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INDIAN SPACE INDUSTRY
AT THE INFLECTION POINT

WORLD 9
CHINA REFUSES COOPERATION
WITH PAKISTAN UNDER CPEC

MONEY 10
INDIA'S EXPORT OF POLISHED DIAMOND
TO DIP BY 22 PER CENT THIS FISCAL

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INDIA CALLS TRUDEAU'S BLUFF

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India on Tuesday asked the UN member states not to allow "political convenience" to determine responses to terrorism, extremism and violence, in a veiled attack on Canada amid the diplomatic standoff over the killing of a Khalistani separatist.

Addressing the 78th UN General Assembly session here, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be "exercises in cherry picking" as he asserted that the days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over.

"We must never again allow an injustice like vaccine apartheid to recur. Climate action too cannot continue to witness an evasion of historical responsibilities. The power of markets should not be utilised to steer food and energy from the needy to the wealthy.

"Nor must we countenance that political convenience determines responses to terrorism, extremism and violence. Similarly, respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be exercises in cherry picking," the Minister said, in an apparent reference to the US, which reportedly provided Canada with intelligence after the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Jaishankar's remarks on the "political convenience" appears to be directed at



External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday

Canada whose Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently alleged "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of a Khalistani extremist on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia, a charge angrily rejected by New Delhi as "absurd" and "motivated".

"They (Canadians) have made the allegations, they have taken action on them. To us, it seems or it appears that these allegations by the government of Canada are primarily politically driven," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said last week.

Canada has a Sikh population of more than 7,70,000 (about 2 per cent of its total

population) and are considered a crucial voting bloc.

"In our deliberations, we often advocate the promotion of a rules-based order. From time to time, respect for the UN Charter is also invoked. But for all the talk, it is still a few nations who shape the agenda and seek to define the norms. This cannot go on indefinitely. Nor will it go unchallenged," Jaishankar said in his address.

He asserted that a "fair, equitable and democratic order" will surely emerge, "once we all put our minds to it. And for a start, that means ensuring that rule makers do not subjugate rule takers. After all, rules

will work only when they apply equally to all."

"Even as we encourage collective endeavours, India seeks to promote cooperation with diverse partners. From the era of non-alignment, we have now evolved to that of Vishwa Mitra (a friend to the world). This is reflected in our ability and willingness to engage with a broad range of nations," he said, referring to the rapid growth of the Quad, and expansion of the BRICS grouping.

"All countries pursue their national interests. We, in India, have never seen that as being in contradiction with global good. When we aspire to be a

leading power, this is not for self-aggrandisement but to take on greater responsibility and make more contributions," he added.

Underlining that the world is witnessing an exceptional period of turmoil, Jaishankar said it was with a sense of exceptional responsibility that India took up the Presidency of the G20. "Our vision of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' sought to focus on the key concerns of the many, not just the narrow interests of a few," he said.

"In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it was to bridge divides, dismantle barriers and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world, where unity prevails over discord and where shared destiny eclipses isolation. The New Delhi G20 Leaders' Declaration articulates our collective ability to do so," he said.

He said the international order is diverse and we must cater for divergences, if not differences. "The days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over," he added.

Jaishankar said that the African Union's inclusion in the G20 was a "significant step".

"This significant step in reform should inspire the United Nations, a much older organization, to also make the Security Council contemporary. Broad representation is a pre-requisite for both effectiveness and credibility," Jaishankar told the United Nations General Assembly.

India canters to Gold

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

India's dressage team cantered to its first ever Asian Games gold and only second medal in this discipline in the history of the sport with the quartet of Sudipti Hajela, Divyakriti Singh, Vipul Hriday Chheda and Anush Agarwalla living up to expectations, here on Tuesday.

The Indian quartet was performing well in the selection trials as their scores either matched or were better than the Asian Games medal winners from the previous editions. It was more about the colour of medal they would win and they grabbed the top place on the podium by aggregating 209.205 percentage points, leaving behind China (204.882 per cent) and Hong Kong (204.852 per cent).

The last time the sport of equestrian contributed to India's Asian Games tally was in 1986 when the country won a dressage bronze.

In the 1982 edition in New Delhi, the Indian team had grabbed three gold medals in Eventing and Tent Pegging competitions.

Raghubir Singh had won a gold in individual Eventing in 1982 and then added another yellow metal in Team Eventing alongside Ghulam Mohammed Khan, Bishal Singh and Milkha Singh.

Rupinder Singh Brar won the third gold medal in individual Tent Pegging.

In dressage, the horse and rider are judged on how they perform a series of movements. Each movement is



19th Asian Games

marked out of 10 (from 0 to 10).

Each rider gets an overall score and from there, a percentage is worked out. The rider with the highest percentage is the winner of his class.

Top three scorers in a team are counted to determine the winner.

It was a long and difficult journey for the Indian team which has an interesting mixture of riders. All of them left home at a young age and have been training in Europe separately for the last few years away from their family.

They took part in the Asian Games selection trials organised in Europe by the Equestrian Federation of India.

Their horses were quarantined in Aachen in Germany for seven days under strict rules before they were brought to China on September 21.

"It is unbelievable to win a gold here. It is not an easy journey for any of us. All of us have gone to Europe at a young age," said the 21-year-old Sudipti, the youngest of the quartet.

"We have worked hard for many years away from our families. We have made a lot of sacrifices," said Sudipti, who

hails from Indore.

"All of us stuck together, shouting and supporting each other. I was the last to go in the competition and after a few riders after me, finally we realised that Team India has won a gold. That was a very emotional moment," said the 23-year-old Anush, who left his home in Kolkata in 2017 to train in Europe.

"The national anthem was playing and the national flag was flying, there was no better feeling than that. It was all we had worked for and we realised our dream. The first gold medal for India in dressage," said Anush. For Divyakriti, who is hailing from Jaipur, the achievement was also due to their horses.

"A big shout out to our horses also. We are nothing without them," she said.

"It has been a long journey and not an easy one. None of us thought it (to win gold) but we gave our hundred per cent and we did it," she added.

Sudipti currently trains at Pamfou in France. She began horse riding at the age of six as a hobby but later took it seriously as a sport on the insistence of her father. The name of her horse is Chinski.

Divyakriti took to horse riding when she was in the seventh grade at the famous Mayo College Girls School in Ajmer.

She was the equestrian captain of her school. She did her graduation in Delhi's Jesus and Mary College. In 2020, she moved to Europe for training as equestrian infrastructure is not the best in India.

Nijjar killed in terror crossfire

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June, which triggered a diplomatic row between India and Ottawa, was an outcome of internal turf war between Khalistani groups patronised by former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and those backed by Pakistan Army-ISI syndicate.

Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly has held dialogues several times with Pakistani Army-ISI combine as also with political leaders during the last over four years.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shares a close relationship with Joly who has been instrumental in shaping his pro-Khalistan outlook and anti-India stance.

After his divorce with his wife in April this year, Trudeau's reliance on Joly has further surged leading to his hard-hitting outbursts against India over the killing of Nijjar,

counter-terrorism experts tracking the Khalistani movement said. In 2018, the Canadian intelligence agency in a report warned the Government over increasing Khalistani extremism there.

However, the Government stopped the monitoring of the Khalistani terror activities from 2019 onwards. The development came in the backdrop of increasing bonhomie between Joly and the Pakistani politico-military-ISI complex, they said.

"During the period, Pakistan's notorious spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) strengthened its Khalistani agenda in Canada to the extent that its operatives were openly invited to the Gurudwara committee meetings by the Sikh extremists.

"Simultaneously, the approach of the Canadian Government towards the Khalistanis softened 2019 onwards," counter-terrorism and geopolitical analyst Dr Rituraj Mate told *The Pioneer*.

The terror groups propped up by Pakistan in India and elsewhere receive funding from the Army-ISI syndicate during dictatorial regimes in Islamabad based on loyalty to the Pakistani military establishment. When a political party is in power, the terror groups, including of Khalistani hue, get funding support from the party in power, Dr Mate said.

During his stint as Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan supported the Khalistan Tiger Force headed by Nijjar.

However, the competition between the terrorist groups for funding support took an ugly turn when the Khalistani groups affiliated with the Pakistan Army-ISI liquidated Nijjar at a Gurudwara in British Columbia on June 18 this year, he said, adding, turf war between the terror groups backed by Pakistan is common during the threshold of transition of power between the army and democratic forces in Islamabad.

The relation between India and Canada took a hit after Trudeau stated in Parliament there on September 18 that Canadian intelligence agencies were "pursuing credible allegations of a potential link" between Indian Government agents and the killing of Nijjar.

"The red flags of increasing Khalistani extremism were apparently ignored by the Indian agencies and papered over by the Canadian counterparts. Indian decision makers apparently ignored the meetings between Khalistani terrorists and ISI operatives in Gurudwaras in Canada and 80 per cent of online Khalistani propaganda was being peddled by Pakistani Muslims.

"Indian decision makers in Delhi also did not take cognisance of the love-jihad style of ISI campaign for luring Sikh youth for radicalising them for the so-called Khalistani cause by honey-trapping them," another analyst said.



Sudipti Hajela, Divyakriti Singh, Anush Agarwalla, and Hriday Vipul Chheda pose for photographs after winning the gold medal in the Equestrian Dressage Team event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou in China on Tuesday

WAHEEDA HONoured WITH DADASAHEB



Aaj phir jeene ki tamanna hai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Waheeda Rehman, who made her debut 68 years ago and went on to act in cult classics such as "Pyaasa" and "Guide", was on Tuesday named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema.

"I am doubly happy because it is Dev Anand's birthday. I think 'taufa unko milna tha, mujhe mil gaya', Rehman told PTI on the birth centenary of her frequent collaborator.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur made the announcement on X.

"I feel an immense sense of happiness and honour in announcing that Waheeda Rehman ji is being bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award this year for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema," Thakur wrote on the microblogging site.

The award for the year 2021 will be presented during the 69th National Film awards ceremony.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the veteran actor on being named for the honour.

"Delighted that Waheeda Rehman ji has been honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award. Her journey in Indian cinema has left an indelible mark. A beacon of talent, dedication and grace, she embodies the best of our cinematic heritage. Congratulations to her," the prime minister said on X.

The five-member jury comprised Rehman's close friend and last year's Dadasaheb award winner Asha Parekh, actors Chiranjeevi, Pooja Rawal and Prosenjit Chatterjee as well as filmmaker Shekhar Kapur.

Regarded as one of the finest actors of the country, Rehman, also an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer, made her debut in Hindi cinema with Guru Dutt's "CID" opposite Dev Anand.

After that dazzling beginning came a string of arthouse and mainstream films, the actor comfortably straddling the twin worlds of "Kaagaz ke Phool" and "Ram aur Shyam".

The remarkable career spanning more than six decades and 90 films in different languages saw her segue from black and white to colour, and from lead roles to character cameos.

Some of her most memorable performances were with Guru Dutt — "Pyaasa", "Kaagaz Ke Phool", "Sahib Bibi aur Ghulam" and "Chaudhvin Ka Chand". With Dev Anand came the much loved "Guide" and "Prem Pujari". The filmography includes "Khamoshi", "Kabhi Kabhie", "Reshma Aur Shera", which got her the National Award, and "Trishul".

Remembering Dev Anand, Rehman, who has earlier won the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan, said it is a double celebration.

"It is very wonderful that his celebration is going on and I get this honour. I am really happy and grateful to the government that they chose me for this honour. So, it is a combination and celebration of this and Dev sahab's 100th birth anniversary," she added.

Born in Chennai, Rehman made her acting debut with the 1955 Telugu films "Rojulu

Maraayi" and "Jayasimha".

"At a time when the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has been passed by Parliament, her being awarded with this lifetime achievement award is a fitting tribute to one of the leading ladies of Indian Cinema and one who has dedicated her life after films to philanthropy and the greater good of society. I congratulate her and humbly pay my regards to her rich body of work that is an intrinsic part of our film history," Thakur said in his post on X.

Rehman, who now lives in Bengaluru, has become selective in her film choices. In the 1990s and 2000s, she starred in character roles in "Lamhe", "Chandni", "Rang De Basanti" and "Delhi-6".

Rehman is also associated with bringing to life some of Hindi films most popular songs — "Kahin pe nigahen, kahin pe nishana" ("CID"), "Aaj phir jeena ki tamanna hai" and "Piya tose naina lage re" ("Guide"), "Luka chhuippi" ("Rang De Basanti" and "Genda phool" ("Delhi-6").

Her most recent film appearance was in 2021's "Skater Girl", a coming-of-age sports drama.

Born in Chennai to a Deccani Muslim family, Waheeda never aspired to be an actor but knew she wanted to make people "laugh and cry".

She wanted to be a doctor but ended up on the silver screen instead, an actor who began with Telugu cinema and went on to rule the Hindi film industry, slipping in and out of arthouse and mainstream cinema and staying relevant as movies evolved from black-and-white to colour.

"I wanted to become a doctor, because in those days for Muslim families medicine was the only respectable profession," the actor recalled in a *Tweek India* interview two years ago. Art, culture and dance interested her since she was a child. And with the support of her father, an IAS officer, she was able to pursue her dream of learning Bharatanatyam and then making a career in the movies.

"I used to make faces looking in the mirror. When my father asked why do I do this, I said 'I want to make people laugh and cry,'" she said in the interview.

Air Force foundaiton day celebration in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 91st Foundation Day of the Indian Air Force will be celebrated on September 30 in Bhopal, in the air show more than 30 fighter planes and helicopters like Tejas, Mirage will be seen performing stunts. Fighter planes are rehearsing at the boat club for this air show. For this, regular flights of Raja Bhoj Airport have also been rescheduled. Jaguar, Mirage, Suryakiran, Tejas, -130 and Chinook helicopters are involved in the rehearsal. This airshow can be seen for free by standing at the Boat Club and VIP Road. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is not attending the program. Governor Mangubhai Patel will be the chief guest. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan will also

participate in the air show program. Air Marshal AK Bharti said that this air show will be on the theme of Power Beyond Boundaries. In this, aircraft and helicopters like Tejas, Dhruv, Jaguar, Chinook, Surya Kiran will showcase their power. Women pilots will also participate in the flypast, 30 fighter planes and helicopters have reached Bhopal. Of these, 25 aircraft have been parked at Rajabhoj Airport and the remaining 3 at the EME Centre. A large number of people along with their families have reached VIP Road, Boat Club to watch the rehearsal of the Air Force Air Show. A large number of people along with their families have reached VIP Road, Boat Club to watch the rehearsal of the Air Force Air Show.



Due to the exercise, flights arriving between 10 am to 12 am have been rescheduled from September 26 to September 30. Passengers have been informed. Indigo's Mumbai flight will arrive at 8.45 am and depart at 9.15 am. Indigo's Udaipur flight will arrive at 8.55 am and depart at 9.20 am. Similarly, Indigo's Goa flight will arrive on these dates at 12.40 pm and will depart from Bhopal at 1.10 pm. A large number of people are coming to the boat club to

watch the rehearsal of the air show. This fighter plane will display on September 30. The flypast will include fighter aircraft (Sukhoi-30, Mirage-2000, Jaguar, LCA Tejas, Hawk), helicopters (Chinook, Mi-17 V5, Chetak) and transport aircraft (C130, IL-78 and AN-32). The ceremony will witness spectacular performances by Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team, Sarang Helicopter Display Team and Akash Ganga Team. The full dress rehearsal of the fly past will be held till 29th September. This team is the aerobatics demonstration team of the Indian Air Force. The team consists of 13 pilots, 9 fly together. Surya Kiran is part of the 52nd Squadron of the Air Force. It was established in 1996. Air Force personnel will also be seen sky diving. Fighter planes will fly from Hindon airbases of

Agra, Gwalior and Ghaziabad and come to Bhopal. Some planes will also take off from Bhopal Airport and helicopters from 3 EME Centre. Air Force Chief V.S. Chaudhary, Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Vibhash Pandey will also be present. On the question of choosing Bhopal for the celebration of Air Force Day, Air Marshal AK Bharti said that every year we do it in a new city. That's why we came to Bhopal this time, we are asked the same question in every city. Although Bhopal is a very nice city, the Air Force liked it very much. Along with this, we had done a study that fighter planes always have problems with birds, but according to our survey, very few birds were found here at our standard height. Which is a good thing for our air show.



Governor Mangubhai Patel confers degrees to the students during the convocation ceremony of Barkatullah University in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer Photo

Safety trial run of Metro commences in State capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Safety trial run of Metro started on Tuesday in the state capital after the completion of the connectivity and testing process at the metro depot located in Subhash Nagar, Bhopal, the coaches have come on the track. On Monday, the metro ran on the track in the depot itself while its safety trial run started on Tuesday. Safety trial of the metro is being conducted between Subhash Nagar and RKMP station. At 12.30 pm the metro passed in front of DB Mall. RKMP reached at 1.15 pm. Technical staff are sitting in the metro. The final trial run will be conducted on October 2. CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan will not only flag off the final trial run, but can also

travel by metro. Safety trial run of the metro is being conducted from Subhash Nagar depot to Rani Kamalapati. After covering a distance of about 850 kilometers from Sanwali (Vadodara) in Gujarat, the coach had reached Bhopal on the night of 17 September. On September 18, he was brought to the Inspection Bay Line (IBL) built in the depot. After this, a team of more than 50 people including senior engineers, technical experts, supervisors were engaged in connecting and testing the coaches. After doing this work for 8 days, it was seen running on the metro track on Monday. Now from Tuesday it will be seen running from Subhash Nagar to RKMP station. The metro coach from

Sanwali in Gujarat had come to Bhopal on September 18. Since then, the work of connecting and testing them continued. There are a total of eight stations in the Priority Corridor. These include AIIMS Hospital, Alkapuri, DRM Office, Rani Kamalapati Railway Station, Sargam Talkies, DB Mall, Kendriya School and Subhash Nagar Station. The trial run will be done from Subhash Nagar station to RKMP station in about three and a half kilometers. On October 2, CM Chouhan will flag off the final trial run at Subhash Nagar. After this they will also travel in metro till RKMP station. The work of connecting and testing metro coaches continued 24 hours in

three shifts at Subhash Nagar depot. Apart from Metro Rail, employees of Alstom Transport India Limited, which manufactures Metro, were also present. Each coach of the metro train is 22 meters long and 2.9 meters wide. About 50 passengers can sit in a metro coach. At the same time, it has the capacity to stand for 300 passengers. Among other technological advances Unattended Train Operation (UTO) mode, Automated Track Monitoring System, Energy saving features, Cyber Security Features in Train Control and Management System (TCMS), Intelligent CCTV System (ICCTV), Grab handle for holding, LEDPanel/Digital Route Map and Signage.

Bajaj Pulsar N150 launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bajaj Auto here on Tuesday launched the all-new Pulsar N150 in India at Surjet Bajaj dealership on Raisen road. The Pulsar N150 is the perfect addition to the expanding Pulsar portfolio, which has seen a slew of sensational launches over the past 18 months, including the biggest ever Pulsar N250 and the incredibly successful Pulsar N160. With Pulsar N150, India's largest-selling sports bike family finds a worthy new entrant that promises to not only retain the legions of Pulsamaniacs but also add a host of new ones to the fold. The design language boasts dynamic and energetic character lines, tighter proportions, and modern aero dynamism. The muscular tank is contrasted with a sleek, stylish waist section that extends to a

contoured seat, making for an eye-catching profile. It is equipped with a sportier underbelly exhaust that growls at higher RPMs. Floating body panels such as belly pan, front fairing, and front fender complete the imposing profile. Sarang Kanade, President - Motorcycles, Bajaj Auto said, "Twenty years ago, we launched the first Pulsar 150 cc motorcycle that shook up the entry-level sport biking segment and has been India's largest selling 150cc since then. With the N150, Pulsar is back to rule the road in its biggest and boldest avatar. Its aggressive styling, segment-leading features, stellar on-road performance and an incredibly attractive price point make it a splendid value addition to the Pulsar family. Our goal is to make the joy of riding accessible to everyone, and this new bike is a testimony to that mission."

Auto driver nabbed for looting woman

Bhopal: Khajuri Sadak police have arrested an auto driver who robbed a 20-year-old married woman of her mobile phone and assaulted her at Fanda toll plaza on Monday. On Monday Varsha Bharti of Sehore lodged a complaint against an auto rickshaw driver of auto rickshaw bearing vehicle registration number MP04RA2023 who robbed and assaulted her. She boarded auto rickshaw from Sehore to Bhopal and when the vehicle reached near Fanda toll plaza he snatched mobile phone from her and pushed her off the vehicle injuring her in her head and hands. Before this the accused took information of the victim and revealed his name as Rahul James of Halalpur Lalghati Bhopal. After the robbery, the accused escaped the spot and the victim reached police station

and lodged a complaint against the accused. Based on the complainant police registered a case under section 394 of IPC was established and discussed. During the investigation, the house of the accused was raided near the cemetery in Halalpur Lalghati Bhopal. The accused was found present at the house and when asked for his name and address, He told his name as Rahul, James, Halalpur Lalghati, Bhopal. He confessed to the crime and told about snatching a mobile phone from a woman near Bhoori jod and hiding his auto behind the Kolukhedhi Kalari and hiding the mobile phone in his trunk. The mobile phone looted by the accused was recovered from the trunk of the auto rickshaw. Auto rickshaw was hidden in Kolukhedhi by the accused.



