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STORM OVER MANIPUR IN NO-TRUST DEBATE

Women's parading shameful, but politics on it more shameful: HM

Demographic concerns, HC order sparked violence: Shah

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday accused the Opposition parties of politicising the ongoing Manipur violence and hailed the Modi Government for effectively tackling cross-border terrorism, homegrown Naxalites, and ushering the country into an era of all-round development, predicting that India will become the third-largest economy in the world by 2027.

Launching a scathing attack against the Opposition parties, the Home Minister said that the parading of two women on the streets of Manipur was indeed shameful, but even worse was the Opposition's attempt to politicise the episode.

"I agree that there have been incidents of violence in Manipur. No one can support such incidents. Doing politics on these incidents is shameful. From day one, I was ready for a discussion on the Manipur issue, but the Opposition never wanted to engage in discussion. The Opposition doesn't want me to speak, but they can't silence me. With 130 crore people's support, they must listen to us...During the past six years of our Government, the need for curfew never arose," said Shah in the Lok Sabha.

He also accused the Opposition of bringing the No-Confidence motion against the Modi Government solely to create confusion in the country. "There is neither a lack of confidence among the people of the country nor in Parliament against the Modi Government," he said and added, "This no-trust motion has been brought to mislead the people of this country. This no-confidence motion is strange."

Shah claimed that the Manipur High Court's decision to accord tribal status to the Meiteis community triggered the violence in Manipur, and both the Central and State Governments were doing their best to control the situation. He also referred to the influx of refugees from neighbouring Myanmar as one of the reasons for the violence.

Ruling out the resignation of Chief Minister Biren Singh, Shah said a State Chief Minister "is removed when he doesn't cooperate with the Central Government," as he attributed the tensions in the northeastern State to the Manipur High Court's ruling and partly to the influx of refugees from neighbouring Myanmar.

In his two-hour reply to the no-confidence motion moved by the Congress-led Opposition, Shah detailed various measures taken by the Modi Government over nine years to free the North-East from militancy and ethnic conflicts and referred to 8000 extremists surrendering with their arms since 2014.

Making Congress the focus of his attack, he said Prime Minister Modi has launched "a movement to quit India from corruption, dynasty, and appeasement"-the three malaises identified with Congress, he said.

As Shah spoke, the entire treasury benches in unison shouted "quit India, quit India, quit India," alluding to the INDIA acronym of the Opposition alliance.

The Home Minister, while speaking on Manipur, said the state Chief Minister could not be removed as he was cooperating with the center and effected changes in the top administration in Manipur after the violence broke out in the State.

"The Indian Government changed the chief secretary, DGP, and other officials in Manipur after the ethnic clashes. The State Government accepted the decisions of the Indian Government," he said.

Contrary to the Opposition's demand for the imposition of Governors' rule in the State, Shah said the State Government was fully cooperating with the Center to establish order in the State.

"A State Government is dismissed only when it doesn't cooperate with the Central Government," he said.

Continued on Page 2

BJP killed Bharat Mata in Manipur, now trying to set Hry on fire: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



MP Rahul Gandhi speaks on the Motion of No-Confidence in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the BJP has "murdered India in Manipur" and is now trying to set Haryana on fire. Launching a scathing attack on the Modi Government while taking part in the Lok Sabha debate on the No-Confidence motion against the NDA Government, Rahul described the Modi regime as "deshdrohi" (traitors) and killers.

"India is a voice, a voice of the heart. You have killed that voice in Manipur. You have murdered Bharat Mata in Manipur.

"You are traitors. My mother is sitting here. The other mother, Bharat Mata, you killed her in Manipur. That is why Prime Minister does not visit Manipur. You are not protectors of Bharat Mata, you are her killers," Rahul said during his speech in the presence of his party MPs and INDIA bloc MPs.

Targeted by the ruling party often during his speech, Rahul slammed the Prime Minister for not visiting Manipur. "Modi has not gone to Manipur because he (PM Modi) doesn't consider it a part of India. You (BJP) have divided Manipur," Rahul said, amid loud protests from the treasury benches.

He alleged that the Centre can stop the violence in Manipur by calling in the Army, but has not acted yet.

In the opening moments of his address, Rahul adopted a distinctive approach, vowing to communicate "*Dimaag se nahin, dil se…*" not from the mind, but from the heart.

He made it clear that he intended to set aside certain contentious issues, notably those involving industrialist Gautam Adani. Taking a jibe at at the treasury benches, Rahul said, "You people can relax. Today I'll not talk much about Adani."

Invoking the epic Ramayana, Rahul said Ravan was not killed by Ram, but by his arrogance. Rahul alleged that the PM listens to only two people, Amit Shah (Union Home Minister) and Gautam Adani (industrialist), "just as Ravan paid heed to only two."

"You have sprinkled kerosene everywhere, you have set fire to Manipur, you are now trying the same thing in Haryana," he said, referring to recent communal clashes in Gurugram and Nuh that killed six people.

The remarks again sparked a huge uproar in the House, with Union Minister Kiren Rijiju demanding an apology from the Congress leader and blaming the Congress for ignoring the real issues of the Northeast.

In the beginning of his speech, Gandhi also shared antecedents from his 3500 km long Kanniyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra on foot for four months braving all weather conditions from sultry summer to Kashmir's bone-chilling climate.

He said when he set out on the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu to Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir, he was confident of his fitness and did not expect it to be difficult.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

GYANVAPI SURVEY: COURT GAGS MEDIA COVERAGE
Varanasi: On the plea of Gyanvapi management committee, Varanasi District Judge AK Vishvesh on Wednesday barred media from covering the ongoing ASI survey of the Gyanvapi complex from the spot and directed members of the survey team to not give comments to any media outlet.

BREACH PLAINT AGAINST CHADHA SENT TO PANEL
New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday referred the complaints of four MPs, who accused AAP MP Raghav Chadha of proposing their name in a House panel without their consent in violation of rules, to the privileges committee to investigate the matter.

CABINET OK'S 28% GST ON ONLINE GAMING
New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved changes to GST laws to levy a 28 per cent tax on the full face value of bets in online gaming, casinos and horse race clubs.



Naga community people participate in a rally organised by the United Naga Council (UNC) seeking a solution for the Indo-Naga political issue based on the Framework Agreement, on Wednesday PTI

Rahul's flying kiss draws BJP women MPs' wrath

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Union Minister Smriti Irani speaks on the Motion of No-Confidence in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Wednesday PTI

After delivering a fiery speech on the no-confidence motion, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi straightaway courted a controversy when Union Minister Smriti Irani and several women BJP MPs accused him of inappropriate behaviour for directing a flying kiss while exiting the Lok Sabha.

The issue escalated into a political confrontation between the BJP and the Congress, with each party presenting opposing viewpoints on the matter. The Congress defended Rahul's gesture as a common expression directed towards all members of the House as he left.

They asserted that the flying kiss was not directed specifically at any Minister or individual MP.

However, Irani strongly criticised the action, deeming it a "misogynistic act" and asserted that only a person with a lack of respect for women would engage in such behaviour, particularly within the Parliamentary context.

Congress members maintained that Rahul's gesture was meant for the BJP MPs who were vociferously shouting slogans. They clarified that it was a gesture of camaraderie, not an affront to any specific individual.

A complaint was filed by Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje and other BJP women MPs with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, demanding "stringent action" against Rahul what they considered "indecent behaviour" and an "inappropriate gesture" towards Irani. Over 20 women Parliamentarians signed the complaint, asserting that such behaviour had compromised the dignity of women members in the House.

Continued on Page 2

Sansad TV focused on Rahul for just 40% of his LS speech, claims Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has lodged a complaint, asserting that during Rahul Gandhi's speech in the Lok Sabha on the no-confidence motion, Sansad TV allocated less than 40 per cent of its coverage time to the leader.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that while Rahul spoke for 37 minutes, he was only featured on Sansad TV's camera for 14 minutes and 37 seconds.

Ramesh also raised concerns that during Rahul's discussion of Manipur, Sansad TV predominantly focused on the Speaker, leaving minimal screen time for Rahul.

According to Ramesh, the Speaker received 71 per cent of the camera's attention while Rahul addressed Manipur for 15 minutes and 42 seconds.

Ramesh took to social media to voice these concerns, questioning whether this unequal coverage on Sansad TV was indicative of apprehension on the part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He stated, "In his first speech after coming back from the unjustified disqualification, Rahul spoke from 12:09 pm to 12:46 pm i.e., 37 minutes during the No-Confidence Motion.

Continued on Page 2

Tushar Gandhi detained on way to take part in Quit India Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tushar Gandhi, the great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, on Wednesday claimed that police detained him as he left home to commemorate Quit India Day at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan.

"In a historic moment for Independent India, I have been detained at Santa Cruz Police Station for the first time as I was leaving my home to commemorate the 9th of August Quit India Day. I am proud that my great-grandparents, Bapu and Ba, were also arrested by the British Police on this significant date," Tushar tweeted.

Continued on Page 2

File status on Yamuna cleaning: SC to Hry, Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



In a significant move to combat the escalating pollution crisis in the Yamuna River, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked both Haryana and Delhi to submit status reports on measures to clean the river.

The court, during the hearing of a suo motu case titled "Remediation of Polluted Rivers," scheduled for October 3, emphasised the need for effective implementation of remedial measures concerning pollution of the Yamuna River and coastal areas.

The bench of justices AS Bopanna and Prashant Kumar Mishra acknowledged that concerns about Yamuna's pollution and coastal area remediation measures were already under its consideration. To ensure comprehensive proceedings, the court proposed separate hearings for these issues.

"In that view, we deem it appropriate to first hear the issue relating to the pollution of the Yamuna River. In that regard, the status report shall separately be filed by the State of Haryana as also by the State of Delhi," the bench stated.

It further noted that a similar status report was necessary from competent authorities regarding coastal areas.

While the session to discuss Yamuna pollution is scheduled for October 3, the court indicated that a subsequent date would be set to deliberate on coastal areas.

Continued on Page 2

Kanda premises raided in ED's PMLA probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted searches at the premises of Haryana MLA Gopal Kanda and others as part of a money laundering investigation.

The agency team reached Kanda's palatial house and his now-defunct airline company MDLR's office in the civil lines area of Gurugram around 6 a.m, officials said.

The raids are being undertaken under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and some premises in Delhi and Sirsa are also being covered as part of the search operation, sources said.

Kanda, 57, is an MLA from Sirsa from Haryana Lokhit Party, a political outfit floated by him. He had earlier served as a Minister for Home, Industries, and Urban Local Bodies of the State.

The politician was recently acquitted by a Delhi court in the high-profile case of abetment of suicide by Geetika Sharma, a former air hostess in the MDLR airlines.

the pioneer
NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 10, 2023

If PM wants, fire in Manipur can be doused in 2-3 days: Rahul

PTI ■ JAIPUR

If Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants, the fire in Manipur can be doused in two or three days by the army but he wants to keep it raging, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told a party rally in Rajasthan on Wednesday.

He alleged that the ideology of the BJP has set Manipur on fire and added, "It has been three months, it seems that Manipur is not a part of India, it is not a state at all.... People are being killed, children are being killed, women are being raped."

If the prime minister wants to douse the fire, he can get it done by the Indian Army in two or three days but he wants to keep the fire burning, Gandhi alleged.

He also referred to his speech in Lok Sabha earlier in the day and reiterated his allegation that the politics of the BJP has "murdered Bharat Mata" in Manipur.

The rally in Mangarh Dham in Rajasthan's Banswara district, organised on the occasion of World Tribal Day, marked the beginning of the Congress campaign for the assembly polls in Rajasthan later this year.

Gandhi criticised the BJP for calling tribal people "Vanvasi" instead of Adivasi, saying that it's an insult to them.

The country's land used to belong to Adivasis and they were its original owners, he said, adding the BJP coined a new word, "Vanvasi", which means the ones who live in the forest.

"We call you Adivasi, this country is yours.... They (BJP) say you are not Adivasi, you were not the first inhabitants of India, they say you are



Vanvasi, which means you are not the original owners of this country and you live in the jungle. This is an insult to you. This is an insult to Bharat Mata," he told the gathering of largely tribal people.

"You are not Vanvasi, you are Adivasi. BJP and RSS want you to stay in the forest only...(they want that) your children should not become engineers, doctors, lawyers, businessmen. They want...To take away your rights and land," he said.

He said the BJP calls tribal people "Vanvasi, snatches their jungles and gives them to Adani".

He recalled that his grandmother and former prime minister Indira Gandhi had told him in his childhood that the land of the country used to belong to the tribal people.

He said that Congress wants the tribals to get their rights, their dreams to be fulfilled.

The Congress wants the tribal population to get their rights and their dreams to be fulfilled, he said.

Gandhi further train his gun on the BJP over the situation in Manipur.

"Wherever the BJP people go, they try to silence and suppress the voice of India.... They have divided Manipur.... The prime minister did not utter a word," he said.

Gandhi said he and a group of opposition MPs visited relief camps in Manipur, but the prime minister did not go to the state since the violence erupted.

In an apparent reference to BJP leaders, he said, "Wherever they go, they make one fights the other...(they) will spread hatred and violence, will use wrong words about other people, it does not benefit the country."

Manipur has been engulfed in ethnic violence since May 3. More than 150 people have been killed in clashes between the majority Meiteis and the tribal Kuki community.

Appreciating the work of the Rajasthan government, Gandhi said the Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme is the best in the country.

He also launched a scheme, under which free smartphones will be given to 40 lakh women in the first phase, by handing over a mobile device to a girl student.

The beneficiaries of the scheme will be given smartphones from Thursday.

He also handed over a food packet to a beneficiary of the Annapurna scheme under which free food items including chana dal, sugar, salt (one kg each), edible oil (one litre), chilli powder, coriander powder (100 gram each) and turmeric powder (50 gram) will be given to beneficiaries.

"We work to connect people. They are spreading hatred all over the country. I took out Bharat Jodo Yatra and worked to connect the country," he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra, former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot and other leaders also addressed the meeting.

Mamata promises to make BJP quit India

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

On a day when her partners in the united INDIA alliance were taking on the BJP Government inside Parliament, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday gave out a call to make the saffron outfit 'quit India'.

The Chief Minister told an audience at Jhargram that she along with her partners in the Indian National Developmental and Inclusive Alliance would make sure that the BJP quit India after the general elections.

She attacked the Centre for failing to control the situation in Manipur and for letting the tribal communities suffer in the North-East and the rest of the country. "The tribal people in Manipur are facing a crisis. There is none to listen to their plight. Dalits are tortured in India and the Centre is unmoved. On Quit India day, we take a pledge to make the BJP quit India," Banerjee said, after paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi who had given the Quit India call against the British in 1942.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi she said that he had failed to keep his promises, which was why he was trying to turn the focus on the opposition parties. "Today they are asking the opposition to quit India … but our question is why we should quit … it is our country … we belong to this country … (on the contrary) they should quit Delhi because they have failed to perform."

Reminding how the people of India forced the British to quit India, Banerjee said "we had asked the British to quit India… they were made to quit this country by our freedom fighters … Today a time has come when we the people of this country want the BJP-led government at the Centre to quit Delhi … because they have not only failed to perform but during this regime the woes of the common man have gone up several times… we don't need you … please go … we will make you go … this is our pledge."



Referring to the "diversionary tactic" applied by the BJP before the elections Banerjee questioned the efficacy of Uniform Civil Code that the central government was trying to introduce ahead of the general elections.

"The Prime Minister failed to fulfill his promises that he had made before the elections," and now "aware that the people will ask him questions … they suddenly have started talking about the need to introduce UCC. Why should someone follow their set of rules while getting married? Nobody can force anything on us. We won't accept the UCC," Banerjee said.

Attacking the Centre for depriving Bengal by not releasing funds to the tune of several thousand crores, Banerjee said "they have blocked our funds … they are taking away the GST but not releasing back the State's share which is affecting the developmental works … they have stopped funds for housing schemes, 100-days' work … But we will fight the Central government's neglect of Bengal."

Slamming the Congress and the Left Front --- for the first time after the Bengaluru meet --- which incidentally are a part of the INDIA alliance, Banerjee said, "the Congress and the Left have to make their stance clear … while in Delhi they are pretending to be friends but here in Bengal they are joining hands with the BJP to disturb the Trinamool Government … this double standard cannot go on... the CPI(M) and the Congress are acting as the B team of the BJP here."

Once again attacking Governor CV Ananda Bose the Chief Minister said that the Raj Bhavan was acting beyond the constitution. "The Governor's post is a constitutional one and he should act accordingly … but here he is interfering in the administrative business," Banerjee said refering to some recent steps taken by Bose in appointing university Vice Chancellors as also opening 'Peace Room' and 'Anti-corruption Cell' in the Governor's House --- a step that apparently is taken as one to embarrass the State Government.

'Govts only fell thrice on no-Trust motions'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the Lok Sabha debates a no-confidence motion brought against the Narendra Modi Government by the Opposition, the 28th such motion to be admitted in the Lower House, data compiled by a think tank shows all previous ones have either been defeated or remained inconclusive. However, at least thrice Governments have fallen during vote on a "motion of confidence", which is a motion brought by the Government to prove its strength.

A no-trust motion is a formal proposal moved by a member against the government in Lok Sabha under Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.Thrice governments have fallen during the vote of confidence - the V P Singh government in 1990, H D Deve Gowda government in 1997 and the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1999.

On November 7, 1990, V P Singh moved a Motion of Confidence. The motion was defeated after the BJP withdrew its support over the Ram temple issue. He lost the motion by 142 votes to 346 votes.

In 1997, the H D Deve Gowda government lost a vote of confidence on April 11. Deve Gowda's 10-month-old coalition government fell as 292 MPs voted against the government, while 158 MPs supported.

After coming to power in 1998, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had moved a confidence motion, which he lost by one vote on April 17, 1999 due to the withdrawal of support by the AIADMK.

Tushar Gandhi detained...

From Page 1

Social activist Teesta Setalvad also claimed in a tweet that she was prevented from leaving her residence, and noted freedom fighter G G Parikh was likewise stopped from reaching the August Kranti Maidan.

Tushar Gandhi, Setalvad, and Parikh had intended to take part in the 'Shanti March' rally from Girgaon Chowpatty to the August Kranti Maidan.

A police official stated that when Tushar Gandhi exited his residence in suburban Santacruz, he was informed that he could not join a rally for which permission had been denied. Eventually, he was granted permission to visit the August Kranti Maidan, the official stated.

File reports on...

From Page 1

The bench underlined that status reports for both matters should be filed, with the copies exchanged among counsel representing the parties.

The Supreme Court had taken cognizance of river contamination by sewage effluent on January 13, 2021, emphasizing that clean water is a fundamental right under the Constitutional framework. Notices were issued to the Centre, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and several states, including Delhi and Haryana. In response, the court registered the case as 'Remediation of Polluted Rivers' and focused its initial attention on Yamuna's contamination.

A directive was issued to the CPCB to identify municipalities along the Yamuna that lacked comprehensive sewage treatment plants. The order referred to a 2017 judgment mandating the establishment of 'Common Effluent Treatment Plants' and 'Sewage Treatment Plants' for effective waste management, particularly in areas discharging pollutants directly into rivers and water bodies.

Women's parading...

From Page 1

However, Manipur Chief Minister Singh is fully cooperating with the Centre, Shah said in Lok Sabha.

Shah attributed Manipur High Court ruling contributing to the current "ethnic tensions" in the northeastern State.

"The High Court's order in April only aggravated the situation."

This order had directed the State Government to contemplate adding the Meitei community to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list, he said.

This apart, the Home Minister said influx of Kuki refugees from Myanmar with military leadership there also aggravated the situation.

