.2023
:: पंचम ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना :: Dhar Date: 22.09.2023

NIT NO: UAD_2023_310513_1
Online bid are invited from registered contractors/reputed firm for work of water supply scheme under AMRUT 2.0 for Nagar Palika Parishad Dhar (M.P.).

S. No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount (In Lacs)	Completion Period In months including Rainy Season
1.	Work of Augmentation Water Supply Scheme of Dhar town under AMRUT 2.0	3471.60	24 Months

Interested Bidder can view the detailed NIT on website www.mptenders.gov.in last date of purchase is 07.10.2023 time 17.30 Hrs further details would be published on website only, and not in Newspaper.

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Office of the Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh
Email : sepwdph@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 5741 / 962C-03 (Yata 'C')/2023 Dated : 22/09/2023

National Competitive E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from date 04-10-2023 at 5.00 Pm onward on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (₹)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Construction of Chandak-Bans-Awalaghat-Gangolihat Motor Road with bridge under State Sector Constituency Gangolihat District Pithoragarh.	9.54	5000.00 +G.S.T.	120	18	Category A & higher for road & bridge works, in state Govt./ Govt. of India

I N B R I E F
VIT-AP UNIVERSITY HOSTS 3RD CONVOCATION
AMARAVATI: VIT-AP University, a renowned institution dedicated to excellence in education, announced the successful culmination of its 3rd Convocation ceremony, celebrating the academic accomplishments and achievements of the Class of 2023. The event took place on Sept 23, 2023 at the university's picturesque campus, marking a significant milestone in the journey of the graduating students. The convocation ceremony was a momentous occasion attended by distinguished guests, esteemed faculty members, Staff, proud parents, and the graduands themselves. The ceremony was graced by Dr Justice B Siva Sankara Rao — Chairman, the Judicial Preview Committee, Govt of AP — as the Chief guest, and Ashish Sharma, Director, Microsoft, attended as the Guest of Honour. Speaking on the occasion Justice Rao said the hard work and dedication are indisputably the cornerstones of student success, and Convocations serve as a day to mark the culmination of their accomplishments. The day serves as an inspirational reminder of the power of commitment and diligence, motivating students to pursue their ambitions with assurance.

ISLRTC OBSERVES SIGN LANGUAGE DAY
NEW DELHI: Sign Language Day with the theme 'A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!' was celebrated by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre under the aegis of DEPWD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Hangzhou Asian Games opens with futuristic ceremony

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Blending elements of artificial intelligence and eco-friendly technology, the Hangzhou Asian Games began here on Saturday with a one-of-a-kind opening ceremony, headlined by a futuristic light show and a digital torch relay.

The dazzling programme, held amid a diplomatic row over the denial of entry to three Indian athletes from Arunachal Pradesh, was a melange of technology, cultural history of China, and the spirit of the continent's unity.

In keeping with the main theme of 'Tides Surging in Asia', the ceremony was about the intermingling of China, Asia and the world in the new era, as well as the unity, love and friendship of the Asian people.

The water element through the surging tide of Qiantang river — which flows through Hangzhou — was the underlying theme of the grand evening which lasted more than two hours.

The ceremony sought to portray a distinctly Chinese and an uniquely Asian flair, capturing the country's cultural heritage and romantic imagery through the blending of its thousands of years old civilization and modern technology, through stunning visuals.

It portrayed the efforts of China's path to modernisation in a presentation that combined Eastern aesthetics and a viewpoint that connects with a global audience.

The technological might of China was written all over with the lighting of the cauldron — the Games' Flame — being done in a unique way.

Digital technology was utilised as torchbearers in the virtual and physical worlds joint-

ly lit the cauldron. 3-D dual aerial performance technology was also used for the first time in a major stadium while depicting the tidal bore of the Qiantang river. Two performers, one male and one female, danced in the air and closely interacted with the tidal bores which appeared on the LED ground display.

A variety of tidal bores, including a scissor-shaped bore, a lineal bore, a back-flowing bore, and a bore resembling the scales of a fish, rose and fell on the LED ground display.

Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the Games open as more than 12,000 athletes from 45 countries gear up to fight for top honours till October 8.

The Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) acting president Randhir Singh, International Olympic Committee (IOC) head Thomas Bach, heads of several countries, officials of National Olympic Committees and host of other dignitary were present on the occasion.

Singh urged the athletes to respect fellow athletes and the judges, and take part in the Games in the spirit of friendship and fair competitions.

The Games are being held belatedly due to a surge in Covid cases in China last year.

In keeping with the concept of 'Green Asian Games' or carbon-neutral Games, the opening ceremony used digital fireworks instead of real ones. It, nevertheless, created a thrilling atmosphere.

The nearly-packed 80,000 capacity 'Big Lotus' stadium was decked up elegantly for the occasion and welcomed the athletes from the participating countries, including India, with loud cheers.

After three wushu players



from Arunachal Pradesh were denied visa by the Chinese government, India had cancelled the visit of its sports minister Anurag Thakur. Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha was not present as she is currently in Paraguay as part of a Parliamentary delegation, though other officials attended the ceremony.

Loud cheers greeted the nearly 100 Indian athletes and officials as they marched into the stadium, led by flag-bearers Harmanpreet Singh and Lovlina Borgohain. The Indian contingent walked out for the athletes' parade in eighth position.

From the tennis team, only Rameshdev Prasad participated in the parade since the other players have matches on Sunday.

The male athletes were clad in bandhgala jacket and khaki kurta while their female counterparts donned high-necked blouse and khaki-textured saree made from recycled fabrics.

India is fielding 655 athletes in the Games.

To begin with, the theme 'Water in Autumn Glow' depict-

ed water as the heart and soul of Hangzhou, where water comes in many forms — West Lake, Qiantang Tidal Bore, the thousand-year-old Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, and the water conservation system of the Archeological Ruin of Liangzhu City.

In a bid to use culture as a medium of blending the power of technology and the beauty of art inspired by traditional Chinese culture, the opening ceremony combined the flavour of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province imagery and elements unique to

the country.

Through innovative modern technologies, the ceremony also showcased the attractiveness, appeal and unique nature of Eastern aesthetics, as well as the profound impact culture has, the power of science, and the encompassing reach of art.

After around an hour-long protocol part of the ceremony, a cultural programme of 30 minutes and a laser show enthralled the crowd. That was followed by the lighting of the Cauldron and playing of the official song.

As September 23 falls on Autumn Equinox, or the Qiu-fen, one of China's 24 solar terms, it's the country's time to celebrate the harvest and welcome guests from around the world.

The Ruins of Ancient Liangzhu City, a sacred site in China's civilization and also a UNESCO Heritage site, from where the torch relay began, was also highlighted and 19 pieces of jade cong were used to represent the number of editions of the Asian Games.

The cultural programme part had sections on the natur-

al beauty and 'timeless grace' of Hangzhou and other cities of southern China, including Ningbo, Shaoxing, Suzhou and Wenzhou where a few events of the Games are also being held.

Instead of the traditional single torchbearer lighting the Cauldron, digital torchbearers were involved for the first time in a moment when the virtual and the real worlds meet.

Many individuals were selected as digital torchbearers to carry the hopes and dreams of hundreds of millions of people in Asia, join in as torchbearers in the final leg at the venue and light the Cauldron together. By hosting the continent's biggest multi-sporting event, China has heralded its opening from the pandemic with a giant competition, the largest ever in its history.

No doubt, the Olympics is the pinnacle multi-sporting event in the world but more athletes compete in the Asian Games, with over 12,000 taking part in Hangzhou.

About 11,000 participated in the Tokyo Olympics two years ago and about 10,500 will do so in the next year's Paris Games.

The 2018 Asian Games had seen a little over 11,000 athletes taking part, which will be surpassed in Hangzhou.

Besides Hangzhou, the 19th edition of the continental showpiece will be held in five other cities — Huzhou, Ningbo, Shaoxing, Jinhua and Wenzhou.

Forty-five nations and territories in Asia will compete for 481 gold medals from 40 sports and 61 disciplines, including Esports which is making its debut in the Games.

Competitions in football, volleyball, cricket, rowing, sailing and modern pentathlon began even before Saturday's opening ceremony.



Monaco slip to defeat after Balogun misses two penalties

AFP ■ PARIS

Folarin Balogun missed two penalties on his first Monaco start before local rivals Nice grabbed a stoppage time winner to go top of Ligue 1 on Friday.

One week after stunning champions PSG at the Parc des Princes 3-2, Nice claimed the three points again when Jeremie Boga slalomed through the Monaco defence to score as Francesco Farioli's team continued an undefeated start to the season.

Nice leapfrogged previously unbeaten Monaco to take top spot by one point after a third win in six games. It was a miserable first start for US international striker Balogun who left Arsenal for Monaco in the summer on a 30-million-euro transfer.

He had penalties saved by Nice goalkeeper Marcin Bulka in the 12th and 54th minutes.

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Pochettino defends Chelsea medical team amid rash of injuries

AFP ■ LONDON

Mauricio Pochettino insists Chelsea's medical department are not to blame for the rash of injuries that have derailed the start of his reign.