The Bhopal Metro Train is being put on the tracks during a trial run from Subhash Nagar Depot to Rani Kamalapati Railway station in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Udbhav Utsav to be organised from October 25 to 29

PNS ■ GWALIOR

The prestigious international Dance and Music Festival "Udbhav Utsav" will be organized from October 25 to 29 in the premises of Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya. In this joint event of Udbhav, Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya and Greenwood Public School, dance and music artists from different states of the country along with international artists will give the message of global unity by presenting their respective cultures on the soil of Gwalior. This was expressed by President of Udbhav, Dr. Keshav Pandey and Principal of Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Nishi Mishra during a press conference held here today. They said that this year Russia, Bulgaria and Macedonia will participate in this probably the biggest and most famous event of the country. They added that consent letters have

also been received from parties in countries like Estonia, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan etc. Indian performers will be from Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. They also said that artists in large numbers from Madhya Pradesh will also take part in this international event. Secretary Udbhav, Deepak Tomar said that the program will begin on the 25th of October with a grand carnival, in which all the Indian and foreign groups will go in a procession from Jal Vihar Italian Garden and reach Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya via Baijatal. "Udbhav Utsav 2023" will be inaugurated in a grand ceremony. It should be noted that in the past years, in the Udbhav Utsav, teams from countries like France, Italy, Spain, China, Iran, Israel, Austria, Taiwan, Egypt, Greece, Slovakia have given spectacular presentations of their respective cultures in

Gwalior. Chairperson of Greenwood School, Kiran Bhadauria said that together we are working towards making Gwalior a big center of cultural exchange. While on one hand, teams from different countries come to Udbhav Utsav and present their respective cultures and on the other hand, the selected teams of national artists get the opportunity to represent India in international cultural festivals held abroad. She added that group dance, solo dance and band (orchestra) competitions will be organized in Udbhav Utsav. Group dance competitions will be held in classical, semi-classical and folk dance categories and solo dance competitions will be held in classical and semi-classical categories. In band (orchestra), groups will be able to present in any discipline. On the concluding occasion of Udbhav Utsav, there will be a

competition for the International Championship between the selected Indian teams and foreign teams in the Gala Night on 29th October in which the winner will be selected by an International Jury. Teams and solo participants wishing to participate in Udbhav Utsav can contact Udbhav Secretary Deepak Tomar on mobile number 8966066666 and submit their entries till 10th October. Tomar said that My FM will be the radio partner and Loknad will be the digital partner in Udbhav Utsav. In today's press conference, Dr. Keshav Pandey, Nishi Mishra, Kiran Bhadauria, Shishir Srivastava (Deputy Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Gwalior), Deepak Tomar, Surendrapal Singh Kushwaha, Alok Dwivedi, Praveen Sharma, Manoj Aggarwal, Rajendra Mudgal, Dr. Aditya Bhadauria were present.

Ayurvedic hospital services paralysed with strike

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A part from Postgraduate and undergraduate students of all Ayurveda colleges, trainee students have also joined the indefinite strike. These students are continuously demanding timely conduct of examinations and increase in stipend. More than 450 students from Khushi Lal Ayurvedic Hospital went on strike on Tuesday and registered their protest. Students claimed that students of all seven Government Ayurvedic Colleges across the state are currently on strike. The government AYUSH Maha Vidyalayas of the state, autonomous postgraduates, house doctors and interns are being treated with complete negligence by the government. Correspondence has been sent to the government from time to time for many years but has always resulted in disappointment. The discrepancy is arising due to the stipend given to Ayurveda trainees (interns), home physicians and post-

More than 450 students from Khushi Lal Ayurvedic Hospital went on strike on Tuesday and registered their protest

graduate students of Madhya Pradesh not being revised on time. Madhya Pradesh Medical Sciences University, Jabalpur should complete the examinations and other academic activities of undergraduate and postgraduate students as per the academic calendar of the university. Under the Government of Madhya Pradesh, new posts for Ayurveda Medical Officer should be created every year by the Public Service Commission in the combined ratio of graduate and post-graduate students obtaining degrees every year. Ayurveda postgraduate students of the state should be provided medical leave like other states.

Workshop on forest conservation

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023 has become the focal point of discussion nowadays. In pursuit of greater clarity and understanding of the provisions of this act, the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) Bhopal and National Law Institute University (NLIU), Bhopal jointly organizing a one-day sensitization workshop today. The theme for the workshop is "Forest Conservation Act Amendments and Compensatory Conservation Regimes: Emerging Legal Scenarios". This workshop will discuss the various aspects of the amendments, shedding light on the implications of these changes. The workshop shall be attended by Environmentalists, Civil Societies, NGOs, Corporates, Forest Officials, Scientists, Officials and Students from distinguished Universities. The workshop will feature AK Sinha, DDG, IRO, MoEFCC; Subhash Chandra, CEO, National Campa; R.K. Gupta, PCCF & HoFF, Madhya Pradesh; Pankaj Agrawal, PCCF, Madhya Pradesh; K Ravichandran, Director, IIFM and Prof. Rajiv Kumar Khare from NLIU as the key speakers for the occasion.

22 new nursing officers in AIIMS receive appointment letters

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a historic event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed approximately 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in various government departments and organizations across India. The distribution ceremony took place simultaneously at 46 different locations across the country and was conducted via video conferencing. Modi, virtually addressing the recruits, emphasized the significance of this event taking place during the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Utsav. He likened their entry into public service to a new beginning, much like the arrival of Lord Ganesha, symbolizing auspiciousness and prosperity. He expressed confidence in the abilities of these new recruits and their role in shaping India's future. During his address, Modi outlined a vision for a developed and prosperous India by the year 2047, marking the centenary of India's independence. He encouraged the newly appointed government officials to play an instrumental role in achieving this goal through their dedication, hard work,

and commitment to public service. The main event, held at Samanvaya Bhawan in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, saw the esteemed presence of Chief Guest Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. Mohan Yadav, Cabinet Minister of the Madhya Pradesh Government, and Malti Rai, Mayor, Bhopal, also graced the occasion as special guests. One of the highlights of the ceremony was the distribution of appointment letters to 22 newly recruited Nursing Officers of AIIMS Bhopal, handed over by Narendra Singh Tomar, in a symbolic gesture of support for the healthcare sector. Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, while congratulating the selected nursing officers, said, "The nationwide distribution of appointment letters is in line with the government's commitment to strengthen the workforce and provide opportunities to talented individuals to contribute to the growth and development of the country." AIIMS officials, Danish Javed and Ramendra Singh Sirodiya, were also present during this momentous event.



Speaker of the MP State Assembly Girish Gautam and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Narottam Mishra felicitate Ministers Meena Singh, Gopal Bharagava and Tulsiram Silawat with parliamentary excellence award in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Common sense opens doors of our thinking

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Quiz competition was organized by Deepak Chaudhary and Mohan Lal Goyal under the Hindi Fortnight at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal. On this occasion, Dr Amitabh pandey Director IGRMS said that the quiz competition

organized under Hindi Pakhwada helps in developing our brain. The importance of general knowledge spans itself way beyond knowing the answers to a trivia and general knowledge quizzes. An individual's personality can be judged by his up-to-date general knowledge of various subjects and current affairs in different domains that makes him an

intelligent person with whom everyone would like to interact and would also like to ask him for some advice. From students to professionals to business owners to homemakers to retirees, this applies to virtually everyone in all walks of life. General knowledge is something that really helps us to grow both on personal as well as academic level.

Paddy procurement to begin from Nov 1

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

A cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday okayed the paddy procurement policy for the Kharif season 2023-24.

An official communication said the Kharif paddy will be purchased from farmers in cash and linked to support price from November 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024.

Similarly, Kharif maize will be procured from November 1, 2023 to February 28, 2024.

The communication said a maximum of 20 quintals of paddy per acre and 10 quintals of maize per acre will be procured from the farmers.

Consent has also been given by cabinet to supply Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK)



through the Indian National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) for the fortification of the rice obtained from custom milling of paddy procured in the Kharif marketing year 2023-24, the statement said.

In line with an announcement by the Chief

Minister, the cabinet has decided to provide 15 percent discount to journalists in the purchase of houses in the City Development Scheme No. 4 at Kaushalya Mata Vihar.

As per the first stage estimate, Rs 6,37,20,450 has been sanctioned to the Raipur Development

Authority for the rebate to be provided to 309 journalists.

Regarding determination of the allocation rate and the process of land allotment of the proposed wholesale commercial market or commercial hub project in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, businessmen will be provided land plots at the rate of Rs 540 per square foot instead of Rs 945.

The total loss caused to Nava Raipur Authority will be reimbursed by the government.

The cabinet decided to appoint Sudeep Thakur as Director (Contractual) of the Chhattisgarh State Hindi Granth Academy.

It decided to provide 100 percent grant to Shri Rameshwar Gahira Guru Prachya Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya Shri Kot, District- Balrampur- Ramanujganj.

Baghel to open tennis sports academy today



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate a tennis sports academy on Wednesday at Labhandih in Raipur, it was announced on Tuesday.

The academy constructed in a four-acre area for Rs 17.15 crore is the state's first and

largest. The academy campus includes a hostel and a tennis court. The building has facilities like a gym and a media center.

Also, the third portion of the academy is the main stadium with a seating capacity for 2,500 spectators.

There is a tennis synthetic court and five practice synthetic courts.

Three police officers get Smart Policing Awards



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Three officers of Chhattisgarh Police have received Smart Policing Awards given away by a non-governmental trade association in New Delhi.

The awards were presented to Kabirbham Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava, Raipur City Superintendent of Police Mayank Gurjar and Assistant Inspector General of Police (CID) Pooja Agrawal, an

official statement said on Tuesday.

Pallava was feted for his "Lon Varratu" (return to your home/village) campaign which he organized as the Dantewada SP and encouraged Maoists to quit violence.

Gurjar was felicitated for the 'Trinetram' campaign conducted as a Rajnandgaon CSP in the surveillance and monitoring category.

Agrawal was awarded for the state level 'Abhivyakti' programme for women safety.

CM launches devt works worth Rs. 6,080 Crore



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 7,300 development works worth Rs. 6,080 crore for 26 districts in a virtual programme here on Tuesday.

Of these, 3,978 works worth Rs. 2,668 crores were

inaugurated. The foundation stones were laid for 3,322 works worth Rs. 3,411 crores.

Addressing the programme, Baghel said: "Our government is continuously working for the betterment of all sections including farmers, labourers, minor forest produce collectors and more.

"To provide housing to the homeless, the Chhattisgarh Rural Housing Justice Scheme

was launched yesterday, and 7 lakh homeless people received the first installment," he said.

Home and Public Works Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu was present on this occasion.

Sahu applauded the state government and said that all the promises have been fulfilled. Infrastructure development has been done on a large scale in the last five years.

BJP releases 104 page chargesheet against Cong govt



STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday released a 104-page chargesheet against the Congress government in Chhattisgarh, alleging large-scale corruption, nepotism, scams and encouragement to Naxalites. The Congress government failed to fulfil a total 316 promises the party

and its former president Rahul Gandhi made on various occasions, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra alleged in New Delhi.

Patra claimed the Congress had promised a liquor ban in Chhattisgarh but the state witnessed a "liquor scam" worth over Rs 2,000 crore.

He also alleged a Rs 600-crore scam in the PDS scheme in the state.

Chhattisgarhiya Olympics enters final phase today

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The final phase of Chhattisgarhiya Olympics is underway in four sports grounds in Raipur. The event will end on Wednesday.

Players from across the state are shining in the event, an official communiqué said on Tuesday.

The competition was held in five phases. The sixth and final phase will end on September 27.

Players from five divisions including Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Bastar and Surguja



will represent their regions. The competition aimed to promote traditional sports in Chhattisgarhi culture.

It has witnessed the participation of people of all ages, including men and women, over the age of 40.

punjab national bank Circle Office, Raipur
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
PLOT NO.48, SECTOR 24, NAYA RAIPUR 492018
E-MAIL: coraigad@pnbc.co.in, Phone: 0771-2210418

PREMISES REQUIRED
Punjab National Bank requires suitable ready built and well-constructed hall type building including space for ATM at given location on lease/rental basis:

S. No.	Location	Centre	District/ State	Required Carpet Area (in sq.ft.)
1.	KanchanBagh, Rajnandgaon & within 500 mtr nearby.	Rajnandgaon	Rajnandgaon (CG)	1000-1200

Premises should be preferably in Ground Floor and if in first floor, lift facility be also provided. Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of Attorney holders of such premises in the desired locality who are ready to lease out their readily available premises on long term lease basis preferably for 15 years or more may send their offers in the prescribed format available on Bank's Web Site www.pnbindia.in or the same may be obtained from the above address during office hours. The complete offer, duly sealed & signed, should reach the undersigned on or before **10-10-2023 (Tuesday) 03:00 PM** at the above address.
No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons what-so-ever.
Date: 27.09.2023, Place: Raipur Circle Head

लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खण्ड जांजीर-चांपा (छ.ग.)
ऑन लाईन निविदा प्रथम आमंत्रण एवं द्वितीय आमंत्रण सूचना

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन जांजीर-चांपा की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव, जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अन्तर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से निम्नांकित कार्यों हेतु प्रपत्र "अ" (प्रतिशत दर) ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का नाम :- जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत रेडिफिकिंग / सोलर / एकल ग्राम योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न विकासखण्डों के ग्रामों में उच्चस्तरीय जलागार निर्माण, जल वितरण प्रणाली, पंपिंगमेन प्रणाली, सबमर्सिबल पंप स्थापना, स्वीच रूम निर्माण, क्लोरिनेटर रूम निर्माण, क्लोरिनेटर स्थापना, घरेलू नल कनेक्शन एवं उससे संबंधित समस्त कार्य।

क्र.	निविदा क्र.	सिस्टम निविदा क्र.	विकासखण्ड	ग्राम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)
1	78/22.09.2023	147942	जैजैपुर	कोटेतरा	192.62
2	79/22.09.2023	148190	जैजैपुर	मल्दाकला	272.04
3	80/22.09.2023	147948	जैजैपुर	देवरघटा	156.56
4	81/22.09.2023	147953	डभरा	कुसमुल, कनाकोट एवं मेढापाली	52.06
5	82/22.09.2023	148192	मालखोदा	बिलाईगढ़	19.99
6	83/22.09.2023	147955	लरोदा	डोंगरी	35.28
7	84/22.09.2023	148191	पामगढ़	चण्डीपारा	239.70
8	85/22.09.2023	148194	हनुमंता	हनुमंता	98.17
9	86/22.09.2023	148195	नवागढ़	मरकाडीह (धुकोट)	114.51

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखी एवं दिनांक 25.09.2023 से दिनांक 13.10.2023 के मध्य भरी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी विभाग
जांजीर- चांपा(छ.ग.)

G-05693/5

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice (2nd Call)

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works:-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
139/147999	B.T. PATCH REPAIR WORK OF VARIOUS ROAD UNDER SILYARI SECTION NO.2, RAIPUR	Rs. 49.54 Lakh
140/148000	B.T. PATCH REPAIR WORK IN (I) PARAGAOIN GOINDA TILA ROAD, KM-15/4(100m) to 16/4(100m), LENGTH-1.00KM (II) CHARODA GIDHWA CHHATERA ROAD LENGTH- KM-7/2(100m) to 8/2(105m) 1.05KM (III) SIMGA-KHARORA-GULLU-ARANG-NAWAPARA-KURUD ROAD KM-61/4(100M) To 79/10, Length- 18.50KM (IV) PARSADA APPROACH ROAD, KM-1/2 TO 2/8(50M), LENGTH- 1.65KM (V) LINGADIH APPROACH ROAD LENGTH 1.00KM (VI) MOKHLA BORD ROAD KM 1/2 TO 3/8 LENGTH- 2.80KM (VII) OLD REST HOUSE AND NAWAGAON STORE APPROACH ROAD, LENGTH-400M IN ARANG SECTION-I, UNDER SUB DIV. No.- 4, RAIPUR (1st Call)	Rs. 40.00 Lakh

Last date of tender Download Date up to 07.10.2023 Time 17:30 PM
Note: All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled of the e Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1
Raipur (C.G.)

G-05693/4

कार्यालय नगर पंचायत जरही, जिला- सूरजपुर (छ.ग.)
Email-jarhi_nagarpanchayat@rediffmail.com
Office No. & Fax No. 07775-278555 WhatsApp No. 7693994007

क्रमांक / 619 / लो.नि.वि. / न.प. / 2022-23 जरही दिनांक 25.09.2023

शुद्धि पत्र

कार्यालयीन पत्र क्रमांक 588/ लो.नि.वि./न.प./2022-23 जरही दिनांक 20.09.2023 को प्रकाशित निविदा में त्रुटिवाश आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 20.09.2023 हो गया है, जिसका शुद्धि पत्र जारी कर 27.09.2023 को पढ़ा जावे। किन्तु उक्त तिथि 27.09.2023 को संशोधित करते हुये आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि 29.09.2023 पढ़ा जावे।

मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी
नगर पंचायत जरही
जिला- सूरजपुर (छ.ग.)

Journalists in C'garh to get subsidy on housing loans

RAIPUR : Journalists in Chhattisgarh will now be able to fulfill their dream of owning a house at affordable rates as a 5 percent subsidy will be provided by the government for the loans taken for the housing scheme.

Following an announcement by the Chief Minister in the budget for 2023-24, a 'Shri Lalit Surjan Sanchar Pratinidhi Awas Rin Byaj Anudan Yojana' was published in the Gazette by the Public Relations Department on Tuesday.

Under the scheme, a 5 percent interest subsidy per month will be given for housing loans up to Rs 30 lakh for five years. This scheme will be effective for purchasing houses after April 1, 2023. According to the notification published in the Gazette, the benefit of the scheme will be given only on residential loans and the house to be purchased should be built within Chhattisgarh. An interest subsidy will be given to the maximum limit of a housing loan of Rs 30 lakh. The journalist will get a 5 per cent interest subsidy per month for five years on loans taken from nationalized and cooperative banks and RBI-notified financial institutions. Full-time and part-time journalists working in the editorial branch of registered news agencies, editors of news portals and independent journalists fulfilling the qualifying conditions of the preference rules and residing in Chhattisgarh for a minimum of five years will be eligible to benefit from the scheme.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India Regional Office, 11th Floor, LIC Investment Building, Phase-III, Jivan Bima Marg, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) **E-AUCTION ON 13.10.2023 11 AM TO 5 PM**

Appendix-IV-A (See proviso to rule 8(6))
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **13.10.2023 between 11:00 am to 5:00 pm** for recovery of below mentioned amount plus interest till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses due to the Union Bank of India Secured Creditor from below mentioned borrowers & Guarantor details are here under:

S. No.	Name of the Borrower / Guarantor & Branch	Total dues (In Rs.)	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amt.	Short description of the properties
1.	M/s Ayush Travelling & Transport, Prop: Prashant Sayankar, Sujata Sayankar/ Branch- MSME Bhilai Nagar	₹ 38,10,000.00 + interest since 01.07.23+Legal & Other charges	Rs. 36,00,000/- Rs. 3,60,000/- Rs. 36,000/-	DOUBLE STORIED RESIDENTIAL, BUILDING KH NO 9220/3, P H NO :14/19, HOUSE NO 55, MOUZA , KHOKHA, RAMNAGAR, WARD NO. 12, BHILAI, DURG.
2.	M/s Kamala Industries, Prop: Arun Vishwakarma Branch- MSME Bhilai Nagar	₹ 53,22,000.00 + interest since 01.07.23+Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 26,00,000/- Rs. 2,60,000/- Rs. 26,000/-	Plot No 16, Zone A, DIC RASMADA, Industrial Growth Centre, Borai, DURG. BOUNDARIES: EAST- PLOT NO :17, WEST- PLOT NO 14, NORTH- CDICD OPEN LAND SOUTH- CDICD ROAD. AREA: 930 SQ.MTS
3.	Borrower- M/s JG Rice Mill, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, Mrs. Laxmi Agrawal, Branch- Pandri	₹ 171600000.00 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 5,50,00,000/- Rs. 55,00,000/- Rs. 5,50,000/-	Plant & Machinery Along with Factory Land & Building at Kh.No. 69/2, PH No.25, Baloda Bazar Road, Vill.-Sirri, Kharora, Raipur, Area-1.676 Hecter (Owned by Shri Sanjay Kumar Agrawal)
4.	Mr Gaurav Bhardwaj, Mrs Priya Bhardwaj & Mrs Santosh Bhardwaj/ Branch- Scindia Nagar Durg	₹ 1422000.00 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 36,00,000/- Rs. 3,60,000/- Rs. 36,000/-	Commercial Cum Residential Building at plot no. B-49 ,Kh No. 420/155, 462/55 ,P.H. No. 21, area 450 sq feet situated at Smriti Nagar Greh Nirman Samiti, Smriti Nagar, Junwani, Bhilai, Tah & Distt- Durg in the name of Santosh Bhardwaj W/o Shri Jugai Kishor Bhardwaj.
5.	Mrs. Sarita Agrawal Branch- Scindia Nagar ,Durg	₹ 55,11,000.00 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 42,00,000/- Rs. 4,20,000/- Rs. 42,000/-	Residential property situated at Mouza Titurdi (Deepak Nagar Inner Part) P.C No 52, RIC-Durg, Built up area 590 sq.ft. Durg Having Khasra No 122/376 (Part Of 122/72). Area 937.50 Sq.Ft
6.	Mr Deepak Kumar & Mrs Beena Branch-MSME Bhilai Nagar	₹ 1565000.00 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 12,00,000/- Rs. 1,20,000/- Rs. 12,000/-	Flat No 305, Block E, Sai Villas and Apartment, Type I, 3rd Floor, Khasra No. 303/15, 303/2, 303/10, Mauza Janjigri, ward no. 24, Ph. No. 44/49, RNM Ahiwara, Tehsil- Dhamdha, Dist- Durg. Area 0.720 Hectare, built up area 350.02 sq. ft. Boundaries: North: Flat No. 306, South: Block D, East: Flat No 303, West: Stairs.
7.	Mr D Shiv Kumar & Mrs Madhurna Branch- MSME Bhilai Nagar	₹ 1066000.00 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 7,00,000/- Rs. 70,000/- Rs. 7,000/-	Flat No LIG-1/603, 6th Floor Kh No. 252, Khamariya, Bhilai, Dist Durg, Built up area 590 sq.ft. Boundaries : North: LIG 604 Block I, South: Lift and service area, East: LIG 602 and passage, West: Road side
8.	1-M/s Jasol Chawal Pvt.Ltd., (Through Director- Mr. Avant Ku. Golchha) 2-Mr. Avant Ku. Golchha 3- Mrs.Rani Golchha, 4- Smt.Garima Daga. Branch- Dhamtari	₹ 8,55,20,000 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 45,00,000/- Rs. 4,50,000/- Rs. 45,000/-	Diverted Land and small Storage/ Labour Room Building Constructed over it. Survey No. 684/13 Chitlaod, Infront of Nirmal Fuel, Gram- Chitlaod, Tehsil- Gurur, Distt. Balod (C.G.)
9.	M/s SRI PADMAVATHI ENTERPRISES, Prop. SMT GUNUPURU DURGAMMA / Jagdalpur EAB Branch	₹ 19,70,000.00 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 18,00,000/- Rs. 1,80,000/- Rs. 18,000/-	PLOT WITH BOUNDARY PLINTH AT KHASRA NO. 382/2 ,AREA- 0.080 HECT (8712 SQ FT), HALKA NO. 9, VILLAGE-KARKAPAL, TEHSIL- JAGDALPUR ,DIST-BASTAR (C.G.)
10.	M/S Punjab Auto, Mr. Harjeet Singh Dua, Mr. Jaspreet Kour Dua. Branch- Pandri, Now UMFB Branch	₹ 24,82,000/- + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 17,00,000/- Rs. 1,70,000/- Rs. 17,000/-	Residential Property at Flat no.106, Ground Floor, Orchard block No.1, Green Earth City, village - Amleshwar, Patan, Durg, measuring an area of 584.22 Sq. Ft. in the name of Mrs. Jaspreet Kour Dua
11.	Late Mr. Satyanarsingh Rao Pasi, through legal heirs: Sujatha Rao Pasi Branch- Pandri, Santoshi Pasi, Venkat Pasi And Mrs. Sujatha Rao Pasi, Branch- Pandri now UMFB Raipur	₹ 5185000.00 + interest since 01.07.23 + Legal & Other Charges	Rs. 43,00,000/- Rs. 4,30,000/- Rs. 43,000/-	Property at Flat No.204, Dolpin Plaza, part of Khasra No.123/17, 154/2-3-4, PH No. 109, comprising Super built up area 1475 Sq.Ft., Daldal Seoni, Mowa, Raipur, C.G.-492001.