He said rumors that a refugee village would be converted into a village led to fears among other ethnic communities.

"Over the last 6 years, we didn't have to impose a curfew in Manipur until May 3. There was no bandh, no blockade. Insurgent violence was almost over. Then, neighboring Myanmar saw a military leadership that has a Kuki Democratic Front party coming into power. Due to no fencing at the Myanmar border, the Kuki brothers started coming into Mizoram and Manipur, which led to the clashes," Shah said.

He said unlike the Congress Governments, the Modi Government is already raising the border fence, with 10 per cent of the work already completed.

Asking Opposition parties not to politicize the issue, he accepted that ethnic clashes took place in Manipur.

"I agree with the Opposition's claim that ethnic clashes have taken place in Manipur. Manipur violence is shameful, politicizing it even more shameful," Shah said while speaking about Manipur clashes and measures taken by the center, including the deployment of 36,000 paramilitary forces "operating as a buffer between the two communities."

"I appeal to both Meitei and Kuki communities to engage in dialogue; violence is not a solution to any problem...I assure you that we will bring peace in the state. Politics should not be done on this issue," he said and asked the opposition to join in for peace in Manipur.

Before adjournment, the House passed a voice resolution for establishing peace in the North-Eastern State.

Shah said Prime Minister Modi has worked hard to bring the Northeast into the mainstream, visiting the region over 50 times.

"There are individuals who have been Prime Minister for 15 years, and I am embarrassed for them. However, in the last 9 years, Modi has visited the Northeast over 50 times. This demonstrates that the Northeast is an integral part of India," he said amidst the thumping of desks by BJP MPs and Ministers, including Rajnath Singh, who was seen congratulating Shah at the end of his address.

Attacking the Opposition, Shah claimed that the Opposition wanted a ruckus, and not a discussion on the Manipur violence issue.

"A false perception was propagated that the Government was avoiding a discussion on the Manipur issue. Right from the beginning, we were prepared for a discussion, but the Opposition sought ruckus rather than a productive discussion," Shah said.

In his reply, the Home Minister highlighted internal security measures taken by the Modi Government.

"We banned PFI in the country and conducted raids at over 90 locations in the country. Cases regarding attacks on our missions in London, Ottawa, and San Francisco were handed over to NIA. 26/11 Tahawwur Hussain Rana will also soon face the judiciary in India," he pointed out in the House.

Shah detailed the steps taken by the center before and after the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and changes in the Government's approach to the Kashmir issue.

"We will not speak to Hurriyat nor Jamiat; we will speak to the youth of the Kashmir Valley. There are no funeral processions of terrorists now because they are buried right where they are being killed. The trend of stone-pelting in Jammu and Kashmir has completely ended now," he said.

Rahul's flying kiss draws BJP women...

From Page 1

Opposition members from the INDIA bloc offered a contrasting perspective, interpreting Rahul's action as a display of affection toward his political opponents. They argued that the gesture was intended to convey goodwill, in contrast to the BJP's interpretation.

The incident stirred echoes of past controversies involving Rahul, known for his theatrical approach. In 2018, he embraced Prime Minister Narendra Modi and later winked at colleagues during a Parliamentary session, eliciting both praise and criticism.

Sansad TV focused on Rahul for...

From Page 1

"Out of which, the Sansad TV camera showed him for ONLY 14 mins 37 seconds. That's less than 40% screen time! What is Modi afraid of."

In another post, Ramesh expressed further dismay. "This gets even worse. Rahul spoke on Manipur for 15 minutes 42 seconds. During this, Sansad TV's camera focused on the Speaker Om Birla for 11 min 08 seconds i.e. 71 per cent of the time. Sansad TV showed Rahul on video for only 4 min 34 seconds while he spoke on Manipur," he lamented.

BJP killed Bharat Mata in Manipur, now...

From Page 1

Rahul said he undertook the cross-country march to understand what was it he loved and for what had he faced abuse for 10 years.

Rahul announced that he will again set for a similar yatra. He recounted how he derived strength and courage from the people whom he met during the march and also felt their pain and hardship.

"I walked from one end of the country to another, from the coast to the snowy mountains of Kashmir. The yatra is still not over … Many people asked me after it started, 'Rahul why did you walk, what is your aim'. I did not know why I wanted to walk but I soon understood the thing that I love and the thing for which I am willing to die and go to Modi ji's jail, the thing for which I bore abuse for 10 years, I wanted to understand," he said.

"But this country does not tolerate arrogance. Within a few days, an old injury resurfaced and I was in pain," Rahul added.

Rahul Gandhi was the first speaker when the no-confidence debate resumed on Wednesday. In his first statement in Parliament since being reinstated as an MP following a recent Supreme Court ruling, the Congress leader began by apologizing to the Lok Sabha Speaker for his last speech, where he had mentioned industrialist Gautam Adani.

"Speaker Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for reinstating me as an MP of the Lok Sabha. When I spoke the last time, perhaps I caused you trouble because I focussed on Adani - maybe your senior leader was pained…That pain might have had an impact on you as well. I apologize to you for that. But I spoke the truth. Today, my friends in BJP need not be scared because my speech today is not on Adani," Rahul said in his no-holds-barred attack against the government in his over 30-minute speech.

Coming back on Manipur Rahul recounted his conversations with two women in the relief camps set up to shelter those displaced due to ethnic violence in Manipur.

: "I asked a woman, 'What happened with you?' She said, 'My small son, only child, was shot before my eyes. I spent the whole night with the body of my child and then I felt afraid. I left my house. I asked her if she had brought along something with her and she said only the clothes she wearing and a photo."

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Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

कार्यालय- नगर पंचायत, स्वर्गाश्रम-जौंक, जनपद पौड़ी गढ़वाल
Email-eonpjonk@gmail.com Phone no. 0135-2440444

संख्याः- 362/विज्ञापन शुल्क-निविदा/2023-24 लक्ष्मणझूला, दिनांकः 08 अगस्त, 2023

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

नगर पंचायत, स्वर्गाश्रम-जौंक, जनपद पौड़ी गढ़वाल विज्ञापन नियन्त्रण एवं शुल्क वसूली उपविधि-2022 में निहित प्रावधान के अनुसार द्वारा अपनी सीमान्तर्गत विज्ञापन एवं होर्डिंग्स से आय प्राप्त करने हेतु शुल्क वसूली सम्बन्धी कार्य ठेकेदार के माध्यम से किया जाना है। उक्त ठेके की अवधि वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 (01.09.2023 से 31.03.2024 तक) से आगामी 04 वित्तीय वर्षों तक होगी। अतः विज्ञापन एवं होर्डिंग्स से आय प्राप्त करने हेतु शुल्क वसूली कार्य के इच्छुक आयकर/जी०एस०टी० में पंजीकृत व्यक्तियों/फर्मों/ संस्थाओं से दिनांक-26 अगस्त, 2023 को अपराह्न 2:00 बजे तक सीलबन्द निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन अपराह्न 3:00 बजे निविदा समिति द्वारा निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के सम्मुख खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक-17 अगस्त, 2023 से 22 अगस्त, 2023 तक कार्यालय दिवस एवं कार्यालय समय में नगर पंचायत कार्यालय से निविदा मूल्य रू० 2,000/- (रू० दो हजार मात्र) एवं 18% जी०एस०टी० अतिरिक्त अदा कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। किसी एक या समस्त निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत/निरस्त करने का अधिकार अध्यक्ष निविदा समिति/अध्यक्ष नगर पंचायत, स्वर्गाश्रम-जौंक में अन्तिम रूप से निहित होगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी नियम व शर्तें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती है।

(मन्जू चौहान)
अधिशासी अधिकारी,
नगर पंचायत, स्वर्गाश्रम-जौंक
पौड़ी गढ़वाल

(माधव अग्रवाल)
अध्यक्ष
नगर पंचायत, स्वर्गाश्रम-जौंक
पौड़ी गढ़वाल

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भोपाल
विद्युत शाखा
प्रथम तल, आई.एस.बी.टी. भवन, होशंगाबाद रोड, हबीबगंज, भोपाल-462023

निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

क्र. 322/वि.शा./2023 भोपाल दिनांक 09.08.2023

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार मोहरबंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन टेण्डर नं.	कार्य स्थल का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	धरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की कीमत	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित एस.ओ.आर.	कार्य की अवधि
1.	2023_UAD_253038_2	Providing LED street light, netwwork (cable) and street light pole, High Mast (RSJ) in Zone No. 10,11,12, and 17 under BMC, Bhopal. (Second Call)	1,99,56,770/-	99,784/-	12,500/-	As per as Tender Document	MPUADD electrical issr 2021+ SOR & NON SOR ITEM	03 Month
2.	2023_UAD_252816_3	Providing LED street light, netwwork (cable) and street light pole, (RSJ) in Zone No. 1,18, 19 and 20 under BMC, Bhopal (Third Call)	1,99,62,030/-	99,810/-	12,500/-	As per as Tender Document	MPUADD electrical issr 2021+ SOR & NON SOR ITEM	02 Month

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प्र. कार्यपालन यंत्री (विद्युत)
नगर निगम भोपाल

नि.क्र. 834/023/024

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LG OK's promotion of 263 medical officers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena has given the green signal to the promotion of 263 dedicated doctors serving as Senior Medical Officers to the position of Chief Medical Officers across various Delhi Government Hospitals.

This decision follows a prolonged delay of more than five years. The crucial file for the elevation of Senior Medical Officers to Chief Medical Officers was set in motion after Saxena personally emphasised the urgent need to streamline government employee promotions by eliminating bureaucratic obstacles.

These healthcare professionals have been mainly serving in prominent Delhi Government Hospitals, including Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital, Aruna Asaf Ali Government Hospital, GB Pant Hospital, DGHS, School Health Scheme, and Mobile Health Scheme, among others. Since assuming his role, Saxena has made it his mission to enhance working conditions and facilities for medical practitioners in Government Hospitals. He has taken a firm stance on promptly facilitating well-deserved promotions for these professionals.

Saxena's persistent advocacy for adherence to legal service conditions, timely promotions, and pension benefits for government employees underscore his commitment to eliminating delays, bureaucratic hurdles, and administrative indifference. Additionally, he has championed reform of Recruitment Rules to expedite new appointments and promotions.

Earlier this year, in a proactive move, the Lieutenant Governor granted promotions to 139 non-teaching specialist doctors in various Delhi Government Hospitals, elevating them from Grade II to Grade-I.

These promotions had been delayed since 2020/2021 despite these doctors completing the requisite four years of service.

Notably, in a separate decision last month, Saxena granted an extension of services for 777 contractual para-medical employees in the Health and Family Welfare Department for a duration of one year, starting from July 1, 2023.

This extension ensures continuity until these employees either seize the one-time opportunity to apply for open recruitment through DSSSB (Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board) without age restrictions.

Govt wants to end Raghav's RS membership: Sanjay

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



The government wants to end AAP leader Raghav Chadha's Rajya Sabha membership, party MP Sanjay Singh alleged on Wednesday as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar referred a breach of privilege complaints against him to the Privileges Committee.

"Their aim is to end Raghav Chadda's membership like they did with Rahul Gandhi. They are dangerous people who can do anything. But we are soldiers of the Aam Aadmi Party, we are not scared. He will win again and come back," Singh said.

"What is the whole issue, can any member suggest anyone's name for a Select Committee - yes... Is there any requirement for any signature - no... Raghav Chadha has not breached any privilege," he told reporters on the parliament complex.

Dhankhar on Wednesday referred to the privileges committee a matter pertaining to complaints of breach of privilege of MPs by Chadha for naming them in a house panel without their consent. A Rajya Sabha bulletin said the chairman received complaint from MPs Sasmit Patra, S Phangnon Konyak, M Thambidurai and Narhari Amin, who claimed a breach of privilege by Chadha for including their names without their consent in violation of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business by moving a motion on August 7.

Chadha was proposing the constitution of a Select Committee to consider the 'Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023' and had included names of four MPs, they said. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday referred complaints of four MPs, who accused AAP MP Raghav Chadha of proposing their name in a House panel without their consent in violation of rules, to privileges committee to examine and investigate matter.

"On consideration of the facts, the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred the matter under Rule 203 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Council of States (Rajya Sabha) to Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report," the RS bulletin said.

In the complaints, it was alleged that Chadha did not seek consent from the four members in"gross violation" of the Rules.

"Moving a motion of Amendment to a Bill and giving consent to be a Member of a Select Committee is the prerogative of Members of Council." However, a Member while exercising such discretion should not misuse process by making any attempt to demean and disregard similar prerogatives available to other Members.

Yasin Malik appears in Delhi HC virtually

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Separatist leader Yasin Malik facing terror charges on Wednesday virtually appeared before the Delhi High Court from jail in connection with the National Investigation Agency's plea seeking death penalty for him in a terror funding case.

Last week, the High Court had directed that the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief, who is presently serving a life term in the case, be produced before it through video conferencing mode from Tihar Jail instead of physical appearance pursuant to the production warrant issued earlier this year.

On May 29, the High Court had issued notice to Malik on the NIA's plea seeking death penalty for him in the terror funding case and said,"Let warrants of production be issued against Yasin Malik, before this Court on the next date of hearing".

Subsequently, the jail authorities had filed an application seeking permission for his virtual appearance on grounds that he was a"very high risk prisoner" and it was imperative to not physically produce him in court to maintain public order and safety. Recently, the jailed separatist leader arrived in the Supreme Court in connection with a kidnapping case against him, prompting the Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta to flag the"serious security lapse" to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

He was brought to the high-security apex court premises on July 21 in a prison van escorted by armed security personnel without the court's permission.

Later that week, the Department of Delhi Prisons suspended four officials over Malik's physical appearance before the top court while ordering an inquiry into the lapse.

Hugging was not with sexual intent: Bhushan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accused in a case of sexual harassment of women wrestlers, on Wednesday told a Delhi court that hugging or touching a woman without a sexual intent is not an offence.

Singh made the submissions before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal through his lawyer while opposing framing of charges against him. He also argued that the some of the alleged accusations were on the incidents happened outside India and Indian courts have no jurisdiction in such incidents.

The court on Wednesday started hearing arguments on point of whether to frame the charges against Singh and co-accused and suspended WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar.

Advocate Rajiv Mohan, appearing for Singh, further told the court that the allegations were time barred."These cosmetic grounds won't hold that I (complainant) was under threat. If you (complainants) are moving freely and for five years you did not come forward and then saying that you were under threat is not a valid explanation," he said.

The counsel added that the court had no jurisdiction to try some incidents since the"offences are alleged to have been committed outside India". "If we take these allegations, Indian jurisdiction only lies in three of these allegations. The offences committed outside India cannot be tried by the court due to the lack of sanction under. Two offences are related to Ashoka Road and Siri Fort. Offence at Siri Fort is only of hugging... Touching a woman without a criminal force or sexual intent is not an offence," he said.

Mohan added that"wrestling is such an event, mostly coaches are male. Female coaches are rare. If a coach, out of joy, after an achievement, is hugging a player, it can't fall under the category of offence... The event is such and if a male coach hugs a player out of anxiety is not an offence." The court will continue to hear the matter on Thursday.

Delhi Fire Services has best equipment: Gahlot

New Delhi: The Delhi government's fire department has the "best equipment" to fight fire incidents, Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot said on Wednesday and assured people in the national Capital that they are in "safe hands".

Gahlot was attending an event organised by the Delhi Fire Services that showcased the modern equipment procured by the department.

"Since 2015, we have been infusing funds into the fire department so that it is strengthened from every aspect. We have the latest technology, the best equipment -- be it the mini robot, turntable ladders or the refabricated hydraulic platforms. We have been coming up with the latest state-of-the-art training facilities and more funds are being sanctioned," the minister said. Noting that the ability of a city to respond quickly to fire incidents shows how prepared its government is to mitigate any disaster, Gahlot said the people of Delhi are in safe hands.

"I think Delhiites don't need to worry at all, they are in safe hands. The (Arvind) Kejriwal government has, since 2015, been taking care of every aspect. We have the best of officers and the best equipment. There is no need to worry at all," he added.

Over the course of the demonstration, Delhi Fire Services Director Atul Garg spoke extensively about the new technology that the department has procured. These include a multi-articulated water tower, newly refabricated hydraulic platforms, turntable ladders and a mini robot.

Staff Reporter

Pvt hospitals ill-treating EWS patients, says DCW

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission For Women (DCW) has alleged that a private hospital was"ill-treating and discriminating" patients from economically weaker sections, prompting the health authorities to carry out an inspection of the facility.

Following the visit, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), directed the hospital to do away with the practice of separating the area of economically weaker sections (EWS) and paid category patients and they have been directed to keep the waiting area the same for both the categories, the panel said in a statement on Wednesday.

They have also been asked to ensure that the facilities for treating the EWS patients should be at par with the paid category patients, it added. The panel received a complaint from a former member of the commission Juhi Khan regarding the misconduct by the hospital.

"The DCW has ensured action against a private city hospital for ill-treating and discriminating against EWS patients. She informed that a private hospital —Madhukar Rainbow Hospital, Malviya Nagar was discriminating against EWS category patients," the DCW said in a statement.

In a statement, the hospital said it was visited by officials of the DGHS on July 28. "We extended our complete cooperation and shared information as requested," it added.

The panel alleged that the hospital was segregating and profiling EWS patients and they were being made to sit in a separate area in the basement of the hospital (in the car parking) where there is no proper seating facility and air conditioner. It was also alleged that EWS patients are being attended to by different doctors instead of regular ones. DCW issued notice to DGHS, Delhi and sought an action taken report in the matter.

After the notice, a team of DGHS conducted a surprise inspection in the hospital and observed several issues therein, the DCW said.



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the pioneer
NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 10, 2023

Amid din over Manipur, RS passes four Bills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday witnessed uproarious scenes forcing repeated adjournments on the issues including the Manipur violence and reported detention of Tushar Gandhi, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

While the Opposition and the treasury benches engaged in verbal sharp exchanges in the pre and post lunch sessions, the House managed to pass four bills later on. The Opposition staged walk out.

The four bills, already passed by the Lok Sabha, included the Constitution(Scheduled Castes) Order Amendment, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill and the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill. As regards ruckus in the house, the first adjournment came soon after proceedings began for the day with the Opposition raising a din over the reported arrest of Tushar Gandhi. Earlier, the house paid homage to freedom fighters on the occasion of the 81st anniversary of the Quit India movement.

As the Opposition protested against the arrest leading to pandemonium, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar tried to restore order and then adjourned the house till two pm at about 11.20 am. When the house reassembled after lunch, Leader of Opposition M Mallikarjun Kharge demanded a statement from the Prime Minister on the Manipur issue and a discussion under rule 267. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal charged the Opposition with running away from the discussion adding the government was always ready to discuss the sensitive issue of Manipur.

Goyal also claimed that the Opposition was misusing its privilege by repeatedly demanding discussion under rule 267. Dhankhar tried to reason with the adamant Opposition to let the house run adding disorder was the new norm but of no avail and proceedings were adjourned till 2.45 pm and then again till 3.15 pm.

When the house reassembled, Dhankhar again tried to conduct business and quipped he was helpless as the Opposition and the ruling combine were not listening to him. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said the Opposition was not interested in discussion on Manipur.As there was no breakthrough, Kharge said the Opposition was staging walk out and several members walked out at about 3.35 pm. The house then took up four bills.

Strange someone said 'murder of Bharat Mata': Irani raps Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Countering the No-Confidence motion moved by the Opposition, Union Minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday rejected their claim to be 'INDIA' saying "India is not corrupt" as she denounced Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's remarks on Manipur in Lok Sabha saying it is for the first time someone spoke about "murder of Bharat Mata".