Chelsea's injury crisis left Pochettino with only 15 fit senior players for last weekend's disappointing draw at Bournemouth in the Premier League.

Although Chelsea have spent over £1 billion (\$1.2 billion) on signings since Todd Boehly's consortium took over in 2021, the squad is stretched to breaking point.

The Blues had 12 stars absent against Bournemouth, forcing Pochettino to include three players aged 19 or under who had no first-team experience on his bench, as well as two goalkeepers.

Christopher Nkunku, Reece James, Romeo Lavia, Wesley Fofana, Carney Chukwuemeka, Trevoh Chalobah and Moises Caicedo are among the players filling the treatment room.

Chelsea are languishing in 14th with one win from five games ahead of Sunday's clash with Aston Villa, but Pochettino doesn't believe the medical staff are at fault.

"Before we arrived here we did everything to try and have a clear idea of why there were



too many injuries last season also, to analyse the risk," Pochettino told reporters on Friday.

"It's about the profile of the player, the risk of the player. It's not the people working in the medical staff of performance area.

"I think we need to respect these areas at the club are very

good professionals, qualified people. That's why they are working in football. But there's an individual risk to certain players, you need to assess.

"Then there's bad luck. We have injuries that maybe happen in one season or maybe in two, but have happened to Chelsea because of different situations you cannot control."



Ten Hag baffled by Man Utd's defensive frailties

AFP ■ LONDON

Erik ten Hag admits he does not know why Manchester United have defended so poorly throughout their dismal start to the season.

Ten Hag's side have conceded 14 goals in their last five games in all competitions after slipping to a 4-3 defeat at Bayern Munich in their Champions League opener on Wednesday.

The Bayern collapse came after Brighton won 3-1 at Old Trafford in the Premier League to pile pressure on United boss Ten Hag.

With a clash against struggling Burnley looming on Saturday, Ten Hag desperately needs to shore up United's leaky defence. Alarming for United fans, the Dutch coach conceded he is still trying to get to the

root of the problem.

"We have shown that we can do it because last year we had the most clean sheets in the Premier League because of the team, because we defended very good as a team, so we have to get back to that standard," Ten Hag told reporters on Friday. "Of course I am pushing the team and demanding from the team, and from the start of the season, but they are human beings, not robots, so, why they are not doing it, I try to find out and I try to give the solutions and try to motivate the players to do the job."

"When you are in a period like we are in always as a manager you are asking yourself these questions. My job is to get them to do the job."

Question marks have been raised about the attitude of United's squad, with clips from the Bayern game apparently showing players not chasing back as hard as they might.

Ten Hag does not believe a lack of willingness was to blame, though, saying: "It's always a concern when we didn't run but I think against Bayern it was not the case. In certain situations: yes. So it's also to recognise which situation. Is it about they didn't recognise it and didn't make the right decisions or is it about willingness?"

"Against Spurs, we didn't run too much. But I think against Bayern we did our best from physical outputs but we didn't always run in the right moment."

"If we bounced back like we did in Munich, you can't say the spirit isn't right. I think we have other problems than that."

AFP ■ MIAMI

Seven Caribbean countries will host matches at next year's T20 World Cup, including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Friday.

The ICC awarded the hosting of the event, to be held in June 2024, to the West Indies and the United States in November 2021.

Dominica, Guyana, St Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have also been named as hosts.

"The matches will again give cricket fans the unique experience of enjoying cricket in the Caribbean," said ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice.

Matches will also be held in New York, Florida and Texas in the United States, the first time a major ICC event has been held in the country.

One notable absence from the list of Caribbean host nations is Jamaica, whose Sabina Park ground in the capital Kingston is one of the iconic homes of West Indies cricket.

Jamaica has the largest population of the main cricket-playing nations in the Caribbean

Caribbean nations named as T20 World Cup venues but no Jamaica



but did not submit a bid to host the tournament.

Courtney Francis, chief executive officer of the Jamaican Cricket Association, said Cricket West Indies engaged with

national governments over potential bids and that Jamaica's administration had opted against participation.

"The government is the one who determines whether we

could be able to host matches because all the expenses would have come back to the government," he told CVM television.

"The government is the one who would have put up the bid

money. They would have been the one to carry out repairs to the infrastructure and so on.

"The government did not see it as a viable option in their view and that is the reason why

I believe that we have not been able to bid." West Indies hosted the tournament in 2010, three years after holding the 50 overs World Cup, and Cricket West Indies chief executive Johnny Grave said they were ready to put on a show again.

"The West Indies has got a huge experience in hosting ICC events and we're currently hosting the Caribbean Premier League, which has been another successful tournament."

"We have very experienced operators throughout the region that we work with and partner with and all the stakeholders will be ready to welcome the world and stage this iconic ICC event," he said. "We're all tremendously excited by the opportunity and the platform that it gives our region to promote itself to the world for tourism, for economic development, as well as hopefully to give our men's team a huge home advantage and going for a record third title."

Next year's tournament will be the first edition of the event to include a record 20 teams.

England are the current T20 world champions, winning their second title when they beat Pakistan in the final in Melbourne last year.

Record-equalling Guirassy fires Stuttgart to top of Bundesliga

AFP ■ STUTTGART (GERMANY)

Serhou Guirassy scored twice to tie a Bundesliga record and propel Stuttgart to the top of the table with a 3-1 home victory over struggling Darmstadt on Friday.

Stuttgart fell behind after 18 minutes when defender Dan-Axel Zagadou turned a low cross inside his own near post. Enzo Millot replied five minutes later, side footing home from a Guirassy lay off.

The Guinea striker then put Stuttgart ahead in the 32nd minute, smashing the ball in from the edge of the area. It was his ninth league goal from nine strikes at goal this season.

In added time, Guirassy dinked over goalkeeper Marcel Schuhen to become the second player to reach 10 Bundesliga goals in five games. The first was Robert Lewandowski.

"I am very happy," a beaming Guirassy said. "We won, that's the most important thing. But of course I'm also happy



about my goals and that I was able to help my team with them. I have to continue that now."

Stuttgart have a league-leading 17 goals and Guirassy has 10 of them.

"He's in top form, outstanding. We are happy to have him," said midfielder Chris Fuehrich.

The victory lifted Stuttgart to 12 points, two ahead of Bayer Leverkusen who host Heidenheim on Sunday and third-place Bayern Munich, who entertain Bochum on Saturday.

Darmstadt dropped to last place on goal difference.

Pressure mounts on Iyer, Ashwin for performances that count



PTI ■ INDORE

Shreyas Iyer will be desperate for some runs after missing out on a flat track while the skillful R Ashwin will be searching for wickets in the middle overs when India take on Australia in the second ODI here on Sunday.

Despite missing four first-XI players, including skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, India were able to win the first ODI rather comfortably and look on course to secure the series at the Holkar Stadium which usually produces high-scoring games.

Rain in the city has brought the temperature down which will be welcomed by the players from either side after experiencing unusual heat and humidity in Mohali. The game on Friday had enough positives for India, mainly the performance of Mohammad Shami and Surya-

kumar Yadav, but few questions still need to be answered ahead of the World Cup, beginning October 5.

India's designated number 4 Iyer, whose fitness came under the scanner in the Asia Cup even though he was coming back from a long injury-lay off, has not been able to get time in the middle due to different reasons.

While a back spasm ruled him out of the business end of Asia Cup, an avoidable run out on Friday ended his nervy 8-ball stay in the centre.

The right-hander will be hoping for a bagful of runs in the coming two games which would make him and his team feel much better going into the global event.

Ashwin, on the other hand, came up with a tidy bowling effort in his comeback game but was not able to put the Australian batters in much dis-

comfort on a flat track. He was not able to generate much turn and his flatter deliveries were easily negotiated by the opposition.

The champion spinner could still make a last minute entry into India's World Cup if Axar Patel doesn't get fit in time but the team management expects more from the 37-year-old than what he managed on Friday.

It also remains to be seen if another off-spinner Washington Sundar gets a game. If that happens on Sunday, Ashwin might have to warm the bench. Shardul Thakur too would be looking for an improvement from the first game, having conceded 78 runs in 10 overs while all the other bowlers returned frugal figures.

He does have a knack of picking wickets and coming up with a useful cameo with the bat

but he has not been able to do that consistently in the ODI format. Thakur will only be used sporadically in the World Cup and therefore, he would be keen to make the most of the chances he gets in the ongoing series.

In the batting department, world's best T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav seems to have cracked the ODI code after a prolonged lean patch.

The management has told him to consume 45-50 balls every game, which is enough for someone like him to make a telling impact on the match. He just did that on Friday with a well paced half-century.

Like India, Australia too were missing some of their key players in the opener including Mitchell Starc, Glenn Maxwell and Josh Hazlewood. Skipper Pat Cummins hinted after the game in Mohali that they might only be ready by the third game

in Rajkot on September 27.

Australia won the series in India earlier this year and find themselves in a must-win situation on Sunday. Josh Inglis showed promise with a run a ball 45 but the middle-order needs to be more consistent.

Veteran opener David Warner has carried his good form from South Africa to India and would be looking to maintain it over the next couple of months.

Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne were guilty of throwing their starts in Mohali and a big hundred will be needed from either of them if Australia are to comeback in the series. The last ODI was played here in January when India amassed 385 against New Zealand with Rohit and Shubman Gill smashing hundreds.

Rohit will not be around but trust Gill to do an encore in front of a vibrant Indore crowd.

You shouldn't feel low if you are not playing XI: Shami



PTI ■ MOHALI

"When I was playing regularly, there must have been someone, who had to sit out and I wasn't guilty. So you can't feel low if you are sitting out because the team is winning," a pragmatic Mohammed Shami said when asked about the sporadic chances he has been getting in 50-over cricket of late.

The Indian team management has indicated that when it plays full strength during the upcoming World Cup, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj will be the two front-line pacers.

But after his match-winning figures of 5 for 51, Shami said that rotation isn't a bad thing when you play so many matches on the bounce.

"This is the team's plan and it is important to stick with it. You can't be always in the playing XI because a lot

depends on the team combination," Shami said.

"If you are playing, well and good and if you are not in the playing XI, then you should be supportive of those, who are playing. I think there is no point feeling low and I am ready to play the role the team gives me," Shami said as he steered clear of anything that could be remotely controversial.

He was also asked if he approves of this rotation policy where he has to sit out.

"What you are trying to know is beyond my comprehension but obviously when you build a team, (the) coach has a role to rotate players and, based on the situation, it is decided," Shami said with a wry smile.

He made it clear that rotation before a big event like the World Cup is a good thing.

"You have seen we have (had) got results due to rotation and I believe before the World

Cup, you shouldn't put too much workload in back-to-back games, and its going well and we are getting good results."

Shami had taken a break after the World Test Championship final and he didn't travel to the West Indies for the two Tests and three ODIs.

"It was important to take that break because I had played back-to-back games continuously for 7-8 months. At the back of my head, I felt I needed a break for a series.

"I discussed with coach (Rahul Dravid) and captain (Rohit Sharma) and took a break (from the West Indies series). But my break never seemed like a break for me because I have an elaborate training set-up at home (Sahaspur in UP's Amroha) and I end up training more at home than when I am with the Indian team," he stated.

He was asked if he did anything special to dismiss Steve Smith, but his answer was in the negative.

"Just tried to do my basics right and hit the top of off-stump and wait for the batters to make a mistake."

The conditions were humid and Shami was used in small spells. Could it be a template going into the World Cup?

"It depends on the situation. How a partnership (is) going and how well you are bowling at that time. Sometimes, you end up bowling a six-over spell as well while sometimes you bowl only three overs."

He admitted that heat does a play role.

"The heat does play a part and we are also human beings. It takes a toll on our bodies and on stamina. But when you have played international cricket for so long, it will not affect your fitness but it depends how much effort we are putting in," he concluded.

PM lays foundation stone of international cricket stadium in Varanasi

PTI ■ VARANASI (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi and said that through the game, the world is "getting linked" with India.

Highlighting that the design of the stadium dedicated to Lord Mahadev has instilled a feeling of pride among the citizens of Kashi, he said the facility would witness great cricket matches while young athletes would get an opportunity to train at the international level.

Modi said recent sporting successes of India were due to a changed approach as now sports have been linked with fitness, employment and career of youths.

Compared to nine years ago, this year's sports budget has been increased threefold, he said.



"Through cricket, the world is getting linked with India" and many new countries are playing cricket leading to a greater number of matches, he said, adding this stadium will cater to the rising demand for such facilities in the coming years.

To be built near the Ring Road in Rajatalab area here at a cost of about Rs 450 crores and spread across an area of more than 30 acres, the stadium is likely to be ready by December

2025. The Uttar Pradesh government said it has spent Rs 121 crore to acquire the land for the stadium while the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will spend Rs 330 crore on its construction.

The spectators' gallery of the stadium would resemble the steps of the ghats of Varanasi. This will be Uttar Pradesh's third international cricket stadium after Kanpur and Lucknow.

Addressing the gathering, Modi said he is visiting Kashi exactly one month after India reached the Shiv Shakti point on the moon where Chandrayaan landed.

"One place of Shiv Shakti is on the moon, while the other one is here in Kashi," he said.

He also noted the significance of the venue which is at the intersection of the route to Mata Vindhyaasini and its proximity with the village Motikot, the place from which socialist leader Raj Narain hailed.

Modi underlined that the development of sports infrastructure of such scale not only has a positive effect on sports but also on the regional economy. He said such developments attract more visitors which greatly benefits sectors such as hotels, eateries, rickshaws and auto drivers as well as oarsmen in the region.

Pakistan team awaits India visa for WC travel



PTI ■ INDORE

Players and team officials of Pakistan's World Cup-bound contingent are yet to get visas for their scheduled travel to India on September 27, two days before their opening warm-up fixture.

The Pakistan squad was supposed to reach Hyderabad via Dubai where a two-day team bonding exercise was planned before travelling to India on September 27.

The Babar Azam-led side is scheduled to play its first warm-up game against New Zealand on September 29.

PCB sources told PTI that the team bonding trip to Dubai has been cancelled as players await their visas from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

Sources also confirmed that the PCB has raised the matter with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Pakistan last visited India for the T20 World Cup in 2016. The arch-rivals only play each other in Asia Cup and ICC tournaments due to the tense relations between the two countries.

"PCB had sent its officials to Islamabad for passport collection yesterday but the visas are still in process. That has forced the board to cancel the team bonding trip in Dubai. If the visas come through, the team will reach Hyderabad on September 27 via Dubai," said a source.

Another source privy to the matter added: "the visas will come through after due vetting process. When it comes to issuing an Indian visa to a Pakistan passport holder, clearances need to come from three ministries — home, external affairs and sports. That process takes time but it will happen."

A total of 33 members of the Pakistan contingent, including players, three travelling reserves and team officials, are awaiting their visas. Tournament host BCCI could not be reached for a comment.

Pakistan's second warm-up will be against Australia on October 3, also in Hyderabad.

They will remain in the city for their opening two World Cup games against Netherlands and Sri Lanka on October 6 and 10 respectively before flying to Ahmedabad for the big game against hosts India on October 14. Only two members from the current Pakistan squad have toured India for cricket - Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Agha.

Gambhir picks Babar as best player for World Cup

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Gautam Gambhir picks Pakistan captain Babar Azam over Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and David Warner for the upcoming ODI World Cup which will start from October 5 in India. LSG mentor also reckoned that Babar Azam has a different level of quality.

In the recent outing against India in the Asia Cup 2023 Super Four clash Babar Azam was unable to fire runs from his bat he just scored 10 runs and Pakistan lost that match by a huge margin of 228 runs.

Gambhir reckons that Babar Azam will be the player to watch out in the upcoming tournament.

"Babar Azam. I mean Babar Azam has the quality that he can set this World Cup on fire. And I have seen very few players who have so much time to bat. And I believe that Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, David Warner, Kane Williamson, Joe Root, but Babar Azam has a different level of quality" said Gambhir on Star Sports.

The first match of ODI World Cup 2023 will be played between defending champion England and New Zealand at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

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"I just don't really believe in mistakes and worst choices. Everything I have done and not done has made me who I am"
— Elisabeth Moss



ENVIRONMENTAL AWAKENING GADGIL'S REVEALING MEMOIRS

Professor Gadgil's *A Walk Up the Hill* sheds light on the crisis in the Western Ghats, unveiling widespread illegal activities, and conflicts between the Church and political entities, writes **KUMAR CHELLAPPAN**

The memoir, "*A Walk Up the Hill*," authored by Professor Madhav Gadgil, a distinguished environmental scientist who headed the government-appointed Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), is poised to make a significant impact in India. The WGEEP was established by the Central Government through an order dated March 4, 2010.

The panel's mandate included assessing the current ecological status of the Western Ghats region, demarcating areas within the Western Ghats region in need of designation as Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) under the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986. Additionally, the panel was tasked with making recommendations for the conservation, protection, and rejuvenation of the Western Ghats region, following a comprehensive consultation process involving the people and governments of all concerned states.

The report by the Gadgil committee was presented to then Union Minister for Environment and Forest Jairam Ramesh on August 30, 2011. This, in itself, was a rare event, as a committee usually submits its final report years after it was constituted, availing as many extensions as possible so that the head of the panel and members could continue receiving funds indefinitely.

Though Prof Gadgil was told that the WGEEP report would be made public on September 21, it was not to be. The Government had a change of heart, and the panel members were instructed not to discuss the contents with the public or the media. The Delhi High Court had to intervene to make the report public, and the Ministry for Environment and Forest uploaded it on its website.

The reasons behind the ministry's initial opposition to releasing the report were numerous. What the Gadgil committee members witnessed during their studies across the Western Ghats was shocking. A cabal of private industrialists, contractors, and elected representatives of the people were involved in

plundering the ecologically fragile Western Ghats, despite the resistance of both the local population and the local self-governments. Although the Constitution of India demands that no industrialisation or commercial exploitation of ecologically and environmentally sensitive regions should be undertaken without obtaining green clearance from the local population and the Gram Sabhas, these laws were blatantly violated by politicians, religious leaders, and contractors whose sole ambition was to make more money without making any investment.