Details of encumbrances over the above properties, as known to the Bank- Not Known
For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auktionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>, www.unionbankofindia.co.in. For further detailed any query please contact: For Serial No. 1, 2, 6 & 7- Shri Manoj Lalwani, Mo: 9329855084, For Serial No. 3, 10 & 11 - Shri Pradeep Thawait, Mo: 94064 55999, For Serial No. 4 & 5 : Shri Rakesh Kumar, Mo: 7693833353, For Serial No. 8 : Shri Babul Singh, Mo: 7800002246, For Serial No. 9 : Shri Ram Kumar, Mob. 8077156740. This may also be treated as STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) & Rule 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002, to the borrower/s and guarantor/s
Date: 27.09.2023 Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

India-Canada row will not impact military ties: Peter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The current diplomatic standoff between India and Canada is not going to impact the ongoing bilateral military engagement and the matter has to be resolved at the political level, Canada's Deputy Army Chief Major General Peter Scott said here on Tuesday.

Scott is leading a Canadian delegation at the Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs' Conference (IPACC) here that is being attended by military delegations from over 30 countries.

"To the best of my knowledge at this time, that is not going to have an impact on us. We leave the matter at hand to the political level to try and resolve," he told news agency PTI. "

We are happy to be here and we do not see the issue clouding matters at this point



at all," Major General Scott said.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June.

India has 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.

"This is an issue between both our countries at a political level. And certainly our Prime Minister...

"He rose at the House of Commons and made a statement requesting India's cooperation on the independent investigation that is currently ongoing at this time," the Canadian Army official said.

"Between both of our armies, this is not affecting us. I spoke to your commander of the Army (Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande) last night. We both agreed that this is a polit-

ical issue and has no interference on our relationship," he said.

"As two armies we look for opportunities among other 30 nations that are currently participating in this conference to find areas where we can cooperate, train together, conduct exercises and operations so that we all can contribute to ensuring peace, stability with-

in the region," Major General Scott said.

"The way we see right now is that we will continue to cooperate, discuss, and enjoy great forums like this where we can exchange ideas and find solutions to the difficulties facing a lot of the Indo-Pacific nations," he said.

The Indian Army is hosting the two-day conclave of Indo-Pacific army chiefs to evolve a common strategy to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Passing of Women's Reservation Bill heralded new future for country: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday said that the passing of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament's new building during the Special Session has heralded a new future for the country and will give a big boost to 50 per cent population in the country..

Addressing a Rozgar Mela after distribution of appointment letters to over 51,000 new employees in different government departments through a virtual event, Modi also emphasised on growing use of technology in governance.

The use of technology in government schemes has stopped corruption and reduced complexities, and boosted credibility and comfort, he told the new employees.

He asked them to work with the motto of "citizens-first" and deploying technology to improve governance, citing its use in direct benefit transfers to beneficiaries of various schemes, booking of



train tickets and digital locker among other fields.

The prime minister said his government works with a new mindset based on constant monitoring, mission mode implementation and mass participation in government schemes with an aim of 100 per cent saturation and paving the way to accomplish monumental goals.

This is a time of historic decisions and achievements for the country, he said, while stressing that the women's reservation bill, passed by Parliament recently, will give a big boost to the country's 50 per cent population.

The issue, which was pending for 30 years, has been passed by record votes in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, he

said, noting that many of these new employees were not even born when the idea was first mooted.

The dreams of new India are big, he said, noting that girls are present in sectors ranging from space to sports and are being commissioned into the armed forces as well. He added the presence of women in any sector has always led to positive changes in every sector.

Asserting that the country will become the third-largest economy in the world in the next few years, Modi said government employees will have a lot to contribute in the process.

Projects across the country are being constantly monitored, Modi said, giving the example of Pragati meetings chaired by him.

Speaking about the GDP growth and the jump in production and exports, he said unprecedented investment in modern infrastructure is being made and fields like renewable energy, organic farming, defence and tourism are showing a new vibrancy, he said.

India's diplomacy scaled new heights in past 30 days: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India's diplomacy scaled "new heights" in the past 30 days asserting that some decisions taken during the G20 Summit have potential to change the direction the 21st century world takes.

Addressing students, faculty members and heads of educational institutions at the finale of the G20 University Connect here, the prime minister also touched upon the BRICS Summit that took place in South Africa before the G20 where six new nations were included as its members with India's efforts.

After South Africa, the Prime Minister mentioned traveling to Greece which was



the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in four decades.

He also mentioned meeting several world leaders in Indonesia before the G20 Summit. Highlighting that numerous key decisions were taken for the betterment of the world at the same 'Bharat Mandapam', Modi underlined that finding a common ground

for all member nations on the same stage in a globally polarized atmosphere was a special achievement for the government.

"In today's polarised international atmosphere, it is not a small thing to get so many countries together on one platform," the Prime Minister said, referring to the G20 Summit in Delhi earlier this month.

Maintaining that India's diplomacy reached new heights in the past 30 days, the prime minister said the G20 Summit could have been limited to a diplomatic and Delhi-centric programme but India made it

a people-driven national movement. Six more countries have joined BRICS community due to India's efforts, the prime minister said.

"A 100 per cent consensus on the Delhi declaration made global headlines...Some decisions taken during the G20 Summit have potential to change the 21st century's direction...In today's polarised international atmosphere, it is not a small thing to get so many countries together on one platform," he said.

"I want to give you a report card of the last 30 days. That will give you an idea of the speed and scale of New India. You must remember August 23! Everyone was praying and then suddenly there was a smile on everyone's face. The entire world heard India's voice:

'India is on the Moon.'

"August 23 has become immortal in the country as the National Space Day. Soon after the success of its lunar mission, India launched its solar mission," he added.

Listing out the achievements of his government in the past 30 days, the prime minister said several initiatives were taken to empower the poor, SCs, STs, OBCs and the middle class.

"The government launched the PM Vishwakarma Yojana for artisans. In last 30 days, over one lakh youths have been given central government jobs through 'Rozgar Mela'. The women's reservation bill became the first bill passed in the new Parliament building and it filled the country with a sense of pride," he said.

Apex court expresses dismay over delay in judges appointment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With 70 Collegium recommendations still stuck with the Government, the Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its dismay over the "delay" in the appointment of judges and asked the Attorney General to use his office to resolve the issue.

After a bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia raised the matter, AG R Venkataramani sought a week's time to come back with instructions on the pending recommendations for judges' appointment to the High Court.

"Today, I am quiet because the Attorney General has sought a very short time, next time I will not be quiet. Use your good office to see these issues are resolved," Justice Kaul told Venkataramani during the hearing.

The bench said, "There were 80 recommendations pending until last week when 10 names were cleared. Now, the figure is 70, of which 26 recommendations are of transfer of judges, seven are reiterations, nine are pending without being returned to the collegium and one case is of appointment of the Chief Justice to a sensitive High Court."

All these recommendations are pending since November last year, it said. Government has not cleared the appoint of Chief Justice of Manipur, where ethnic violence is not yet settled.

Justice Kaul said there is a seven-month hiatus since something substantial was done on the recommendations which are pending and these needed basic processing only.

"We have endeavoured to push things and monitor closely. I have told the attorney general that every 10-12 days this matter will be taken up, so that before I demit office (December 25), substantial work is done," said Justice Kaul, who is part of the apex court collegium which



looks after the appointment of judges in the top court and the High Courts.

The appointment of judges through the Collegium system has in the past become a major flashpoint between the Supreme Court and the Centre with the mechanism drawing criticism from different quarters.

The top court was hearing a petition filed by Advocates Association of Bengaluru seeking contempt action against the Union Ministry of Law and Justice for not allegedly adhering to the timeline set by the court in a 2021 judgment.

During the hearing, advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for another petitioner NGO Common Cause, submitted a chart related to pending recommendations with the Government.

He said what is more worrisome is that even after a batch of names is recommended by the collegium at one time, the government segregates it and makes selective appointments.

"This affects the morale of lawyers and as per my information, several of them have withdrawn their consents," he said. Justice Kaul, while agreeing with the views of Bhushan, said there are nine such names, where the government has kept the names pending without reverting them back.

"I agree that the way good candidates withdraw their consent to be a judge is really worrisome. We try to get the best talents but due to pendency, lawyers whose names have been recommended for judgeship have withdrawn their names," Justice Kaul said as he posted the matter for further hearing on October 9.

Rajnath calls for wisdom, concerted efforts to deal with complexities of Indo-Pacific

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As China is flexing its muscle in the strategically important Indo-Pacific, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called for collective wisdom and concerted efforts to deal with the complexities of the region while tapping its full potential, to ensure a future marked by prosperity, security and inclusivity.

Making this assertion here while inaugurating the 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs' Conference (IPACC), he also said it is in consonance with the ancient Indian ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) and the G-20 motto 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

Chief of Armies and delegates of 35 countries are participating in the three-day meet jointly organised by India and the US.

In his address, Army Chief Manoj Pande said India's outlook for Indo-Pacific emphasises respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. He also said India's commitment towards positively engaging all stakeholders in the region has been unwavering and enduring.

Highlighting the geo-political significance and geo-economic weight of the Indo-Pacific nations, Pande said it is evident from the fact that the region accounts for 65 per cent of the world's population, 63 per cent of the global GDP and 50 per cent of the world's maritime trade. The Army chief said the region's share in the global GDP, its share in merchandise market and maritime trade lend this region a pivotal status in charting the world's course in the 21st century.

Rajnath emphasised that the Indo-Pacific is no more a maritime construct, but a full-fledged geo-strategic construct, and the region is facing a complex web of security challenges, including boundary disputes and piracy.

He explained his vision for the region through a theoretical model by American author Stephen R Covey, which is based on two circles -- 'Circle of



Concern' and 'Circle of Influence'.

"There may be instances when the 'Circle of Concern' of different nations overlap with each other. International maritime trade routes passing through high seas, beyond the exclusive economic zones of any country, are relevant examples," he said.

"This can either result in conflict between nations or they can decide to coexist by mutually deciding the rules of engagement. The concept of these circles underscores the importance of strategic thinking and prioritisation," he added.

Rajnath pointed out that states must recognise that global issues involve multiple stakeholders and no one country can address these challenges in isolation. He stressed the need to engage with the broader international community and work collaboratively through diplomacy, international organisations and treaties to tackle common concerns within the overlapping 'Circles of Concern'.

Rajnath termed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 as a good example of such an international agreement that establishes the legal framework for maritime activities and addresses the issues arising from overlapping 'circles of concern' of different nations.

The Defence Minister termed the IPACC, Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) and Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF) as one of the largest brainstorming events of land forces in the region. These events provide a unique opportunity to build common perspectives towards a shared vision and build and strengthen

partnerships in the spirit of collaborative security for all, he said.

He reiterated India's stand for a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific Region in the pursuit of shared security and prosperity.

Rajnath added that India's efforts towards building robust military partnerships with friendly countries underscore its commitment to not only safeguard national interests, but also address global challenges faced by all.

The Indian Army and the United States Army are co-hosting 13th IPACC, 47th IPAMS and 9th SELF, a three-day conference of Chiefs of Armies and delegates of 35 countries in New Delhi from September 25 to 27.

The conference will provide an opportunity for Army Chiefs and senior-level leaders from land forces, primarily of the Indo-Pacific region, to exchange ideas and views on security and contemporary issues. The core effort of the forum will be to promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region through mutual understanding, dialogue and friendship amongst the littoral partners. Army Chief Pande said India's vision for Indo-Pacific emphasises peaceful resolution of disputes, avoidance of use of force, and adherence to international laws, he said.

"While efforts by countries are converging towards a free Indo-Pacific, yet we are witnessing manifestations of interstate contestations and competitions," the Army chief added. He further noted that "challenges we face transcend across borders and our response to them must factor in this".

American delegation visited J&K as well for G20 meet: Garcetti



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the US Envoy to Islamabad visiting Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK), US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Tuesday said the American delegation has visited Jammu and Kashmir as well for G20 meetings.

Garcetti was reacting to questions on US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome's six-day visit to POK last week. "It's not my place to react to the US Ambassador in Pakistan but he's been before and we obviously had part of our delegation in Jammu and Kashmir during G20 as well," the American envoy told reporters on the sidelines of the 20th Indo-US Economic Summit.

At the same time, Garcetti made it clear that the Jammu and Kashmir issue has to be resolved bilaterally by India and Pakistan and not by any third party, including the US.

"We'll stay engaged but this is an issue we very religiously know that has to be resolved between India and Pakistan not by any third party including the US," he said.

US Ambassador to Pakistan Blome visited the Gilgit-Baltistan region of PoK and interacted with the locals there, according to a Pakistani media report. Asked about the standing ovation given to a Nazi war veteran in the Canadian Parliament, Garcetti said: "I think everybody recognises the mistake."

He refused to comment on the US sharing intelligence on the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. "It's not my place to speak on another country, Canada. As a matter of business not just this, we don't talk about intelligence or criminal justice matters," Garcetti said.

Desi components behind ISRO feat, says Somanath



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

About 95 per cent of components used in rockets in the country have been sourced from India, ISRO Chairperson S Somanath said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the 82nd Foundation Day of CSIR, Somanath highlighted that ISRO's expertise spans the entire space domain, with all technical work, including rocket and satellite development and space applications, being carried out in-house.

He said approximately 95 per cent of the materials, devices and systems used in Indian Space Research Organisation's rockets are domestically sourced, with only 5 per cent coming from abroad, primarily high-end electronic components.

"This achievement is a result of collaborations with various Indian laboratories, including national labs, defence labs, and CSIR labs, focusing on material indigenisation, technology capabilities, and research," he said.

Somanath also highlighted significant achievements in electronics indigenisation, including the design and manufacture of critical components such as processors for rockets and main computer chips, both made in India.

"Additionally, ISRO has developed essential components, such as electro-mechanical actuators, DC power supply systems, battery systems, and solar cells within the country," he said.

At the Foundation Day of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards were also distributed to 12 young scientists.

Immunologist Dipyaman Ganguli of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata; microbiologist Ashwani Kumar of CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh; biologist Maddika Subba Reddy of the Hyderabad-based Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostics; Akkattu T Biju of Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru; and Debabrata Maiti of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay are among the awardees.

While Ganguli has been awarded in the field of medical sciences, Kumar and Reddy have received the award for their contribution to biological sciences.

At the event, Principal Scientific Advisor Ajay Sood said there is a rationalisation of the awards to truly make it national and to make the selection process transparent.

"From the next year, there will be Vignay Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards and these awards will not be seven as it is now but will number 25 and these again are meant for yuva scientists, technologists and of course the innovators in almost 12 fields and there is another one which we call others to see any other field that has not been listed," he said.

Fair a reflection of PM's commitment to give priority to job generation: Anupriya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said the job fair is a reflection of the commitment of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give top priority to employment generation and act as a catalyst for further employment generation for the unemployed youth. She was speaking at a function held at Shatabdi Krishi Prekshagriha in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) organised under the auspices of the Postal Department here on Tuesday in which the PM gave more than 51,000 appointment letters to the newly-appointed youths in government departments in the employment fair organised at 46 places in the country, including Varanasi through video conferencing.

Anupriya handed over appointment letters to the newly-appointed candidates and wished them a happy future. During the ceremony in Varanasi, appointment letters were given to 213 candidates, out of which a total of 49 are women candidates who were selected for various posts like



Union Minister Anupriya Patel giving away an appointment letter to a candidate in Varanasi on Tuesday.

principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas, postal assistants in Postal department, branch postmasters, assistant branch postmasters, bank clerks, assistants in Food Corporation of India and others. She expressed her gratitude to the PM. She said that it was a step in the direction of the PM's resolve to provide government jobs to 10 lakh youth by December 2023 which will be fulfilled. Under the leadership of the illustrious

PM, she said that the country is reaching new heights every day and the youth are getting various employment opportunities with quick speed and transparency, who are being given the opportunity to serve the nation through various government departments and participate in the national development. Referring to women empowerment, she said that today women are hoisting their flag in every field. Many

women have also got new opportunities through the employment fair, she added. Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav said in his address that due to the visionary thinking and inspiration of the PM in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the appointment letter received on the occasion of this employment fair is not just a paper or document, but this is a golden opportunity to take a pledge to serve the country throughout one's life. People have great expectations from the youth as the future of the country, he added. On the occasion the PM, through video conferencing, called upon the newly-appointed people to play a direct role in the ongoing Mahayagya of development and major changes in the country and to fulfil their responsibilities in the next 25 years along with the resolutions of a developed India. "The biggest responsibility of implementing the schemes of the Central government lies on all the newly-appointed government employees. When millions of youth like you join government services, the speed

and scale of implementing policies also increases. This creates employment opportunities outside the government also," the PM added. The local function was inaugurated by Anupriya Patel, along with Rohania MLA Dr Sunil Patel, PMG KK Yadav and Registrar of IIT (BHU) Rajan Srivastava, by lighting the lamp. Along with the Postal department, newly-appointed young candidates from Food Corporation of India, Central Public Works Department, Education department, IIT, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Union Bank, Bank of India etc participated to whom the PM addressed through video conferencing. The programme was also attended by Senior Postal Superintendent Rajan, Postal Superintendent Vinay Kumar, Hemant Kumar, Parmanand, PK Pathak, Assistant Director Brijesh Sharma, RK Chauhan, Marutnandan, Plaban Naskar, Dilip Singh, Shrikant Pal, Dilip Pandey, Santoshi Rai and others from various central departments were present. Officers, employees and public representatives also participated in the event.

NTPC Vindhyachal honoured with awards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the 13th Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) Award, 2023, NTPC Vindhyachal, the nation's largest power plant, has been awarded excellence in the field of public relations on the occasion of the two-day 17th Global Communication Conclave organised by the PRCI in Delhi recently. NTPC Vindhyachal was awarded with three gold awards, one silver and four bronze. These awards were received by it for excellence in various fields like Health Care Communication, Story Telling, Art Culture and Support Campaign, Music Video, Motivational Film, Radio, Corporate Video and Table Calendar for the Year Award etc. These awards were received by Shiksha Gupta, Executive (Corporate Communication), NTPC-Vindhyachal. The representatives of more than 200 establishments related to communication, advertising, corporate social responsibility and various forms of mass communication from India and abroad participated in this event. Apart from NTPC-Vindhyachal, many projects of NTPC Limited also received



NTPC Vindhyachal representative receiving award at Global Conclave in New Delhi recently.

awards in various categories. For this NTPC Limited was also awarded the Corporate Champion Trophy for winning the maximum number of awards in every field during this awards ceremony. In the presence of general managers, heads of departments and other senior officers of the project, Executive (Corporate Communication) Shiksha Gupta handed over this award to Project Head (Vindhyachal) E Satya Phani Kumar under the leadership of General Manager (Human Resources) Prabir Kumar Biswas. Project Head

(Vindhyachal) E Satya Phani Kumar, while congratulating the team of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on these awards received by the project at the national level, said that with the dedication and unity of Team Vindhyachal, the project is achieving new heights every day and this award is our golden electricity will serve as another jewel in the journey. He also said that he not only hopes but has full confidence that Team Vindhyachal would continue this practice in future also and would take the brand image of NTPC to greater heights.