After Rahul blamed the Government for the violence against women in Manipur, Irani went full-blast against the Congres MP and his party.

Irani said this was the first time someone spoke about the "murder of Bharat Mata" in Parliament and that she condemned Rahul Gandhi's behaviour in the House. Her statements came after Rahul Gandhi said the BJP had "murdered Bharat Mata in Manipur".

"You are speaking about Bharat Ma's murder...and MPs are clapping...Congress is sending their message.. what is in their heart speaking..", she said amidst high-drama with Opposition MPs shouting "INDIA-INDIA". In her address, the BJP MP from Amethi trained guns on the Congress and saying "They are not India". Irani was referring to the opposition bloc's new name — INDIA.

"You are not India because India isn't corrupt, India believes in merit, not in dynasties, and today, of all days, people like you need to remember what was told to the British - Quit India. Corruption Quit India and dynasty Quit India. Merit now finds a place in India...," she said. Responding to Rahul's speech, Irani, who defeated the Congress leader from the Amethi Lok Sabha seat during the 2019 elections, said, "The entire country has seen Congress leaders clapping, thumping desks when Rahul Gandhi spoke of the murder of India."

Irani challenged Congress to prove their nationalism by calling-out their alliance partners DMK who she said had once said "Bharat means North India" or the Congress MP in Kashmir demanding "referendum in Kashmir". On the violence against women in Manipur, Irani recalled rape incidents across different States under Congress regimes when the party sought to overlook them. She mentioned "gang rape of Girija Tikku" and film on her described as "propaganda by Congress spokesman. Irani mentioned rapes of women in the 1984 Sikh riots under Congress rule saying "you never heard their voice".

Irani also touched upon the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019 and said the status quo will remain. "It was mentioned in the House today that he (Rahul Gandhi) undertook a Yatra and gave assurance that they will reinstate Article 370 if it is up to them...I would like to tell the person who has run away from the House that neither will Article 370 be reinstated in the country nor will those who threaten Kashmiri Pandits with "Ralib Galib Chalib" be spared," she said.

She was referring to the alleged threat held-out to Kashmiri pandits in the Kashmir Valley "either change religion, leave Kashmir, or be buried here".

Chinese terrorists opposes post-riot action in Haryana

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chinese terrorists of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), a group comprising Uighurs as members and the Islamic State terror group have opposed the post-riot government action in Nuh, Haryana.

The ETIM opposition to the Nuh violence comes in the run up to the scheduled visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping for the G-20 summit here next month.

Geopolitical experts said the ETIM exhortations are a pointer to the fact that the outfit is monitoring the Chinese actions in the region especially India ahead of Jinping's visit and could target Chinese interests in the subcontinent.

Likewise, ISIS has also considerably expanded its footprint in India and the objection to the demolition drive could be aimed at gaining traction among a section of a particular community with the twin agenda of radicalization and recruitment, they said. India has been preparing to host the G-20 summit and a thorough security blanket is expected to be put in place to secure the visiting dignitaries.

Uighurs are known to be gaining terror training in Afghanistan and Pakistan and could be hitting targets at the bidding of their master in the ISIS and ISI, the experts said.



Need diversity in higher judiciary, says Parl panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee has lamented that the higher judiciary suffers from "diversity deficit", noting that the representation of SCs, STs, OBCs, women and minorities in the constitutional courts is far below the desired levels and does not reflect the social diversity of the country.

In its report on "judicial processes and their reform", the Standing Committee on Law and Personnel also noted that in the recent years, there has been a "declining trend" in the representation from all the marginalised sections of Indian society in the higher courts.

"Though there is no provision for reservation in the judicial appointments at high court and Supreme Court level, the Committee feels that adequate representation of various sections of Indian society will further strengthen the trust, credibility and acceptability of the judiciary among the citizens," it said.

The panel headed by BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi said it is of the view that while making recommendations for appointments to higher judiciary, both Supreme Court and high court collegiums should recommend an adequate number of women and candidates from the marginalised sections of the society, including minorities.

"This provision should be clearly mentioned in the Memoranda of Procedure (MoP), which is presently under finalisation," it said.

MoP is a document which guides the appointment and transfer of SC and HC judges. The document is being updated by the Government and the SC Collegium.

'Create awareness about dangers of using toxic aluminum utensils'

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI



A mid concerns over health hazards associated with consumption of food cooked in toxic aluminium utensils, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association has called for a multifaceted mass awareness programme for replacement of aluminum with stainless steel in the Indian kitchens.

"We had multiple rounds of discussions at various forums and one of the things we did was the Education Department, Women Child Welfare Department and the defence ministry where they have this scheme of utensils going into the schools, midday meals for the midday meals and all this stuff, where the young students have that food and we have highlighted.

Recently there was a circular issued by the Education Ministry asking the state governments to replace aluminium with stainless steel in the utensils used for cooking midday meals," said President of Indian Stainless Steel Development Agency (ISSDA), Rajamani Krishnamurti in an interaction with The Pioneer.

Rajamani said ISSDA is also pursuing the issue with the State governments. And submitted the WHO report with them. But the governments act at their own pace and the aluminium lobby is also working against the proposals.

Unless and until there is an awareness created by the mass where people are enlightened to say they do not want aluminium in the kitchen utensils, ground reality will not change, he said, adding, Rs 1,000 crore worth of utensils are used by a state government on an average every year and waste the resources for aluminium vessels, he said. Kitchen utensils have a growth potential of Rs 26,000 crore per annum, he said.

In a circular titled "harmful effects from consumption of food cooked in aluminium utensils", issued on July 3 to the State governments, the Union Education Ministry said that PM POSHAN is one of the foremost rights based centrally sponsored schemes under the National Food Security Act, 2013 covering about 12 crore children studying in 10.84 lakh government and government-aided schools. "During the recently concluded PAB meetings, the issue of cooking vessels has come up for discussion.

It was pointed out by the representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that generally many States and UTs use kitchen devices made of Aluminium for cooking and serving meals. Latest studies are suggesting that Aluminium is a toxic metal and has adverse health effects.

Its long-term use has been associated with certain clinical conditions such as anaemia, dementia and osteo-malacia. Further, various studies have also pointed out that cooking in uncoated aluminium will cause the metal to leach into food," It further said that leaching of aluminium depends on factors such as pH, temperature, cooking medium and how long it spends in the vessel. "It is suggested that in order to avoid adverse health effects on school students, regular cooking in aluminium vessels may be avoided." it added.

According to the Health Ministry note, aluminium is regarded as a neurotoxin agent due to its accumulation in brain , bones and liver and is known to be harmful to patients with bone disease or renal dialysis.

ED issues seizure order for estate of Anil Salgaocar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a seizure order under FEMA against an estate of Late Anil Salgaocar and seized the shares held by it in connection with the foreign assets held by Salgaocar outside India.

The ED initiated investigation under Foreign Exchange Management Act against Late Anil Salgaocar on the basis of Panama Paper leaks and Pandora Paper leaks where it is alleged that the Anil Vassudeva Salgaocar resident of Goa had incorporated multiple BVI companies.

ED Investigation revealed that Salgaocar owned iron ore mines in Goa and Karnataka, and the iron ore produced by these mines were sold/exported through his Indian group companies exclusively to the SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicle) in BVI and Singapore.

These SPVs were not declared before Indian authorities and they acted as trading companies indulging in sale of iron ore produced in India to China which resulted in profit shifting outside India, the ED said.

The five BVI companies of Salgaocar derived profit amounting to around USD 690,650,641 (approximately. Rs 5,718 crore) through iron ore trading activities, it said.

"By acquiring foreign exchange and holding assets outside India, Late Anil Salgaocar contravened the provisions of section 4 of FEMA, 1999 for a total amount of USD 69,06,50,641 (approx. Rs. 5,718 Crore).

Accordingly, the entire shareholding of Late Anil Salgaocar which has been transferred to Estate of Late Anil Salgaocar, in all 33 companies which varies from .1% to 99.9% has been seized by ED. These said 33 companies own 441 immovable properties located mainly at Goa and few at Mumbai and Karnataka," the agency added.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
(Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)
Case No.: OA/208/2022
Exh No: 16459
[Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS
ROHIT BERI

To,
(1) ROHIT BERI
D/W/S/O-MN BERI SON OF SHRI M.N. BERI, R/O HOUSE NO. 1496, SECTOR-15, PANCHKULA, HARYANA-134113, PALWAL, HARYANA-134113
Also At.
ROHIT BERI SON OF SHRI M. N. BERI, R/O MAG 214/108, JUMEIRAH LAKE TOWER DUBAI, UAE- 500001.
Also At.
ROHIT BERI S/O SHRI M. N. BERI AT SEM OWNERS, ASSOCIATION MANAGER, OFFICE 1507, TECOM, DUBAI UAE- 500001.
Also At.
ROHTI BERI S/O SH. M.N. BERI AT J-004, CAPITAL GATEWAY, SECTOR- 111, GURUGRAM, HARYANA- 122101
Also At.
(2) SANDRA RODRIGUES WIFE OF SHRI ROHIT BERI R/O HOUSE NO. 1496, SECTOR 15, PANCHKULA, HARYANA- 134113.
Also At.
SANDRA RODRIGUES WIFE OF SHRI ROHIT BERI AT MAG 214/108, JUMEIRAH LAKE TOWER, DUBAI- UAE- 500001.
Also At.
SANDRA RODRIGUES WIFE OF SHRI ROHIT BERI AT J-004, CAPITAL GATEWAY, SECTOR-111, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122101. GURGAON, HARYANA-122101.

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, **OA/208/2022** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on **02/02/2023.**
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. **16105250/-** (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on **07/08/2023** at **10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 22/02/2023.
Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that **I,Devi Prashan S/o Late Om Prakash R/o DDA Janta Flat No.P-26/A-3, Ground Floor,Pocket-P,Dilshad Garden,Delhi-110095 has applied for conversion of DDA Janta Flat No.P-26/A-3,Ground Floor,Block P, Dilshad Garden,Delhi -110095** from lease hold to free hold in DDA.The original documents i.e. Demand-cum-Allotment Letter of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch in vide S.O.No. 430/2014 LRNo.829008/2021 dated 16.10.2021. Any person(s)claiming any right,interest,having any objection or found in possession of original documents,may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9871309333 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.The person claiming any right,interest,objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to
Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-1,D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Shashi Prabha, W/o Ashwani Malik, Cont. 9711811153, Email: sarladevie16@gmail.com , R/o. DDA Built-Up SFS Flat No-12C Second Floor Block-GH-10 CAT-II Paschim Vihar Delhi, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The original documents like Original 5th And Final Allotment Letter, DDA Possession Letter, Water And Electric NOC Of DDA Built-Up SFS Flat No-12C Second Floor Block-GH-10 CAT-II Paschim Vihar Delhi, issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost somewhere in DDA Market Paschim Vihar New Delhi. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 01/08/2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact- Deputy Director (LAB Housing) D-Block , 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public thatMr. Neeraj Achhais absolute owner ofEntire First Floor (Without Roof Rights), "Said Floor", Built on Property Bearing No. E-474, land area measuring 527 Sq. yds. Situated at Greater Kailash Part-II, New Delhiby way ofSale Deed, dated 31.05.2018, Doc No-3241,executed by Mr. Anup Malhotra. Now Mr. Neeraj Achhais mortgaging the said property with HDFC Bank Ltd.& in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M).

SPECIAL BRANCH
POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL
NO. SB/Store/2023-25 (213), **Bhopal, Dated 03-08-2023**

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app:-

S. NO.	Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	Multifunctional Photocopier	08	2,000/-	60000/-	1st Tender
2	Multifunctional Printer	26	2,000/-	19500/-	1st Tender
3	Water Cooler with Water Purifier	11	2,000/-	41250/-	1st Tender
4	All in One PC	06	1,000/-	11700/-	1st Tender
5	Ballistic Briefcase	04	2,000/-	24000/-	1st Tender
6	Boom Barrier	08	10,000/-	600000/-	1st Tender
7	X-Ray Baggage Scanner	01	2,000/-	45000/-	1st Tender
8	Multizone DFMD	03	3,000/-	72000/-	1st Tender
9	Hand Held Metal Detector	10	1,000/-	9000/-	1st Tender
10	Bomb Suit	07	10,000/-	3,00,000/-	2nd Tender
11	Water Jet Disrupter	10	10,000/-	3,00,000/-	3rd Tender
12	Bullet Resistance Jacket	150	5,000/-	2,00,000/-	3rd Tender
13	Remote Operated Wire Cutter (ROWC)	10	1,000/-	10,000/-	3rd Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in	16/08/2023 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	17/08/2023 at 1100 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	21/08/2023 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	04/09/2023 up to 1600 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	05/09/2023 up to 1600 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from Item No 1 to 4	13/09/2023 at 11.00 hrs
	Item No 5 to 9	14/09/2023 at 11.00 hrs
	Item No 10 to 13	15/09/2023 at 11.00 hrs

D.I.G. of Police
(Intelligence) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-18043/23

BARC restored credibility of TV news genre: Official

New Delhi: The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) has increased the size of panel homes from about 30,000 in 2017 to 55,000 in December 2022.

The number of panel meters installed in audience homes plays a crucial role in improving the accuracy of TV viewership data. India's largest viewership data collection agency is now planning to increase the installed meter count to around 65,000 over the next three years. Commenting on it, a senior Ministry of Information and Broadcasting official said that post the TRP scam of 2020 BARC has done a good job in restoring the credibility of TV news genre and the efforts will continue to strengthen in the coming months.

"With more digital initiatives being included in methodology to make the data foolproof, BARC is also looking at increasing the number of boxes. Collection Return Path Data (RPD) will also be one such step.

The current leadership of BARC has done exceedingly well in securing the trust of all stakeholders including advertisers who depend on this data for planning," the official added. ***PNS***

India, UK to review def ties

NEW DELHI : India and the United Kingdom (UK) will review the entire gamut of their bilateral defence ties during Army Chief General Manoj Pande's three-day visit there beginning Wednesday.

Besides holding talks with the military top-brass, he will also review the 201st Sovereign's Parade of Commissioning Course 223 at the prestigious Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst as the Sovereign's Representative. Giving details of his schedule, the army said here the Sovereign's Parade at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is a reputed event, known for its illustrious history and the passing out of officer cadets from across the globe.

Pande is the first Chief of the Army Staff from India to be the Sovereign's Representative for parade. During his visit, the Army chief will also visit the Indian Army Memorial Room which occupies a place of pride in the Royal Military Academy. Pande will interact with General Sir Patrick Sanders, Chief of General Staff of the British Army and General Gwyn Jenkins, Vice Chief of Defence Staff of the UK Armed Forces.

He will engage in high-level discussions with General Sir James Hockenhull, Commander of UK Strategic Command, Lieutenant General Ralph Wooddisse, Commander Field Army and Major General Zachary Raymond Stenning, Commandant of Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, focusing on various matters of common interest, including defence cooperation, counter-terrorism efforts and strategic planning. ***PNS***

Man extradited for bank fraud; held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A bank fraud convict facing an Interpol Red Notice against was brought back from the US on late on Tuesday in an operation coordinated by the CBI through Interpol channels and arrested by the Central agency upon his arrival in Kochi. The convict's two-year run ended with his arrest.

T Ravindranath Gupta landed at the Kochi airport Tuesday night from the US via the UAE and a CBI team took him into custody upon his arrival on the basis of information shared through Interpol channels, officials said. The CBI coordinated operation with National Central Bureau, Washington, following which Gupta returned from the US via the UAE and landed at the Kochi airport. Gupta was convicted by a special court in Bengaluru for defrauding scheduled banks to tune of Rs 1.36 crore by submitting forged inland letters of credit (ILCs) in collusion with bank officials and private persons during March-July in 1993, they said.

An inland letter of credit is a guarantee issued by the buyer's bank to the seller's bank to make payment domestically. In its FIR registered on September 22, 1993, the CBI alleged that Gupta colluded with bank officials and private persons to cheat scheduled banks and non-banking financial companies in Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru by forging ILCs and submitting fake accommodation bills. The agency had filed a charge sheet in 1996, which resulted in Gupta being sentenced to three-year simple imprisonment in 2010 along with two other co-accused persons. Gupta's appeal was rejected by the Karnataka High Court on March 22, 2021, following which he fled the country.

An Interpol Red Notice was issued against Gupta on April 4 this year and authorities of countries where agency suspected him to be hiding were alerted. The Red Notice, which is the highest form of alert of Interpol to law enforcement agencies to detain a fugitive, restricted movement of Gupta, they said.

the pioneer
NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 10, 2023

Ganga starts receding in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



Water level of river Ganga starts receding in Varanasi on Wednesday.

The water level of river Ganga has started receding fast as the recent rise was mainly due to flood in the river Yamuna and rains in Delhi, Haryana and hilly region of the north. During the last 24 hours, the river water level has increased slightly by eight cm before starting receding two cm per hour. However, in the upstream the declining trend was high as the river was receding at the speed of 11 cm per hour at Phaphamau, six at Prayagraj (Sangam) and three at Mirzapur. According to Middle Ganga Division-III of Central Water Commission (CWC), the river was recorded at 67.96 metres against the warning level of 70.262 metres at 8 am on Wednesday.

During the day, the river was recorded receding right from Phaphamau to Ghazipur including Prayagraj (Sangam), Mirzapur and Varanasi but in Ballia it was still rising above the danger mark of 57.615 metres as it was recorded at 57.94 metres in the morning. However, by Thursday, the river will also start falling in Ballia, as per the report. The river Gomti was constant at Jaunpur. In the city, despite a declining trend, the water has already touched the feet of Sheetla Mata Mandir at Old Dasaswamedh Ghat forcing the devotees to reach the temple through the water. Most of the 'chowkis' of pandas have been submerged into the water. The venue of famous regular Ganga Aarti had already been shifted upstairs. Dozens of low lying temples located at internationally famous 84-odd ghats were either submerged into the water fully or partially.

Major rivers start receding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Residents living in low-lying areas heaved a sigh of relief after the water level of the twin rivers — Ganga and Yamuna — started receding on Wednesday.

Though the water level of Ganga at Phaphamau was showing a rising trend in early morning hours, it started receding in the afternoon. The water level of both Ganga and Yamuna receded by at least 15 and 39 cm at Chhatnag and Naini, respectively in the past 24 hours.

Officials of the flood control department said "A strict vigil is being maintained and teams have been deployed at static locations accordingly". Both the rivers were flowing four metres below the danger mark on Wednesday. Residents of low-lying areas asserted that things are under control but they would take preventive steps if the water level of the rivers rises again in the next few days.

The water level of Ganga at Phaphamau and Chatnag was 84.09 metre and 79.96 metre, respectively till 4pm. At Naini, Yamuna was flowing at 80.55 metre. The danger mark for both the twin rivers is 84.73 metre.

RN Tiwari, a resident of Ganga Nagar said: "Receding trend of the water level was a big relief. We have earlier decided to move towards a safer place, if the river would show a rising trend in coming days. However, the situation is under control now." Similarly, Chota Baghara resident Ajay Tripathi said, "People were worried after seeing the continuous rising trend of Ganga river since Tuesday morning but fortunately the water level of the river is now receding at Phaphamau."

The declining trend of water level of both the rivers also came as a huge relief for residents of Daraganj, Ganga Nagar, Rasoolabad, Salori, Chilla, Newada and other areas.