"The Western Ghats, the mountain chain running parallel to the west coast of the Indian peninsula, covers an area of 1,60,000 sq km over a stretch of 1,600 km spanning across the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. All over the world, such mountains, endowed as they are with high levels of environmental heterogeneity, are treasure troves of natural diversity. In the Western Ghats, the annual rainfall ranges from as much as 8000 mm in the southwestern corner of upper Nilgiris to a mere 500 mm in the Moyar gorge just 30 km to its east... The Western Ghats are no ordinary biome. They constitute the water tower of peninsular India, providing water to 245 million people and draining a large part of the country's land surface," writes Gadgil.

The studies conducted by Gadgil and other ecologists have confirmed the fact that Western Ghats have become an ecological hotspot. Only 7 per cent of the Ghat's primary vegetation has survived and it has 51 critically endangered species. Climate change will cause further stress. Observations and inferences made by Gadgil and others have proved to be true as the entire area that comes under the shadow of the Ghats experience unexpected torrential downpour, landslides and even dry spell lasting months.

The verdant forests and greenery of the region have given way to barren lands. Unabated felling of trees and uncontrolled mining and quarrying have taken its toll as the forest and mining mafia have taken control of the entire stretch. Readers may be remembering forest brigand



“THE SHOCKING DISCLOSURES MADE BY THE ECOLOGIST ARE WHAT HE CAME ACROSS IN THE WESTERN GHATS. THE FORESTS, RIVERS, MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS ARE ON DEATHBED AND ARE ON LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS. THE WESTERN GHATS HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED TO THE HILT BY THE MINING AND TIMBER MAFIA. THE REGION COULD NOT WITHSTAND ANY MORE INVASIONS ON ITS ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY”

Veerappan kidnapping Kannada matinee idol Rajkumar to the Sathyamangalam forests in Tamil Nadu. The reason for the kidnapping was the turf war between various mafia groups engaged in looting the forest wealth, including exotic trees and mining of costly granites from the reserve forests in the Ghats, though Gadgil has steered clear from this part.

The shocking disclosures made by the ecologist are what he came across in the Western Ghats. The forests, rivers, mountains and valleys are on deathbed and are on life support systems. The Western Ghats have been exploited to the hilt by the mining and timber mafia. The region could not withstand any more invasions on its environment and ecology. The WGEEP committee, after a series of brainstorming sessions, suggested to the government that enough was enough and it was time to put a full stop to mining activities and tree felling. Some of the crucial recommendations made by Gadgil and his colleagues include no special economic zones, no new hill stations, rescheduling reservoir operations to improve downstream flows, participatory sand auditing and strict regulation of sand mining, rehabilitation of mined areas with special focus on reviving water resources, promoting organic agricultural practices and precision agricultural practices, strictly controlling use of dynamite and other explosives to kill fish, no mining in areas demarcated as Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ1), where mining exists it should be phased out in five years, by 2016 illegal mining to be stopped immediately, etc. The report was submitted to then minister Jairam Ramesh.

The UPA governments began its hide and seek game with the Gadgil committee report and it refused to divulge the details of the same. The Delhi High Court intervention made the ministry upload the report on its

portal. But the report caused an earthquake in Kerala. The church reacted as if it had seen red despite the fact that it remained a closely guarded secret. Then Bishop of Idukki Mathew Aanikuzhikkattil issued a laity message with instruction to read the same on weekly congregations. He said in the message that the attempt has a diabolic nature and has been conceived to evict the population from the forests. The bishop also alleged that the report if implemented would make hundreds of thousands of people staying in the region homeless and destitute. The campaign was of the same style as we saw in the aftermath of the Citizen Amendment Bill getting legislated in Parliament. A campaign was unleashed across southern India alleging that the Bill was an attempt to get rid of a particular community from India.

Jolted by the stance of the church, the then Kerala Government passed a resolution in the Assembly condemning the Gadgil committee report. Though Gadgil was a fellow traveller, his comrades in the State had no qualms in lambasting the report. The resentment by the church led the Centre to appoint a committee headed by space scientist Kasturirangan to study the viability and feasibility of the Gadgil report. Kasturirangan did what he was asked to do and the story ended there. The Western Ghats continue its downward slide without any interruption. The man-animal conflict has become a regular event in the region as elephants, leopards and tigers come out of the forests in search of drinking water and a square meal which would sustain their lives. Who cares?

Even as Gadgil recounts his Western Ghats odyssey, another equally important study from Chennai-based CPR Environment Research Centre led by Dr Nanditha Krishna has more shocking

disclosures to make. Sacred groves across India, home to local flora and fauna and mini biosphere reserves have shrunk and most of them have disappeared altogether from the face of the earth. "Sacred groves represent an ancient Indian conservation tradition protected by local people out of reverence, respect and fear. These untouched patches of forest contain some endangered rare and threatened medicinal plant species. The rural folk conserve and preserve species diversity that are the last remnants of native vegetation," explained Dr Nanditha Krishna, the first winner of Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskaar for her relentless campaign against destruction of sacred groves which are known as Swami Shola, Koil Kadu in Tamil Nadu, Pavithra Vanam in Andhra Pradesh, Kavu in Kerala, Mawlong in Assam and Meghalaya, Manganon in Western Ghats, Dev Vana in MP and Karnataka.

This is a unique conservation style which makes use of religion and tradition to preserve ecology as a natural heritage. Wherever there are sacred groves, they are adored as spiritual retreat. Before concluding, let me draw readers attention to what SK Pottekat, the legendary travelogue writer, wrote in 1955 about his experience in Finland. "Pine trees are the main source of income for European countries. When one cuts down a pine tree, he has to convince the authorities that six pine saplings have been planted." Did we have such laws in India at any time?

(The writer is special correspondent, *The Pioneer*)



HEALTH BRIEFS

CADILA PHARMA PHASE I CLINICAL TRIAL FOR CHICKEN POX SHOT: SEC RECOMMENDS NOD FOR TRIAL

The Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on vaccines, which reviews proposals and advises the Drugs Controller General (India) in matters for biologicals and post approval change proposals, has recommended granting nod to Gujarat-based Cadila Pharmaceuticals to conduct phase I clinical trial for its chicken pox vaccine.

The decision was taken in a recent meeting last month of the SEC after the company submitted a revised phase I clinical trial protocol for grant of permission to conduct the trial for Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) vaccine. The pharma firm had earlier submitted its proposal for grant of permission to conduct Phase I clinical trial of its Varicella-Zoster virus (VZV) vaccine along with preclinical data and it was considered in a SEC meeting held on May 16.

The SEC, during then, after detailed deliberation

recommended that the company should submit single dose toxicity data as per the provisions of the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.

Further, it recommended, the firm should revise the phase I clinical trial protocol with some changes such as the volume of blood to be withdrawn for analysis should be reduced.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Varicella (chicken-pox) is an acute, highly contagious disease caused by varicella-zoster virus (VZV), a member of the herpesvirus family.

"Only one serotype of VZV is known, and humans are the only reservoir. Following infection, the virus remains latent in neural ganglia and in about 10-20% of cases it is reactivated to cause herpes zoster, or shingles, generally in persons over 50 years of age or immunocompromised individuals," it said.

THIS ROBOT CAN NAVIGATE LIVING LUNG TISSUE TO DETECT TUMOR

Scientists from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Vanderbilt University in the US have developed a robot that can autonomously traverse human lungs, enabling physicians to reach tumours that are extremely small and hide deep within tissues.

The robot with an autonomous steerable needle can go from "Point A" to "Point B" while avoiding important structures, such as tiny airways and blood vessels, in a living laboratory model.

"This technology allows us to reach targets we can't otherwise reach with a standard or even robotic bron-

choscope," said Jason Akulian, from the UNC Department of Medicine. "It gives you that extra few centimeters or a few millimeters even, which would help immensely with pursuing small targets in the lungs," he added.

The robot, detailed in the journal Science Robotics, is made of several separate components. A mechanical control provides controlled thrust of the needle to go forward and backward and the needle design allows for steering along curved paths. The needle is made from a nickel-titanium alloy and has been laser etched to increase its flexibility.

QCI CALLS FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY INTERVENTIONS IN RURAL AREAS

The Quality Council of India (QCI) has highlighted the importance of initiating healthcare quality interventions in rural areas and tier 2 and tier 3 cities with the launch of Digital Health Accreditation Standards for Hospitals among others.

In order to achieve the goal of patient safety, the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) has recently released new standards including 1st Edition of Digital Health Accreditation Standards for Hospitals, Entry Level Certification Standards for Dental Clinics, Care Home Accreditation Standards and 3rd Edition of Accreditation Standards for Dental Service Providers among others to ensure patient safety at the grassroots level.

The NABH is a constituent board of QCI, set up to establish and operate accreditation programmes for healthcare organisations.

Jaxay Shah, chairperson, QCI, said, "We believe that quality change begins at the very foundation of our healthcare system, not limited to only metropolitan cities but also in the rural and tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India."

Dr RP Singh, secretary general, QCI said, "Recognizing the profound significance of quality and well-being of patients, a robust quality ecosystem in healthcare is not only crucial for elevating our healthcare industry but also for positioning it firmly on the global map."

Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO, NABH emphasized on the intricate link between technology and patient safety.

NEUBERG DIAGNOSTIC STRENGTHENS ITS POSITION IN SECTOR

Neuberg Diagnostics Private Limited, a prominent player in the diagnostics sector with a global presence, has announced the successful merger of Neuberg Supratech Reference Laboratory, Ahmedabad, and Neuberg Anand Reference Laboratory, Bangalore, into Neuberg Diagnostics Private Limited. This merger has been facilitated through an NCLT court-based process, further solidifying Neuberg

Diagnostics' position as a frontrunner in the diagnostic industry.

Dr GSK Velu, chairman and managing director of Neuberg Diagnostics said, "The merger marks a significant step forward in our journey to provide unparalleled healthcare solutions. By integrating these renowned laboratories, we reinforce our commitment to delivering excellence in diagnostics and patient care."

TECHEAGLE, AIIM JODHPUR BID TO REACHOUT TO TRIBALS

TechEagle, India's leading drone delivery company, announces partnership with AIIMS Jodhpur to deliver healthcare essentials for the tribal population. Its state-of-the-art, hybrid e-VTOL Drone, Vertiplane X3 took off for its maiden flight from Sirohi carrying medicines to Waloriya, a location habited by the tribal population. AIIMS, Jodhpur is recognised as a "Centre of Excellence

(COE) for Tribal Health" by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Vikram Singh Meena, founder & CEO of TechEagle said, "Time is the most crucial dimension when we talk about emergency healthcare as every second is important in such a scenario and by deploying innovative solutions such as drones a lot of time could be saved and in turn lives."

'LOW-INCOME NATIONS ILL-EQUIPPED FOR CVD FIGHT'

Even as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) such as stroke, diabetes and hypertension are claiming millions of people prematurely every year, most healthcare facilities in many Low-and Middle-income Countries (LMICs) are unprepared to treat such patients, says a study. It comes as a wakeup call for India which is already facing burgeoning CVDs epidemic, reports ARCHANA JYOTI

Globally, nearly 18 million premature deaths in 2019 were due to CVD, of which 75 per cent were in LMICs, where they are leading causes of death and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in adults. Diabetes and hypertension are key risk factors for CVD and amongst the top three risk factors for deaths and disability, globally.

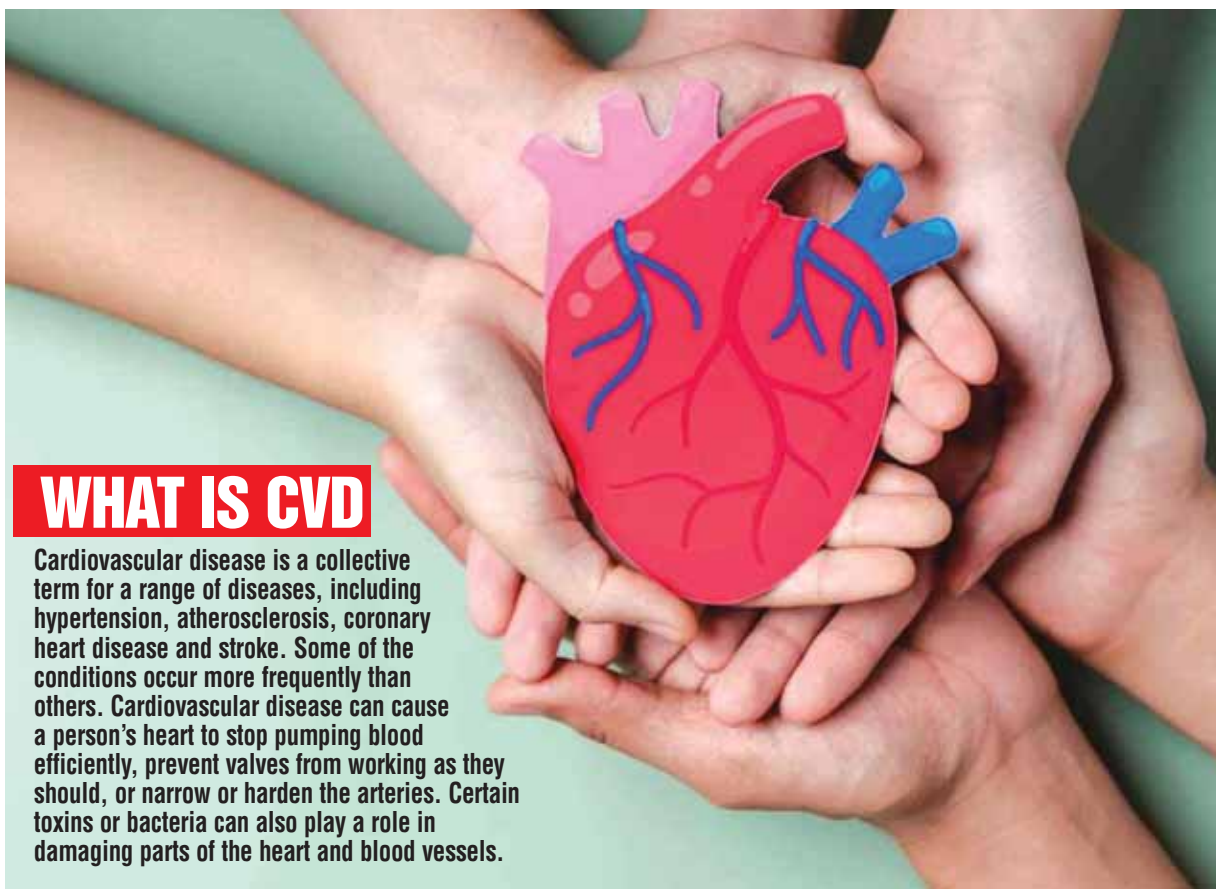
Publishing their findings recently in PLOS Global Public Health, an international team of researchers led by the University of Birmingham, looked at readiness to provide care for HIV or CVD in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti, Malawi, Nepal, Senegal, and Tanzania.

They discovered that most facilities are unprepared to deliver services to treat or manage cardiovascular disease risk factors (CVDRF) such as diabetes and hypertension.

However, the increased investment in facilities to treat HIV – received as part of the drive to meet UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets – may form part of a solution to tackle CVDRFs, which have been relatively neglected in terms of receiving global funding and attention. The study authors found that if facilities are able to provide HIV care, they are much more able to supply care for CVDRFs.

They found that despite UN targets to reduce CVDRF, facilities were significantly less ready to provide CVDRF care than HIV care, even though despite years of investment in HIV, facilities were often not ready to fully provide care for HIV.

Lead author Professor Justine Davies, from the University of Birmingham, commented: "We've had global targets to reduce burden of CVDRFs since 2011, but tackling the problem requires healthcare services to have all the ingredients to care for patients



WHAT IS CVD

Cardiovascular disease is a collective term for a range of diseases, including hypertension, atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease and stroke. Some of the conditions occur more frequently than others. Cardiovascular disease can cause a person's heart to stop pumping blood efficiently, prevent valves from working as they should, or narrow or harden the arteries. Certain toxins or bacteria can also play a role in damaging parts of the heart and blood vessels.

– including staff, facilities, medicines, or equipment.

"Given the long-term financial investment and advocacy for HIV, we looked to see what readiness to provide care could be achieved with good long-term investment. We then compared readiness for CVD care with that of HIV care. We found that, despite years of investment in HIV, facilities were often not ready to fully provide care. But we found that the situation for CVD was far worse."

Neil Cockburn, another lead author on the paper from the University of Birmingham, commented: "There needs to be a large scale up of investment to ensure facilities are ready to provide healthcare for people with

CVDRF if global targets are to be met.

"Our findings provide policy makers, funders, and researchers evidence of where there are gaps in service provision which need to be filled to enable achievement of current global health goals."

The researchers found that in individual countries, readiness across all healthcare facilities to handle CVDRF was generally lower than for HIV. There were consistently weaknesses in information, staffing and medicines. Lack of readiness of facilities to provide CVDRF care in rural and primary care facilities threatens SDG 3.8 to provide high quality universal healthcare for all.

According to health experts,

high blood pressure, air pollution, tobacco use, and elevated LDL cholesterol are among the leading contributors to CVD deaths.

Yet another study published in PLOS One, has called for a multifaceted approach to prevention that includes fiscal, inter-sectoral, public health and health-service level interventions at all—primordial, primary, secondary as well as tertiary—levels.

"Several interventions have already been tested in various low-to-middle income countries and have shown to improve the CVD burden in a cost-effective manner. For example, the Disease Control Priorities report of the World Bank enlists an essential package of interven-

tions that can prove beneficial," say the authors.

"Some of the interventions enlisted include taxation on tobacco and sugar-sweetened beverages, regulations on processed and salt-rich food, ban on trans-fatty acids, improvements in built environment and introduction of school health programs to encourage physical activity, task-sharing or task shifting in cardiac care, improving screening activities and better use of combination therapy."

In India too, the situation is grim. The Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology (APSC) recently published a report revealing that heart failure alone leads to 1.8 million hospitalisations each year in India.

DECODED: How toxic proteins accumulate in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's?