Govt gears up for third campaign against communicable diseases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Yogi government has geared up for the third campaign to control communicable diseases. The Health department is taking effective steps to prevent communicable diseases in Varanasi by coordinating with 10 departments. Anti-larva spraying and fogging campaigns are being conducted in rural and urban areas. Beds have been reserved in hospitals along with a massive testing campaign. Public awareness drives are also being run for prevention and treatment of communicable diseases. The first and second campaigns for mass communicable diseases were conducted in April and July last and now the third phase is going to start from October. The Health department has been made the nodal department for coordination with other 10 departments for prevention and control of meningitis and other vector-borne and water-borne diseases. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said there are 6,600 cleaning workers in the Municipal Corporation area apart from 175 workers for anti-larva spray, 41 spraying and 77 fogging machines. There are 371 personnel for drainage cleaning and 175 larvicide pumps. In gram panchayats too, 1,247 sanitation workers, 712 larvicide pumps and fogging machines are being used in 694 gram panchayats for prevention of communicable diseases. The CMO said for patients of communicable diseases, five beds at each Community Health Centre (CHC), two beds at Primary

224 dengue patients detected in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Medical Officer Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that 224 dengue patients have been confirmed in the last few days in which preventive actions like anti-larva spray, fogging, larva source destruction have been taken against all the patients. He said anti-larva spraying and fogging work is being done continuously by the Municipal Corporation and Health department in 70 hot spots (urban) and 62 rural hot spots of the district. So far 97,417 houses have been surveyed. A total of 2,52,937 breeding sites were examined in which 20,282 sources were destroyed. A total of 331 houses were found to be larva positive and notices were given to 546 persons when mosquito-borne conditions were found. Anti-larva spraying has been done at a total of 11,425 sites, he

said. According to the CMO, an action plan is ready for fogging and spraying in all schools of the district. "Spraying work is being done in schools every Sunday.

For publicity, information and audio visuals about 'what to do, what not to do' are being broadcast through 55 public address (PA) systems of the city. Besides, 20 message display boards are operated by the Municipal Corporation at various places in the city. Adequate beds and testing facilities are available in government hospitals. Five beds at each community health centre and two at each primary health centre have been reserved. A total of 39 breeding checkers visited door to door in hot spot localities. Lava checking work is also being done. The facility of blood and platelets is available in a total of seven government and 12 private blood banks," he said.

Health Centre (PHC), 100 beds at Pt Deendayal Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital, 50 beds at Sir Sundar Hospital (SSH) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and 50 beds at Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Hospital Ramnagar have been reserved. District Malaria Officer (DMO) Sharat Chandra Pandey said that ASHA and Anganwadi workers, skilled in rapid diagnostic tests, are monitoring and testing fever from door to door, and rapid

response teams (RRTs) are deployed at all CHCs and PHCs.

Besides Fever desk has been created. Thirty-nine larva detection squads are also active on behalf of DUDA, which are going door to door and checking their coolers, water tanks and places where water is collected, on the information of which immediate action is being taken. Special attention is being paid to fogging on 70 hot spots in urban areas and 62

hot spots in rural areas.

A special campaign is being run by the Municipal Corporation for cleanliness, garbage disposal and preventing water logging. Panchayati Raj Rural Development department has to do all the work for prevention of communicable diseases, including cleanliness and fogging along with public relations and public awareness. Animal Husbandry department is responsible for many works like cleanliness of animal enclosures, garbage disposal, arranging vector control and serosurveillance at pig rearing sites, spraying pesticides etc.

For the prevention of communicable diseases, apart from the Health department, all the departments like Urban Development, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Animal Husbandry department, Education department, Disabled Empowerment, Agriculture and Irrigation will have to do their department related work. Along with ASHA and Anganwadi workers, the role of ANMs will also be important. The Education department has also been given important responsibility in which the aim is to create awareness among the parents, create posters, debate competitions and spread publicity related to prevention of meningitis and other vector borne and water borne diseases. The Agriculture and Irrigation department has been given the responsibility of giving its advice on alternative measures to stop the breeding of mosquitoes in frozen water and the Irrigation department, growing anti-mosquito plants, suggest-

ing effective and safe measures for rodent control in the fields, etc.

BID TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH FACILITIES: To strengthen the health facilities of the district, the first delivery through operation took place at the Urban Community Health Centre in Sarnath. After cesarean delivery of a high-risk pregnant woman, both mother and child are healthy. CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said special efforts are being made to strengthen health facilities in the district and in this sequence the work of OPD services and admission and treatment of patients was started at the health centre in Sarnath.

The Sarnath health centre will be very useful for the citizens of the area. Now they will not have to go far for maternal and child health check-up and delivery, he said and informed that with normal delivery the facility of cesarean delivery has also been made available here.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of anaesthesia specialist Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma, gynaecologist Dr Archana Verma and Dr Abhimanyu Singh and staff nurses Amrita Dwivedi and Aman Rai. Medical Superintendent of CHC Sarnath Dr Abhimanyu Singh informed that a pregnant woman from the area was admitted here due to labour pain. She was in a high-risk pregnancy.

Therefore, the operation was conducted late on Sunday night and the delivery was done safely. The mother and child are healthy after the operation, he added.

BJP to focus on booth management

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Ahead of Lok Sabha polls, the BJP will focus on booth management particularly on those booths that have not been the party's strongholds. Hoping to retain both the parliamentary seats – Allahabad and Phulpur — senior leaders have asked workers to strengthen all booths at grassroots level. "We will focus on micro-management at all booths. Besides, emphasis will also be on mobilisation of voters of all communities that have not been party's traditional supporters," a senior party leader said. They claimed that in the next LS polls Congress will be wiped out and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will bag a third term. Moreover, the half population of the country – matra shakti – are also set to give blessings to the Prime Minister after the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam was passed in Parliament.

INSPECTED: In a bid to increase tourism in Sangam city, Mela Officer (Kumbh Mela) Vijay Kiran Anand inspected proposed sites for digital museum and tent city. There are plans to develop tourist circuit in city. Mela authorities are making efforts to set up digital museum and tent city to exhibit the glamour of Kumbh. The tent city will have permanent 50 tents. Devotees and pilgrims apart from Sangam, Akshay Vat, Hanuman temple, Patalpuri, will also visit digital museum while staying in tent city. Mela authorities are making efforts to develop recreation activities (water sports), food walk, and one circuit to connect all prominent temples of the city and Triveni Pushp.

Campaign to check food supply at stations, trains

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For the second continuous day drive for checking clean food supply at different stations and trains continued on Monday by Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) under the ongoing eighth 'Swachhta Pakhwada' (Cleanliness Fortnight) being run on the theme of 'Swachhta Hi Seva' from September 16 to October 2. A thorough inspection of the cleanliness of the catering facilities available at different stations and in the pantry cars of the trains was done under the guidance of designated officers. These officers, nominated by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava, inspected mobile vendors in many trains including Pawan Express at Banaras station, Dadar Express at Varanasi City station, Up and Down Vaishali Superfast

Express at Chhapra Junction, pantry cars of Tapti-Ganga Express at Azamgarh station, Lichchavi Express at Mau station, Lokmanya Tilak-Gorakhpur Superfast Express and Down Sadbhavna Express at Ballia station etc. The catering stalls at the stations of NER were also inspected by senior railway officials. During this period the quality of food and beverages available at Jan Aahar, canteens, food stalls, food plazas and local vendors at Banaras, Varanasi City, Ballia, Ghazipur City, Azamgarh, Mau, Bhatni, Siwan and Chhapra stations of the division was monitored by leaders on the instructions of Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM) Apoorva Swarnkar. By taking out cleanliness rallies at the said stations, the scouts and guides made the people and passengers aware of the cleanliness by staging street plays on cleanliness.

FLY programme concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The last day of FLY (Finding the Leader in You) programme was successfully organised at the Institute of Management Studies, Banaras Hindu University (IM-BHU) on Monday. The concluding session was taken by Usha Oja of Competitiveness Mindset Institute, New Delhi. The session continued with a talk on the perseverance and the speaker addressed the audience with a very motivational quote saying 'the best way to motivate you is to reward yourself'. Taking the session forward, a group activity was conducted where one had to think of a top level goal and reward each other after achieving any achievement. The

speaker informed the audience about ways to overcome failures while achieving the goal, which can happen through analysis. Getting more and more learning opportunities, taking advice from others and thus solving the problems that come your way is the right way to continue moving forward. This four-day programme was organised under the 'Student Leadership and Life Skills Initiative'. The programme has been organised under the initiative taken by the Vice Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain. Under this initiative, leadership abilities and life skills will be developed in the students. Dr Anindita Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, IM-BHU was the coordinator of the programme.

Workshop on IP protection, promotion of innovations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Professor Unnat P Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Design and Trademarks (CGPDTM), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has emphasised on the need of doing invention which is relevant to the needs of the society and exhorted the faculty members and research scholars of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to keep in mind their purpose for which they are acquiring knowledge. He was delivering inaugural speech in a day-long workshop organised by the Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Transfer (IPRTT) Cell of BHU on Monday. It is learnt that with an aim to promote a vibrant ecosystem on campus facilitating IP filing and promotion of IP awareness, an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Technology Transfer (TT) cell was established in BHU under the Coordinatorship of Professor BK Sarma. The objective of



A speaker expressing his views in a session of day-long workshop organised by the Intellectual Property Rights and Technology Transfer (IPRTT) Cell of BHU.

organising the workshop was to create awareness and offer hand-holding support to inventors of the university in every aspect of intellectual property (IP) protection and promotion of innovations. The workshop was divided into five sessions including three technical sessions. The workshop was attended by 222 participants. The officers of the university and various deans and directors also attended the sessions.

Professor VK Shukla, Rector, BHU, presided over the inaugural session. The first technical session was addressed by Dr Yashawant Dev Panwar, head, Patent Facilitation Centre, TIFAC. He spoke on IPR protection and its necessity and explained all forms of IP and the criteria for the protection. He emphasised that industry and academia have conflicting values but there is a common interest to bridge

the gap which is the commercialisation of technologies. Sudarshan Singh Shekhawat, Patent Attorney, addressed the second technical session on facilitating and maintenance and emphasised the culture of confidentiality while doing research. The third session was addressed by Dr Suresh, Manager, Gujarat State Fertilisers and Chemicals who spoke on the technology transfer of IP-protected technologies. Prof RN Kharwar, Prof RK Murali and Prof Gopal Nath moderated the different technical sessions. Dr RK Singh, Dr Alok Kumar and Dr Priya Ranjan Kumar were the rapporteurs of different sessions.

According to the coordinator of IPRTT Cell of BHU Prof Birinchi Kumar Sarma, the workshop has created a mass enthusiasm among the faculty members and researchers regarding the need of protection of Intellectual Property and promoting innovations in the university. He said it is very much likely that much more filing of patents will take place from the uni-

versity in near future. According to him, patent filing is not only important for protection of intellectual property of the inventions but also helps in global ranking of the academic institutions. Dr Rajnish Kumar Singh, co-convenor of the workshop presented the report of the workshop and said that more than 222 participants both faculty members and research scholars of the university participated in the workshop and interacted with the experts. The participants were from almost all disciplines of science, agriculture, arts, commerce, law, medicine, ayurveda, performing and visual arts, education, etc. of the university.

In the final session Prof Arun Kumar Singh, Registrar, BHU was the chief guest and he gave the genesis of the IPR Cell and talked about the support university is providing to the cell. In his address he also talked about the feedback given by the participants and promised that the university will provide necessary support to the cell as per the need.

Training imparted to farmers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The College of Forestry, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), organised one-day farmers' training programme on chironji tree cultivation on Tuesday to create mass awareness about the characteristics and benefits of the wonder tree called 'chironji' which will ensure high income to farmers. The training programme was organised under the auspices of project sponsored by Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR), Lucknow, entitled "Improvement of Chironji (Buchanania lanzan Spreng.) through selection from existing germplasm resources". Prof Antony Joseph Raj, Pro Vice-Chancellor, SHUATS and Dean of College of Forestry said that commercially the chironji tree is known for edible kernels which fetches about Rs 600-2,000 per kilogramme in the local market. He informed the farmers that the chironji seed kernel contains about 52 per cent oil and used as a substitute

for olive and almond oils in both confectionery and indigenous medicine. Prof Antony reported that almost all parts of this plant have medicinal value for the treatment of various disorders. Beside preparation of sweet dish 'chironji ki barfi', bark and juice extracts of stem is used for treatment of diarrhoea and dysentery. Prof Antony informed that chironji nuts has very good demand in local as well as international markets and thus, making chironji tree an important economic crop. He encouraged farmers of Uttar Pradesh to integrate this chironji tree in farmlands in the form of agro-forestry. Dr Harsh Bodh Palwal, Assistant Professor of College of Forestry welcomed the dignitaries, farmers, students and participants of the training programme. Associate Professor and head Dr Neelam Khare proposed the vote of thanks. Dr Hemant Kumar, Assistant Professor of College of Forestry imparted training to farmers on the topic 'Multiple Utility of Chironji Tree and Plantation Management'. Anup Kujur, Young Professional

working in UPCAR's Chironji project gave training to farmers on the topic "Introduction of chironji tree and its cultivation". On the occasion chironji tree seedlings were presented to all the farmers by the chief guest and other dignitaries. Field visit to chironji nursery was conducted for farmers for practical training on chironji seedling production, planting techniques, plantation management etc. The organising committee members present were Dr Abhishek James (Associate Dean, College of Forestry), Dr Neelam Khare (Head of Forest Products), Dr Hemant Kumar, Dr Harsh Bodh Paliwal, Anup Kujur, Satish Kumar, Sanjeev Kumar, Clint Sones and Sanjay Kumar. **PROTEST:** Panic gripped Soraon and adjoining areas under the limits of Soraon police station when scores of locals blocked vehicular movement on busy Prayagraj-Pratapgarh highway, to mark their protest against allegedly thrashing of a youth who was detained by police in connection with a girl eloping incident.

FIRST COLUMN

CALLING GEN-NEXT: BE A CHANGE CATALYST

India has a sizable youth population and if they do not affect social change, who will?



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

Most of us are very much aware of the phenomenon known as the 'Generation Gap', which in simple language can be described as a 'wide difference in cultural norms between members of a younger generation and their elders.' It can also be described as a situation which occurs when older and younger people don't understand each other's point of view because of their different life experiences, opinions, habits and behaviour.' Though it is a very common issue, sometimes it becomes a very serious one. One thing that is universally recognised regarding the youth is that the youth, in general, have energy, stamina, strong will and zest for life. But certain other valuable characteristics of youth, which can be great tools for social transformation are not fully realised or utilised by society, and as a result of this, they get confused and disturbed. One such important personality trait of the youth is that they strongly aspire to do something new. They want change, not status quo. They are not tied down to the past and, instead, have an openness to accept new things. Hence it is easier for them to adapt to any kind of change in comparison to the older generation because they have the wish to learn new things.

Compared to this, the old generation has, no doubt, experience but most of their ideas have already been applied to situations in life and they may not now have any new concepts and adequate energy to work in real life. So, the old order has to change, giving place to new, as the saying goes, and, in this work of social transformation, youth- the new blood- have to play a vigorous role to usher in a new era. It has, therefore, rightly been said that if the youth are awakened, the whole world will get awakened because not only will the awakened youth themselves be a great achievement of their country but they will work, as leading lights, for the tender-aged children who, following their example, will prepare themselves mentally and physically for the dawn of new era.



But, have the potentialities of the youth been utilised for the work of national reconstruction so far? Have they been given the opportunities and guidance to fulfil their dreams of taking the world into a new era of peace and prosperity? Well! If we take into view the Indian situation, we can say, in general terms, that the youth are restless and disappointed because their abilities have not been provided with enough channels for self-expression and fulfillment. Today most of them have a complaint against society in general and against those who are in the seats of authority in particular.

They say that their energies- both mental and physical - are not being used in wider spheres of national development because the older generation denies them adequate participation, thinking that the youth are inexperienced and immature. Against this thinking, the youth argue that what the elders call "experience" and "maturity" is, in fact, a hindrance in breaking new grounds and what is required at present is new initiatives, new ideas adventures and innovativeness which is a characteristic that's mainly present in youth.

All would agree that to bridge the ever-widening gap of emotional estrangement between the older and the younger generations and to stop further erosion in values, whosoever may have been responsible for it until now, is to have such formal and informal educational centres and institutions which can inspire the youth to some higher principles and ideals and can fire their imagination with a new paradigm of society where there will be no violence and where all would live peacefully as loving members of the family of mankind. These institutions should have persons of ennobling character, pleasing manners, and loving demeanour who can awaken the potentialities of the youth for social reconstruction and can also bring change in the older generation and enable them to play a useful role in the work of nation-building.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

A simplified tax regime can prevent tax evasion

An archaic and complicated tax system, with too many amendments, not only confuses the taxpayers but also leads to leakages and corruption



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

A complicated tax system in India with a six-decades-old Income Tax Act 1961 with too many amendments in the form of a lot of confusing patchwork is in force. Likewise, ever since the reformative step of introducing the Goods & Service Tax (GST) Act was introduced on 1st July 2017, there has been a regular practice of changing tax structure in an ever-confusing GST regime with too many confusing and complicated provisions incorporated in the system.

An altogether new tax regime should be introduced without patches of useless and largely misused exemptions. Implementation of Raja Chelliah Committee recommendations to fix the highest tax slab at 30 per cent to be in tune with most countries in the world, had largely abolished the practice of converting black money into white money. Gradually increasing this highest slab also through imposing cess and surcharges has undone the good achieved.

The highest tax slab of 30 per cent should be restored so that people may find it advantageous to bring complete income to books. Rather a permanent Voluntary Disclosure Scheme should be introduced whereby provision may be there in tax-return to declare at the highest suggested tax rate of 30 per cent, any income without disclosing the source of income. This will make cash transactions, especially in property deals accounted for if registration fees on the property are also reduced to say just three per cent. Names of all those disclosing incomes under the suggested highest 30-percent slab should be on the website according to income disclosed so that status-conscious persons may race to disclose more incomes.

Basix tax exemption should be fixed at rupees five lakhs abolishing most tax-exemptions including on charity, donation, contribution to political parties and even agricultural income which are largely misused. An ordinary farmer does not earn more than rupees five lakhs per annum, and the provision is grossly misused by ultra-rich persons including known celebrities to declare their unaccounted income as agricultural income through some village-land purchased only for the purpose without practically having any agricultural produce.

Income Tax slabs can then be 10 and 20 per cent for incomes between 5-10 lakhs and 10-15 lakhs respectively and thereafter 30 per cent for the rest. LK Jha committee recommendations to make the calendar year a financial year should be implemented to be in line with most countries of the world, thus abolishing another British legacy of following April-March presently as a Fiscal Year. It is ridiculous to have different depreciation rules for Tax and Corporate audits. There should be a single and unified Tax and Corporate Audit.

Rather than concentrating more on small cash transactions, all sale-purchases above rupees 10000 must be compulsorily through bank transactions. For this, transaction charges on credit cards should be slashed down to just half per cent (GST-exempted) which too to be borne by the central government with all incentives on purchases made through credit cards abolished. Present high two-percent transaction charges on credit cards make traders charge it separately from customers especially where trade margins are low. Such a system will fetch much higher tax revenue for the government, than through half-per



THE HIGHEST TAX SLAB OF 30 PER CENT SHOULD BE RESTORED SO THAT PEOPLE MAY FIND IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO BRING COMPLETE INCOME TO BOOKS

(The writer is an RTI consultant; views expressed are personal)

cent transaction-charges to be borne by the government.

Banks issuing credit cards will get much more earnings even with a half-per-cent transaction charge because of the manifold use of credit cards. Two sets of credit card machines should be compulsory for every GST-registered dealer dealing in cash to avoid payment receipt through credit cards with the usual excuse that the swapping machine is out of order. Strict action must be there against those refusing payment through credit/debit cards.

The input-tax-credit system in the GST-regime in manufacturing is the biggest corrupt practice of tax evasion where left-out GST invoices by ordinary customers are sold by traders to consuming manufacturers or producers to avail false Input-Tax-Credit where cash is paid back by traders to those purchasing left-out GST-invoices of actual consumers bringing more currency in circulation, this being the reason of basic motive of currency-demonetisation being failed where currency in circulation rapidly increased rather than projected decrease. An annual forensic audit may be made compulsory on claims made for Input-Tax-Credit by manufacturers/producers to avoid false claims of excessive input tax credit in these sectors. Rather study should be made if, with the abolition of an excessively high 18-percent GST slab, Input-Tax-Credit can be altogether abolished from manufacturing/producing sectors, retaining it only on tradable commodities.

But such reform in the Input-Tax-Credit system can be practically possible with drastic reform in the GST tax structure wherein initially only three tax slabs of 6, 12 and

30 per cent may be there abolishing all presently existing GST rates. India is the only country that has so many GST rates. Gradually even slabs of 6 and 12 percent may also be replaced by a new 10-percent tax structure. Zero-percent GST may only be retained on totally unbranded raw materials that cannot be consumed without giving a finishing touch like agricultural products, fish, meat, cotton yarn etc.