ATTENDANCE: In a major cause of concern for authorities, attendance of girl students in Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls' Schools (KGRS) in 30 districts of the state was found to be less than 50 per cent (pc). Expressing displeasure over the trend, Director General of School Education Vijay Kiran Anand has written a letter to all Basic Education Officers (BEOs), directing them to review and ensure 100 per cent attendance in each of the KGR schools.

The attendance for the months of May and July in 746 Kasturba schools operating in 73 districts of the state was reviewed through Prerna Portal. The lowest attendance was found in Ballia at 28 pc, followed by Hathras at 30 pc and Pratapgarh at 31 pc. Attendance of girls in Azamgarh, Ghazipur and Deoria was also found to be poor as each of the KGRS of these districts had 34 pc attendance. At Sant Kabir Nagar and Gautam Budh Nagar, only 36 pcattendance was noticed.

With 79 pc attendance, Fatehpur, which is included in the aspirational districts, is on the top of the list sent by the Director General to BSA, followed by Shahjahanpur with 74 pc attendance and Lakhimpur Kheri with 73 pc attendance.

The attendance of girl students in Kasturba Gandhi schools in May and July was found to be better in big districts in the state. The attendance was 66 pc in Lucknow, 67 pc in Kanpur Dehat, 57 pc in Varanasi and 53 pcin Prayagraj. Kasturba residential schools functioning in 73 districts of the state, impart education to class VI to class VIII students in 746 development blocks. A total of 73,383 girl students from backward areas are enrolled in these schools.

Recently, Basic Shiksha Adhikari, Prayagraj Praveen Kumar Tiwari inspected Kasturba Gandhi school in Chaka and saw 95 out of 100 girls were present. "Attendance was fine in Shankargarh, Kaudihar and Saidabad too. The salary of the warden will be withheld in schools with low attendance," said the BSA. Block education officer and ARP have been asked to ensure an increase in the attendance, he added.

People's faith shattered by VDA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



Varanasi Development Authority office.

Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), a government department responsible for the planned development of this parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is itself playing against the people's faith. It had advertised, displayed maps of a colony, sold plots and even did the registration of the allottees' land but a recent court order indicates that the VDA has just 'cheated' the allottees as it sold plots on the land which is owned by others. After paying full payment and many of them, on the permission of VDA, took loans from the financial institutions, these disheartened allottees are still landless.

The most shocking aspect of this unique fraudulent story is that for the last two decades, these allottees had apprised almost all the state authorities right from pillar to post but they were just misguided by the VDA authorities. The VDA is an institution which is responsible for beautifying the city with the planned development. Its chairman is Divisional Commissioner (DC), while Vice-Chairman is generally an IAS officer. When the matter first came into the limelight that the VDA had 'sold' the others' land, Nitin Ramesh Gokarn was the DC here. When the seven 'broken heart' allottees' journalists of Chuppepur Patrakarpuram Colony, developed by the VDA, met him, he assured them of looking after the matter. Ironically, Gokarn is, at present, also related to the same department as the Principal Secretary (Urban Development), UP Government, and recently when some suffering victims contacted him after the court's order that the land was not of the VDA on which it had allotted the plots to many almost 20 years ago in 2003 after taking full payment, his reply was same that he was looking after the same and discussed the matter with the VDA officers.

According to one of the sufferers, he met almost all the officers posted at VDA as V-C during the last many years but everyone had given 'false' promises as the policies of most of them are to 'wait and see' till they are not given the posts of district magistrates (DMs). This is one of the reasons for the weakening of this department, especially since 2017 when IAS officers have started dominating the state affairs during the 'double engine' government. Earlier, most of the V-Cs were promoted IAS officers having long experiences to listen or deal with the people's grievances. At present, when many sufferers tried to meet the V-C Abhishek Goyal, they failed as they were informed that the latter was busy in preparations for the upcoming G-20 meeting. The same was the case of 'overburdened' VDA Secretary Sunil Kumar Verma, who rarely had time due to his busy engagements as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

Due to such 'no-time' or 'no-priority' attitude of the officers right from Principal Secretary to VDA Secretary including Chairman (DC) and V-C, the fate of these suffering journalists is still hanging in darkness even after losing the earning of their entire life and becoming a laughing stock even in their own professional circle without any mistake. The most shocking aspect of this entire story is that despite such a big 'fraudulent' practice by a government department, not a single action was taken against any guilty officer/employee of the VDA because it is out of the imagination that without their involvement such a big blunder could have happened.

'Munadi' conducted for Guddu Muslim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

After Shaista Parveen, wife of slain mafia Atiq Ahmed, the Prayagraj police on Tuesday resorted to 'munadi' for Guddu Muslim, a hardcore member of the 227 inter-state Atiq Ahmed gang and declared him a proclaimed absconder. Guddu is also known as Guddu Bambaz in criminal circles. Police resorted to the medieval practice of 'munadi' — beating drums to make a public announcement — outside Guddu's home at Lala Ki Sarai area under Shivkuti police station in the city.

The police also appealed to residents to inform them if they spot the wanted criminal, evading arrest since February 24. Residents of Shivkuti and adjoining areas were shocked when a group of drum-beating men along with heavy police forces arrived and read out Guddu's name. He was also carrying Rs 5 lakh cash reward on his head. On Monday, the Prayagraj police had conducted 'munadi' for absconding Shaista Parveen, wife of slain mafia turned politician Atiq Ahmed. Shaista was absconding since February 24 after the killing of lawyer Umesh Pal and two of his police gunners.

DCP (City) Deepak Bhuker said police on Tuesday conducted 'munadi' for Guddu Muslim under the Section 82 of CrPC and slapped a notice at his residence in Lala Ki Sarai area". He added, "Action would be initiated against him under section 83 of CrPc if Guddu fails to appear."

Section 82 of the CrPC provides for the issuing of a proclamation in a case where the court has reason to believe that the person has concealed himself or herself or has absconded in order to evade the execution of warrants issued against him or her.

DACOITY: Investigations into the Hetapatti village dacoity incident in which a security guard was murdered and three persons of a family were injured pointed at handiwork of a west UP tribal gang whose members had escaped to their native village after executing the crime. The five special police teams, who claimed to have compiled enough clues and evidence, have even carried out a series of raids in different parts of the state.

Meanwhile, police have also been probing the charge of a teenage girl, said to be granddaughter of the slain guard, that she was assaulted sexually by the dacoits during the raid. Detailed medical report of the survivor is awaited. A group of four unidentified armed dacoits killed a private watchman and decamped with cash and jewellery worth lakhs of rupees after injuring four persons, including three members of a textile merchant's family at three separate locations in Hetapatti bazar under Tharwai police station late on Sunday night.

A senior policeman said five special police teams have gathered vital clues related to the gang and police teams are working on them. Police teams have also interacted with injured persons to record the sequence of the incident. Senior police officers were probing whether the West UP gang, that allegedly executed the crime, had been behind similar incidents in eastern UP districts. Moreover, police have also been probing details of gangs whose involvement had surfaced earlier in incidents of dacoity or robbery.

"Policemen have checked the whereabouts of criminals whose names surfaced in connection with loot and robbery cases in past five years in trans-Ganga pockets and we have been interacting with neighbouring district and state police to gather more information," said a senior policeman.

Vaccines completely safe: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary trying to make residents aware of vaccines in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary visited Farooqui Nagar of Jolha Dakshini Ward under Urban Primary Health Centre Durgakund here on Tuesday and made the indifferent families aware about vaccination. Along with this, appealed that the children must get all the vaccines on time, as it is necessary for their better health. "All vaccines are completely safe," he said. He reached there in a bid of the Health department to remove the misconceptions spread in the community regarding regular vaccination of children.

The CMO said that the Health department is on alert regarding families indifferent to regular vaccination in the district. "Presently, the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 is being implemented. The team of health workers is visiting house-to-house in the area, so that their myths and misconceptions can be dispelled," he said and during his visit, the CMO interacted with indifferent families, local doctors, influential persons and inquired about non-vaccination of children and encouraged them to get vaccinated.

When some residents informed him about fever after vaccination, the CMO apprised them of the remedies and medicines. The CMO directed the concerned in-charge medical officers and other personnel to identify the families indifferent to vaccination and get information about the reasons for not getting them vaccinated and try to clear their misconceptions. Dr Chaudhary also said that children must get all the vaccines according to their age on time. "Children can be saved from various deadly diseases only by vaccination. Vaccines are being administered in the district to prevent 11 deadly diseases. Timely vaccination of children and pregnant mothers is very important. This develops immunity in the body," he added. On this occasion, District Immunisation Officer Dr AK Maurya, DMC Dr Shahid, Pradeep Vishwakarma from UNICEF, Dr Kunal and Dr Satrupa from WHO, Medical Officer in-charge Dr Ankita Mishra and ANM, ASHA workers were present.

Earlier, the Director of the Institute of Applied Dermatology (IAD) Dr SR Narhari inspected the institute's centre being operated in the Government Ayurveda College, Chowkaghat and during his visit, Dr Narhari inquired about Ayurvedic and allopathic treatment, therapy and other facilities available to the patients suffering from filariasis. He also visited the CMO Office and held a meeting with health officers including District Malaria Officer Sharat Chandra Pandey and incharge of Filaria Control Unit and biologist Dr Amit Kumar Singh. He urged the department to give maximum publicity to the IAD Centre located at Chowkaghat, so that serious patients suffering from filariasis can get free treatment there.

DATE EXTENDED: Regional Manager, Baroda UP Bank, Varanasi Region Manoj Kumar Jha has informed that the last date of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been extended from July 31 to August 10 and appealed to the farmers to avail the benefit of this scheme by consulting the nearby branches of the bank.

The last date of PMFBY has been extended from July 31 to August 10 and so the farmers could avail the benefit of this scheme by consulting the nearby branches of the bank so that the insured farmers could be provided maximum benefits as per the conditions of the scheme in case of the damage of scheduled crops due to natural calamity, Jha said.

He appeared to the beneficiary farmers of insured crop and credit card loan approval/distribution drive, who are yet to be deprived of the loading benefit, to consult the nearby branch of the bank and avail the credit card loan and also avail the benefit of the social security schemes such as PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY.

INAUGURATED: The MD & CEO of Union Bank of India (UBI) A Manimekhalai recently virtually inaugurated the launch of 200 micro processing centres (MPCs) pan India which will facilitate sourcing, sanction and disbursement of Micro Credit Applications with the help of business correspondents.

The move is to meet the growing demand in credit proposals including various government sponsored schemes like SVAnidhi, PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY, NULM, etc. This will give a trust to the financial inclusion and will ensure digital onboarding of the borrowers from bottom of the pyramid, he said. The MPCs will bring the banking services closer to the community by establishing dedicated desks within our branches.

Emphasis on staying safe from filaria

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

District Malaria Officer Dr Sanjay Dwivedi while interacting with media in view of awareness drive to eradicate filaria which was to start on August 10 said it is the need of the hour that we adopt ways to become safe from filaria. It is awareness which can help to make the drive successful in the larger interest of the society, he added. About the drive he said 1,927 teams had been formed to cover 20 lakh population of the district and three blocks had been left out as no symptomatic patient was found during test there. He sought the support from the media for the success of the drive. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr CL Verma and ACMO Dr Gulab were also present.

APPEAL: Additional District Magistrate (ADM/Finance & Reveneu) and Deputy District Election Officer Shiv Pratap Shukla has appealed to people to file objections, if any, was about polling booths.

He said the list of polling booths as well as polling stations was available from August 8 at the tehsil headquarters for viewing and objections can be filed till August 16.

FUND: DIOS Amar Nath Singh while addressing the meeting of principals and managers of schools in GIC on Tuesday said the government under Project Alankar is providing fund of Rs 25-50 lakh for repair and other necessary works to aided private schools. He said Rs 25 lakh was to be given to schools in which strength of students was up to 500 and Rs 50 lakh to those where strength of students was more than 500.

A discussion on academic calender was also held and the DIOS asked the schools the follow it.

MEETING: Chairman District Cooperative Bank Dr Jagdeesh Singh Patel while addressing the first meeting of the board at its meeting hall on Tuesday said the aim of the bank is to keep the interests of farmers on top priority and make available better services to customers. The board of the directors passed resolutions unanimously and decided to empower managers with good track record to sanction loans. A resolution was passed to shift the head office of the bank from Collectorate campus to the land of cooperative in Bharuhna. For permission to construct the building on the said land a copy of the resolution was sent to authorities. Another resolution was passed to equip bank branches with CCTV cameras and fire alarm system. Interacting with media after meeting Dr Patel said the bank is following the government's spirit of 'Sahkarita Se Samriddhi.'

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding informing the general public that the Apartment Flat No. 724 Siddhi Tower, Mahagunpuram NH-24 Ghaziabad, the respective flat Super Area-1100 sqft and Buildup Area-900 sqft is approved purchase Vandana Rana W/o Uttam Singh Rana by India Infoline Finance Limited, Sale amount 27,37000 dated 8.3.2019. Whose registry office sub registrar Ghaziabad, district Ghaziabad registered book number 1 The number 1644 was registered on 8.3.2021, so with this it was determined that the ownership of the above apartment was transferred in favor of Vandana Rana. If any person etc. has any objection to the ownership or ownership of the said apartment or its sale/mortgage etc., please inform the undersigned Advocate in writing within 07 days at the given address, otherwise it will be understood that the above apartments are all is free from encroachments and has no claim of any other person etc.

Rahul Chaudhary(Advocate)
Chamber no. 565 Civil Court
Rajanagar Ghaziabad, 9582938685

सार्वजनिक नोटिस

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्लाट संख्या-01, सेक्टर नॉलेज पार्क -4, ग्रेटर नोएडा सिटी, गौतम बुद्ध नगर (उ० प्र०)

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अंतर्गत M/s JSS Buildcon Pvt. Ltd के भूखंड संख्या -जीएच-02 सी, से-01 ग्रेटर नोएडा को दिनांक 22.6.23 को कय योग्य एफएआर के साथ पुनरिक्षित स्वीकृत मानचित्र हेतु आवेदन किया गया है। तत्क्रम में U.P Apartment Act-2010. Amendment 2016 in Section-04 Sub Section-B के अंतर्गत परियोजना की आवंटियो से आपत्ति/सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाने का प्रावधिन है।इस संबंध में विकासकर्ता द्वारा प्रस्तुत पुनरिक्षित मानचित्र एवं Declarations of UP Apartment Act 2010 परीक्षण किसी भी कार्यदिवस में सुबह 9.30 से साय 6:00 बजे के मध्य नियोजन विभाग में तथा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट पर किया जा सकता है।अतः उपरोक्त परियोजना के आंवटियों द्वारा कय योग्य एफ०ए०आर के साथ Sanction Map एवं Declaration of UP Apartment Act 2010 के संबंध में सूचना प्रकाशित करने के 30 दिनो के अन्दर आपत्तिया/सुझाव आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तियां लिखित से अपने आवंटन पत्र,नाम,पता,दूरभाष नंबर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्य दिवस में ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य प्रशासनिक कार्यालय, भूखण्ड संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-4, ग्रेटर नौएडा में स्थित प्रभारी महाप्रबन्धक नियोजन को सम्बोधित करते हुए सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30दिवसो के अन्दर जमा करायी जा सकती है। महाप्रबन्धक (नियो./वास्तु.)

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS AKSHAY GIRI, OA 494/2019; IA 2240/2019	Vehicle No. UP14GT8288, Make and Model-SML SAMRAT, Manu Year-2017
ICICI BANK LTD VS HARNAM SINGH BAWA, CS (COMM) No. 483/2022	Vehicle No. HR26EF8839, Make and Model-MARUTI SWIFT, Manu Year-2020
ICICI BANK LTD. VS. SANJU KUMAR, CS (COMM) 2975/19	Vehicle No. UP16FT6541, Make and Model-HYUNDAI MOTORS INDIA LTD XCENT, Manu Year-2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS MOHD HANEEF, CS (COMM) No. 1192/2022	Vehicle No. DL5CS7599, Make and Model-HYUNDAI I20, Manu Year- 2021

Auction Date: August 25, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708)/ Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SANJAY KUMAR, CS (COMM) 2884/19	Vehicle No. UP14HT5870, Make and Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTD PARTNER, Manu Year-2019

Auction Date: August 25, 2023 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking yard,Khasra No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP, 201102
Contact Person- Swapnil Upadhyay (8126013708)/ Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents to participate in the auction. .
Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.
The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, SHAL TOWERS, Plot No 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Nalin Mohan Agarwal/ Rachit Agarwal/ Brij Narain Agarwal/ Mithlesh Agarwal/ LBNOD00001882522	Flat No-1001, 10th Floor, HBTN- Tower-16, Unitech Habitat, Plot No-09, Sector-PI-II, Greater Noida/ August 07, 2023	April 18, 2023 Rs.12,20,019/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Dilip Kumar Patel/ Radha Patel/ LBDEL00004105521	Plot No CE-322, Block C Ansal Golf Links-I Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar- 201301/ August 07, 2023	March 09, 2023 Rs.46,33,928/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : August 10, 2023
Place : Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 10, 2023

the pioneer

Opinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Unshakable pillar

The CJI has once again made it clear that Indian Constitution's basic structure is non-negotiable

In the ever-evolving tapestry of Indian jurisprudence, there stands an immovable pillar that has weathered the storms of time and change – the basic structure of the Indian Constitution. The clarion call for its inviolability has been rekindled by none other than the Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, who resolutely underscores its non-negotiable significance. This doctrine, akin to the steadfast North Star, steers the ship of India's politico-legal milieu, offering an unwavering direction that must be embraced without hesitation. As the gavel of the highest judicial seat, currently occupied by the eminent CJI Chandrachud, resounded, he addressed the assertion made by former CJI Ranjan Gogoi that the pronouncements of retired justices are mere expressions of opinion. CJI Chandrachud, without falter, proclaimed that the essential foundation of the Constitution remains immutable, regardless of the individuals who have graced the bench. Recalling the watershed moment of the Kesavananda Bharati case in 1973, a historical milestone in our legal history, Gogoi, now a member of the Rajya Sabha, cast a shadow of doubt on the basic structure doctrine. This very doctrine took centre stage during the deliberations on the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023.



Amidst the high-stakes discourse surrounding the abrogation of Article 370, Kapil Sibal quoted Gogoi's scepticism. To this CJI Chandrachud spoke his mind with conviction. With unyielding resolve, CJI Chandrachud consistently reiterates the foundational role of the basic structure doctrine, branding it as the 'North Star' guiding the guardians of our constitutional values. At a lecture in Mumbai, CJI Chandrachud likened the basic structure of the Constitution to the steadfast North Star, casting its guiding light upon those tasked with its interpretation and implementation. It is worth noting that the chorus of support for the basic structure doctrine is not universal. Notable figures, including former CJI Gogoi and the Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, have voiced their reservations. The Kesavananda Bharati case of 1973 stands as a testament to the unifying power of the basic structure concept. It is a doctrine that was not only birthed within the chambers of the court but also unanimously embraced by every branch of the government and every citizen of India. This doctrine acts as the guardian of the delicate equilibrium between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. It ensures that the hallowed realm of Fundamental Rights remains untarnished, a fundamental tenet of our constitutional ethos. The basic structure doctrine is the anchor that tethers the Indian Constitution to its enduring principles.It may be noted here that the Constitution gives power to the Supreme Court and not Parliament to interpret it; the SC would always have the last say in this matter. No matter how hard the politicians of the day may detest its interpretation, they would have to abide by it.