When Tau protein -- part of the brain's infrastructure -- gets knotted up into tangles, it turns toxic to injure brain tissue, causing tauopathies, a group of neurodegenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other brain diseases, researchers have found. The HEALTH PIONEER shares the findings published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry

Under normal circumstances, tau protein is part of the brain's infrastructure, important for stabilizing neurons into their proper shapes. But sometimes tau gets knotted up into tangles and turns toxic, injuring brain tissue and causing tauopathies, a group of brain diseases characterized by problems with learning, memory and movement. Alzheimer's disease is the most common tauopathy, but the group also includes Parkinson's disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and several rare genetic conditions.

professor of psychiatry. "We've been thinking for a long time about whether there are factors that impact that common process of tau aggregation and if so, whether we could target those factors as a novel approach to treatment. These findings move us one step closer to finding a way to intervene and stop the process of tau aggregation that leads to dementia."

First author Reshma Bhagat, PhD, a postdoctoral researcher, came up with the idea of looking for such factors among a group of RNA molecules known as long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) that are not translated into proteins. Historically, RNA has not been considered an active element in biological processes, and most disease research has not focused on them. Only in the past decade have scientists recognized that these RNA molecules can play critical roles in disease processes. Bhagat became interested in lncRNAs because they are involved in regulating diverse cellular processes and have been implicated in cancers.

To investigate the role of lncRNAs in tauopathies, the researchers started with skin



cells from three people with a genetic tauopathy, each of whom carried a different mutation in the tau gene. Using molecular techniques, the researchers converted the skin cells into brain neurons that carry each of the three mutations. For comparison, they used a molecular technique known as CRISPR to correct the mutations in some of the skin cells before converting them into neurons. In this way, they were able to obtain human brain cells with and without tau mutations, which didn't require using human brain tissue.

Using these cells, the researchers identified 15 lncRNAs that were significantly increased or decreased in brain cells with tau mutations compared to their genetically matched controls. One lncRNA in particular stood out: SNHG8, which was low not only in the three human brain cells with tau mutations but also in mice with a tau mutation and in brain samples from people who had died of any of three different tauopathies: Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tau pathology, or progressive supranuclear palsy. In other

words, SNHG8 levels were down in tauopathies regardless of mutation, species or disease — all signs that point to its role in a common pathological process.

Further investigation revealed that neurons with low SNHG8 levels also had high levels of stress granules, RNA-protein complexes that form to help cells survive stressful situations such as excessive heat or low oxygen and disintegrate once the threat passes. Stress granules are rich in tau, and therein lies the danger. If too many stress granules form or if they con-

tain mutated tau particularly prone to tangling — as is the case in genetic tauopathies — stress granules can kickstart the aggregation process by concentrating tau.

"If we could somehow target this stress-induced protein-aggregation pathway, maybe we can inhibit the development of tau pathology," Bhagat said.

Bhagat went back to the human neurons with tau mutations, the ones she had developed out of skin cells from tauopathy patients. These cells exhibited persistently low levels of SNHG8 and high levels of stress granules. By replacing the missing SNHG8, she was able to bring down the levels of stress granules in such cells.

"That's really the killer experiment," Karch said. "That shows that lncRNAs are impacting stress granule formation and that this pathway can be targeted to treat, potentially, a variety of tauopathies."

Bhagat, Karch and colleagues are working on identifying compounds that can shore up SNHG8 levels and looking at the effects of such compounds in animal models of tau aggregation and tauopathy.

Khalistan terror: Globalised 21st century challenge

The rise of Sikh ethno-nationalism in the 1980s posed a threat to India's territorial integrity. Since then, it has transcended the borders of India. The way the 21st-century Khalistan movement is shaped and propagated to its followers is markedly different from the violent upsurge of the 1980s. It is much more globalised now. While hardcore advocates like Amritpal Singh have followed in the footsteps of the Bhindranwale cult, the worldwide network of Khalistani sympathisers has provided the movement with an easier source of sustenance than in the past.

The history of Khalistan lies in the roots of Sikhism. The revered Sikh religion was founded by Guru Nanak in Punjab in the 15th century. It boasts more than 25 million followers worldwide, with Sikhs constituting a minority group in India, making up less than 2 per cent of the country's total population of 1.4 billion today. However, they are a majority in their home State of Punjab.

The word "Khalistan" signifies the establishment of an ethno-religious sovereign state for the Sikhs, referred to as the land of the Khalsa. This is defined as the "land of the pure." Additionally, Khalsa encompasses both a community of believers who consider Sikhism their faith and a group of initiated Sikhs. Devout orthodox Sikhs are ritually admitted to this community upon reaching puberty. The very concept of Khalsa was established by the tenth Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh, in the year 1699.

However, the demand for the establishment of Khalistan is a relatively recent development, originating during the period of British colonialism in India. It primarily emerged in the Punjab region. Some proponents of Khalistan assert that their envisioned state encompasses the current Punjab State, while others advocate for the inclusion of the Punjab region in Pakistan, along with a demand to incorporate other significant neighbouring states such as Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and the Chandigarh region.

Furthermore, Shimla and Lahore are considered the two potential capitals of Khalistan. The original call for the formation of Khalistan was, in fact, a response to the Pakistan Resolution of 1940. This resolution, also known as the Lahore Resolution, was authored and prepared by Muhammad Zafarullah Khan and ratified by the All India



Muslim League on March 23, 1940. The term "Khalistan" was first coined by Dr VS Bhatti to signify an independent Sikh State in March 1940.

The primary objective behind the Khalistan demand was to secure better representation for Sikhs in political institutions and to establish a homeland for the community. After the partition of India in 1947, the Sikhs were deeply affected as Punjab was divided into two parts — one remained with India and the other with Pakistan. This further fueled the demand for a Sikh homeland.

The Canadian connection to the Khalistan movement is longstanding. The current controversy surrounding Khalistan has strained the relationship between India and Canada, particularly after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated in Canada's Parliament that there were credible allegations linking Indian Government agents to the June murder of the Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The Indian Government promptly denied any involvement in Nijjar's killing. It is evident that Trudeau is attempting to avoid openly addressing the issue of

the growing Khalistan movement in Canada.

India has repeatedly accused Canada of continuously supporting the Khalistan movement, which is banned in India. However, this movement enjoys widespread popularity among a substantial section of Sikhs worldwide.

What Trudeau is doing today amounts to nothing more than resorting to vote bank politics in Canada. According to Indian estimates, nearly 8,000-9,000 Khalistani radicals exert influence over approximately 15 gurdwaras, using them as centres for fundraising and garnering support for political parties in Canada. Their primary sphere of influence lies in political mobilisation in Brampton, Ontario, as well as Vancouver and Surrey in British Columbia. Instead, Trudeau should have recognised the gravity of the situation and cooperated with the Indian Government in expelling all Khalistani activists from his country.

The day will come when they may pose a potential security threat to Trudeau's fellow citizens. There is an abundance of evidence pointing to

the growth of Sikh militancy in Canada. In June 2020, Indian intelligence agencies issued a warning that criminal gangs based in Canada, comprising Indian expatriates from Punjab, including Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), are directly providing funding to the Khalistanis. The infamous Dhaliwal and Grewal gangs, operating in the British Columbia Province and involved in a drug-trafficking network, have connections to Gurbatwant Singh Pannu of the SFJ. Additionally, another notorious syndicate called the Brother's Keepers of Vancouver has been linked to these gangs.

Furthermore, the SFJ is establishing close links with the Pakistani establishment and agencies in order to reignite the Khalistan movement. It is reported that the SFJ is diligently working to organise a referendum for self-determination on the issue of Khalistan. Canadian authorities must take note that SFJ activists in Punjab and the Tarai region of Uttar Pradesh are consistently receiving substantial funds from gangs based in that country.

Pannu has issued a threat to Indo-Canadian Hindus, urging them to leave Canada and

return to India. In a public video message, he stated, "Indo-Canadian Hindus, you have renounced your allegiance to Canada and the Canadian Constitution. Your destination is India. Leave Canada and go to India."

This has sparked another diplomatic dispute between India and Canada. This will result in significant economic losses for both nations. Moreover, the expulsion of diplomatic staff from both sides, along with visa restrictions, will only lead to a severe strain in their bilateral relations.

"While there is currently no active insurgency in Punjab, there has been ongoing support for the Khalistan movement in the State. Consequently, successive Central governments issued repeated warnings about Khalistanis attempting a resurgence and seeking to influence the youth of Punjab.

Moreover, Punjab's political instability, fueled by infighting within the Congress and the rise of the Aam Aadmi Party to power, has created an environment where neighbouring Pakistan, its state agencies, and Sikh extremist factions based in Canada have been relentless in their efforts

to destabilise Punjab in recent times.

The warning issued by Ganga Singh Dhillon was stark: "We are not seeking just a piece of land. We are looking for a territory where Sikhs can safeguard their women and children. Where a Sikh can determine his own destiny — where our religious shrines are not subject to being overrun by army tanks. You can call it an independent Punjab, a sovereign state, or Khalistan. What we are requesting is a homeland for the Sikh nation" ("Give us Khalistan and leave us in peace," *The Illustrated Weekly of India*, July 21, 1985).