All items of long-term use like cars, air-conditioners, TV sets, refrigerators etc. may attract 30 per cent GST while their parts may uniformly attract 12 per cent GST. Unmindful policy framers brought clutch-plate and clutch-bearing under different GST slabs of 18 and 28 per cent. Likewise, similar items sold by confectioners like sweets, biscuits, napkins etc. attract different GST slabs with luxury sweets causing diabetes attracting just 5 per cent GST.

Invoices for items like gold jewellery can be drawn in two parts, one for metal and embodied items and the other for making charges so that the suggested 12-cent GST may be payable only on making charges. Cess on extra-luxurious items should be replaced by additional GST slabs in multiples of 60 per cent, also bringing petroleum products under the GST regime to ensure uniform pricing of petrol and diesel in all states. Abolishing an 18-percent GST slab will be more than compensated by clubbing lower slabs of 3 and 5 percent into a single 6-percent GST slab. The input-tax-credit (ITC) system should not apply to non-tradable commodities and services like has been done, and rightly too, in the case of car expenses for non-commercial use.

With the GST slab of 18 per cent abolished and the service sector attracting just 12 per cent GST, those with income of rupees ten lakhs or more (instead of the present rupees 20 lakhs) can be brought under the GST regime like was the system before the GST-regime. It is illogical to keep lawyers out of the purview of the GST regime. The useless system of Tax-Deducted-At-Source for GST, which is hardly used in practice, should be altogether abolished. Otherwise, any such deducted tax should be auto-reflected in the GST accounts of affected ones, abolishing the cumbersome practice of filing a new monthly return to get credit for deducted GST.

All government payments can be considered to be exempted from GST to avoid unnecessary government accounting by putting tax from one government pocket to another. It is illogical that some premium postal services like Speed Post may attract GST while other postal services do not attract GST. Even illogical postal rates (both inland and foreign) need simplification for the equal rise of postal tariff for the equal rise in slab-weight in multiples of 50 gms. of inland postal-article with all postal tariffs being in multiples of rupees ten except for registered newspapers and post-cards which may cost rupee one with the abolition of outdated Inland-Letter-Cards. Presently a postal-article weighing 200 gms sent locally by reliable and fast Speed Post costs just rupees 30 but if sent by unreliable ordinary post, it will cost rupees 50. Likewise, foreign-mail tariffs can be fixed for 20 gms or part slab-weight independently for air and sea-surface-mail.

Medical treatment facilities must be available in the campus

The provision of medical facilities within the university premises is an urgent requirement to address the health concerns faced by students from different states

It is indeed a pressing concern that students from different states face difficulties in accessing medical treatment facilities at the university. The lack of proper healthcare services can hurt their health, leading to various diseases. Students often have to rely on private hospitals, which may not be affordable for everyone. Additionally, the language barrier further exacerbates the problem, as students can be taken advantage of due to their lack of knowledge.

In light of these challenges, the university must prioritise the provision of adequate medical facilities within the campus itself. By establishing medical services on-site, students would have easier access to healthcare, promot-



SHIVANI SHARMA



NIMRAT KAUR

(The writers worked as Assistant Professors at SSD Girls' College, Bathinda; views expressed are personal)

ing their overall well-being. Having healthcare facilities within the university premises would not only benefit the students' physical health but also contribute to their peace of mind and academic performance.

Moreover, by addressing this issue, the university demonstrates its commitment to the students' welfare and creates an inclusive and supportive environment. It is essential to ensure that students' health needs are met, enabling them to focus on their studies and personal growth without the added burden of seeking medical care outside the campus.

By investing in proper medical facilities within the university, students will have convenient and affordable



access to healthcare. This step acknowledges the diverse needs of the student population and emphasises the value of their well-being. It is a significant initiative that promotes a healthy, thriving university community.

Students on university campuses, often encounter a slew of health-related chal-

lenges. One pressing issue is the accessibility of medical facilities on campus. It's no secret that university campuses can be vast and bustling, making it essential for students to have easy access to healthcare services.

One common challenge students face is the lack of convenient healthcare options.

Many campuses have limited medical facilities, or they may be located far away from student residences or academic buildings. This can pose difficulties, especially in emergencies or when students require immediate attention for illness or injuries.

Additionally, the availability of specialised healthcare services can be a concern. University students, come from diverse backgrounds with unique healthcare needs. Campuses need to offer a range of medical services to meet these diverse needs, including mental health support, reproductive health services, and specialised care for chronic conditions.

Another aspect to consider is the cost of healthcare. University students often face

financial strains, and the burden of medical expenses can further add to their challenges. Accessible medical facilities should take this into account by providing affordable or subsidised healthcare options, such as low-cost consultations, medication, and tests.

To bridge the healthcare gap, universities can take proactive steps. They can establish on-campus medical clinics or health centres with extended hours of operation to accommodate students' busy schedules. Moreover, partnerships with local hospitals or healthcare providers can enhance accessibility by providing specialised services or urgent care facilities.

Prioritising accessible medical facilities on university campuses is crucial to

ensure the well-being of students. By addressing the challenges and offering comprehensive, affordable, and conveniently located healthcare services, universities can support students in maintaining good health and thriving academically.

In conclusion, the provision of medical facilities within the university premises is an urgent requirement to address the health concerns faced by students from different states. This step will not only enhance their physical well-being but also contribute to their overall success and happiness during their time at university. Let us strive for a healthier and more inclusive academic environment where students' health is given the attention it rightfully deserves.

S Korea parades troops, weapons

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea paraded thousands of troops and an array of weapons capable of striking North Korea through its capital as part of its biggest Armed Forces Day ceremony in 10 years on Tuesday, as its president vowed to build a stronger military to thwart any provocation by the North.

Concerns are growing that North Korea is seeking Russian help in expanding its nuclear arsenal in return for supplying Moscow with conventional arms exhausted by its war with Ukraine.

"After looking at your imposing march today, I believe our people would trust you and have faith in our national security," President Yoon Suk Yeol told cheering soldiers at the end of the ceremony in a central Seoul plaza. "I'll always support you together with our people."

Earlier, South Korea rolled tanks, artillery systems, drones

ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONY

and powerful ballistic missiles capable of hitting all of North Korea through the streets of Seoul, amid steady autumn rains.

About 4,000 South Korean troops carrying rifles or flags followed them, accompanied by about 300 US soldiers, in the first such military parade since 2013.

As the soldiers and their weapons went past, Yoon waved, clapped and flashed a thumbs-up.

Since taking office last year, he has been pushing hard to beef up South Korea's defense capability while expanding military drills with the United States in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal.

But a complication in Seoul and Washington's efforts to curb the North's nuclear ambitions is the latest North Korean

push to deepen military cooperation with Russia. Earlier this month, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un travelled to Russia's far eastern region to meet with President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites. North Korea reportedly wants to receive Russian technologies to help its development of spy satellites, nuclear-propelled submarines and powerful long-range missiles. Such weapons would pose a major security threat to South Korea and the US.

In a formal Armed Forces Day ceremony at a military airport near Seoul earlier Tuesday, Yoon said he'll strive to build "a strong military that instills fear in the enemy". "Based on battle-ready combat capabilities and a solid readiness posture, our military will immediately retaliate against any North Korean provocation," he said.

"If North Korea uses nuclear weapons, its regime will be brought to an end by an overwhelming response" from the South Korean-US alliance. That ceremony drew about 6,700 soldiers and 200 weapons assets, the largest of its kind since 2013, according to South Korean officials.

Yoon didn't mention North Korean-Russian ties in either of his two speeches Tuesday. But in an address to the UN General Assembly last week, he said South Korea "will not sit idly by" if North Korea and Russia agree to such weapons deals in violation of UN Security Council resolutions that ban all weapons trading with North Korea.

US officials have also said that North Korea and Russia would face consequences if they go ahead with such deals. Also Tuesday, senior diplo-

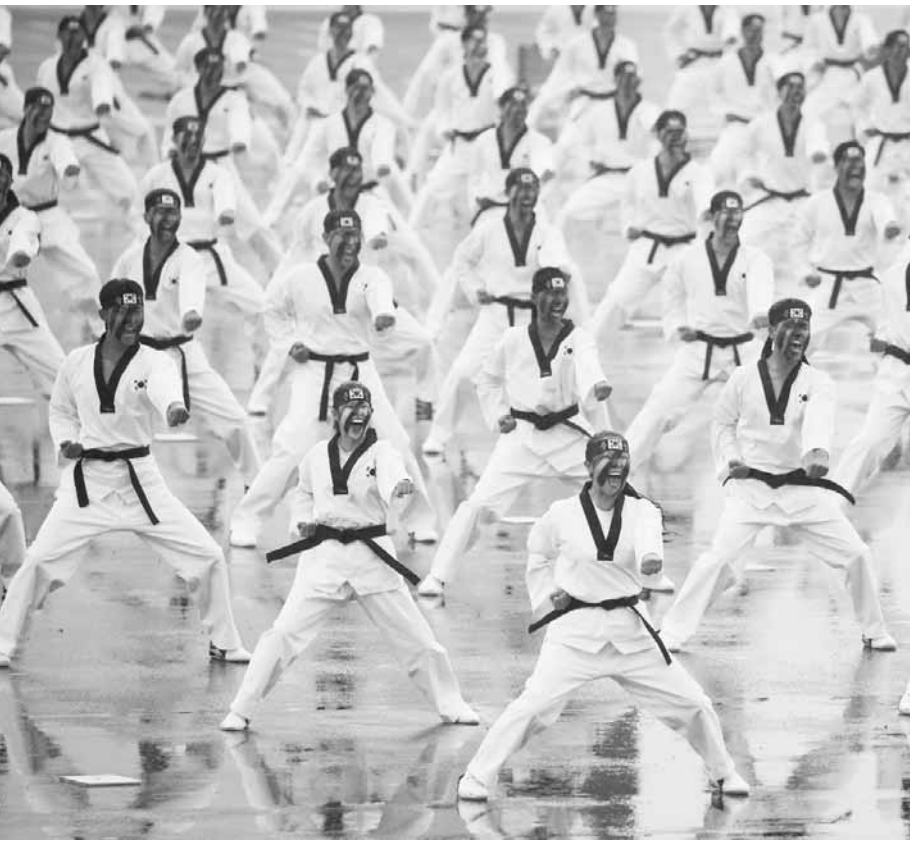
mats from South Korea, Japan and China met in Seoul and agreed to hold the first summit of their leaders in four years "at the earliest convenient time", according to a statement from South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

No date has been fixed, however, and the South Korean statement said the three countries agreed to hold a related foreign ministers' meeting in a couple of months.

Yoon said last week that Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had expressed their support for a trilateral summit in South Korea.

Yoon's moves to strengthen South Korea's military alliance with the US and boost Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation have caused concerns that Seoul's relations with China, its biggest trading partner, will be undermined.

But Yoon says Seoul-Washington-Tokyo cooperation won't marginalise any particular nation.



South Korean soldiers give a demonstration of their skills in the traditional Korean martial art of Taekwondo during a celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of Armed Forces Day in Seongnam, South Korea, Tuesday. **AP/PTI**

S Korea's Constitutional Court strikes down law banning anti-Pyongyang leafleting

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's Constitutional Court on Tuesday struck down a 2020 law that criminalised the sending of anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets to North Korea, calling it an excessive restriction on free speech. The ruling came in response to a complaint filed by North Korean defector-activists in the South. They included Park Sang-hak, who has been a frequent target of North Korean government anger for his yearslong campaign of flying leaflets across the border with balloons. The law was crafted by the previous liberal government in Seoul that desperately pushed for inter-Korean engagement. It made leafleting a crime punishable by up to three years in prison or a fine of 30 million won (USD 22,000).

The law passed in December 2020, six months after the North expressed its displeasure over the leaflets by

blowing up an inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong.

Park did not immediately comment on the court's decision, which immediately invalidated the law. He and other activists could still be blocked by police in situations where their leafleting activities are seen as risking the safety of South Koreans living in border areas, the court said. South Korea's Unification Ministry promoted the law when the liberals were in power but reversed its stance to align with the views of the current conservative government that took office last year, saying that outlawing leafleting went too far. But the ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, still would prefer for Park and other activists to stop flying pamphlets into North Korea.

"For the safety of residents in border areas and for stably managing inter-Korean relations, it would be ideal to

refrain from sending leaflets to North Korea," a ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity told reporters during a background briefing on Tuesday.

The court's justices voted 7-2 in favour of nullifying the law, concluding that it excessively restricts freedom of expression in a broad range of activities and "mobilises the state power of punishment when that should be a last resort".

Citing the tensions between the rival Koreas, the court acknowledged that the law was based on legitimate concerns about the safety of South Korean residents in border areas. The majority opinion said the government still would have the ability to keep the activists in check, including police monitoring and intervention, but that it would be wrong to hold the activists responsible for damage and danger directly caused by North Korean provocations. Park and other defectors from

the North for years have used huge helium-filled balloons to launch leaflets criticizing the leadership of North Korea's authoritarian ruler, Kim Jong Un, his nuclear weapons ambitions and the country's dismal human rights record. The leaflets are often packaged with US dollar bills, and USB sticks containing information about world news.

In his latest launch, Park said he flew 20 balloons carrying 200,000 leaflets and 1,000 USB sticks from a South Korean border island last Wednesday.

North Korea is extremely sensitive about any outside attempt to undermine Kim's leadership as he maintains tight control over the country's 26 million people while severely restricting their access to foreign news.

Aside of detonating the liaison office, North Korea also in 2014 fired at propaganda balloons flying toward its territory.

20 die, 300 hurt in gas station explosion

Nagorno-Karabakh residents flee

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

At least 20 people were killed and nearly 300 others injured by an explosion at a crowded gas station in Nagorno-Karabakh as thousands of people rushed to flee into Armenia, separatist authorities in the region said Tuesday. More than 13,500 people — about 12% of the region's population — have fled across the border since Azerbaijan's swift military operation to fully reclaim the breakaway region after three decades of separatist rule, Armenia's government said Tuesday morning.

The explosion took place as people lined up to fill their cars at a gas station outside the regional capital of Stepanakert late Monday. The separatist government's health department said that 13 bodies have been found and seven people have died of injuries from the blast, the cause of which



remains unclear. It added that 290 people have been hospitalised and scores of them remain in grave condition.

Armenia's health ministry said a helicopter brought some blast victims to Armenia on Tuesday morning, and more flights were expected.

Azerbaijani presidential aide Hikmet Hajiyev said on X, formerly Twitter, that hospitals in Azerbaijan were ready to treat victims, but not if any had been taken to them. Azerbaijan has sent in burn-treatment medicine and other humanitar-

ian aid, he said. Gasoline has been in short supply in Nagorno-Karabakh for months, and the explosion further adds to local residents' anxiety about whether they will be able to drive out. The Armenian border is about 35 km (22 miles) from Stepanakert.

Cars bearing large loads on their roofs crowded the streets of Stepanakert, and residents stood or lay along sidewalks next to heaps of luggage.

The Azerbaijani military routed Armenian forces in a

24-hour blitz last week, forcing the separatist authorities to agree to lay down weapons and start talks on Nagorno-Karabakh's "reintegration" into Azerbaijan. While Azerbaijan has pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in the region and restore supplies after a 10-month blockade, many local residents feared reprisals and decided to leave. Azerbaijan's blockade of the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia caused severe shortages of food, medicine and fuel in the region.

Moscow said that Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh were assisting the evacuation. Some 700 people remained in the peacekeepers' camp there by Monday night.

Nagorno-Karabakh was an autonomous region within Azerbaijan under the Soviet Union, but separatist sentiment grew in the USSR's dying years and then flared into war.

Nagorno-Karabakh came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces, backed by the Armenian military, in separatist fighting that ended in 1994.

Serbia demands NATO to take over policing of Kosovo after shootout

AP ■ BELGRADE

Serbia's president demanded on Tuesday that NATO-led troops stationed in Kosovo take over the security from police in the north of the country, days after violent clashes between armed Serbs and Kosovo police left one officer and three gunmen dead.

A daylong shootout in northern Kosovo on Sunday further raised tensions in the Balkan region at a time when European Union and US mediators have been pushing for a deal that would normalise ties between the wartime foes.

The violence over the weekend was one of the worst confrontations in Kosovo since it declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti accused Serbia of logistically supporting "the terrorist, criminal, professional unit" that clashed with the police. Serbian President

Aleksandar Vucic denied those claims, saying the gunmen were local Kosovo Serbs "who no longer want to withstand Kurti's terror".

On Tuesday in Belgrade, Vucic met with ambassadors from five Western countries and the EU demanding that NATO-led troops stationed in Kosovo, known as KFOR, take over "all the security matters in the north of Kosovo instead of Kurti's police".

There are around 4,500 KFOR peacekeeping troops stationed in Kosovo.

There was no immediate reaction from NATO to Vucic's request, but it is highly unlikely that it would be accepted because the primary task of the troops is peacekeeping and not policing.

Vucic also said in an Instagram post that these are "one of the hardest moments for Serbia." Earlier, the government proclaimed a day of mourning on Wednesday

because of "the tragic events", referring to the shootout.

A Kosovo Serb party allied with Vucic proclaimed three days of mourning starting Tuesday in the Serb-dominated north of Kosovo for the three killed Serb assailants.

On Tuesday in Pristina, a Kosovar court decided to keep three of the six arrested gunman for a month in pretrial detention.

They are accused of violating the country's constitution and of terror acts.

On Sunday, about 30 men in combat uniforms opened fire on a police patrol near the village of Banjska in the early hours of the morning, killing one officer and wounding another.

They then fled to a nearby Serbian Orthodox monastery, breaking down the gates with an armoured personnel carrier before barricading themselves in with priests and visiting pilgrims.

Saudi envoy visits West Bank

Ramallah (West Bank) : Saudi Arabia's newly appointed envoy to the Palestinian Authority presented his credentials to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during his first visit to the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Tuesday, a trip linked to American efforts to normalize ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

The visit by nonresident ambassador Nayef al-Sudairi, who also serves as the Saudi ambassador to Jordan, is widely seen as an attempt by the kingdom to address the key sticking point in the Saudi-Israeli normalisation deal — Saudi Arabia's long-standing support for the Palestinians.

The Saudi government has said it will only normalise ties with Israel if there is major progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

To kick off his two-day trip, the Saudi diplomat met with Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority that exercises limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank, and other senior Palestinian officials. "God will-

ing, this visit will be just the beginning of things to come, with the coordination of senior Palestinian officials who are architects of our relations," al-Sudairi told journalists after meeting with Abbas.

Some 16 years ago, Arab leaders convened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to reaffirm the Arab Peace Initiative, pledging no diplomatic recognition of Israel without a just settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Although Palestinians still live under an open-ended Israeli military occupation in the West Bank and under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade in Gaza, a landmark diplomatic deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia has in recent weeks appeared to gain momentum.

But several obstacles to such an agreement remain. The Saudis are seeking a defence pact with the United States and want help in building their own civilian nuclear programme, which has fuelled fears of an arms race with Iran. **AP**

2 explosions rip through dwellings in Sweden

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Two powerful explosions have ripped through dwellings in central Sweden, injuring at least three people and damaging buildings, with bricks and window sections left spread outside.

Late Monday, an explosion occurred in Hasselby, a suburb of the capital, Stockholm. In the early hours of Tuesday, a blast in Linköping, some 175 km (110 miles) to the southwest, ripped the facade off a three-story building, leaving debris strewn across a parking area.

It was not known whether the blasts were related to each other. Swedish radio said Tuesday that the explosion in Linköping was connected to a feud between criminal gangs, a growing problem in Sweden with drive-by shootings and bombings. Two gangs — one led by a Swedish-Turkish dual national who lives in Turkey, the

other by his former lieutenant — are reportedly fighting over drugs and weapons.

So far this year, there have been 261 shootings, 36 people have died and 73 were wounded. The count doesn't include the latest explosions. Police said that residents in the affected area in Linköping were evacuated to a nearby sports facility. In Hasselby, three people were taken to a hospital. Their conditions were not known.

No one has been arrested, police said. Following the explosions, the Swedish government said it will hold a meeting to identify measures that can be quickly implemented. Sweden's ministers for justice and civil defense, Gunnar Strömmer and Carl-Oskar Bohlin, will participate along with other authorities, including representatives of the Scandinavian country's municipalities and regions. "We are now bringing together all relevant actors to jointly identify what can be done in the short and long term," Strömmer told Swedish news agency TT. "The criminals' access to explosive goods must be cut off," Bohlin told the Expressen newspaper.

Earlier this month, a 13-year-old boy was found shot in the head in woods not far from his home near Stockholm. A prosecutor said his death was a chilling example of "gross and completely reckless gang violence." On Sept 22, two people were killed and two wounded when a gunman opened fire in a crowded bar northwest of Stockholm. One of the dead, a 20-year-old man, was the shooter's likely target, police said, while the other three were believed to be bystanders. The motive remained unclear. Police said the shooting could possibly be part of a local personal conflict and there was some uncertainty whether it was connected to the ongoing feud.

1,329 hunger deaths in Ethiopia's Tigray region since cease-fire

AP ■ NAIROBI

Researchers say they have verified 1,329 deaths from hunger in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region since a cease-fire ended a two-year conflict there in November. A study by local health authorities and Mekele University in the regional capital found that hunger is now the main cause of death in Tigray, accounting for more than 68 per cent of deaths investigated by the researchers.

The study is based on a household census conducted by health workers from August 15-29 in nine subdistricts of Tigray and 53 camps for internally displaced people.

Tigray in total has 88 subdistricts and 643 displacement camps, so the number of

hunger deaths across the region is almost certainly far higher.

One factor is the suspension of food aid by the United States and United Nations after the discovery in March of a huge scheme to steal humanitarian grain in Tigray. The pause was extended to the rest of Ethiopia in June after the theft was found to be nationwide. Ethiopia's government wants the suspension ended. The US government and the UN want the government to give up its control of the food aid delivery system.