PICTALK



Tribal people perform a cultural dance on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, in Nadia PTI

Strive for harmonious co-existence



RAVI CHANDER KOCHHAR

By recognising the value of patience and fostering a more empathetic and understanding outlook, we can build a better society



In the recent decades, the progress made by humankind has been unprecedented, transforming the lifestyle of each and everyone. The internet, in particular, has brought about sea change in our daily life. As we look ahead, it is evident that even more changes are on the horizon, which will continue to shape our lives. This fast-paced environment has led to a sense of urgency in reaching our destination and achieving more and more. Consequently, many individuals have been able to improve their socioeconomic status and move closer to fulfilling their dreams.

However, this change in lifestyle has also brought about several negative consequences. In the past, we used to walk to nearby places like schools, work places and markets which served as a form of exercise. Nowadays we rely on cars for such errands, which not only diminishes physical activity but also increases expenses on petrol and maintenance besides adversely affecting the environment. Similarly, children used to spend their after school hours playing outdoors until the street lights came on, but now they are often occupied with video games and smartphones or glued to TV. This shift has led to a decline in physical activity and a greater reliance on gadgets, resulting in additional expenses on technology and internet services.

Moreover, the way we socialise has also undergone a significant change. In the past, friends would meet regularly and spend hours engaged in conversations. However, today, social interaction often occurs through social media platforms, where people are more concerned about having a high number of online friends rather than nurturing deep and meaningful relationships. The physical presence of friends and the ability to read their expressions and moods face to face have been replaced by virtual interactions, which could be less satisfying and impersonal. Face to face communication has always played an important role in our lives for better understanding of emotions and more meaningful conversations resulting in fostering a sense of community and helping overcome the isolation and disconnection that can arise from excessive reliance on digital communication.

Comfort levels have undoubtedly improved with the advent of air-conditioning. In the past, neither homes nor classrooms had air-conditioning, but now it has become a common feature in households and educational Institutions. However, this increased reliance on artificial cooling and heating has negatively impacted our health. Buildings are now designed in a way that lacks proper ventilation, making it uncomfortable and suffocating during power failure in the absence of windows. While air-conditioning has enhanced our comfort, it has compromised our well being to an extent.

Family dynamics have also shifted. Previously, families would gather together for an evening meal cooked by the homemaker. This provided an opportunity for the family to bond, share their daily experiences and stay updated on family matters. However, with the increase in wealth and busy schedules, family members often have little time for one another.

> TEACHING CONFLICT RESOLUTION, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND ACTIVE LISTENING SKILLS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE PATIENT AND EMPATHETIC SOCIETY OVERALL

All these changes have led to purchase of bigger and better cars, causing road congestion. The infrastructure struggles to cope with the overwhelming increase in the number of vehicles, resulting in more and more pollution and incidents of road rage. The lack of patience among individuals has contributed to arguments, fights and a general lack of understanding. We have lost the ability to appreciate each other's viewpoints, and precious lives have been lost over trivial matters such as parking or manoeuvring through traffic jams.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to cultivate patience and understanding. We must learn to appreciate and respect each other's perspectives and requirements. While advancements in technology, innovation, and research have provided us with more comforts, it is crucial to make the best and enjoy the present time.

Furthermore, as we anticipate yet more changes in the future, we must prepare ourselves to adapt and embrace them. One such change on the horizon is the ongoing advances in Artificial Intelligence.

By recognizing the value of patience and fostering a more empathetic and understanding society, we can mitigate the negative consequences of our fast paced lifestyle. Let us strive for a harmonious co-existence, appreciating the multitude of changes that shape our lives while appreciating the value and importance of patience in our interactions with others.

Further, patience and empathy are skills that can be learned and cultivated. Integrating these values into educational curriculum, starting from early childhood, can help foster a society that values understanding and respectful communication. Teaching conflict resolution, emotional intelligence and active listening skills can contribute to a more patient and empathetic society overall.

Additionally, practicing mindfulness and self-reflection can help cultivate patience and a deeper appreciation for the here and now. Mindfulness techniques, such as meditation or simply taking a moment to pause and breathe, can enhance our ability to remain patient, empathetic, and understanding in the face of challenges.

(The writer is Group Pro Vice Chancellor, Amity University, UP)

Refrain from offloading asylum seekers in Rwanda

Rather than putting burden on Rwanda by sending refugees there, the UK should help its journey towards progress writes ***Subhash Chopra***

Rwanda, a landlocked nation nestled in East Africa, carries within its borders a history of unfathomable suffering and resilience. Almost three decades ago, during the harrowing months of April to June 1994, Rwanda bore witness to one of humanity's darkest chapters—the genocide that claimed the lives of nearly one million people. The heart-wrenching conflict pitted the majority Hutu population against the minority Tutsi community, leaving scars that are still felt today. In a mere span of 100 days, around 800,000 Tutsis lost their lives, and over a quarter of a million women endured unspeakable horrors. They were subjected to brutal acts of rape within a mere 100 days.

In an unexpected turn of events, Britannia entered this tragic scenario by proposing to construct new housing quarters in Rwanda. This proposal aimed to accommodate Britain's own unwanted refugees from its colonies, pending the verification and settlement of their claims for settlement in Britain. Paradoxically,



Britain's home minister, Priti Patel, herself a descendant of economic refugees from East Africa, took on the responsibility of overseeing potential new arrivals in Rwanda. This move drew attention to the historical practice of using Rwanda as a dumping ground for those considered the "Wretched of the Earth," a concept evoked by Frantz Fanon.

Rwanda, scarred by its painful history, now found itself burdened once again as the British government contemplated housing asylum seekers there. With over 600,000 asylum seekers waiting for their claims to be verified in Britain, the move to house them on large boats in British waters was proposed in June 2023. While this solution may be preferable to unloading them onto Rwanda, it remains the moral duty of the United Kingdom to avoid further exacerbating Rwanda's plight.

The Rwandan genocide's dark origins trace back to Belgian colonialism, which deepened the racial divides among the country's ethnic groups—Hutus, Tutsis, and Twa. This colonial history established a power dynamic where Hutus held dominance over Tutsis, ultimately setting the stage for the tragic events of 1994.

As the world reflects on Rwanda's painful history, it is imperative to respect the nation's struggle for peace and recovery. Rather than adding to its blood-soaked past, the international community, including Britain, must strive to support Rwanda's healing journey and promote a future free from the burdens of its tragic past.

Moving forward, the international community must recognize the fragile equilibrium Rwanda seeks to establish after the immense trauma of its past. It is imperative to avoid compounding the nation's challenges by offloading burdens that rightfully belong to others. The scars of genocide still linger, and Rwanda's ongoing efforts towards reconciliation, healing, and progress require an environment free from additional complications. Rather than viewing the country as a convenient solution for resettlement, the world must show solidarity with Rwanda's journey towards a brighter future.

This means refraining from exporting asylum seekers with unresolved claims as a shortcut, and instead, addressing the root causes of displacement through comprehensive, ethical, and humane policies.

By taking collective responsibility for the displaced and ensuring that each individual's rights and dignity are upheld, the global community can truly contribute to Rwanda's healing process while also fostering a more compassionate and equitable approach to the global refugee crisis.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in the UK. The views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AGE OF CANDIDACY

Sir —Age of candidacy is the minimum age at which a person can legally hold certain elected government offices and in many cases, it also determines the age at which a person may be eligible to stand for an election or be granted ballot access. A parliamentary committee has proposed reducing the age restriction on MPs and MLAs to 18 years.

Though the EC has opposed the proposal, Constituent Assembly debates show several leaders back then favoured lower age criteria for our lawmakers. With the submission of a parliamentary Committee report discussion has started on this issue and everyone is expressing their own views .Even in the Constituent Assembly there were different views on the age of candidacy. Articles 84 and 174 of the Constitution set the minimum age for members of the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies at 25, and for members of the Rajya Sabha and state legislative councils at 30.

Now a Rajya Sabha committee has proposed that the minimum age to contest national and state elections be reduced from 25 to 18 years aligning it with the voting age because the current criteria outdated, the committee argued that legislative bodies could benefit from a wider range of perspectives.

As a common citizen of a democratic country, we expect that the day is not far away when the age of candidacy will be lowered to 18 years. In this regard on the pattern of UCC government can collect the opinion of the public whether the age be lowered?

Yash Pal Ralhan | *Jalandhar*

MINES AND MINERAL BILL PASSED

Sir — Parliament passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, in a bid to attract private sector investment in the exploration of critical and deep-seated minerals in the country. The Bill puts six minerals, including lithium — used in electric vehicle batteries and other energy storage solutions — into a list of "critical and strategic" minerals.

The exploration and mining of these six minerals, previously classified as atomic minerals, were restricted to government-owned entities. The Russian invasion of Ukraine over the past year has made it clear more than ever how global supply chains of a range of commodities are vulnerable to shocks leading to a lack of availability and skyrocketing prices. The move to pass the bill is critical and strategic.

Shanthi Ramanathan | *Ghaziabad*

ASSAM TO BAN POLYGAMY

Sir — With the reference of the article published in the esteemed newspaper "Hindustan Times" entitled "Will Table Bill to End Polygamy " dated 7th of August 2023. I want to state that the chief minister of Assam Dr Himanta Bishwa Sharma gave a statement on Sunday about banning Polygamy in Assam.

If we take a look at the laws and rules that had been given us by the Constitution of India, we can get to know that earlier it has been prohibited for all the definedly Hindus by The Special Hindu Marriage Act,1954. But it would be against the Muslim Marriage Act and Muslim Personal laws (Shari' at) Act 1937 , as well as this act will appose the fundamental rights especially article 25 of Indian Constitution. However, it must not be banned, they should ponder over it.

Zaheerul Islam | *Assam*

Delhi services bill passed



The Grand Alliance INDIA's heated debate over the contentious Delhi Services Bill was short-lived. The Rajya Sabha approved the 'Government of the National Territory of Delhi Bill 2023' on Monday. The bill received 131 votes in favour and 102 votes against it. As a result, the opposition in the Rajya Sabha became inherently weak in blocking this law. On August 3, the Lok Sabha passed this bill. Following the adoption of the Delhi Service Bill in the Lok Sabha, informed circles were waiting to see how much opposition it would receive in the Rajya Sabha. Even though the opposition Grand Alliance India was unified, the BJP-led NDA government passed the Delhi Ordinance in the Rajya Sabha.

Earlier the decision of the Supreme Court was based on the basic argument that the bureaucracy should be under the control of the elected government with a mandate. This is natural in a democratic system based on people's representation. According to the Apex Court, if the central government is allowed to exercise its executive powers even for subjects falling under the jurisdiction of the Delhi Assembly, it would be a gross violation of the principles of federalism. Overturning the reasoned decision of the Supreme Court based on these solid arguments, the Central Government has issued this Ordinance and therefore it cannot be considered justified.

As far as the apprehensions of the ruling BJP that the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi is going to misuse its power over the bureaucracy and use it to persecute good officers, these are the first allegations, but for a moment even if they are accepted as correct, if due to the misuse of bureaucracy by the people's representatives, the power of an elected government is snatched away, then hardly any government will have any power left in our country.

Abhijit Roy | *Jamshedpur*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRST COLUMN

YAJNAS HAVE SCIENTIFIC BASIS

Far from being just a ritual, Yajnas are a great way to purify the mind and environment



SWAMI **CHARANASHRIT**

Agnihotra, a time-honoured fire ritual, stands as the simplest embodiment of the profound 'Yajnya' or 'Homa' practice in Hinduism. Beyond its spiritual significance, this ritual's scientific underpinnings have garnered renewed attention, illuminating the intricate connections between nature, cosmic forces, and human well-being.

At the heart of Agnihotra lies an intricate interplay of celestial phenomena. This ritual meticulously aligns itself with the transition between dawn and dusk, harnessing the precise moments when the sun radiates far infrared rays. By kindling a symphony of elements - desi cow ghee, dried cow dung, and unpolished rice - within a distinctive copper pot, Agnihotra enacts a choreography of scientific harmony. As the mantras resonate, paying homage to the Sun (Surya) and Fire (Agni), an enchanting synergy unfolds. Recent studies have unearthed an astonishing resonance between the far infrared radiations of the sun and those emanating from the Agnihotra fire. This resonance births a robust surge of vital energy that intricately weaves into life processes. The ethereal fumes and ash generated by Agnihotra transcends the ritual itself.

Agni's purification prowess extends to both air and water. The ritual's ambiance metamorphoses into a sanctuary of clean air, as pathogenic microorganisms and pollutants bow to its transformative power. Agnihotra stands as a sentinel, a custodian that defends against invisible invaders, ensuring healthier air and purer water sources. The ritual's profound echoes resonate far beyond the immediate, as the magnetic field it fosters neutralises negativity and amplifies 'prana,' the life force, fostering an atmosphere conducive to well-being. Chanting the Agnihotra mantra reverberates with distinct vibrational frequencies. The mantras' resonate with the human spirit, cultivating a sanctuary of tranquility amid the chaos of modern life. These sonorous invocations kindle a symphony of positive change, easing mental burdens and fostering resilience. Interestingly, the power of these chants extends beyond psychological solace; they seem to initiate cellular rejuvenation within the brain, an undiscovered dimension of Agnihotra's impact. The pyramid-shaped copper vessel employed in Agnihotra isn't just symbolic; it becomes a conduit of scientific marvel. This vessel births negative ions that elegantly sweep away hazardous particles, bestowing the air with clarity. The amalgamation of pure cow ghee and cowdung cake within this vessel engenders natural disinfectants, reducing bacterial activity and environmental toxicity. Thus, Agnihotra not only honour ancient practices but transforms them into a state-of-the-art defense against contemporary threats. Agni's transformative essence further unfolds through the offering of 'ahuti,' 36 grains of unpolished rice in ghee. This offering doesn't merely symbolise devotion; it triggers a profound balancing of energies, akin to the yin-yang equilibrium. The smoke arising from this offering emerges as an unassuming hero, binding harmful radiations and neutralizing the specter of radioactivity. Consequently, the entire ritual culminates in a harmonious ballet that purifies the bloodstream, revitalizes the circulatory system, and even cleanses the aura.



Ergo, Agnihotra's legacy extends into ecological realms. Its residual ash, a humble gift, nourishes the earth and its inhabitants alike, infusing plants with newfound vitality. This cyclic exchange epitomizes the ritual's synergy with nature, fostering a clean and thriving ecosystem. In today's era of escalating environmental concerns, the scientific tenets of Agnihotra resound as an unparalleled solution. As humanity grapples with health risks amplified by pollution, Agnihotra acts as a beacon of ancient wisdom. This ritual, bridging spirituality and science, holds the potential to purify not just the individual but the collective consciousness, lighting a path towards a harmonious coexistence with our planet.

(The writer is a spiritual guide. Views are personal)

Going beyond hard and soft skills



VINAYSHIL **GAUTAM**

Having an insight into the human psychology and understanding the other person's perspective is key to better human relations



The world of learning is full of talk of 'soft skills' and 'hard skills'. These two expressions are extremely popular, perhaps because no one is quite sure what they mean. Broadly, the imagery that the phrase 'hard skills' evokes is of dealing with technologies and 'on-hand work.' The imagery that the phrase 'soft skills' evokes is of dealing with people and related elements. By themselves, these two definitions are not inaccurate. The problem, however, is not the accuracy or otherwise, but rather the completeness and adequacy.

To understand the complexity of the matter, it may be necessary to give a few examples, especially where both hard skills and soft skills are concerned. An example could be DIY (Do It Yourself). For example, attaching a printer to a computer is not just 'hard skills' because some knowledge of the software aspects may be required. One would need to have an appreciation of the working of a computer, laptop, or something similar. Similarly, putting up a shelf at home may require both soft and hard skills. The examples are many.

The purpose of this text is to go beyond common sense, arguments on soft skills or hard skills, and to draw attention to the skills that require insights into human nature and relationship dynamics beyond what would be available in manuals or basic text books. Illustrations could be numerous. Beginning with a simple example may help. Illustratively, the ability to sense when the other person has had 'enough', in a manner of speaking, and the realisation that possibly that person cannot absorb any more, is an interpersonal skill. It is a skill that focusses on action and on insight dealing with 'when to stop.' It is these skills in interpersonal dynamics that establishes how success can be scripted.

> MORE ATTENTION NEEDS TO BE PAID TO INSIGHTS AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS. IN EFFECT, THIS MEANS GETTING INTO THE DOMAIN OF THE UN-STATED INTERPERSONAL DYNAMICS

(The writer is an internationally acclaimed management consultant. The views expressed are personal)

Relationships are always a special domain of effort, and more attention needs to be paid to insights and relationship skills. In effect, this means getting into the domain of the un-stated interpersonal dynamics. It affects relationships between friends, gender relationships, superior and subordinate relationships, dealing with groups anywhere and everywhere and much more. It also includes the domain where one has to deal with oneself. It refers to dynamics that is beyond hard skills and soft skills. It is a quality which one seeks for achieving insights and a behaviour pattern that can perhaps, for want of a better phrase, be called 'guided intuition.'

This comes through an orientation and general sensitivity towards the 'non-specific'. People may have different value systems, conditioned by what they have been taught, observed or seen as leading to success or other-wise. Someone may believe that one's word is sacrosanct and if one has said something it must be honoured. Another person may trivialise what one has said and be casual about living up to it. One person may be rule oriented in decision making, another person may have an orientation of observing rules selectively in the interest of self-aggrandisement or achieving 'organisation peace'. It can make dealing with each other complicated and make decision making a great challenge.

Typically, a husband and wife may have a difference of assumptions and opinion and, therefore, a difference of conclusion. The result may be a behaviour pattern that has a bundle of conflicts. When a conflict of this order is experienced, lot of memories, fresh and old, may be evoked. This can be then thrown at each other with the damning instinct of two gladiators. No one was wrong, but no one was able to prove that one is right. The challenge becomes even bigger when both are right in their own way.

A simulated case study, in the context of a couple, might help to demonstrate how a predictable escalation could ensue. One escalation of argument can lead to another, and one move to counter move, until the nemesis takes over or else one of the couple decides to call a truce.

Even in the latter case the 'other person', in the context of the couple, has to respond.

In a particular case of stress one of the couples tried, to resolve a conflict, but the other person in the 'couple situation' would not respond. It was all 'water on the duck's back'. She sheds tears, yells, and goes stomping her feet. Escalation came from throwing things at each other and saying some very unwise things. At last, one of them did some very foolish things too, like hitting the wall. Exhausted by the tiredness of the night setting, and they both fell asleep. At dawn, the couple did not create any fresh incidents but became dangerously close to rewriting some scripts of the interpersonal dynamics, tried the previous day. So the husband continued to try to make up, but the wife, still, would not respond.

The husband changed gears and asked, the wife, what it would take to 'achieve' peace. The women said 'Do what the peacocks do when they want to make up with the peahens: dance a little harder". The man let his instinct take over and he wore the colourful kurta that the woman had bought for him recently. He then said to her, "Now I am a peacock." She laughed. The ice broke and there was a truce.

Such is the nature of interpersonal dynamics and skills which comes neither in the hard category or the soft category.

This kind of behaviour comes out of insights, experience or sometimes even instinct. It does not necessarily arise out of classroom knowledge or what one has learnt from the books. It is a highly evolved stage of subtle interpersonal dynamics. It is, also, rooted in expressions of good sense and a willingness to grow.

That is the missing third tip of the behavioural triangle of which two sides are the 'hard skills' and 'soft skills'. This third tip of the triangle can be termed as 'the skill perspective of insights and experience'.

India needs UCC to usher in social reforms

Embracing uniform civil code would cultivate social harmony, empower women, and streamline the legal framework



SHREYASHI **RAJ**

(The writer is a student of LLM at Chanakya National Law University)

India, a land of rich cultural diversity and pluralism, embraces a multitude of religions, each governed by its distinctive set of personal laws dictating matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption. However, the absence of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has given rise to persistent inequalities and inconsistencies within the nation's legal framework. These disparities have hindered the nation's progress toward achieving social harmony, economic development, and gender justice. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for the implementation of a UCC has reignited the discourse, emphasizing the need to move beyond differences while upholding individual identities.