However, Harjot strongly contends that the emotional attachment with Punjab among Sikhs is relatively recent and does not trace back to the early days of the Sikh community as some Khalistan ideologues might assert today. It is the convergence of history and geography, discourse and space, territoriality and metacommentaries that has transformed Punjab into Khalistan. Both Punjab and Khalistan are human-made constructs, and there is nothing inherently natural about them (Harjot S Oberoi, "From Punjab to

Khalistan: Territoriality and Metacommentary, Pacific Affairs, Spring 1987)

Answers to these underlying currents are not very difficult to find in a globalised world. We are all part of a flat world where identities and cultural insignia are often overshadowed by economic desires, in contrast to what we experienced in a pre-globalised era. Migration has become a way of life. As more and more Sikhs migrated abroad, particularly to the US, the UK, and Canada for a better life, these extremist elements started relying on this extensive diaspora for their sustenance.

Back in India, all these groups are banned, and authorities are closely monitoring their activities and local connections. Consequently, they have found Canada to be a favourable ground for promoting and motivating many youths to support their agenda. For a long time, Khalistanis have been organising against India in Canada, and successive administrations in Ottawa are well aware of this.

Trudeau should not have aligned himself with one of the banned terror groups in India. He is well aware that he is on the wrong side. These Khalistanis have no allegiances; they simply want to keep their agenda alive so that their supporters and sympathisers remain intact for the long run.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended a helping hand to Trudeau, and he should have responded by taking decisive action to eradicate these criminal gangs from Canadian soil altogether.

We all must understand that terrorists recognise no religion or boundaries. They are enemies of civil society and universally recognised liberties of modern society. They stand against peace and humanity. As two democracies, India and Canada must join forces in the fight against Khalistanis. It is now time to prevent them from spreading their agenda and destabilising peace in both countries. The resurgence of the Khalistani movement is a warning signal for both Punjab and all of India. This must be addressed with a superior security and intelligence strategy and network. Undoubtedly, Delhi today possesses much stronger anti-terror infrastructure and more robust leadership than it did in the 1980s to deal with Bhindranwale-like symptoms.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research Foundation)

The rise of Sikh ethno-nationalism in the 1980s threatened India's integrity. Today's Khalistan movement is more globalised, with a worldwide network of sympathisers. Khalistan movement has ties to Canada, straining India-Canada relations. Khalistanis aim to influence Sikh youth in Punjab. Addressing this threat requires a robust security and intelligence approach. It is imperative for India and Canada to collaborate against terrorism, transcending boundaries and religions.



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

India's healthcare in uncertain times

Health insurance is vital, especially during unpredictable times like the Covid-19 pandemic. It helps cover medical expenses and provides financial security. India has made progress in healthcare accessibility through schemes like RSBY and AB-PMJAY, aiming to leave no one behind

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, individuals experienced the unfortunate loss of their loved ones, and a significant portion of them also had the dual burden of losing both loved ones and financial resources while their hospitalisation for treatment. There exists a well-known adage that posits food, clothing, and shelter as the fundamental necessities of human existence.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge an additional element that is often overlooked by the majority of individuals: the acquisition of health insurance. The natural world displays a significant degree of unpredictability and predictability, which is mirrored in the fragility of human existence. Any form of misfortune has the potential to lead to varying degrees of harm, ranging from minor injuries to severe consequences, including loss of life. Sickness or disease does not give advance notice before affecting the human body.

While it is indeed accurate that money cannot purchase life itself, it can provide assistance in navigating challenging circumstances for both indi-

viduals and their families. In contemporary society, possessing a robust health insurance coverage is imperative due to the prevailing uncertainties. It is a cornerstone of personal financial planning, encompassing an individual's comprehensive financial inflows and outflows.

A significant portion of the population lacks awareness regarding medical inflation, of medical inflation, which is the highest form of inflation. Specifically, it compounds at an annual rate of 15 per cent. This implies that a medical treatment currently priced at ₹10,00,000 will escalate to ₹40,00,000 over a period of ten years. Therefore, one may comprehend the significance of possessing a comprehensive health insurance policy.

Undoubtedly, India's healthcare infrastructure has shown significant progress in recent years. In order to provide universal access to healthcare services for all citizens inside the nation, the government has implemented various measures. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-



PMJAY) are India's two main public health insurance schemes. RSBY was established in 2008 to offer those living in poverty access to health insurance. The scheme has now been combined with the 2018-born AB-PMJAY. This programme was created to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its overarching promise to "leave no one behind".

Aiming to cover 100 million households, or around 500 million individuals, nationwide with health insurance, is AB-PMJAY. As of April 2023, data from the National Health Authority shows that over 50 million hospitalisations under AB-PMJAY had been authorised, with a total cost exceeding ₹80,000 crore. Additionally, the programme has enrolled over 23,000 hos-

pitals nationwide, which offer beneficiaries a wide range of medical services.

As of March 2022, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) reported 62 non-life insurance companies in operation, with 29 offering health insurance products. In addition, the country possessed a total of six autonomous health insurance carriers.

According to data from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the health insurance market in India has experienced significant growth over a period of time. As of March 2022, health insurance companies had accumulated a total of INR 64,230 crores in premiums, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 15.2 per cent. During the corresponding time period, a total of 7.69 crore policies were successfully sold, indicating a growth rate of 12.6 per cent compared to the previous year.

In today's era, it is crucial for individuals to protect their families by obtaining comprehensive health insurance coverage to guard against unforeseen medical emergencies.

There are some crucial factors to take into consideration before purchasing a health insurance policy:

- 1) The sum insured ideally should be 15 to 20 times of your annual income.
- 2) Purchase super top up policy along with base insurance policy to increase sum insured cover, once your base policy cover will exhaust then super top up will come into existence.
- 3) If you are a family person then go for family floater plans.
- 4) Claim settlement ratio should be above 95 per cent.
- 5) High number of network hospitals with cashless treatment facilities.
- 6) Pre and post hospitalisation expenses should be covered.
- 7) Less waiting period for named ailment and pre-existing diseases.
- 8) No claim bonus or cumulative bonus in case of claims also should be there.
- 9) No room rent capping should be there in the policy.
- 10) Policy should have day care; in-patient care treatment, ICU cover and ambulance cover up to sum insured with-

out any capping.

11) Automatic unlimited recharge or restoration benefits should be there for unrelated or the same illness without any waiting period.

12) Covid-19, Ayush treatments, domiciliary hospitalisation and organ donor cover should be there up to sum insured.

13) Ideally claim settlement should be done within 30 days of last document submission to the hospital or insured by the insurance company.

14) No Co-payment clause should be there.

Given the substantial cost of healthcare in India, the inclusion of health insurance is an essential element in individual financial strategising. Health insurance provides individuals and families with a sense of security by safeguarding them from the economic strain caused by medical emergencies. This is made possible by the availability of many insurance plans and the benefits offered by insurance providers.

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DIPANSHU NIJANDANI



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week is bathed in the essence of renewal and vitality for you. You'll find yourself brimming with zeal, ready to tackle challenges that once seemed daunting. Ideas that have been simmering in your mind are now ready to evolve, igniting a creative fervor that will engage you throughout the week. The universe may present you with promising professional avenues, be it a role that aligns more with your passion or a deserved financial uplift. As the week unfolds, expect to be enchanted by a heartfelt gesture or proposal, leading to cherished moments with someone special. For some, the winds of change beckon, signaling a shift in personal or professional surroundings. Embrace the week's blessings in both love and career, for they hold the potential to reshape your journey.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your coffers are full, but so is your penchant for spending. You embrace life grandly, with every moment brimming with joy, satisfaction, and delight. As the week unfolds, you're propelled by aspirations, particularly in the realm of creativity. Engagements like shopping, social gatherings, and perhaps even plotting a leisurely journey or business expansion will keep you occupied. However, anticipate unexpected shifts around mid-week. Your generous spirit, coupled with your keen intuition, makes you attuned to the needs of others. Mystical studies and spiritual quests might captivate your attention. While you're diligent and exacting when addressing various matters, be wary of potential disagreements with those close to you. This week also presents an opportunity to invest in your intellectual growth, driven by a strong desire to refine and perfect your abilities.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

A harmonious and joyful ambiance is anticipated at home, where the embrace of familial love awaits. Those distanced from their families may find themselves returning to the fold, cherishing these moments of togetherness. Preparations for a significant event or gathering at home might be on the horizon, with family reunions, special occasions, and social engagements filling your schedule. Journeys, especially those related to work, promise to be rewarding and fulfilling. Your drive and laser-focused approach set you apart. As the week concludes, a potential air journey looms, or perhaps surprising news from abroad that works in your favor will delight you. The universe seems to be aligning in your favor, ushering in waves of positivity and unexpected joys.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Sunday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