The number of deaths from all causes recorded by the researchers in the Tigray areas studied rose sharply after the aid suspension, almost doubling from 159 in March to 305

in July. Around 5.4 million of Tigray's 6 million population relied on humanitarian aid. Over 20 million people in Ethiopia as a whole need food aid.

The study's findings are described in a document seen by The Associated Press and prepared by the Tigray Emergency Coordination Center, a group of UN agencies, aid groups and regional government offices.

Hunger plagued Tigray throughout the conflict between Ethiopian and allied forces and Tigray fighters. For much of it, the federal government cut the region's services and restricted aid access, prompting UN experts to accuse it of using hunger as a weapon.

The government rejected claims of weaponising aid, blaming the Tigray fighters for the lack of access.

November's cease-fire kindled hopes that aid would reach the region, but they were dashed by the discovery of the massive theft, with some US-marked bags of grain being sold in local markets.

Tigray authorities found that 7,000 metric tons of grain had been stolen. Earlier this month, the region's leader announced that 480 officials had been arrested in connection with the corruption.

Other parts of Ethiopia are yet to disclose the results of their own probes. The US and the UN World Food Programme are also investigating.

Shakira charged with tax evasion for 2nd time

AP ■ BARCELONA

Spanish prosecutors have charged pop star Shakira with failing to pay 6.7 million euros (\$7.1 million) in tax on her 2018 income, authorities said Tuesday, in Spain's latest fiscal allegations against the Colombian singer.

Shakira is alleged to have used an offshore company based in a tax haven to avoid paying the tax, Barcelona prosecutors said in a statement.

She has been notified of the charges in Miami, where she lives, according to the statement.

Shakira is already due to be tried in Barcelona on Nov. 20 in a separate case that hinges on where she lived between 2012-14. In that case, prosecutors allege she failed to pay 14.5 million euros (\$15.4 million) in tax. Prosecutors in Barcelona have alleged the Grammy win-



ner spent more than half of the 2012-14 period in Spain and therefore should have paid taxes in the country, even though her official residence was in the Bahamas.

Spanish tax officials opened the latest case against

Shakira last July. After reviewing the evidence gathered over the last two months, prosecutors have decided to bring charges. No date for a trial was set. The public relations firm that previously has handled Shakira's affairs, Llorente y

Cuenca, made no immediate comment.

Last July, it said the artist had "always acted in concordance with the law and on the advice of her financial advisers".

Shakira, whose full name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll, has been linked to Spain since she started dating the now-retired soccer player Gerard Pique. The couple, who have two children, lived together in Barcelona until last year, when they ended their 11-year relationship.

Spain tax authorities have over the past decade or so cracked down on soccer stars like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo for not paying their full due in taxes. Those players were found guilty of tax evasion but avoided prison time thanks to a provision that allows a judge to waive sentences under two years in length for first-time offenders.

China refuses cooperation with Pakistan under CPEC

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

China has refused to further expand cooperation in the areas of energy, water management, and climate change under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it emerged on Tuesday, signalling a strain in the 'iron-clad' friendship between the two all-weather allies. Cash-strapped Pakistan also gave up its opposition to setting up a new imported coal-fired power plant in Gwadar in Balochistan province and agreed to a number of Chinese demands to address Beijing's concerns, The Express Tribune newspaper reported, citing the signed minutes of the 11th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the CPEC.

The JCC is a strategic decision-making body of the CPEC and its 11th meeting was held virtually on October 27 last year on the insistence of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)-led government that wanted to showcase some progress. However, the minutes of the meeting were signed almost a year later on July 31 during the visit of Chinese vice premier He Lifeng, highlighting the difference of opinions on both sides that led to such a huge delay in reaching a consensus, the report said. When contacted, the Ministry of Planning stated that it was a global practice for the minutes of meetings between two countries to be signed by both sides only after due consultation and evolving



consensus. Interestingly, the final draft shared with Beijing by Pakistan and the final minutes signed by both sides were different in many ways, the report said. China's disagreement to further expand cooperation in areas of energy, water management, and climate change under the CPEC underscores "the challenges that both the sides are facing in deepening the economic ties", it said.

The USD 60 billion CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI is seen as an attempt by China to further its influence abroad with infrastructure projects funded by Chinese investments all over the world.

The CPEC is a collection of infrastructure and other projects under construction throughout Pakistan since 2013. India has protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid

through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The details of the final minutes of the 11th JCC showed that China did not agree to a host of measures that Pakistan had proposed in the areas of energy, water management, climate change and tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, PoK and the coastal areas.

China excluded cooperation in the areas of cross-border tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, PoK and cooperation for the promotion of coastal tourism from the final minutes, the details showed. China also did not agree to Pakistan's proposal for the inclusion of Water Resources Management and Climate Change and Urban Infrastructure Development in the CPEC framework. The proposal for setting up a new joint working group on water resources management and climate change was also rejected by China.

SL prez to meet IMF officials for talks on eco reform plan

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe will meet the officials of the International Monetary Fund on Tuesday to hold crucial talks on the hard economic reforms undertaken by the government to stabilise the fiscal system of the cash-strapped island nation.

The officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are visiting the country to conduct the first review of its USD 2.9 billion bailout package approved for crisis-hit Sri Lanka in mid-March. The second tranche of USD 300 million is to be released after the ongoing review. During the review, the government will have to convince the global lender that it has fulfilled the conditions set by the IMF to revive the island nation's econ-

omy. "These two weeks would be crucial for our economic reform programme. At this IMF review, we will be assessing the extent to which we have complied in setting up reforms and how far we need to go," State Minister of Finance Shehan Semasinghe told reporters here. Sri Lanka has executed some of the tough reforms to stabilise the nation's economy. Semasinghe said some of the reforms had hit the people hard.

"These were reforms that should have been implemented a long time ago...We only started doing so when the crisis hit," he said.

Sri Lanka was hit by its worst economic crisis in history when the country's foreign exchange reserves fell to a critical low and the public came out on the streets to protest the

shortage of fuel, fertilisers and essential commodities.

The country began seeking the IMF bailout only after it declared its first-ever sovereign debt default in April 2022.

The resultant political crisis forced the then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign in July 2022. His successor Wickremesinghe has steered the economy out of the mess by lowering inflation.

Having entered the IMF programme, the government set in a series of tax and utility services reforms which meant higher taxes and tariff hikes. Still, analysts say the island's economy has only partially recovered. An Indian credit line of nearly USD 4 billion provided a lifeline to the country until the bailout agreement with the IMF was reached.

Judicial remand of Imran, Qureshi extended

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and his close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi will continue to remain in jail till October 10 as a special court on Tuesday extended for the third time their judicial remand in a case related to the alleged disclosure of state secrets.

Khan, also the chief of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was arrested last month after a case was filed against him for allegedly violating the Official Secrets Act by disclosing a secret diplomatic cable (cipher) sent by the country's embassy in Washington last year in March.

Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain conducted the proceedings inside the high security Attock jail where the former prime minister has been detained since August 5 after his arrest following conviction in the Toshakhana case. Khan's sentence was suspended by the Islamabad High Court on August 29 in the Toshakhana case, but he continues to

remain in Attock prison in the cipher case.

After the hearing, the judge ordered to keep Khan in judicial custody until October 10 to complete the probe.

It is the third time that Khan, 70, has been sent to jail on remand. His judicial remand was initially extended till September 13 and then again till September 26, along with Qureshi's. The previous 14-day remand ended today.

Qureshi was presented before the special court at the Federal Judicial Complex in Islamabad. The two-time former foreign minister was brought to the court handcuffed. The court authorities informed that his judicial remand in the case was also extended till October 10.

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

As per the law ministry, Khan's special court proceed-

CIPHER CASE



ings are being held in the Attock jail "due to security reasons".

Security was beefed up outside the jail ahead of the hearing. Talking to the media outside the court, Qureshi lamented that the PTI leadership was being punished for the crimes they haven't committed.

"(Our) conscience is content, intentions are clean... (we) are innocent... God can change hearts and overturn decisions," he said. When asked what would happen if his party is not allowed to contest polls, the vice chairman of the PTI said



the polls would then be "meaningless" and "worthless".

"The importance of the polls would end without PTI participating in it," Qureshi said, adding that the country will suffer an irreparable loss if transparent elections are not held. A day earlier, the Islamabad High Court ordered authorities to shift Khan to the Adiala jail in Rawalpindi. However, the directive was not implemented.

Earlier, the authorities were allowed to conduct hearings of the case in the jail due to security concerns. The cricketer-

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

The cipher case was filed last month against Khan on the allegations of violating secret laws of the country in the matter of a cable sent by the Pakistan embassy in Washington in March last year.

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

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

US concerned over Chinese ship's planned visit to SL

AP ■ NEW YORK/COLOMBO

The US has expressed concern to Sri Lanka about the likely visit of a Chinese research ship next month that could also cause worries in India which in the past has raised security concerns over docking by China's spy vessels, according to a media report.

US Under Secretary Victoria Nuland, who met Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, raised concerns about the upcoming visit of the Chinese research vessel 'SHI YAN 6'. Daily Mirror newspaper reported on Monday. Minister Sabry briefed her that Sri Lanka, as a neutral country, had worked out the Standard Operating Procedure (SPO) to be followed by foreign ships and aircraft in carrying out any activity in Sri Lankan territory.

The minister reportedly told her that Sri Lanka had been even-handed in this approach for all the countries and could not exclude China from the process as a result. Earlier, President Ranil Wickremesinghe also said that the SPO had been worked out for foreign vessels. The Chinese research vessel is expected in Sri Lanka in October to carry out research along with the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA). Described as a Research/Survey Vessel with a carrying capacity of 1115 DWT, the current draught is reported to be 5.3 metres in length overall 90.6 metres and width 17 metres.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry last

month said it is currently processing a request by China to allow its research ship to dock in the country.

"The Chinese embassy here has made an application and the ministry is currently looking at it," Priyanga Wickramasingha, the foreign ministry spokesperson, had said. No dates have been fixed yet for the visit, she said.

China despatches its research/surveillance vessels to Sri Lanka on a regular basis. In August this year, the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy warship HAI YANG 24 HAO arrived in the country on a two-day visit.

It was reported that the arrival of the 129-metre-long ship was delayed due to concerns raised by India.

In August last year, a similar visit by the Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship, 'Yuan Wang 5', which arrived in the southern Sri Lankan port of Hambantota elicited strong reactions from India.

There were apprehensions in New Delhi about the possibility of the vessel's tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian defence installations while being on its way to the Sri Lankan port. However, after a considerable delay, Sri Lanka allowed the ship to dock at the strategic southern port of Hambantota, being built by a Chinese company.

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka considers both India and China equally important partners in its task to restructure its external debt. China is one of the top lenders to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka owes USD 7.1 billion to bilateral creditors, including USD 3 billion to China.

China's top diplomat calls on US to host an APEC summit

AP ■ BEIJING

China's foreign minister called on the US on Tuesday to do what it can to host a cooperative meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders in November, criticising those who seek to play up a confrontation between democracy and authoritarianism. Wang Yi said the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco in November should promote cooperation rather than provoke confrontation, and said the US should show fairness and inclusiveness to create better conditions for a smooth meeting. "We should ... oppose advocating for democracy versus authoritarianism" and imposing our own values and models on others," he said at the launch of a government report on its proposals for what it calls "a global community of shared future."

US President Joe Biden has sought to create alliances and partnerships with other democratic countries to build a more unified response to China's growing geopolitical influence. China is a one-party state that has been ruled by the Communist Party for more than 70 years.

China has been trying to position itself as a leader of less-developed nations, saying it offers an alternative to what it has long called "Western hegemony." The APEC meeting is widely seen as an opportunity for Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping to meet as the US and China try to manage their rocky relationship — if the Chinese leader attends.

Xi skipped a recent Group of 20 leader-

US PRESIDENT HAS SOUGHT TO CREATE ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES TO BUILD A MORE UNIFIED RESPONSE TO CHINA'S GROWING GEOPOLITICAL INFLUENCE

ers' meeting in India, and Wang gave a non-committal response when asked if Xi would go to APEC. "We are in communication with all parties and will make an official announcement in due course," he said. In Hong Kong, a Chinese territory, leader John Lee said he has not received an invitation to APEC. Hong Kong is a member of the group, but the U.S. has banned him from entering the country since 2020 for his role in enforcing a national security law that has targeted pro-democracy activists. "According to APEC guidelines and protocol, the organizer should send an invitation to the leader of the respective economies," Lee said at his weekly media briefing. "I am still waiting for the invitation letter to be sent to me." Wang stepped down as foreign minister at the end of last year and became the Communist Party's foreign policy chief. He returned as foreign minister in July, while retaining the more senior party position, after his successor, Qin Gang, was removed from office. The government still hasn't explained what brought about Qin's downfall.

Russian drone strikes hit port area, cut ferry service to Romania

AP ■ KYIV

Russia struck the Black Sea region of Odesa in a drone barrage that damaged a warehouse, charred dozens of trucks and injured two drivers in fiery explosions that led to the suspension of the ferry service between Romania and Ukraine, officials said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a senior Russian naval officer that Ukraine on Monday claimed to have killed in a missile strike was seen attending an online conference.

Video shot from the Romanian side of the Danube River showed rapid bursts of Ukrainian anti-aircraft fire streaking through the night sky followed by two orange fireballs exploding near the port area. Photos showed burned-out frames of trucks.

Romanian Border Police said ferries were anchored on the Romanian shores of the Danube in Isaccea due to the attacks on Ukraine. Traffic was being redirected through Galati, a Romanian town upstream on the Danube.

Ukraine's air force said it downed 26 of 38 drones launched by Russia overnight.

Russian forces targeted the area of Izmail in the Odesa region, in what has become a sustained campaign to target Ukraine's ability to export grain. Attacks on Monday killed two people in a grain warehouse in Odesa and badly damaged an abandoned high-rise hotel, officials said. After Moscow pulled out of a UN-brokered grain deal this summer, the strikes on Izmail and cities located in the southern part of the Odesa region became routine. Attacks on the cities on the Danube have been especially damaging because the route has emerged as the most promising for continued Ukrainian exports. At least nine civilians were killed in Ukraine and 15 people were injured over the past



In this photo provided by the Odesa Region Administration, firefighters work to extinguish a fire in port infrastructure after a Russian rocket attack in Izmail, Ukraine, on Tuesday

AP/PTI

24 hours, the presidential office reported, though some of those deaths were also reported Monday. Russian artillery damaged homes, a school, a market and a food processing plant in the southern city of Kherson that is near the front lines of the war, officials said. In fighting in the Zaporizhzhia region in the southeast, the Russian army dropped five aerial bombs on Robotyne, a town Ukraine took in August in its slow-moving counteroffensive.

On Monday, Ukraine claimed without evidence that its missile strike on the Crimean headquarters of Russia's navy last week killed 34 officers, including fleet commander Adm. Viktor Sokolov. Russia did not comment on that report, but on Tuesday Sokolov was seen among other senior officers attending a video conference with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

Although neither side has released casualty figures, the counteroffensive is believed to have taken a heavy toll on both sides and it has been devastating to the towns and villages where fighting has raged.

New aerial video footage of Klishchiivka, on the outskirts of

Bakhmut, shot with a drone for The Associated Press shows how the battle has turned the village in eastern Ukraine into a pile of rubble after months of fierce fighting.

The footage shot two days ago shows the village in ruins with destroyed Russian tanks and military vehicles littering the main road. Barely a building remains intact in the village that was once home to almost 400 people.

A rare structure that still had four walls standing was missing its roof. Single walls stood like tombstones to mark where someone once lived. Ukraine recaptured the village Sept 17 after months of fighting, two days after it won back neighboring Andriivka, the Ukrainian military said. Both are tiny towns but were considered tactically important for Ukrainian forces as they extend gains around Bakhmut, 6 miles (10 km) to the north. The commanding heights of the village offer a view into the Russian-occupied town of Bakhmut and open up new opportunities for Ukrainian forces to encircle the town. It also potentially allows Ukrainians a better view of Russian logistic lines.

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Indermohan Singh Sidana is the owner of Apartment No. B/E-092 on 8th Floor having Super Area measuring 4213 sq. ft. in The Bealrae, DLF City-V, Gurugram, Haryana, vide Transfer Deed dated 10.10.2016, reg. as Doc. No. 189024, to be financed & mortgaged by my client i.e., Axis Finance Limited The Conveyance Deed dated 19.07.2016, reg. as Doc. No. 10801, pertaining to the aforesaid property have been lost and complaint bearing Application No. 13227032200134, was registered on 15.04.2022 with Haryana Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original documents, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 15 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.
Raghav Tiwari, Advocate
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts,
New Delhi - 110001 Mob.: +91-8076188328

**IN THE COURT OF
Shri Vikash
Judicial Magistrate -
1st Class, Gurugram**
**M/S INDIA INFILINE
FINANCE LIMITED
VS
NIRMALA UMESH MUDALIAR
CIS NO NO:-10414/2018
CNR NO. HRRG03-023668-2018
Next Date:- 31-10-2023**
**PUBLICATION ISSUED TO :
NIRMALA UMESH MUDALIAR :-
Address: D/O UMESH FLAT NO. 7
BLDG SAPRS EAST GANDHAM
NAGAR KHADKI PUNE**
In above titled case, the accused could not be served. It is ordered that accused should appear in person or through counsel on **31-10-2023 at 10.00 a.m.**
For details logon to <https://highcourtchd.gov.in/?trs=districtnotice&district=Gurugram>
**Judicial Magistrate,
1st Class Gurugram**
Dated, this day of 19-09-2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. SSA-20-1/2003/Equity-SSA//1/286984/2023 Dated 22.09.2023
Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom , Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites bids vide GEM/2023/B/3990804 Dated: 21-09-2023 for Printing and supply of Career Chart through GeM portal. Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit the bid on GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also available in SSA website : <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>
Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha Axom
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog/CF/2830/23/27-Sep-23

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)
No. AD/RSC-22/36/201516(PL)/2097 Dated, the 25th Sept, 2023
Advertisement
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of **01 (one) Chief Manager (Environment)** on contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.
For further details, visit our website <https://paradipport.gov.in/Carrer.aspx>.
Sd/-
**Sr. Assistant Secretary,
Paradip Port Authority**
PPA/PR/49/2023-24 Dt. 26/09/2023

**SRF LIMITED**
Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091
Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003
Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870; Fax : (+91-11) 49482900
E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (from)	Dist-No. (to)	Lost Shares
1	P 0005498	PARSHOTAM LAL SACHDEVA (Holder)	332911	16374831	16374880	50
		SMT USHA SACHDEVA (JT1)	481911	24394623	24394672	50
		KUMARI DEEPA SACHDEVA (JT2)	90141386	73865538	73865687	50
			90141387	73865588	7386637	50
2	SRF0127443	UMA GANDHI (Claimant)	1136304	296101638	296102453	816
		KRISHANWARUP SHANTISWARUP VASUDEV (Deceased)	602933	42710863	42710872	10
			602934	42710873	42710877	5
			602935	42710878	42710878	1
3	G 0002004	PUNEET KATYAL Claimant)	1131731	310736366	310737229	864
		GANESH DAS KATYAL (Deceased)	119173	5082290	5082325	36
			975569	18559133	18559154	22
			1134518	295737258	295737489	232
4	A 0002570	ARUNA JAIN (Holder)	43938	2539576	2539600	25
			95524	4093313	4093324	12
			1133186	295451318	295451641	324
			90010960-61	6144174	6144217	44
5	SRF0151623	RIDDHI SUBLOK (Holder)	425438-39	18260506	18260530	25
			574436-37	26280198	26280297	100
			574438-39	26280298	26280322	25
			1136128	296073090	296073689	600
6	SRF0036061	MOOL CHAND KUMRA (Holder) MADHU SUDAN KUMRA (JT1) TRIPTA KUMRA (Deceased)	1137331	296299554	296299793	240
7	O 0000443	OM PARKASH GUPTA (Holder)	1138720	296594586	296594785	200
			90167352	12805010	12805059	50
8	SRF0045941	SUNIL ANTHONY PRABHU (Claimant) JOSEPH BENEDICT MARTIN (Deceased)	1134886	295804374	295806397	2024
			90095974-76	9844590	9844689	100
9	K0005980	KULBHUSHAN MANGAL (Holder)	223	1126431	1126450	20
			56106	2833578	2833585	8
			1139655	296769582	296770053	472
			90025068	6797514	6797553	40
			90162082	12206675	12206724	50

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.
Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.
For SRF LIMITED
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary
Place: Gurugram
Date: 26-09-2023

Sensex falls 78 points

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 78 points in a listless trade on Tuesday due to select profit taking in IT and banking shares in line with weak Asian markets and continuous foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 78.22 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 65,945.47 with 14 of its components closing lower and 16 advancing. During the day, it declined 158.06 points or 0.23 per cent to a low of 65,865.63.

The broader Nifty dipped 9.85 points or 0.05 per cent to end at 19,664.70. As many as 23 Nifty shares declined while 27 closed in the green.

Among Sensex shares, IndusInd Bank fell the most by 1.29 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra (1.28 per cent), Kotak Bank (1.24 per cent) and Infosys (1 per cent).

Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Titan, and Bajaj Finserv were among the losers.

On the other hand, Nestle India rose the most by 1.58 per cent. Tata Steel, Mahindra &



Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers.

"Markets witnessed a listless trading session and lingered in negative territory for most part of the trading session due to weak Asian and European cues. Traders resorted to selective profit-taking ahead of the next week's RBI policy outcome, while external factors like strength in dollar

index and rising treasury yields continue to dampen sentiment," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.09 per cent and the smallcap index climbed 0.33 per cent.