Babasaheb Ambedkar and the architects of the Indian Constitution recognized the pivotal role of a UCC in empowering women and advancing gender equality in crucial aspects such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance. By eradicating discriminatory practices, a UCC can ensure equal opportunities and protection for women. Acknowledging India's diversity, a unified legal framework holds the potential to foster social cohesion and national integration, as underscored by the Constituent Assembly members.

The UCC, far from imposing uniformity of beliefs, represents a crucial stride towards safeguarding the fundamental rights of all citizens, diminishing social disparities, and combating gender-based discrimination. The aim is to strike a delicate balance between preserving personal beliefs and ensuring equal rights for all under a single civil law. This approach respects India's multicultural tapestry while nurturing a shared sense of citizenship and national identity.

Article 44 of the Indian Constitution underscores the necessity of a UCC, aiming to harmonize personal laws concerning marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption. Unlike criminal laws that are already uniform, personal laws remain disparate across religions. The UCC would bridge these disparities, encompassing critical aspects like marriage, divorce, minors' affairs, adoption, wills, succession, and joint families. Both state assemblies and the central government possess the authority to introduce the UCC. Notably, states such as Gujarat, Uttarakhand, and Assam have embarked on steps towards implementing the UCC, setting a promising precedent for a more unified legal framework.

The constitutional quest for gender equity is evident in Article 14, ensuring legal equality and equal protection for all citizens. Article 15 further bars discrimination based on religion, race, caste, gender, and more. However, the coexistence of religious personal laws with the Constitution raises questions about their compatibility, potentially infringing on the spirit of Articles 13, 14, and 15. This incongruity underscores the potential violation of these constitutional provisions in the absence of a UCC.

Gender disparities prevalent in various personal laws, particularly those related to inheritance rights, underscore the urgency of a UCC. Diverse religious laws engender inequalities; for instance, Muslim laws grant women only half the inheritance that men receive, while Christian women inherit only one-third. Such gender-based imbalances emphasize the pressing need for a UCC that ensures equality and eradicates biases. This resonates with Article 44 of the Constitution, which calls upon the state to endeavor towards a uniform legal code across India. The Supreme Court of India has consistently advocated for a UCC, imploring Parliament to consider its enactment. Landmark cases such as Jose Paulo Coutinho vs. Maria Luiza Valentina Pereira & Anr. (2010) and Sarla Mudgal & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors. highlight the Court's concern over the lack of progress toward realizing the UCC. The Court's persistent appeals underscore the vital role of a UCC in ensuring uniformity and equality in civil laws, paving the way for a more just and harmonious society. The Goa model emerges as a shining example of a successful UCC implementation. By treating all religions impartially and safeguarding specific rights, Goa's model showcases how a well-structured UCC can foster equality and social justice. This model serves as an inspiration for other states, offering a blueprint for creating an inclusive and harmonious legal framework.

A thoughtfully devised UCC holds immense potential to fortify the social fabric, eliminate discrimination, and foster a more progressive and unified society. It seeks to establish gender justice, equal rights, and a shared sense of citizenship. Striking a balance between religious diversity and equal rights is paramount. By fulfilling this constitutional mandate, India can ensure that its legal norms are just and equitable, aligning with contemporary values. Recent developments underscore a growing recognition of the need for an inclusive legal system through the adoption of a UCC.

the pioneer
NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 10, 2023

56 injured in factory blast near Moscow



AP ■ TALLINN (ESTONIA)

An explosion on Wednesday on the grounds a factory north of Moscow that makes optical equipment for Russia's security forces injured 56 people, six of them severely, officials said.

The blast occurred at a warehouse storing fireworks, though it was on the grounds of the Zagorsk optics manufacturing plant, according to Andrei Vorobyov, the governor of the region surrounding the Russian capital.Vorobyov said the company had rented out the warehouse for storage, but later claimed the plant itself was mostly producing pyrotechnics.

He said the facility "has had nothing to do with optics or mechanics for a long time," even though the company's website says it still manufactures those products, as well as medical apparatus.

Whatever the cause, the explosion produced a tall plume of black smoke and added to Russian jitters over nighttime drone attacks on Moscow, as well as alarm about smoke over the port of Sevastopol in Crimea on Wednesday.The Zagorsk plant explosion blew out windows in nearby apartment buildings and prompted the evacuation of the surrounding area, the regional governor said. Five people were feared trapped under rubble. Earlier, officials said Russian air defences shot down two drones aimed at Moscow overnight, in what they described as Ukraine's latest attempt to strike the Russian capital in an apparent campaign to unnerve Muscovites and take the war to Russia.

The drones were intercepted on their approach to Moscow and there were no casualties, Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said. The Russian Defence Ministry described the incident as a "terrorist attack."

One of the drones came down in the Domodedovo district south of Moscow, and the other fell near the Minsk highway west of the city, according to Sobyanin. Domodedovo airport is one of Moscow's busiest.

It was not clear where the drones were launched, and Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment. Ukraine usually neither confirms nor denies such attacks.

Flights were briefly halted at Moscow's Vnukovo airport on July 30 and August 1, when drones smashed into Moscow's business district after being jammed by air defenses in two separate incidents.In May, Russian authorities accused Ukraine of attempting to attack the Kremlin with two drones in an effort to assassinate President Vladimir Putin.

Recent drone attacks have aimed at targets from the Russian capital to the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula.In another incident that caused alarm, Ukrainian media reported social media blogs as saying that a thick plume of smoke billowed over Sevastopol.

'Ukraine war to be among top topics at G20 Summit'

Washington (PTI): The ongoing war in Ukraine would be one of the top topics of discussion during the G-20 Summit in New Delhi next month, a senior official of the US has said.

Leaders of G-20 nations, including US President Joe Biden, are scheduled to attend the G-20 summit hosted by India in New Delhi from September 9 to 10.

"In all of our conversations with allies and partners around the world, we continue to discuss the war in Ukraine. It is always one of the top topics that come up in all of our conversations, and I have no doubt that'll be true at the G20," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference on Tuesday.

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, leaving thousands dead and millions homeless. The war has led to a spike in commodity and energy prices, which exacerbated food shortages and stoked inflation across the world.

While the West has been critical of the war and has imposed economic sanctions on Russia. India has been maintaining that the Ukraine crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. The members represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China and others.

Niger's military junta digs in with cabinet appointments

AP ■ NIAMEY (NIGER)



The military junta that seized power in Niger two weeks ago has appointed new cabinet ministers and barred most international meditators from the country as it works to entrench itself in power.

The junta's leaders named a new prime minister Monday, in what analysts described as an attempt to show that they're serious about governing the West Africa country.

They refused to admit mediation teams that were meant to arrive Tuesday, sent by the United Nations, the African Union, and West African regional bloc ECOWAS. The junta cited "evident reasons of security in this atmosphere of menace," according to a letter seen by The Associated Press.

ECOWAS had threatened to use military force if the junta didn't reinstate the elected president, Mohamed Bazoum by Sunday, a deadline that the junta ignored and which passed without action from ECOWAS.

The military leaders chose civilian economist Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine as prime minister. Zeine is a former minister of economy and finance who left office after his government was ousted by a previous military coup in 2010, and later worked at the African Development Bank.

"The establishment of a government is significant, and signals at least to the population, that they have a plan in place, with support from across the government," said Aneliese Bernard, a former U.S. State Department official who specialized in African affairs and who is now director of Strategic Stabilization Advisors, a risk advisory group. Mutinous soldiers detained Bazoum and seized power on July 26, claiming they could do a better job at protecting the nation from jihadi violence. Groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have ravaged the Sahel region, a vast expanse south of the Sahara Desert.

But most analysts and diplomats say that reason doesn't hold weight and that the takeover was the result of a power struggle between the president and the head of his presidential guard, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, who now says he runs the country.

The coup comes as a blow to many countries in the West, which saw Niger as one of the last democratic partners in the region they could work with to beat back the extremist threat. Niger also matters to the global market on various fronts, including a 5% share of the global supply of uranium.

Niger's partners have threatened to cut off hundreds of millions of dollars in military assistance if it does not return to constitutional rule.

But so far diplomatic efforts have yielded little as the junta tightens its grip on power.

While the crisis drags on, Niger's some 25 million people are bearing the brunt. It's one of the poorest countries in the world. Many Nigeriens live hand to mouth and say they're too focused on finding food for their families to pay much attention to the escalating crisis. Harsh economic and travel sanctions imposed by ECOWAS since the coup have caused food prices to rise by up to 5%, say traders. Erkmann Tchibozo, a shop owner from neighboring Benin who works in Niamey, said it's been hard to get anything into the country to stock his shop near the airport.

If it continues like this, the situation is going to become very difficult, he said. Niger's capital, Niamey, appeared more tense on Tuesday, with security forces checking vehicles. On Monday, the junta shut its airspace, and on Tuesday it temporarily suspended authorization for diplomatic flights from friendly and partner countries, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Niger's ousted prez running low on food under house arrest

Niamey (AP): Niger's deposed president is running out of food and experiencing other increasingly dire conditions two weeks after he was ousted in a military coup and put under house arrest, an advisor told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

President Mohamed Bazoum, the West African nation's democratically elected leader, has been held at the presidential palace in Niamey with his wife and son since mutinous soldiers moved against him on July 26.

The family is living without electricity and only has rice and canned goods left to eat, the advisor said.

Bazoum remains in good health for now and will never resign, according to the advisor, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive situation with the media.

Fire at vacation home kills 11

AP ■ PARIS



A devastating fire that raged through a vacation home for adults with disabilities in eastern France on Wednesday left 11 people dead, an official said. Nathalie Kielwasser, deputy prosecutor for Colmar, said 11 people who were sleeping on the upper floor and in a mezzanine area of the private accommodation in the town of Wintzenheim were trapped by the fire, while five managed to escape.

Twelve people who were staying on the ground floor were able to evacuate, she said.

The adults, who had "slight intellectual disabilities," were on a vacation sponsored by two specialised associations, she said.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances of the fire and whether the building met all the required safety standards, she said. Authorities said one of the survivors was sent to a hospital with serious injuries. French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne arrived at the scene on Wednesday afternoon. She said she wanted to show the government's support for the families of the victims and for the firefighters and rescuers on site.

Lt. Col. Philippe Hauwiller, who was leading the rescue work of firefighters, said the fire likely started on the home's upper floor.

41 die in migrant shipwreck: Media

Rome (AP): Forty-one people are believed dead after a migrant boat capsized off Tunisia, Italian state RAI television reported, citing four survivors who were rescued and brought to land Wednesday.

According to RAI and ANSA news agency, the four were first rescued by the Maltese-flagged bulk carrier Rimona in the Straits of Sicily. They were then transferred to the Italian coast guard, which brought them to the Sicilian island of Lampedusa.

The island, which is closer to Africa than the Italian mainland, is a frequent destination for migrant smugglers and has seen its migrant holding centre repeatedly overcrowded with new arrivals this summer.

Alessandra Filograno, a spokeswoman for the Italian Red Cross, confirmed four survivors arrived at the Lampedusa centre Wednesday morning: two men, a woman and an unaccompanied minor. Filograno had no further information. Neither ANSA nor RAI provided attribution for the information but reported the four survivors - who hailed from Ivory Coast and Guinea - as saying that 41 people died, including three children.

UK ex-teacher jailed over abuse of children in India

London (PTI): A former deputy head teacher at a London primary school who had pleaded guilty to paying and instructing teenagers in India to abuse younger children was sentenced to 12 years in prison on Wednesday.

Matthew Smith, 35, from East Dulwich in south London was arrested by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) in November last year after its investigators identified that he was sharing abuse material on the dark web and has now been sentenced at Southwark Crown Court in London.According to the NCA, Smith was online at the time of his arrest, speaking to a teenage boy living in India and asking him to send sexual images of a younger child, in return for money. He also had dark web sites and forums open on his computer which were dedicated to child sexual abuse. "Matthew Smith is a prolific offender and master manipulator, who coerced young men into abusing children on his behalf," said Helen Dore, Senior Officer of the NCA.

Amid political scandals, Lee reassures citizens of govt's integrity

AP ■ SINGAPORE



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has assured that his government would maintain its high standards of honesty, integrity and propriety which its citizens expect of it, as the city-state witnessed a spate of political scandals in recent months.

"Some have asked what these incidents say about the Government. My answer is this: Such issues come up from time to time," Prime Minister Lee said in his National Day message on Tuesday.

"When they do, we deal with them properly and transparently. That is what we have always done, and that's what we have done this time too," he said. Singapore, known for its corruption-free and stable politics, was rocked by a recent spate of scandals involving ministers and lawmakers. These cases include allegations of preferential treatment in the rental of state-owned Ridout Road properties by two Indian-origin ministers, a Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) probe into Transport Minister S Iswaran, as well as the resignations of former Speaker of Parliament Tan Chuan-Jin and former MP Cheng Li Hui over their affair.

Home and Law Minister K Shanmugam and Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan rented colonial-built, heritage bungalows in the suburbs of the city-state after the properties had not been rented for a long while.

The opposition in Parliament had questioned the rental process. The Ridout Road case was thoroughly investigated and the ministers have been exonerated. However, the CPIB probe is ongoing.

"In all three cases, for the good of the country, we sought to do the right thing, protect the integrity of our system of government, and carry through everything that needed to be done," the 71-year-old Lee said.

Minister Iswaran is under investigation for reported concern about Formula-1 events, which Singapore continues to host and preparation for one is underway to be held next month.Tan and Cheng have both resigned over the affair from political and public offices. "Let there be no doubt: My Government is determined to keep our system free of corruption and wrongdoing," Lee stressed.

He noted that foreign leaders admire the country's ability to think long-term, set ambitious goals and steadily achieve its aspirations.

"I tell them - this is only possible because the people and the Government work closely together. This is what gives Singapore an edge over others. This is what makes us exceptional. We must never let this bond weaken," he said. Singapore celebrated its 58th National Day on August 9 with citizens dressed up in traditional red, the high point of which is the parade of armed forces with military-ware display.

Khanun begins blowing into S Korea with strong winds

Busan (AP): Rains and winds were growing in southern South Korea Wednesday as a tropical storm drew closer to the Korean Peninsula, where it was forecast to slam into major urban areas.

Dozens of flights and ferry services were grounded and tens of thousands of fishing vessels evacuated to ports as government officials raised concerns about potentially huge damages from flooding, landslides and tidal waves triggered by the typhoon-strength winds. The storm, named Khanun, was gaining strength as it moved slowly towards the country, South Korea's weather agency said, with southern and eastern areas increasingly feeling its force.Khanun is expected to reach the southern resort island of Jeju hours later and then make landfall near the mainland port of Tongyeong Thursday morning.

The agency says Khanun could have a punishing impact as it will likely slice through the centre of the country over several hours, with the storm's eye brushing the capital city of Seoul, while packing winds blowing at 90 to 154 kph (56 to 97 mph).

The storm is expected to dump 10 to 40 centimetres (4 to 16 inches) of rain in southern and central regions and as much as 60 centimetres (24 inches) in the country's mountainous eastern regions through Friday.

It will be weaker as it blows into North Korea early in the day. The Korean Meteorological Administration measured Khanun's maximum winds at 133 kph (82 mph) as of 7.10 pm Wednesday (10.10 am GMT), as it passed through waters 250 kilometres (155 miles) southeast of Jeju while moving northward at a speed of 14 kph (8.6mph).Winds were growing stronger in the country's southern regions as of 7 pm, blowing at a maximum 96 kph (60 mph) in waters off Tongyeong and 95 kph (59 mph) in the southwestern mainland port of Yeosu while pouring 14 centimetres (5.5 inches) of rain in some areas of Jeju.

Rainforest nations in Africa, Asia join Amazon summit

AP ■ BELEN (BRAZIL)

Representatives of rainforest nations in Africa and Southeast Asia joined a summit of Amazon countries in Brazil on Wednesday to begin charting a common course for preservation of the ecologically diverse regions that are crucial in countering climate change. On Tuesday, leaders and ministers from eight Amazonian nations signed a declaration that laid out plans to drive economic development in their countries while preventing the Amazon's ongoing demise "from reaching a point of no return."

Some scientists say that when 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the forest is destroyed, rainfall will dramatically decline, transforming more than half of the rainforest to tropical savannah, with immense biodiversity loss.The eight nations — Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela — are members of the newly revived Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, or ACTO, and have expressed hope a united front will give them a major voice in global environment talks ahead of the COP 28 climate conference in November.

Several environmental groups expressed frustration with Tuesday's joint declaration, saying it was largely a compilation of good intentions with little in the way of concrete goals and timeframes. However, the region's largest Indigenous organisation praised the inclusion of two of its main demands.

The Amazon nations were joined Wednesday by the presidents of the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, an emissary from Indonesia's president, and France's ambassador to Brazil, representing the Amazonian territory of French Guiana. The president of Norway, the largest contributor to Brazil's Amazon Fund for sustainable development, also attended.Officials from the developing rainforest nations were expected to sign a joint statement titled "United for our Forests," according to Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's agenda.

The summit reinforces Lula's strategy to leverage global concern for the Amazon's preservation. Emboldened by a 42 per cent drop in deforestation during his first seven months in office, he has sought international financial support for forest protection.