In the upcoming week, financial matters take center stage for you. Your focus sharpens on monetary affairs, be it recovering funds lent to friends or relatives, or delving into investments, loans, and credits. The idea of channeling resources into a new venture might captivate your thoughts, prompting you to strategize financial arrangements. As the week progresses, expect a surge in professional tasks. A significant role or duty, demanding both your time and expertise, will be entrusted to you. It's your unique qualifications and foundational skills that make you the chosen one for this task. While this recognition might stir envy among peers, remember that time is as invaluable as your talents. Embracing confidence in your capabilities not only elevates your professional stature but also cements your esteemed position in society.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You find yourself tethered to bygone days, hindering your progress and causing you to overlook fresh prospects. Old adversaries continue to cast shadows, leading you to question your own capabilities. While certain things may have slipped away, hope still lingers. If recent times saw the end of a relationship, it's an opportunity to transform this setback into a leap forward. Adopting a 'glass is half full' mindset can liberate you from lingering regrets. It might also be beneficial to re-evaluate the expectations that brought about this sense of disillusionment. In understanding and addressing these feelings, you'll find a path to healing and self-assurance. Embracing the present moment and its myriad possibilities can be your guiding light.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Your presence will radiate leadership and influence, enabling you to accomplish tasks effectively. However, be cautious, as this might inadvertently upset others. A blend of self-assuredness and magnanimity enhances your allure, facilitating smoother operations. Overconfidence, stemming from personal achievements, can sometimes strain relationships. As the week progresses, a deluge of responsibilities, both professional and personal, might weigh on you. If you're considering expanding your family, the stars seem aligned. Matters related to property, be it acquisitions or home construction, will occupy your attention. You stand at the helm of various initiatives, from new projects to business ventures. Recognizing the value of time becomes paramount. With unwavering concentration, this period promises lucrative gains. The number 3 seems to resonate positively with your endeavors this week.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Sea Green
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week, your dedication and perseverance bear fruit. You emerge triumphant in every endeavor, mastering challenges and molding them to your advantage. Your innate leadership qualities empower you to take charge and navigate situations with ease. A harmonious blend of physical vigor and mental resilience enhances your aura, making you shine distinctively. As the week draws to a close, anticipate uplifting news. A lucrative job offer might be on the horizon, or perhaps a long-awaited salary hike. There's also potential for unforeseen financial windfalls that will bring a smile to your face. Prepare yourself for a journey, perhaps related to your professional pursuits. Indeed, the week holds a bounty of blessings for you.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You possess immense wealth, not just in material terms but also in emotional depth. This affluence grants you influence and respect among peers and family. Your unwavering determination and zeal are commendable. The wisdom shared by an elder in the family will prove invaluable. As the week progresses, your financial gains will increase. Consider investing in noble endeavors during this phase. The prospect of a significant business venture or expansion looms large, with plans coming to fruition. An opportunity to participate in a seminar, lecture, or to be a distinguished guest at an event might present itself. Embrace the fresh prospects that unfold. However, there may be moments when you seek solitude, desiring a break from the whirlwind of activities to reflect in quietude.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Tangerine
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

The week commences with philanthropic endeavors, drawing you towards spiritual engagements. Financial concerns might preoccupy your thoughts. Whether it's executing monetary transactions or anticipating the return of lent funds, money remains central. You might find yourself approached for financial assistance, and your generous nature ensures you're there for those in need. However, by mid-week, potential misunderstandings regarding finances could unsettle you. Misplaced documents like account records or checkbooks point to a momentary lapse in attention. Insights from a close friend or partner will help you see things clearly. Your interests may lean towards the arts, encompassing cinema, theater, and poetry. It's advisable to steer clear of excessive alcohol consumption, as equilibrium in life is best achieved through moderation.

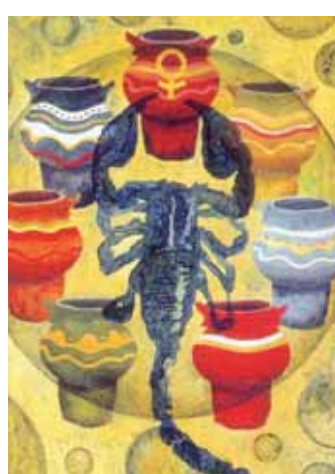
Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You need to harness your emotions! Your deep feelings and sensitivities are currently at the forefront, potentially leading to regrets about the past or unintended outbursts towards loved ones. To navigate these intense emotions, consider grounding practices. Meditation, yoga, and pranayama can offer solace, as can immersing yourself in uplifting literature. Remember, the past is behind you; reflecting on the present to illuminate a brighter future should be your focus this week. Embrace the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, showcasing your resilience and wisdom. Evading challenges isn't the answer. Instead, let optimism and faith guide your path. For this week, it might be wise to steer clear of the number eight in significant endeavors.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your mental fortitude is the driving force behind overcoming challenges. At your workplace, you might encounter obstacles, disagreements, and differing viewpoints. Succumbing to impatience can lead to disputes, disrupting harmony both professionally and personally. Thus, maintaining a calm and balanced mindset is crucial now. Pay attention to your well-being; issues like elevated blood pressure, emotional fluctuations, or for women, irregular menstrual cycles, might arise. As the week concludes, stay vigilant of rivals who might seek to undermine you. Navigating these challenges requires both resilience and introspection. Surrounding yourself with supportive individuals can bolster your spirit and provide clarity. Remember, every experience, even the trying ones, offers lessons that contribute to your personal and professional growth.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

The week begins on a challenging note, with potential discord from colleagues or family members. Unmet expectations or delays in your endeavors might lead to feelings of frustration. However, patience is key, as a shift in circumstances is on the horizon. An unexpected opportunity, one you've anticipated for a long time, might suddenly present itself. Seize it promptly before someone else does. Financially, this period is set to be prosperous, with significant inflows. Some might be tempted to indulge in luxury purchases. It's wise to steer clear of negative influences during this time, as they could lead to confusion or harm. Your spiritual strength acts as a protective shield against any adversities. Exercise caution in relationships and financial dealings.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Thursday

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Dharana leads to Dhyana

Let us now move to the four successive steps of dhyana process, which begins with Pratyahara. It implies withdrawing the senses away from the external world and turn our attention inwards. The whole dhyana process is pursued in this very mode. It needs to be appreciated that all happenings out in open originate within one's mind. You visualise, ideate, discriminate, articulate, and then will upon to act. And the nature of any action is influenced by how each mind is inherently framed. You need to look within to figure out what lies in store of the inner realms of the mind. In the process, before the final desired destination is struck upon, one passes through various layers of mind that throw light on memory impressions picked up in the immediate and distant past.

Going through the process, first comes to sight thought crowd gathered

up that relate to immediate past. Mind keeps flirting with them nonstop. Large majority of them are inconsequential and negative. They engage our attention in immediate terms. Also, persistent desires keep chasing us. Impressions of unpleasant experiences in the past keep alive hurt feelings, which keep disturbing our emotional frame of mind. In turn, they induce a sense of fear and insecurity about future. Mind remains so much occupied with these thoughts that it doesn't allow space necessary to process any fresh thought objectively. Mind, thus, remains unnerved and therefore becomes restive. But then, without becoming aware of them, it would not be possible to resolve and get disengaged from them. So, the first call is to get disengaged from that thought crowd with the help of fresh educative inputs. Denial does not help. Having thus disengaged oneself from the indwelling thought crowd which other-

wise keep hounding us from within, one feels unburdened and relaxed. Following which, doors open to strike even still deeper layers of mind.

As we move deeper, one's true nature gets revealed – inherent vulnerabilities and workable part of indwelling potential – coming as they may as reflection of the Karmic imprints carried over from the past. We, thus, become aware of our inherent tendencies – desires, habits, likes & dislikes, prejudices & obsessions, virtues & attributes. Also, our indwelling potential. Accordingly, one could take necessary corrective initiatives to get over limitations of mind again through fresh educative inputs. Also, acknowledge the workable part of indwelling potential, hone them further, and make them worthy of being applied in contemporary terms. Even creative abilities could be further amplified by expanding one's reach through conscious efforts.



Once well established in the process, step-by-step one could go deeper and deeper, and unravel memory impressions laid down even at unconscious level. Eventually, one may strike at the core of existence. One's true self then gets revealed. One then realises the unity underlying all diverse existences. That makes one rise above the sense of duality

and thereby relative perception. One's full potential of mind thus gets unfolded when it would know no limits.

Once mind gets interiorised, the next step is to develop Dharana. Here begins the dhyana process proper. It calls for training one's mind to remain focused to wherever attention is paid. It needs to be appreciated here that to get to the bottom of an issue in hand, or successfully make it to the desired destination, focused attention is necessary. To go about, one needs a concept to work upon, is what dharana literally stands for. That drives the process further. Concept involves thought. You may reflect upon a thought but can't concentrate on it, no matter how valuable it is. To overcome this limitation, some iconic imageries are made use of in Indian tradition over which one is supposed to concentrate. They are named as deities so that we could engage with them with a sense of veneration. An image has

instant appeal. They are so drawn as to portray the dharana that drives through the dhyana process. The educative message entailed in the imagery, does also throw light on how to organise our thought process that may help us conduct with ease and comfort overriding all challenges coming our way. Simultaneously a mantra identified with the imagery in focus is chanted, which again is a verbal projection of the concept. That makes the process even more potent. As the mantra resonates with the imagery in focus, it helps develop concentration. The process does also help inculcate a value system. Here comes the role of a Guru, who identifies and suggests an iconic figure suited to individual needs.

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