Among the indices, IT fell 0.46 per cent, bankex declined 0.45 per cent, teck (0.36 per cent), consumer durables (0.23 per cent) and financial services

(0.21 per cent).

Commodities, consumer discretionary, FMCG, industrials and telecommunication were among the gainers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "Trading remained flat as headwinds from the global market and continued selling by FIIs kept domestic investors under vigil.

"While bargain hunting was visible in small-cap stocks due to the recent correction and favourable valuation compared to large and mid-caps, IT indices slid due to the fear of one more rate hike by the FED and a consequent reduction in spending." In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.79 per cent to USD 92.55 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,333.03 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

India's export of polished diamond to dip by 22 per cent this fiscal: Report



PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's exports of cut and polished diamonds (CPDs) is likely to decline by 22 per cent to USD 17.2 billion in 2023-24, amid weak underlying demand conditions in key destinations including the US and Europe, a report said on Tuesday.

CPD exports have been on a declining trend since the second half of FY23 and during the first five months of this financial year shipments witnessed a sharp year-on-year decline of 31 per cent, Icara said in a report.

The decline in CPD exports was led by a fall in both export volumes and polished diamond prices, it added.

While some sequential improvement in volume is expected in the coming months, driven by the onset of the festive season, overall exports are still expected to contract by 22 per cent this fiscal, it stated.

The rating agency has thus revised the sector outlook to 'Negative' from 'Stable'.

"The export contraction is

primarily being driven by weak underlying demand conditions in key consuming nations like the US and Europe due to the inflationary pressures, leading to a shift in spending away from diamonds.

"Demand from China, which accounts for 10-15 per cent of the global demand, has also not picked up meaningfully so far," Icara Vice President and Sector Head Sakshi Suneja said.

In addition, competition from lab-grown diamonds, which are priced at a significant discount to natural diamonds, also accentuated the dip in volumes, particularly for the large-sized diamonds in the range of one to three carats, she added.

The report further said that the prices of rough diamonds remain elevated in FY24, with current prices hovering around the 15-year median level, despite some softening seen in the recent months.

These prices had soared in the last two years, following limited supply from mining companies and robust revival in

demand, post the pandemic, it noted.

However, despite subsequent softening in demand, rough prices remained high due to limited availability from Russia in the market, following the US sanctions on Alrosa PJSC - the Russia-owned diamond mining entity, which supplies 30 per cent of the rough diamonds globally.

With intensified sanctions on Russia and no major ramp-up in output of other mining entities, rough prices are expected to remain elevated, the Icara report said.

On the other hand, the prices of polished diamonds continue to be under pressure, with current prices being 15-20 per cent below the 15-year median level.

Coupled with demand pressures and limited ability to pass on the prices, this will shave off 40 bps of the operating profit margins.

"Profitability pressures will result in moderation in the credit metrics of CPD players in FY24. Faced with lower demand, the inventory levels are also expected to increase to an extent, while remaining lower than the pre-pandemic levels," Suneja said.

The CPD players have been conscious in managing their working capital cycle to control their dependence on bank debt. Additionally, recovery from customers has been timely so far. These factors would keep working capital borrowings of the industry under check, Suneja added.



Rupee falls 14 paise to settle at 83.27 against \$

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rupee stayed on the downward track for the second straight day to settle 14 paise lower at 83.27 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday due to a firm greenback against major currencies overseas and persistent foreign capital outflows. Besides, weak equity market sentiment and elevated levels of crude oil prices — hovering above USD 92 a barrel — weighed on the domestic currency, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.19 and traded between a high of 83.17 and a low of 83.27 against the greenback during the day. It finally settled at 83.27 (provisional), registering a fall of 14 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee declined by 19 paise to close at 83.13 against the dollar.

Analysts attributed the downward movement of the rupee to a strengthening dollar amid weak Asian markets and rising US Treasury yields. The US dollar surged to a ten-month high level after a Federal Reserve policymaker hinted at a longer interest rate hike due to resilience in the US economy. The 10-year US treasury yields also rose to a 16-year high.



'IndiGo seeks to become bigger, more global'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is an incredible and one of the most competitive aviation markets in the world. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said on Tuesday and asserted that the airline is seeking to become bigger and more global.

The chief of the country's largest airline said it is building its own international network, adding new overseas routes from existing cities and enhancing partnerships with other carriers.

Besides, the carrier is taking various mitigating measures to deal with issues related to Pratt & Whitney (P&W) engines that power its A320 fleet. It has grounded many aircraft due to the engine woes.

IndiGo, which started flying more than 17 years ago, operates nearly 1,900 flights daily with more than 320 planes and has a domestic market share of over 63 per cent. In recent months, the carrier has commenced flights to various overseas destinations, including Nairobi and Almaty.

Against this backdrop, Elbers, on Tuesday, also said that India is an incredible and one of the most competitive aviation markets in the world and there

is also a lot of competition in the market.

"There should be a correlation between price of a ticket and cost of operations... Otherwise, airlines will be out of business," he said and added that IndiGo focuses on affordable fares that goes up and down depending on the season.

The airline connects 32 international and 81 domestic destinations. While highlighting the growth potential of the country's aviation sector, Elbers said IndiGo is going through a "maturing phase" and also stressed the need for having aviation hubs in India, which is under served.

"IndiGo has the ambition to become bigger, better and even more global..." he said.

According to him, the airline has developed a strategy for internationalisation which has three very important elements.

Apart from building its own network, the carrier is connecting existing cities with new routes like Bhubaneswar and Singapore. Besides, it is enhancing partnerships.

Earlier this month, IndiGo announced a codeshare partnership with British Airways. It also has codeshare partnerships with various other airlines.

Cipla introduces drone delivery of critical medicine to Himachal hospitals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drug major Cipla on Tuesday said it has introduced drone-powered deliveries of critical medicines for hospitals and pharmacies in Himachal Pradesh in partnership with Skye Air Mobility.

The Mumbai-based firm aims to deliver medicines for cardiac, respiratory and other essential chronic therapies as part of the initiative.

The use of drones will support on-time deliveries of the company's medicines to chemists and clinics in remote areas while minimising risks such as delays, temperature excursions affecting cold chain products, and roadside accidents, Cipla said in a statement.

"As we accelerate our digital agenda across all functions, implementing drone-powered distribution enhances our sup-



ply chain resilience, strengthens connects with channel partners, helps us stay future ready and maintain reliable, prompt delivery of our trusted high-quality drugs to stockists and patients in the region," Cipla Global Supply Chain Head Swapn Malpani said.

The drug firm said it also aims to scale the service in the future through distribution to hospitals and expand market coverage to inaccessible and hilly terrains such as Uttarakhand and the Northeast region in India.

Focus on innovative products, pharmas told

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday asked domestic pharmaceutical industry to focus on the research and development of innovative products to move up the value chain and achieve global leadership.

Mandaviya, who also holds the Chemical and Fertilisers portfolio, asked medical technology companies to produce critical equipment in India for the global markets.

While formally unveiling the National Policy on Research & Development and Innovation

in the Pharma-Med Tech Sector here, Mandaviya said the domestic pharmaceutical companies invest less on research and development when compared to multinational companies.

"International MNCs spend 20-25 per cent of their profits in research and innovation while for Indian companies the average is around 10 per cent... Till the time we do not come out with research-led innovative products, we cannot lead the segment globally," he noted.

He said the government wants to make the pharma industry self-reliant by 2047.

"Today is a historic day, an

inflection point in the journey of "Atmanirbharta" in the pharma & medical devices sector. We need to transform Indian Pharma & MedTech sectors from a cost-based to a value-based & innovation-based industry," the minister said.

Mandaviya asked the pharma industry to focus on developing quality products and not just focus on the quantity.

"India can only achieve self-reliance in pharmaceuticals and medical devices by strengthening its research and development infrastructure that would drive the expansion of access to life-saving medicines and drugs

and help India become a global pharmaceuticals and medical exports hub," he added.

He said the government has been working closely with the industry and academia to bring about the changes.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) notified the National Policy on Research & Development and Innovation in the Pharma-Med Tech Sector in India in August this year.

The policy aims to encourage R&D in pharmaceuticals, including traditional medicines, phytopharmaceuticals and medical devices.

Deadline for demat nominees extended

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday extended the deadline by three months to December-end for existing demat account holders to provide choice of nomination or formally opt out of nomination through a declaration form.

Additionally, submission of 'choice of nomination' for trading accounts has been made voluntary by the regulator as a move towards ease of doing business.

Earlier, the deadline for existing eligible trading and demat account holders to provide a choice of nomination was on or before September 30.

The move is aimed at helping investors to secure their assets and pass them on to their legal heirs. "Based on the representa-



tions received from the exchanges, depositories, brokers' associations and various other stakeholders, submission of 'choice of nomination' for trading accounts has been made voluntary as a step towards ease of

doing business.

"With respect to demat accounts, it has been decided to extend the last date for submission of 'choice of nomination' to December 31, 2023," Sebi said in a circular.

Further, Sebi has given time till December 31, for physical security holders for submission of PAN, nomination, contact details, bank account details and specimen signature for their corresponding folio numbers.

In July 2021, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) asked all existing eligible trading and demat account holders to provide a choice of nomination on or before March 31, 2022.

Later, this was extended by one more year till March 31, 2023 and again till September 30, 2023.



Tax department notifies 'Angel Tax' rules for valuing investments in startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has notified new Angel Tax rules that comprise a mechanism to evaluate the shares issued by unlisted startups to investors.

While previously the angel tax — a tax levied on capital received on the sale of shares of a startup above the fair market value — applied only to local investors, the Budget for 2023-24 fiscal (April 2023 to March 2024) widened its ambit to include foreign investments.

As per the Budget, the excess premium will be considered as 'income from sources' and taxed at the rate of up to over 30 per cent. However, startups registered by the DPIIT are exempt from the new norms.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a September 25 notification spelled out the valuation methodology.

As per the changes in Rule 11UA of I-T rules, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) provides that the valuation of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) and equity shares issued by unlisted startups can be based on the fair market value.

The amended rules also retain the five new valuation methods proposed in the draft rules for consideration received from the non-residents — (i)

Comparable Company Multiple Method, (ii) Probability Weighted Expected Return Method, (iii) Option Pricing Method, (iv) Milestone Analysis Method, and (v) Replacement Cost Method.

Deloitte India Partner Sumit Singhania said from an investors' standpoint, revised rules offer a wider range of valuation methodologies to work with, and that ought to make compliance less onerous henceforth.

"Also, safe harbour permitting 10 per cent deviation from fair value makes room for valuation adjustments when needed. Overall, the trajectory is to align tax valuation methodologies with permissible exchange control norms," Singhania said.

Nangia & Co LLP Partner Amit Agarwal said the amendments to Rule 11UA of the Indian Income Tax Act bring positive changes by offering taxpayers flexibility through multiple valuation methods, simplifying the valuation date consideration, incentivising venture capital investments, facilitating investments from notified entities, providing clarity on CCPS and encouraging foreign investments.

"The inclusion of a tolerance threshold for minor valuation discrepancies further enhances efficiency and fairness in tax assessments, ultimately benefiting both taxpayers and the government.

IN BRIEF



Naruvi Hospitals' Dr GV Sampath welcomes Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma

JSW INFRA IPO SUBSCRIBED 2.13 TIMES ON DAY 2

New Delhi: The initial share sale of JSW Infrastructure, a part of the JSW Group, received 2.13 times subscription on the second day of offer on Tuesday. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) received bids for 29,02,18,698 shares against 13,62,83,186 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE. The quota for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 4.52 times subscription while the portion for non-institutional investors got subscribed 3.70 times. The category for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 55 per cent.

KONTOR SPACE IPO KICKS OFF TODAY

New Delhi: Kontor Space Ltd said it has set the price band for its ₹15.62 crore initial share sale at ₹93 apiece, which will open for public subscription on Wednesday. The issue will conclude on October 3, and the shares will be listed on SME EMERGE platform of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the company said in a statement on Monday. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) consists of a fresh issuance of up to 16.80 lakh equity shares at a face value of ₹10 each.



Gold declines ₹150; silver tumbles ₹850

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by Rs 150 to Rs 59,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid weak global cues, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had finished at Rs 60,050 per 10 grams.

Silver also tumbled Rs 850 to Rs 74,500 per kilogram.

In the international markets, both gold and silver were quoting lower at USD 1,912 per ounce and USD 23.05 per ounce, respectively.

Comex gold slipped to a two-week low, weighed down by strong gains in the US dollar and bond yields amid speculation that central banks will keep interest rates elevated for longer to rein in inflation, Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Vistara merger: AI, SA to maintain minimum capacity

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India and Singapore Airlines will ensure minimum capacity on various domestic and international routes, including Delhi-Sydney and Delhi-Paris, as part of commitments made to fair trade regulator CCI to address possible competition concerns arising out of the Vistara merger.

Competition Commission of India (CCI), on September 1, approved the proposed merger of Vistara with Air India under a deal wherein Singapore Airlines will also acquire a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India.

Certain competition concerns due to the proposed merger were raised by the watchdog and to address them, the airlines have given certain commitments with respect to the merger.

As per the commitments, Air India has voluntarily offered to maintain "minimum capacity/ supply level" on certain overlapping O&D (Origin & Destination) domestic and overseas routes.

They are Bhubaneswar-Delhi, Bengaluru-Guwahati, Cochin-Delhi, Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram, Amritsar-Delhi, Bhubaneswar-Mumbai and Bengaluru-Delhi in the domestic segment, according to a 73-page CCI order that has been made public.

The international routes where Air India will maintain minimum capacity/ supply level are Delhi-Sydney, Delhi-Melbourne, Delhi-Paris and Delhi-Frankfurt.



On these domestic and international routes, both Air India and Vistara operate flights.

Further, Air India and Singapore Airlines will maintain minimum capacity/ supply level in relation to certain overlapping O&D pairs between

India and Singapore — Delhi-Singapore, Mumbai-Singapore, Tiruchirappalli-Singapore and Chennai-Singapore.

"The Commission notes that the voluntary capacity commitments offered by the parties seem to address the likely competition concerns that could otherwise result from the proposed combination and thus decided not to proceed further with the investigation in the matter," the order, dated September 1, said.

The merger deal would mark a major consolidation in India's fast-growing aviation space.

Once the merger concludes, Singapore Airlines will be allotted additional shares in the merged entity through a preferential allotment. The deal will make Air India the country's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic carrier.

Air India Express and AIX Connect (earlier known as AirAsia India) are in the process of being merged.

Tata Group has four airlines — Air India, Air India Express, AIX Connect and Vistara, in which Singapore Airlines has a 49 per cent stake.

GOAL-FEST CONTINUES FOR INDIA IN MEN'S HOCKEY

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Mandeep Singh slammed a hat-trick each as favourites India mauled lowly Singapore 16-1 to register their second consecutive win in the men's hockey competition at the Asian Games here on Tuesday.

The Indians continued their goal-scoring spree after the 16-0 rout of Uzbekistan in their tournament opener as they found the net at will against world No.49 Singapore.

Harmanpreet (24th, 39th, 40th, 42nd minutes) and Mandeep (12th, 30th, 51st), Abhishek (51st, 52nd), Varun Kumar (55th, 55th), Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (16th), Gurjant Singh (22nd), Vivek Sagar Prasad (23rd), Manpreet Singh (37th), Shamsher Singh (38th) were the goal scorers for India.

India will next face defending champions Japan on Thursday.

Unexpectedly, the Indians started on a rather sedate note but completely enjoyed the ball possession.

The play was totally in Singapore's half as India dominated the proceedings from the start.

India's first chance came in the sixth minute but Sukhjeet Singh's shot was saved by Singapore goalkeeper Sandran Gagan.

India secured their first penalty corner in the next minute but skipper Harmanpreet Singh's flick was defended stoutly by the Singaporeans.

Two minutes later, Mandeep Singh earned India's second penalty corner but again Singapore goalkeeper Gagan made a terrific save with his stretched right leg to deny Harmanpreet.



Divyansh-Ramita miss 10m mixed air rifle bronze

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

India's Divyansh Panwar and Ramita Jindal buckled under pressure as they squandered a big lead to lose to Korea in an engrossing bronze medal match of the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the Asian Games here on Tuesday.

Divyansh and Ramita were leading 8-0 initially but the Korean pair of Park Hajun and Lee Eunseo made a remarkable comeback to win the match 20-18.

Ramita, who on Monday won the 10m air rifle team silver and individual bronze, was the more consistent of the two and had four shots of 10.8 while



Divyansh had one. Divyansh also had two bad shots of 9.9 and 9.8.

The 20-year-old Panwar, who was part of the 10m air rifle gold-winning team on Monday, shot 314.3, while the

19-year-old Ramita shot 313.9 to aggregate 628.2.

Earlier, the Indian duo finished sixth in the qualification round and thus faced third placed team Korea in the bronze medal match.

Unlike the individual 10m air rifle event, where eight shooters qualify for the finals, in mixed team six pairs make the medal round. Here too, the top two placed teams compete for the gold, while the remaining four pairs are divided into two groups and compete for two bronze medals.

The other bronze was won by Kazakhstan who beat Iran 17-11.

Hosts China, who had topped the qualification round, beat Uzbekistan 16-2 in the gold medal match.

It was a medal-less day for the Indian shooters after winning five medals, including a gold, in the first two days of the competition.



India thrash Pak & Singapore

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The Indian squash contingent began its Asian Games campaign with comfortable victories over Singapore and Pakistan, in the men's and women's team competitions respectively here on Tuesday.

The women's team comprising 15-year-old Anahat Singh, veteran Joshna Chinappa and Tanvi Khanna blanked Pakistan 3-0 in its opening Pool B match.

The first singles saw Asian Games debutant Anahat getting past Sadia Gul 11-6, 11-6, 11-3 in 16 minutes.

Joshna, playing the first match of her sixth Asian Games, took 13 minutes to beat Noor Ul Huda Sadiq 11-2, 11-5, 11-7.

India, silver medallists in the previous edition, completed their dominance when Tanvi thrashed Noor Ul Ain Ijaz 11-3, 11-6, 11-2.

Top two teams in Pool A and Pool B progress to the semifinals.

Third seeds India are paired in Pool B alongside Malaysia, Macau, China, Pakistan and Nepal.

In the men's event, top seeds India outplayed Singapore 3-0.

Harinder Pal Sandhu, back to playing singles after a long injury lay-off, had to fight hard for a 11-4, 13-11, 8-11, 7-11 win over Jerome Clement in the opening singles.

India's highest ranked player Saurav Ghosal, who like Joshna is competing in his sixth Asian Games, was tested in the first game by Samuel Kang before prevailing 11-9, 11-1, 11-4 in 37 minutes.

Abhay Singh took care of Marcus Phua in straight games 11-7, 11-7, 11-7 to ensure a comfortable win for India, who face Qatar later on Tuesday.

The others in India's group include Pakistan, Kuwait and Nepal.

Ghosal led team had finished with a bronze in the previous edition.

Having won the gold back in 2014, the team is targeting the top of the podium here.

On Wednesday, the men will face Pakistan in a Pool A game. The clash should be more competitive than the one-side contest in the women's competition.



Tulika loses in bronze medal match

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian judoka Tulika Maan missed out of a chance to win a medal after going down to Mongolia's Amaraikhan Adiyasuren in the bronze-medal play-off of the women's +78kg event at Asian Games here on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old from Delhi, a silver medallist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, lost to Adiyasuren 0-10 by ippon at Xiaoshan Linpu Gymnasium here.

Earlier, Tulika knocked out Macao's Qing Lam Lai 10-0 in just 15 seconds with an ippon. But in the quarterfinal, she lost to Japanese Wakaba Tomita who thrashed her 10-0 with an ippon.

However, she stayed alive to fight for the bronze after beating Chinese Taipei's Jia Wen Tsai with an ippon by 10-

0 in the repechage round.

The losers in the quarterfinal rounds enter the repechage round.

Earlier, Indubala Devi Maibam lost to Thai Ikumi Oeda by 0-10 in women's under 78 kg category where the winner made an ippon in round of 16.

India were unfortunate to miss a medal in men's 100kg where Avtar Singh sustained an injury and conceded his quarterfinal and repechage matches. In the round of 16, Avtar defeated Thai's Kittipong Hantratin with a Waza-Ari by 1-0.

But he sustained an injury in the pre-quarters that forced him out of the last-eight, giving Dzhabar Kostoev of UAE a walkover.

In the repechage, Avtar conceded his battle against South Korean Jonghoon.

Boxer Sachin sails into men's 57kg pre-quarters

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Indian boxer Sachin Siwach put up a dominant display in his opening 57kg bout to sail into the pre-quarterfinals of the Asian Games here on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old managed to dominate the match from the beginning wading off flurry of attacks from the Indonesian with ease using his flashy footwork.

Sachin successfully used his long reach to connect accurate jabs and hooks. As the clock ticked, the 2021 World



Youth Championship grew in confidence to earn a facile win.

He will face Turki Abuquthailah of Kuwait in the Round of 16.

Later in the day, Narender Berwal will play his pre-quarterfinal bout against Kyrgyzstan's Elchoro Uulu Oomatkabek in the +92kg weight class.

Indian golf team eyes Asian Games medals

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

The seven-member Indian golf team, comprising the likes of Anirban Lahiri and Aditi Ashok, will be hoping to carry forward its recent superb form when the event commences at the Asian Games here on Thursday.

Lahiri will be leading an experienced set of Indian golfers including Shubhankar Sharma, Khalin Joshi and SSP Chawrasia, while the women's team has the likes of Olympian Aditi, Pranavi Urs and Avani Prashanth.