The Amazon stretches across an area twice the size of India. Two-thirds of it lies in Brazil, with seven other countries and the territory of French Guiana sharing the remaining third. Governments have historically viewed it as an area to be colonized and exploited, with little regard for sustainability or the rights of its Indigenous peoples.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client RBL Bank having its registered office at 1st Lane, Shahupuri, Kolhapur–416001 and branch office at First Floor Building No. 1 Okhla Phase-3 New Delhi-110020. This is to state that our client had given a loan to M/s Dangi Enterprises having loan account No. 609000463037, however during the course of organizing all Property papers file was found missing by bank officials. Our client, despite their best efforts, could not locate the file. The documents missing were with respect to property, PLOT NO.674, SECTOR-10, URBAN ESTATE, GURGAON, HARYANA - 122001. We had also lodged a Police Complaint on 02.08.2023 with Gurgaon Police Station. The list of documents which are missing are as follows:

1.Original Possession Certificate dated 29.03.2004 issued by HUDA in favour of Mrs. Darshana Wadhwa in respect of the said property.
2.Original Deed of Conveyance of building site sold by allotment dated 02.04.2004 executed by HUDA in favour of Mrs. Dharshana Wadhwa in respect of the said property, duly registered as Document no. 1181, in Addl. Book no. 1, Vol. no. 7571/914 on pages 158/68-69 on 16.04.2004.
3.Original Sale Deed dated 16.04.2004 executed by Mrs. Dharshana Wadhwa in favour of Mr. Shree Bhagwan Saini and Mrs. Beena Saini in respect of the said property, duly registered as Document no. 1219, in Addl. Book no. 1, Vol. no. 7571/915 on pages 168/46-47 dated 16.04.2004.
4.Original Re-allotment letter dated 13.05.2004 issued by HUDA in favour of Mr. Shree Bhagwan Saini and Mrs. Beena Saini in respect of the said property.
5.Original Sale Deed dated 28.12.2005 executed by Mr. Shree Bhagwan Saini and Mrs. Beena Saini in favour of Mrs. Phool Kumari Thakur in respect of the said property, duly registered as document no. 20243, in Addl. Book no. 1, Vol. no. 8466/943 on pages 90/49-50 on 28.12.2005.
6.Original Re-allotment letter dated 16.02.2006 issued by HUDA in favour of Mrs. Phool Kumari Thakur in respect of the said property.
7.Original ATS dated 11.04.2011 executed between Mrs. Phool Kumari Thakur And Mrs. Ramesh Devi in respect of the said property.
8.Photocopy of Transfer permission letter dated 16.05.2011 issued by HUDA in favour of Mrs. Ramesh Devi in respect of the said property.
9.Original Sale Deed dated 18.05.2011 executed by Mrs. Phool Kumari Thakur in favour of Mrs. Ramesh Devi in respect of the said property, duly registered as Document no. 4125, in Addl. book no. 1, Vol. no. 12955/1290 on pages 36/94-95 dated 18.05.2011.
10.Original Re-allotment letter dated 06.06.2011 issued by HUDA in favour of Mrs. Ramesh Devi in respect of the said property.
11.Permission to mortgage from HUDA in favour of the Bank

If any person has found these original documents, kindly intimate or hand over the same at below address and any person having claim, right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the above said misplaced document by way of shares, sale, gift, lease, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise howsoever should intimate their objections, if any, in writing within 14 days to Adv. Mr. Kamal Kant Gupta, Advocate at Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower, Sec-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP, Ph. No. 9810063351 failing which, the claim of the such person/s, if any, will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned for all intents and purpose.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower
Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

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 :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	SRF0050484	ZOHRA	1124961	308135242-561	320
		JT 1 : SOHRAB			
2	N 0003017	NIRMAL SALUJA	90636	2370401-25	25
		JT 1: MR HANS RAJ SALUJA	90636	2371426-50	25
			90637	2523251-75	25
			90637	2524726-50	25
			136012	5599349-98	50
			1131730	310735366-6365	1000
			90030592-4	7232610-709	100
3	SRF0116083	KATY N POPAT	416186-8	18005238-312	75
		JT 1: NEVILLE N POPAT	565186-8	26025030-104	75
			597170-1	9964810-909	100
			1131485	310634210-5409	1200
			90201232	15359625-74	50
4	SRF0046477	RAJESHRI KAMDAR	1128844	309605018-217	200
		JT 1: PRAFUL JAMNADAS KAMDAR	90200237	15319470-519	50
5	SRF0041841	RANJIT BHARGAV PRABHAVALKAR	1127803	309129466-817	351
		JT 1: VIJAYALAXMI BHARGAV PRABHAVALKAR			

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: 09-08-2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SSA-22020/3/2022-ALTSCH-SSA/I/244194/2023 Dated 08.08.2023

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites following bids through GeM portal.

1.Bid No. GEM/2023/B/3797859 Dated: 07-08-2023 for Supply of Evaluation Work Book LP and UP.
2.Bid No. GEM/2023/B/3796729 Dated 07-08-2023 for Printing and Supply of Sikhon Puthi LP UP Readiness Package Individual Educational Plan Activity Calendar and Injhar.
3.Bid No. GEM/2023/B/3798173 Dated : 07-08-2023 for Supply of Low Height Plastic Table and chair and Multicoloured book Shelf.
4.Bid No. GEM/2023/B/3799287 Dated : 08-08-2023 for Supply of TLM for students and TLM for Schools.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also available in SSA website : https://ssa.assam.gov.in

Janasanyog/CF/2107/23

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha Axom
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Court refuses instant relief to Imran



I don't want to remain in jail: Khan tells lawyers

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has told his lawyers to take him out from the Attock jail as he does not want to remain in a cell that is infested with flies during the day and insects at night.

Khan, charged with corruption in the Toshakhana case and sentenced to three years, is unhappy and worried as he remains holed up in his prison cell.

The 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician was arrested on Saturday shortly after an Islamabad trial court found him guilty of "corrupt practices" in the case.

Khan has appealed his conviction by filing a plea at the Islamabad High Court.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman has asked his legal team that he does not wish to remain in prison, Geo News quoted sources in the Attock jail privy to the meeting between Khan and his lawyer as saying.

"Take me out of here; I don't want to remain in jail," the officials quoted Khan, as saying.Khan's counsel Naeem Haider Panjotha was granted access by the jail authorities Monday to meet him, who after seeing the PTI chairman said that the former premier was being kept in "distressing" conditions provided "C-Class jail facilities".

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's bid to get his conviction suspended in a corruption case did not succeed on Wednesday as the Islamabad High Court adjourned the hearing but assured him that his case would be decided in four to five days.Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in prison by an Islamabad trial court on Saturday in the Toshakhana corruption case in which he is accused of profiting from selling expensive state gifts when he was in power. He was subsequently arrested by Punjab police from his residence in Lahore.

Khan, who is currently lodged in the Attock Jail, appealed his conviction and the three-year prison sentence in the case by filing a plea through his lawyers at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday.

During the proceedings presided over by Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Khan's lawyer Khawaja Haris argued that the trial court announced its verdict without allowing him to plead the case and asked the court to suspend the sentence and take up the appeal against conviction for hearing from tomorrow.

"The decision of the trial court in the Toshakhana case is against the law," he stated in the plea seeking for the verdict to be annulled.

Chief Justice Farooq after hearing arguments refused to grant relief in the form of a suspension and declared that the petition would be fixed for a regular hearing within the next four to five days. He also issued notices to concerned parties.

The jailed chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is fighting a legal battle through his lawyers.

Hearing a different petition about shifting Khan to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, the IHC asked the authorities to apprise it who ordered to keep Khan at Attock jail instead of Adiala as directed by the sessions court.

Farooq asked the federal and Punjab governments to file replies by August 11 on the PTI chief's plea requesting a transfer from Attock district prison to Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

HC seeks govt's reply on ex-Pakistan PM's jail transfer request

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A top Pakistani court on Wednesday sought responses from the federal and Punjab provincial governments to a petition filed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan seeking a transfer from Attock to Adiala prison.

On Monday, the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking transfer from Attock Jail to a better class in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. The former prime minister also sought permission for regular visits by his legal team, family members, physician Faisal Sultan and political aides to the jail in Punjab province. During the hearing of Khan's petition, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq said he would issue an order granting Khan's legal team permission to meet the former premier, the Dawn newspaper reported. On the issue of Khan's transfer from Attock to Adiala jail, the court sought responses from the federal and Punjab governments and adjourned the hearing till August 11. Khan was arrested on Saturday last week shortly after an Islamabad trial court found him guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced him to three years in jail. Soon after the verdict, he was arrested by the Punjab police from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore.

The trial court had ordered the Islamabad police chief to arrest the PTI chairman but he was instead arrested by the Lahore police. The court had also ordered the Adiala Jail superintendent to receive Khan, but he was instead taken to the Attock Jail.Khan's lawyers claimed that he was being kept in "distressing conditions" and was provided "C-Class facilities" in the jail in Punjab province.

Khan's attorney Naeem Haider Panjotha has said the jail cell where the former captain of the country's World Cup-winning cricket team is being held was infested with flies and bugs. He is in a very small room said after meeting Khan .

'IMF's deal with Pak under risk'

Islamabad (PTI): The USD 3 billion IMF bailout package for Pakistan could be at risk if the caretaker government's tenure gets prolonged due to the likely delay in holding general elections in the cash-strapped country, a media report said on Wednesday.

The IMF reached a staff-level agreement with Pakistan on a nine-month Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) in the amount of SDR 2,250 million (about USD 3 billion) in June.

Since a delimitation exercise is going to be undertaken after the Council of Common Interests (CCI) approved the first-ever digital population census, a delay in the elections in Pakistan is on the cards beyond three months, The News reported.

The delimitation exercise requires four months while two months more are needed to accomplish the election process. In the existing circumstances, the tenure of the caretaker regime might have to be extended up to six months at least to complete the process of political transition, the newspaper reported. Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Energy (CCOE) has approved the revised Circular Debt Management Plan (CDMP) which, after getting approval from the federal cabinet, would be shared with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the report said.It is yet to be seen how the IMF will respond to the revised CDMP on the envisaged targets, the report said.

Sharif blames Khan's govt for damaging Pak's Int'l relations

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that his government had to bear the burden of the past regime's negligence and failures during its 16-month rule as he accused Imran Khan's government of badly damaging Pakistan's relations with friendly countries.

The prime minister, who led a 13-party coalition, a first in the government, termed his 16-month-long tenure as the "most difficult test of my life".

"I never had to go through such a difficult test before in my 38-year-long [political] career as the country was mired in a severe economic crisis, oil prices remained high and there was political chaos," Sharif said while addressing the farewell session of the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament.

He lashed out at the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party government led by Khan, saying they had to bear the burden of the past regime's negligence and failures during their 16-month rule.

Sharif, who replaced Khan following the former cricketer-turned-politician's removal through a no-confidence vote in April last year, said that the previous government badly damaged Pakistan's ties with friendly countries.

"The attitude towards friendly countries is not hidden from anyone," said the premier, in a veiled reference to the "cipher" controversy that strained Pakistan's ties with the US. He had earlier accused Khan's government of slowing down the pace of the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Sharif also hit out at the Khan-led previous government for taking heavy loans and "bowing our heads before the world".

The past government took steps on the most important internal matters of Pakistan, which created the worst atmosphere in the country and spread poisonous propaganda, he said.

Sharif asserted that his government did "not send any political rival to jail or bothered them unfairly. This was never our practice."

"We are not happy about it," he said, referring to Khan's conviction and sentencing in a corruption case last week.

"Imran Niazi sacrificed the country for his own interests," he said.

He said that Khan's imprisonment was not a cause for celebration, dismissing claims that sweets were distributed by his party when the PTI chief was arrested.

"One should not curse even his enemies. There is no question of distributing sweets [by my party members]. If someone has done so, it is not a good tradition," he said.

Sharif also condemned the May 9 violence following Khan's arrest linked to another corruption case, saying the day will be "remembered as a black day".

Wickremesinghe asks all parties to submit proposals on 13A

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said he would fully implement the 13th Amendment to make the system of provincial councils more meaningful by reducing the central government's powers to curb their functioning, and asked all political parties to submit their proposals on the issue so that the Parliament could take a "final decision".

The move is part of Wickremesinghe's reconciliation efforts with the country's minority Tamil community, which has been demanding the implementation of the 13th Amendment (13A) that provides for devolution of power to it.The 13A was brought in after the India-Sri Lanka agreement of 1987. It created nine provinces as devolved units with a temporary merger of the Northern and Eastern provinces.In a special statement in Parliament, Wickremesinghe said, "No political party is opposed to the 13A. I invite them to do an in-depth study of ways to devolve power through 13A. I ask them to submit their proposals so that the Parliament could take a final decision on it."

"It should be the Parliament to decide on the future role of the provincial councils," he stressed.

The President reiterated that he would bring in the amendment to make the system of provincial councils more meaningful by reducing the central government's powers to curb their functioning.

Wickremesinghe said the stalled provincial council elections could be held after the Parliament's agreement on their powers. The elections for the nine provinces have been on hold since 2018 following a move to introduce electoral reforms. It now needs a parliamentary amendment to enable the elections to be held under the existing proportional representation system.

Wickremesinghe said the party deliberations for common ground on all powers, other than the police powers, must commence immediately.

Last month the president had assured the Tamil parties that the contentious 13th Amendment will be fully implemented, without police powers, in the provincial councils. In his address, Wickremesinghe also highlighted the issues of immediate concern for the Tamils and stressed the importance of improving air and sea connectivity in the Northern region.

He said the government plans to enhance the Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour, Vavuniya and Palaly airports — all in northern Sri Lanka, and establish a ferry service between the Northern Province and southern India. Responding to Wickremesinghe, the main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa said he would extend his Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party's well-considered support to the move.

Pak Rlys suspend six officials for negligence

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan Railways has suspended six officials, including a divisional engineer and a works manager, for their alleged negligence that led to a major train accident in the country's Sindh province that killed at least 34 people.Speaking in the National Assembly, Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique revealed details about the unfortunate incident, placing the blame on the damaged track for the derailment of the ill-fated train.

The Hazara Express train travelling from Karachi to Rawalpindi derailed on Sunday in Nawabshah district near the Sarhari Railway Station, 275 kilometres from the provincial capital Karachi.

In response to the tragic accident, six railway officials have been suspended, and financial compensation worth Rs 1.5 million each has been announced for the families of the victims.Speaking during Tuesday's assembly session, Rafique said that the investigations into the accident were underway and the report would be finalised in a few days.Explaining the cause of the accident, he said two wheels of a bogie were jammed at the time of its departure from Karachi. Besides that, the railway track near the site of the crash was also damaged, which led to the accident. However, as per the initial report, out of 12 total wheels of the locomotive were jammed when the train started its journey from Karachi which should have been removed.

Ashnoor Textile Mills Ltd.
Regd. Office : Behrampur Road, Village Khandsa, District Gurugram, Haryana-122001
E-mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com
Phone: 91 0124 4809756
CIN: L17226HR1984PLC033384

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, August 14, 2023, inter-alia, to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results of the company for the First Quarter ended June 30, 2023.

This information is also available on Company's website at www.ashnoortex.com and also on the website of BSE, i.e. www.bseindia.com.

By the order of Board
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN-00052084

August 8, 2023
Gurugram, Haryana

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2023/Track-III/MC/1 — New Delhi, dated 09.08.2023

CORRIGENDUM-VII

Subject :- E-Tender No. TM-2301 for procurement of Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car "SPURT CAR" to be opened on 10.08.2023

The Corrigendum-VII regarding modification to tender conditions & extension in date of tender opening have been uploaded on website **http://ireps.gov.in.**

(Vijay Singh)
Director, Track (Machines)
Railway Board
Tele: No. 011-47845531
E-mail: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in
2462/2023

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT

ADMISSION NOTICE - M.Sc. (Anatomy), M.Sc. (Physiology), (Biochemistry) Session 2023

Online Applications are invited available on University website for admission to M.Sc. in Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry Courses from **10-08-2023 to 31-08-2023** along with requisite fee through University payment Gateway. Counseling will be held on **05-09-2023 (11:00 PM)** in **Senate Hall, BFUHS, Faridkot.** The selected candidates shall pay the tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in favor of Registrar, BFUHS, payable in Faridkot.

ADMISSION NOTICE for Post Basic Diploma in Oncology Nursing and Neonatal Nursing-2023

Online applications are invited w.e.f **10-08-2023 to 31-08-2023** for admission to Post Basic Diploma in Oncology Nursing and Neonatal Nursing courses at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Sangrur and University College of Nursing, Faridkot alongwith requisite fee through University Payment University Gateway. Physical Counseling will be held on **06-09-2023 (12:00 noon)** in **Senate Hall, BFUHS, Faridkot.** The selected candidates shall pay the tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in favor of Registrar, BFUHS, payable in Faridkot.

Admission Notice for PMNET (M.Sc. Nursing) Courses, Session 2023

Online applications are invited for vacant seats for admission in all the Govt./Private college of Punjab through University website from candidates who have not appeared in PMNET-2023 on the basis of B.Sc. Nursing and Post Basic Nursing examinations from **10-08-2023 to 31-08-2023.** Physical Counseling will be held on **06-09-2023 (10:00AM)** in **Senate Hall, BFUHS, Faridkot.** The selected candidates shall pay the Six month tuition fee on the spot at the counseling venue in the shape of Bank Demand Draft in favor of Registrar, BFUHS, payable in Faridkot.
For details/updates visit University website: **www.bfuhs.ac.in**

Registrar

NIL/12/136/2023/26625 Dated CHD :- 8/9/2023

Aro granite industries ltd.
(CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510)
Registered Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi 110025, Phone : 011- 41686169; Fax: 011-26941984
Email Id: investorgrievance@arotile.com, Website: www.arotile.com

NOTICE OF 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that the 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Aro granite industries ltd. ("the Company") will be held on Friday, September 08, 2023 at 12:30 P.M. (IST) through video conference (VC/OAVM), to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular Nos.14/2020 (dated 8th April 2020), 17/2020 (dated 13th April 2020), 20/2020 (dated 5th May 2020) followed with Circular No. 02/2021 (dated January 13, 2021), 2/2022 (dated 5th May 2022), 3/2022 (Dated 5th May 2022), 10/2022 dated 28.12.2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circular/s") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/04 dated 05th January 2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In compliance with the said MCA Circular/s read with the SEBI Circular electronic copies of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year ended on 31st March, 2023 have been sent to all the members whose email IDs are registered with the Company/ Depository participant(s). Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circular/s and SEBI Circular. The Notice and the Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company www.arotile.com, on the website(s) of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively, where the Company's shares are listed.

Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/their respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest by sending scanned copy of a duly signed letter by the Member(s) mentioning their name, complete address, folio number, number of shares held with the Company along with self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and self-attested scanned copy of any one of the following documents viz., Aadhar Card, Driving License, Election Card, Passport, Utility Bill or any other Govt. document in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2022-23 along with AGM notice by email to investorgrievance@arotile.com. Members holding shares in demat form can update their email address with their Depository Participants.

The Notice of the AGM contains the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM and join the AGM through video conference (VC) / other audio-visual means (OAVM)

The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e., September 01, 2023, may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary and Special Businesses as set out in the notice of AGM through electronic voting systems of CDSL. All the members are informed that:

1. The Ordinary and the Special Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM will be transacted through voting by electronic means.
2. The remote e-voting shall commence on September05, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. (IST).
3. The remote e-voting shall end on September 07, 2023, at 05:00 P.M. (IST).
4. The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is September01, 2023 and a person who is not a Member as on the cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only;
5. Person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the notice of AGM and holding shares and eligible to vote, can follow the process for generating the login ID and password as provided in the Notice of the AGM. If such a person is already registered with CDSL for e-voting, existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote;
6. Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by the CDSL after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on a resolution is casted by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change subsequently; b) the members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again; c) the facility for voting through electronic mode shall be made available at the AGM and d) a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM.

Notice is also given pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act 2013 and Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules 2014, that the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books will remain closed from Saturday, 02nd September 2023 to Friday, 08th September 2023 (both days inclusive) on account of Annual General Meeting.

If you have any queries or issues regarding attending AGM & e-Voting from the CDSL e-Voting System, you can write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact at 022- 23058738 and 022-23058542/43. All grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL,) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058542/43.

For **Aro granite industries ltd.**
Sabyasachi Panigrahi
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: 10.08.2023

Nepal's opp CPN-UML continues to disrupt Parl

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's main opposition party, CPN-UML, continued with the obstruction of Parliament proceedings on Wednesday, demanding the formation of a high-level committee to investigate the nearly 100 kg gold smuggling scam.

Eighteen people, including an Indian and a Chinese national, were arrested in relation to the smuggling of nearly 100 kg of gold that passed out of Tribhuvan International Airport's customs without being detected on the night of July 18.

The CPN-UML has been calling for the formation of a high-level probe committee to investigate the smuggling scam. The party has been regularly obstructing Parliament sessions for the last two weeks.

As soon as Speaker Devraj Ghimire started conducting the regular proceedings of the House of Representatives, CPN-UML lawmakers started sloganeering.

CPN-UML lawmaker Surya Bahadur Thapa Chhetri demanded that a probe committee be formed to investigate the gold smuggling. The Opposition party lawmakers picketed the rostrum and started sloganeering after the ruling parties' lawmakers took their seats.

Following the disruption, the Speaker adjourned the Parliament till Friday afternoon.

UN, Syria reach agreement to reopen Turkey border crossing

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations announced late Tuesday that an agreement had been reached with Syria to reopen the main border crossing from Turkey to its rebel-held northwest for six months. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the "understanding" reached following talks between UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths and Syrian officials, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said. The agreement will reopen the Bab al-Hawa crossing which has been used for 85% of deliveries to the northwest Idlib region.