While Lahiri and Sharma



have been given automatic berths in the men's section, Aditi has been given the same honour among women.

Joshi and Chawrasia among

men and Pranavi and Avani in women came through the qualifiers conducted for amateurs and pros by the Indian Golf Union (IGU).

Indian women's hockey team eyes continental supremacy

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Top-ranked India will look to assert their continental supremacy with a second women's hockey gold in the Asian Games when they open their campaign against lowly Singapore here on Wednesday.

Placed seventh in the world, India are the top-ranked team in the competition ahead of defending champions and world No.10 Japan.

The Savita Punia-led side would look for redemption when it opens its campaign against Singapore in the Pool A match.

Going by form and rankings, the Indians are considered title favourites but in Japan, world No.11 China, and

world No.12 Korea, some tough opponents await them on their way to ultimate glory.

But since their historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, the Indian women are on a high under chief coach Janneke Schopman and would be gunning for gold, which will give them a direct ticket to Paris in the ongoing Games.

Under Schopman and Savita's leadership, India have only upped their game in the recent past but it won't be easy and they will have to take the pressure aspect in their stride to emerge triumphant here.

"The team is in great shape heading into our first match against Singapore, we had identified areas of



improvement and worked on it in the build-up to the Asian Games. The plan is to start strong and take charge of our games from the start while and finish as table toppers," coach Schopman said.

The road to semifinals would be a bit easier for the Indian women as they are grouped with relatively weaker opponents in Pool A consisting of Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Korea.

Going by world stature, India and Korea are expected to qualify for the semifinal from Pool A, but it won't be smooth sailing beyond that.

Pool B consists of China, Japan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Thailand. The team selection was on expected lines with chief coach Schopman relying on her tried and tested players.

While the Indian goal will be under the watchful eyes of skipper Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam, the

defence will be manned by vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka, Sushila Chanu and Nikki Pradhan among others.

India boast of a strong forward-line in Lalremmsiam, Navneet Kaur, Vandana Katariya, Udita and Sangita Kumari while the midfield will be controlled by Neha, Nisha, Salima Tete and Ishika Chaudhary among others.

While India's recent results against strong teams like Australia, England and Germany were not up to the mark, the Savita-led side would look to apply the lessons learnt from those outings in the Asian Games.

After Singapore, the Indian women will take on Malaysia on September 29, Korea (October 1) and Hong Kong (October 3).

Nagal, Raina progress to quarterfinals

PTI ■ HANGZHOU

Counter-puncher Sumit Nagal blunted the challenge of big-serving Beibit Zhukayev with his perseverance while Ankita Raina out-gunned Adithya P Karunaratne without fuss as the two Indians inched closer to singles medals by reaching the quarterfinals at the Asian Games here on Tuesday.

Kazakhstan's Zhukayev served big but Nagal controlled the points better for a 7-6 (9) 6-4 in a riveting men's singles third round while Raina cruised to a 6-1 6-2 win over

her Hong Kong's opponent in the third round of the women's singles event.

The semifinalists are assured of bronze medals in the tennis event at the Games.

However, the singles challenge of Ramkumar Ramanathan and Rutuja Bhosale came to a halt at the Asian Games.

Nagal's movement on the court and the immense retrieving ability was a delight to watch as several times Zhukayev went for drop shots but Nagal reached the ball to fire winners.

Zhukayev was sending down powerful serves and his ground strokes too packed a lot of power but Nagal is not someone who would feel threatened rather he kept the ball in play since he always had an advantage if the points were long.

After saving two set points, Nagal pocketed the opening set by sending down a widish backhand which Zhukayev failed to return, making a volley error while going for a winner.

A break in the fourth game of the second set handed Nagal an early advantage as he led 4-1. In the long-



drawn seventh game, Nagal saved two breakpoints but the Kazakh finally got the break with a forehand winner down the line.

The 26-year-old shut the door on the Kazakh with another break in game 10 when Zhukayev buried a backhand on net on the second match point.

Raina, the top Indian woman singles player at 198, converted all three breakpoints she got in the one hour 34-minute contest and saved two of the three breakpoints she faced against her 354th-ranked rival.

She will now fight it out with

Japan's Haruka Kaji (ranked 213) for a place in the semifinals.

Ranked 336, Bhosale was up against higher-ranked Alexandra Eala (190) from Philippines and went down fighting 6-7 (5) 2-6 in one hour and 51 minutes.

In the men's singles, Ramkumar took the court against world number 78 Yosuke Watanuki and it was always going to be a tough contest for the Indian, who has been terribly out of form this season.

To his credit, Ramkumar stretched his superior Japanese rival, who had to battle hard for his 7-5 6-

7 (3) 7-5 win in two hours and 40 minute match.

Both Ramkumar and Bhosale are still alive in the doubles competitions.

In the mixed doubles, the top-seeded Indian pair of Yuki Bhambri and Ankita Raina reached the pre-quarterfinals with a 6-0 6-0 thrashing of Pakistan's Aqeel Khan and Sarah Khan.

However, Bhosale and her partner Karman Kaur Thandi bowed out of the women's doubles after a 5-7, 2-6 defeat against Thailand's Anchisa Chanta and Punnin Kovatitukted in 1 hour and 59 minutes.

INDIA AIM TO WHITEWASH OZ

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Skipper Rohit Sharma would fancy a perfect culmination to Indian team's World Cup preparations as hosts eye a rare clean sweep of Australia in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday.

Never before in the history have India whitewashed Australia in the ODI format. In fact, neither of them have achieved such a result, home or away, irrespective of the number of matches played in a series. Given how perfectly everything has panned out for the World Cup hosts in the lead up to the mega tournament, it would only be fitting that India finish with a deserving 3-0 score-line.

Dominant Indian team, despite the absence of its front-line players and still tinkering with playing combinations to make sure every member has had game-time under their belt, are in pole position to record a fourth consecutive ODI win

Gill, Axar, Shami, Shardul & Hardik to miss 3rd ODI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Axar Patel, Shubman Gill and Shardul Thakur have not travelled to Rajkot for the third and final ODI against Australia on Wednesday.

Axar, who has been out with a left quadriceps strain since the Asia Cup and was in the squad only for the final ODI subject to fitness, is understood to be recovering well, and the team management expects him to be fit in time for the World Cup. He is currently recovering at the BCCI's National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

Rohit Sharma, the captain, and Virat Kohli, who both sat out the first two games of the series, are back in the line-up, but Mohammed Shami, who played the first two games, and Hardik Pandya, who skipped the initial games as well, are not with the squad.

ESPNcricinfo understands that with just 13 players around - Mukesh Kumar was called up ahead of the second ODI which Jasprit Bumrah missed - India might be forced to use local first-class players, who are part of the Saurashtra team, to chip in in the field if needed.



before the quadrennial event begins.

If they manage to clinch a 3-0 win, India would also have taken a massive upper-hand over the five-time world champions Australia before the two teams meet again in Chennai on October 8 for their World Cup opener.

It will be no exaggeration in saying India have battered Australia in the first two ODIs despite both the rivals making plenty of changes to keep their

top guns fresh, while also putting miles in the legs of those who would not usually feature in first-choice XIs. There could, however, be some respite for the Australian bowlers as India have rested their young gun Shubman Gill for the final ODI after his 74 and 104 in the first two games, alongside Shardul Thakur.

In the 50-overs World Cup year, Gill is the only batter in the format with a thousand runs and counting - 1,230 runs to be precise at a staggering average of

72.35 - and his absence from the final game would certainly be felt. But India's batting mainstays Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are expected to return and so are the in-form Kuldeep Yadav and Hardik Pandya from a brief resting period during which KL Rahul has led admirably.

Facing some tough questions over squad composition, players' form, fitness and availability, India have turned the tide and how.

That India would end up

with a problem of plenty was something not envisaged when the team embarked on the Asia Cup campaign just a few weeks ago. But the likes of Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Mohammed Shami and even Mohammed Siraj have transformed this Indian outfit into as formidable a unit can get.

He took some time to get going and again struggled with his back-related troubles, but Shreyas Iyer utilised perfect batting conditions in Indore to

record a century, which will also consolidate his position in the middle-order.

Much to the delight of the Indian camp, Rahul has delivered the goods with the bat and behind the stumps at the most appropriate time. Like Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah too has proven his fitness and form in a few matches after a long injury lay-off. After resting from the second ODI, India's premier bowler is available for selection.

Even though the team management appears tilted in favour of injured Axar Patel, oldest member of the Indian squad Ravichandran Ashwin would like to make this opportunity count before the contingent is finalised for the World Cup.

For Australia, it is not often that they flop both with the bat and the ball in India with the white ball as miserably as they have in the first two ODIs. The visitors need to gather themselves as the wheels seem to be coming off rapidly following five consecutive defeats in ODIs.

A few months ago, the same side beat India 2-1 with Mitchell Starc haunting the Indian right-handers with his perfect inswingers.

With one last game left before the World Cup begins, Australia would be tempted to play their preferred bowling attack with Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc coming in, even though the batting lacks the firepower of Travis Head at the top and Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne not enjoying a successful year of cricket in India across formats.



Smith's form not a concern: Starc

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Steve Smith might be taking a wee bit more time to adjust to sub-continental tracks but his poor returns in the first two ODIs against India is least of concern for the Australian team management, senior speedster Mitchell Starc said on Tuesday.

Usually a prolific scorer against India, Smith has scores of 0 and 41 in the first two ODIs on batting-friendly tracks, having flopped earlier in the Test series in February-March when he could only manage 145 runs across four Tests.

Starc, who himself is coming back from groin niggle, was speaking ahead of the third and final ODI scheduled on Wednesday.

"No. His (Smith) numbers speak for himself," Starc replied to a query on Smith's current form.

"He (Smith) has been a high class player and has been a massive part of all formats for Australia, so no concern there. It is the adjustment factor, coming back to India after a series in South Africa, some guys are coming off a break," Starc told reporters here ahead of Australia's training session at the Saurashtra Cricket Stadium.

Starc, who might make a comeback in the third game then underlined the reasons for Australia's back-to-back defeats in Mohali and Indore. "I think we have seen the wickets change throughout both the games, depending on who batted first and in different places. Spin was a massive factor in the second innings the other night (in Indore). We played pretty well under lights in Mohali," Starc said.

The left-arm pacer said conditions are still proving challenging for Australian touring party, which comprises of a few fresh faces such as left-arm bowler Spencer

Johnson.

"We have got a lot of guys with IPL experience, we know that the wickets are going to be very different through the night and day, depending on which part of India we play as well — not too many grounds we have played back to back games so, conditions are going to play a part," he said.

Starc conceded that Rohit Sharma's India are favourites to win the World Cup while adding that adaptability will be key for Australia to find their form.

"We have used quite a wide squad of players, whether that be managing players or players coming back from injury, trying different combinations and what not," he said.

The pacer admitted that Australia's current form isn't ideal in the run-up to a marquee event.

"Obviously, leading into the World Cup, it is not a position we want to be in but plenty to play for tomorrow - what the make-up of our team looks like, what we want to take into our World Cup campaign."

Starc said like him, Glenn Maxwell too has his sights set on the World Cup.

"He (Maxwell) is on track as well. I am not sure about his particular timeline but no doubt he will be looking to make an impact as soon as he gets his chance," Starc said.

"He has got a wealth of experience over here through IPL, through multiple tours. He is certainly an x-factor no matter whichever team he plays for. This is his third one-day World Cup, he is an x-factor for us who can take the game on."

"His ability with the ball, particularly in these conditions adds to another option in the bowling department as well. He seems in good spirits, (but) his return I am not sure what that looks like for this week but certainly on track for the World Cup," Starc added.

We have done our research: Babar

conference here.

"It is quite an honour for me to travel as the captain this time around, I hope we come back with a trophy this time," he added.

Azam, one of the leading batters in the game, will be expected to score a bagful of runs for his team in the ICC showpiece. He is especially looking forward to the big game against India in Ahmedabad on October 14.

"I am excited to play in Ahmedabad as it will be jam-packed. I will try my best to perform up to my potential. I am not worried about my individual accolades, I want to make sure whatever I do helps the result for the team ...

"Whenever there is a tour coming up, I spend some time planning for it. I prepare according to [the teams I have to face



and make goals for myself. I try to set targets for myself and then I give my 100% in the ground.

"It is a chance to become a hero as every World Cup performance gives you a different kind of confidence. Everyone is at their best during the World Cup,

so whenever you perform there, it is an altogether different feeling," he said.

Babar said the team will be missing the services of injured pacer Naseem Shah. He also asserted that there is no bad blood in the dressing room fol-

lowing the Asia Cup disappointment.

"There is no ill will in the dressing room. There are discussions after every loss but they get twisted into something else entirely. The entire team is like a family and there is love and respect there."

Hasan Ali has been named Shah's replacement and Babar said he was picked because of his rich experience.

"Of course we will miss Naseem Shah as Shaheen [Afriidi] and Naseem bowling together gave us a different edge. It was not easy to pick his replacement, but we all sat together and got input from [chief selector] Inzamam ul Haq."

"We went with Hasan Ali because he has experience. He has played the World Cup before. I cannot comment who will bowl the new ball or the old ball, as we cannot reveal our strategies right now."

Miller holds record he would prefer not to have

AP ■ CENTURION

David Miller holds an international cricket record he would prefer not to have.

No one has played more international cricket without playing in a Test match than Miller. The hard-hitting left-hander has played in 274 white-ball internationals. The nearest contender for the non-Test record is retired West Indian Keiron Pollard on 224.

"I would have loved to play a Test, but it is what it is," says Miller, 34. "I've achieved quite a lot in my white-ball stuff and I'm grateful to have played so many games."

Miller has built a solid first-class record, averaging 36.32 in 63 matches, with six centuries, which he backed up with electrifying fielding.

But it was a time of plenty in a South African Test batting line-up which included Jacques Kallis, Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers and Faf du Plessis, while white-ball cricket was becoming ever more prevalent — and lucrative.

In 2018, nearing his 30th birthday, he retired from first-class cricket. "I wasn't being picked, even for the South Africa A side. There were guys ahead of me so I decided to concentrate on the white-ball stuff."

He is in demand from franchises around the world — playing for 22 different representative teams — and a crowd favourite in South Africa where supporters wave banners proclaiming 'Killer Miller' and 'It's Miller Time'.

He is one of only four players who has scored more than 3,000 runs in ODIs with an average above 40 and a strike rate above 100. The others are De Villiers and England's Jos Buttler and Jonny Bairstow.

Batting at number six in a side without established all-rounders, Miller will likely be in situations at the World Cup where he will have to take responsibility for rebuilding an innings. "It's about summing up the situation. Sometimes you are batting with the lower order and you have to decide with your partner at the time how you are going to go about it."

"It's like a chess game at times. You are thinking about moves and what's important and what's not. It's about making clear decisions. It helps your execution when you are fully committed." Both sides of Miller were on display when South Africa had to win the last three matches of a recent home series against Australia after losing the first two.

In the fourth match he thrashed an unbeaten 82 off 45 balls as he and an inspired Heinrich Klaasen added a scarcely believable 222 off 94 balls for the fifth wicket.

In the deciding match, in trickier conditions, he made a more measured 63 off 65 balls to enable South Africa to get to a defensible total after a difficult start.

"The World Cup is very open," he says. "We're a pretty experienced team. We're capable of doing it, so it's a matter of getting the basics right for longer periods of time."



NMDC STEEL LIMITED TOWARDS A NEW HIGH

8th Annual General Meeting of NMDC Steel Limited

Dear Shareholders,

With great pride, I welcome you to the 8th Annual General Meeting of your Company, the first AGM post the demerger, after the listing of equity shares on BSE, NSE and CSE; and since the Company entered the glorious league of Indian Steelmakers by operationalizing the Steel Plant. The global economy is slowing, and growth trajectories are diverging across regions amidst moderating but above target inflation, tight financial conditions, simmering geopolitical conflicts, and geo-economic fragmentation. While the global growth is projected to fall from 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3 percent in both CY2023 and CY2024 on an annual average basis, the domestic economic activity is maintaining resilience. It is expected that India will grow at 6.1 - 6.5% in FY24.

Global Steel production stood at 1885 MT in CY 2022 where China accounted for ~54% of global crude steel production, followed by India, Japan, US, and Russia collectively producing ~ 19%. Though the global steel production observed 4% decline compared to CPLY (CY21 global production ~ 1962 MT), India's production increased by 5.5% during the same period (from ~118 MT in CY21 to ~125 MT in CY22). India's per capita consumption of steel is growing at the highest rate, after China, amongst other countries across the globe. India has exhibited an appreciable growth with a CAGR of 3.5% from 70.7 Kg in 2018 to 81.1 Kg in 2022 against a global decline of 0.2% which majority got affected due to the impact of Covid-19. With increased push on infrastructure, housing, multi-modal connectivity projects amongst others, and increasing urbanization driving the consumption, the domestic steel industry's future remains healthy.

The Government of India charted a roadmap to augment India's Steel production capacity to 300 MTPA by 2030.

To fulfill this vision, green field steel plants were being promoted in mineral rich states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Odisha. In honour of NMDC's long standing relationship with Chhattisgarh and its people, we began our journey to set up a 3 MTPA capacity greenfield integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh.

With the intent to bring more value to the stakeholders, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in October 2020, accorded in-principle approval for demerger of NISP into a separate company.

Duly following procedure as per statutory provisions, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide Order dated 08th October, 2022

granted approval to the Scheme of Arrangement for demerger of NMDC Iron & Steel Plant business undertaking from NMDC Limited ('Demerged Company') to NMDC Steel Limited ('Resulting Company'). The appointed date for the demerger was 1st April, 2021 and the Scheme was operative with effect from 13th October, 2022.

The Demerged Company, NMDC then issued equity shares in the ratio 1:1 to its shareholders, unlocking their inherent wealth. These equity shares were listed on NSE, BSE and CSE and admitted to dealings with effect from 20th February, 2023. Accordingly, your Company, erstwhile a Subsidiary of NMDC, transformed itself into a listed entity with equity base of Rs. 2,930 crore.

The Company had not commenced its commercial production as on 31st March 2023, hence no profit/loss was declared for the financial year 2022-23. However, with the steely resolve of the Management, employees and workmen and with constant support from the Administrative Ministry and NMDC Management, the Steel Plant achieved the following milestones- NSL commissioned its Coke Oven Battery 1 on 28th October 2022 and Coke Oven Battery 2 on 24th April 2023. The two coke oven batteries, 7 meter tall and with 67 ovens each, can produce gross coke in the order of 1.76 million tonnes annually.

Our 460 square meter Sinter Plant was put on hot trails on 19th April 2023. This Sinter Machine has a production capacity of 4.74 MTPA with a waste heat recovery circular cooler and silt burner in the furnace to minimize heat consumption in the sintering process. NSL started producing industrial gases from its Oxygen Plant on 21st April 2023 and the Hot Strip Mill was up and running on 30th June 2023.

Our Steel Plant is home to India's second largest blast furnace in volume, 4500 cubic meters with Paul Wurth top charging facility. Named after the native deity, the *Maa Danteshwari* Blast Furnace was lit up on 12th August 2023 and Hot Metal production from NMDC Steel Limited started on 15th August 2023. The torch towards Steel, blowing-in of one of the largest blast furnaces in the country, set the ball rolling for final commissioning.

Soon thereafter, the Steel Melting Shop was operationalized on 21st August 2023. This Steel Melting Shop consists of two Convertors with combined blowing facility to reduce oxygen consumption; two Hot Metal Desulphurisation Stations to reduce blowing time and flux consumption; two Ladle Refining Furnaces to raise temperature and adjust the chemical composition of molten metal; and one RH Degasser to enable production of high-grade Steel.

The Steel Plant's Thin Slab Castor started on 24th August 2023 with a 100% hot charging facility of thin slab through a tunnel furnace to the Hot Strip Mill to minimize energy consumption. This Plant is designed to be one of the country's most energy efficient and environmentally conscious Steel Plants, in tandem with the Government of India's vision of producing Sustainable Steel.

On 24th August 2023, NMDC Steel Limited produced its final product - the HR Coil, only 9 days after the production of Hot Metal. Coming as it does from a mining major with no prior experience of steel making, this achievement was historic.

The Plant, once completely operational, will be producing an impressive array of products viz. HR Plates, API - 5L, Quality Plates, HR Sheets, HR Coils, High Carbon Steel, Silicon Steel and Automotive Steel.

The integrity and quality of Steel from NSL will speak of the diligence of every person on this Project.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our deep gratitude to the administrative Ministry i.e. Ministry of Steel, Government of India, Chhattisgarh State Government, NMDC Management, MECON, and our technology providers - BHEL, TATA Projects, Primetals, Danieli Corus, Thermo, BEC, and Linde for their unflinching support to the Company, which has enabled NSL to grow from strength to strength. This achievement would not have been possible without the support of the Steelmakers of India - SAIL, JSW, and JSPIL, who stood with us through the commissioning of the Steel Plant.

I am also grateful to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, SEBI, BSE, NSE and CSE, shareholders, bankers, lenders, creditors for their constant support in this journey. The Board would also like to

Amitava Mukherjee
Chairman-Cum-Managing Director
(Additional Charge)

Amitava Mukherjee
Chairman-cum-Managing Director
(Additional Charge)

Date: 07.09.2023
Place: Hyderabad

NMDC Iron & Steel Plant, Post - Nagarnar (Bastar) C.G. PIN-494001 | CIN: U27310CT2015GOI001618, www.nmdcsteel.nmdc.co.in
Note: The above statement does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the 08th AGM of NMDC Steel Limited held on 07-09-2023