Haq's statement followed his earlier announcement Tuesday that Syria has agreed to keep two other crossings to the northwest, Bab al-Salameh and al-Rai, open for three months until Nov. 13. The UN Security Council had failed to adopt either of two rival resolutions on July 11 to authorise further deliveries through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing to Idlib province.

It is home to about 4.1 million people, many of whom have been forced from their homes during the 12-year civil war, which has killed nearly a half million people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million. Hundreds of thousands of people in Idlib live in tent settlements and had relied on aid that came through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing.

Syrian President Bashar Assad opened the two additional crossing points from Turkey at Bab al-Salameh and al-Rai to increase the flow of assistance to victims of the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake that ravaged northwestern Syria and southern Turkey on Feb. 6.

Astronauts preview moon-bound spacecraft for 1st time

AP ■ CAPE CANAVAERAL

The four astronauts assigned to fly around the moon in another year got their first look at their spacecraft, as NASA warned on Tuesday there could be more delays.

They peeked into their unfinished Orion capsule, red "Remove Before Flight" tags still dangling from it, and came away impressed.

"Nothing else looks like that ... that's what gave me shivers," astronaut Christina Koch told reporters.

The US-Canadian crew inspected the capsule during a visit to Kennedy Space Center late Monday and Tuesday. NASA plans to send the four around the moon and back late next year.

Investigations into the capsule's heat shield, however, could delay this first lunar trip by astronauts in more than half a century. Last year's test flight around the moon, with no one on board, resulted in unexpected charring and loss of material from the heat shield at the bottom of the capsule. The heat shield is meant to protect the capsule against the extreme heat of reentry.

The following mission of the Artemis program — a moon landing — faces even more hurdles and may slip from late 2025 into 2026. The main issue remains SpaceX's Starship, the rocketship that will carry two NASA astronauts from lunar orbit down to the south pole.

With only one test flight so far for Starship — resulting in an explosion a few minutes after liftoff in April — NASA is concerned whether Elon Musk's SpaceX can pull everything off in time. The space agency will not commit to a moon landing using Starship, until SpaceX conducts multiple Starship orbital flights, sets up a refueling depot around Earth and completes a moon-landing dress rehearsal.

NASA's exploration systems development chief, Jim Free, said the space agency should have a clearer handle on where things stand this fall.

"It's clear that we have a lot of work to do," said astronaut Victor Glover.

Despite such lingering worries, the mood inside the Neil Armstrong Operations and Checkout Building — named after the first man to step onto the moon — was upbeat Tuesday. The astronauts — assigned to the mission amid hoopla last spring — were asked what it felt like to be in such hallowed grounds.

Crew commander Reid Wiseman said it wasn't their own trip but the next moon landing that is "going to carry the dream for us."

More than 200 rock concert speakers were stacked around the capsule for an acoustic test later this week. NASA planned to blast the place with up to 143 decibels of rumbling noise — imitating the thunderous sounds of liftoff — to see how well the windows, wiring and other parts of the capsule hold up.

Gesturing toward the capsule, Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen said: "That's real ... It's not a dream."

the pioneer
NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 10, 2023

Markets bounce back on fag-end buying in RIL, ITC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices closed higher on Wednesday, helped by fag-end buying in index majors Reliance Industries, ITC and M&M amid a positive start in European markets. Cautious trade prevailed in the markets for the most part of the day ahead of two major events — the RBI's monetary policy and the US inflation data — due to be announced on Thursday.

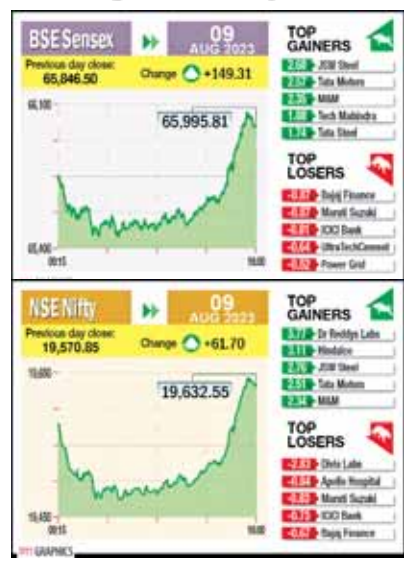
The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 149.31 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 65,995.81. During the day, it fell by 402.12 points or 0.61 per cent to 65,444.38. The benchmark also touched a high of 66,066.01.

The NSE Nifty gained 61.70 points or 0.32 per cent to end at 19,632.55.

"Markets staged a smart recovery in the late trading session after two days of weakness, as strength in European indices and sharp gains in metals, oil & gas and auto stock aided sentiment. "Markets were highly volatile as investors shunned local equities after Moody's warned of downgrading six major US banks, while weak Chinese exports data also dampened sentiment," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

JSW Steel was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.68 per cent, followed by Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Titan, ITC, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Reliance Industries and Larsen & Toubro.

In contrast, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, ICICI Bank, Power Grid, Asian Paints and Axis Bank were major laggards.



In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.57 per cent, and the midcap index advanced 0.39 per cent.

Among the indices, metal jumped 2.32 per cent, consumer durables climbed 1.21 per cent, oil & gas (1.16 per cent), energy (1.11 per cent), commodities (0.82 per cent), industrials (0.76 per cent), auto (0.74 per cent) and FMCG (0.61 per cent).

On the other hand, Financial Services, bankex and realty were the laggards.

"The domestic market started adopting a defensive stance as investors awaited crucial inflation data for India and the US. The deflationary trend in China and the downgrade of the US mid and small-sized banks affected the market sentiment.

"However, a late recovery in the domestic market was supported by a positive uptick in the European market and hope of an optimistic RBI policy not impacting domestic economic growth," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

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

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 711.34 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.79 per cent to USD 86.85 a barrel. The rupee appreciated by 5 paise to settle at 82.86 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday.

"As expected, Indian equities are consolidating given the cautious global scenario and consistent selling by FIIs. Tomorrow, we expect the market to see some volatility as the RBI will announce its policy decision outcome on the weekly F&O expiry day. Further, the RBI's commentary would be largely tracked to understand their future course of action," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head — Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

Bata India Q1 standalone net profit down 10% to ₹107.8 cr

PTI ■ KOLKATA



Bata India Ltd on Wednesday reported a 10 per cent decline in standalone net profit to Rs 107.8 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2023. The company posted a net profit of Rs 119.3 crore in the corresponding quarter of the last year.

Revenue from operations for the quarter stood at Rs 958.1 crore, a growth of 2 per cent over Q1FY23.

Expenses were higher during the quarter under review to Rs 826.9 crore vs Rs 792.6 crore.

The average selling price of shoes grew by 3 per cent during the quarter, the company stated in a statement. "With our strategy of casualisation and premiumisation, expansion in Retail Network and accelerated investment towards core technologies (ERP, Merchandising, etc.,), we believe the template is set up for future profitable growth," Bata India MD and CEO, Gunjan Shah said in his comment.

Digital footprint through the company's omnichannel e-commerce revenue streams gained significant momentum in the quarter going by, he said.

"We are optimistic about the demand resurgence going ahead and continue to expand in Tier 3-5 towns, digital channels, and make investments in elevating customer experience & brand marketing," Shah said.

The company's retail network expanded by 70 stores during the quarter, taking the total store count to 2,100 across the country.

NSE cautions investors against assured returns scheme offered by four individuals



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange on Wednesday cautioned investors against putting their money in any assured returns scheme offered by four individuals.

The four individuals are Amit Mishra and Shivam Chauhan associated with Go Algo, and Kajal Patel and Alpesh Patel associated with KK Advisories.

They (Amit, Shivam, Kajal and Alpesh) were providing securities market tips for trading and assuring returns on investment in the stock market and also offering to handle the trading account of investors by asking them to share their credentials, NSE said in two separate statements.

According to statements, these persons are not registered either as a member or authorised persons of any registered member of the bourse.

Cautioning the investors, the exchange asked them not to subscribe to any such scheme or product offered by any person or entity offering guaranteed returns in the stock market as the same is prohibited by the law.

The exchange has also provided a facility to investors of "Know/Locate your Stock Broker" on its website to check the details of the registered member and authorised persons.

"Participation in such prohibited schemes is at investor's own risk, cost and consequences as such schemes are neither approved nor endorsed by the exchange," NSE said.

For any kind of disputes relating to such prohibited schemes, mechanism and investor grievance redressal mechanism administered by the exchange, would not be available to the investors, it added.

Sebi halves IPO listing time to 3 days to benefit investors, issuers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday halved the timeline for listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to three days from six days at present. The new listing timeframe will be voluntary for all public issues opening on or after September 1 and mandatory for all the issues which come after December 1, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The reduction in timelines for listing and trading of shares will benefit both issuers as well as investors. Issuers will have faster access to the capital raised thereby enhancing the ease of doing business and the investors will have the opportunity for having early credit and liquidity for their investment.

"It has been decided to reduce the time taken for listing of specified securities after the closure of public issue to three working days (T+3 days) as against the present requirement of 6 working days (T+6 days). 'T' being closing date," Sebi said.

The regulator said that the compensation to investors for the delay in unblocking of ASBA application money shall be computed from T+3 day.

Sebi said that Registrar to an Issue would undertake third-party verification of the applications by matching the PAN available in the demat account with the PAN available in the bank account of the applicant.

In instances of mismatch, such applications would continue to be considered invalid applications for finalising the basis of allotment.

The move came after the board of Sebi approved a proposal in this regard in June.



Govt should propose to GST Council to cut tax rates on fertilisers from current 5%: Par panel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel has recommended that the government should propose to the GST Council to reduce tax rates on fertilisers from the current 5 per cent.

In its report laid in Parliament on Wednesday, Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers said the committee have been informed that fertilisers were placed under the 12 per cent GST bracket. However, on demand of various states, GST on fertilisers was reduced to 5 per cent.

"The issue to further reduce GST on fertilisers was placed before the GST council in its 45th and 47th meetings held in September 2021 and June 2022, respectively. The GST council, however, did not recommend any change in the rates of fertilisers or other organic farm inputs.

"The committee strongly recommend that the issue to further reduce GST on fertilisers may be placed before the GST Council at the earliest in the best interest of the farmers of our country," it added.

The panel noted that fertilisers are levied GST at 5 per cent and its raw materials, like sulphuric acid and ammonia, are levied a higher GST at 18 per cent on the recommendations of the GST council.

"The Committee failed to understand this anomaly. The Department has clarified that the raw material of fertilisers like Sulphur has multiple uses and is also used in the production of detergents, paints, dyes etc. Similarly, ammonia too has multiple uses and is also used as refrigerator gas, manufacturing of plastics, explosives, textiles etc," the report said.

However, the committee felt that raw materials used for the production of fertilisers should be levied with lesser GST and asked the Department of Fertilizers to "consider favourably the proposal to lower the GST on raw materials in the interest of fertiliser manufacturing companies and ultimately farmers".

Among other recommendations, the panel asked the Department of Fertilizers to take all remedial measures to contain the deficit of various types of fertilisers in the country, especially urea, and make it more self-reliant.

The committee urged the government to review the present Nutrient based subsidy policy for phosphatic & potash (P&K) fertilisers in order to remove the disincentives for farmers to use other fertilisers rather than urea.

The panel's report said that over-consumption of urea is being promoted due to Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) policy, which covers other fertilisers like P&K fertilisers only.

"Urea is left out of the scheme and hence it remains under price control whereas technically there is no price control in other fertilisers. The prices of the other fertilisers, which were decontrolled, have gone up and that has led farmers to use more urea than before. This has further worsened fertiliser imbalance," it added.

TVS Supply Chain Solutions prepares for IPO after 29 years

PTI ■ CHENNAI



TVS Supply Chain Solutions, a part of TVS Mobility Group, is gearing up for the initial share sale that would be open for public subscription from August 10 onwards, officials said on Wednesday.The city-based company is hitting the capital market after a gap of nearly 29 years, Executive Vice-Chairman R Dinesh said.

"I think the last time when we raised (funds) was in 1994...," he told reporters. The price band has been fixed at Rs 187-197 for the Rs 880 crore initial public offering (IPO), valuing the company at Rs 8,700 crore.

The initial share sale comprises Rs 600 crore of fresh issue and Rs 280 crore sale by the promoters. The IPO would be open for subscription during August 10-14, he said.

At the upper end of the price band, the IPO is expected to fetch Rs 880 crore. From the issue's proceeds, Rs 525 crore will be used for pre-existing debt repayment and its subsidiary TVS LI UK.

A portion of the fund would also be used for "inorganic growth" and general corporate purposes.

According to Managing Director Ravi Vishwanathan, the gross debt by the company was at Rs 1,700 crore.

"Tomorrow is one of the important milestones in the journey of the company. Entire organisation is pretty excited about that (IPO). The company works on 3Cs — capability, customer and country," he said.

The United Kingdom constitutes a major chunk of the business at Rs 3,036 crore followed by India at Rs 3,026 crore and Rs 1,300 crore was contributed from Europe and Rs 790 crore from the United States of America, he said.

Responding to a query, Dinesh said he was the fourth generation in the TVS family and hitting the capital market does not change anything for the business group.

"The inherent nature of business for TVS continues," he said pointing out that his company has large Fortune 500 companies as its customers for several years.

Asked whether there was a pressure on the company to go for an IPO, he replied in the negative and said TVS Supply Chain Solutions was an "Indian multinational company".

JM Financial, Axis Capital, J P Morgan India, BNP Paribas, Nuvama Wealth Management and Equirus Capital are the lead managers to the IPO.

Inflow in mutual fund SIPs at record high of ₹15,245 cr in July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Investors are betting big on systematic investment plans or SIP to generate long-term wealth with the monthly flow in the mutual fund industry through the route reaching an all-time high of Rs 15,245 crore in July.

The record high SIP numbers came despite the equity mutual funds registering a 12 per cent month-on-month decline in inflow to Rs 7,626 crore in July, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed on Wednesday.

"The surge in retail investors' interest in mutual funds has translated into impressive inflow across scheme categories. The star performer this month has been SIP, with an impressive over 33 lakh new SIP accounts registered and a record Rs 15,215 crore of monthly contribution," Amfi CEO N S Venkatesh said.

The monthly SIP contribution in July was way higher than Rs 14,734 crore inflow seen in June and Rs 14,749 crore in May, which was the previous high.

Interestingly, the inflows through SIPs have been above Rs 13,000 crore since October 2022.

With this, the total inflow has reached nearly Rs 58,500 crore in the first four months (April-July) of the current fiscal. This came following an inflow of over Rs 1.56 lakh crore in the preceding financial year (2022-23).

SIP is an investment methodology offered by mutual funds wherein an individual can invest a fixed amount in a chosen scheme periodically at fixed intervals, say once a month, instead of making a lump sum investment. The SIP installment amount can be as small as Rs 500 per month.

Mutual fund industry mainly depends on SIPs for inflows with equity funds continuing to witness the 29th consecutive month of net inflows. However, the inflow dropped to Rs 7,626 crore in July from Rs 8,637 crore in the preceding month.

"The drop in net inflow in July from June could be attributed to some investors booking profit with markets trading near all-time highs. Some investors would have also chosen to stay on the sidelines and wait for some rationalisation to set in before they invest," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research at Morningstar India, said.

The latest inflow in equities was largely driven by five new fund offerings (NFOs) which cumulatively collected Rs 3,011 crore. Moreover, categories like mid and small cap have received significant flows during the month under review.

Overall, the 43-player mutual fund industry registered net inflows of Rs 82,046 crore in the month under review on contributions from debt-oriented schemes. This was followed by a withdrawal of Rs 2,022 crore in the preceding month.

The inflow pushed the Assets Under Management (AUM) of the industry to Rs 46.37 lakh crore at the end of July from Rs 44.39 lakh crore in June-end.

Apart from equities, hybrid schemes logged Rs 12,421 crore in July, lower than Rs 14,193 crore in the preceding month.

'Sentiments of low income population buoyant about country's economy'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Home Credit India, which is a part of global consumer finance provider Home Credit Group, has said sentiments of the low income population in urban and semi-urban spaces are quite buoyant about the country's economy.

The company in its annual consumer survey 'The Indian Wallet Study 2023' found that with the economy growing, income levels have increased for 52 per cent of the low-income consumers last year. A total 76 per cent are expecting their incomes to rise in the coming year. This has made the low income population buoyant about the country's economy.

However, despite the increase in their income the consumers are highly cautious when it comes to non-essential spending, the study said.

The aim of the study is to understand the financial habits and sentiments of the consumers in the low-income strata within the urban and semi-urban areas.

The study was made from a randomised survey of around 2200 respondents who are in the age group of 18 to 55 years.

Art tops in price increase among luxury collectibles with 30% appreciation in 12-month ended June: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Among luxury items collected by the ultra-rich globally, the average prices of art rose a maximum of 30 per cent in the 12-month period ended June, according to real estate consultant Knight Frank.

Prices of watches and jewellery increased by 10 per cent each, while that of coins by 8 per cent. Rates of cars and wine appreciated by 5 per cent each, while colour diamonds by 4 per cent.

Prices of handbags grew by 1 per cent and the value of furniture remains stable. Rare whiskey witnessed a 4 per cent fall in prices. The Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index (KFLII), which tracks a weighted basket of 10 luxury collectibles, rose by 7 per cent in the 12 months to the end of June 2023, the consultant said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Economic uncertainty and higher interest rates will cast a long shadow on luxury collectibles. Novice collectors should focus on what brings them joy, perhaps that's more important now that value appreciation is far from guaranteed in these asset classes," Andrew Shirley, editor of the Knight Frank Luxury Investment Index, said.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director at Knight Frank, said: "Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) envisioning their wealth to expand in 2023, are positioning India as a realm of opportunities. The optimism among the ultra-wealthy regarding wealth generation in India surpasses that of their global counterparts by a significant margin, establishing a robust groundwork for making investment and consumption choices."

Moreover, he said affluent individuals in India are prominently showcasing a strong inclination towards passion-driven investments.

"In 2023, assets such as art, watches, and luxury handbags remain the most sought-after passion-led investments among Indians, underscoring investors' willingness to explore avenues beyond traditional investment options," Baijal said.



Low income group consumers' sentiments buoyant about Indian economy : study

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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BUSINESS BRIEF

INCREASE IN HOSPITAL REVENUE

NEW DELHI: Artemis Medicare Services Ltd which operates 713 beds predominantly in the Delhi-NCR, witnessed 25.3 per cent increase in its net revenue from operations to Rs 2,095 mn in the first quarter of the current fiscal year as the patient footfall increased by 10 per cent to 95,323. The overseas patients contributed 25.4 per cent to net revenue. During the quarter, the company added a new hospital in Gurugram.

AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK LAUNCHES ECO-FRIENDLY DEBIT CARD

NEW DELHI: Airtel Payments Bank, India's only profitable multi-segment fintech operating at scale with a banking license, becomes the first Indian Bank to launch eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The launch comes in alignment with the Bank's commitment to sustainability and promoting eco-friendly practices within the financial sector. The debit cards will come in r-PVC material, a certified eco-friendly material.

RUPEE RISES 5 PAISE TO 82.86 AGAINST US DOLLAR

MUMBAI: The rupee appreciated 5 paise to settle at 82.86 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, supported by a weak American currency against major rivals overseas. However, foreign capital outflows and surging crude prices in the international markets capped the positive bias in the rupee, forex analysts said. Investors were trading cautiously ahead of the US inflation data and RBI's monetary policy decision to be released on Thursday. The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel MPC started its three-day review meeting on Tuesday.

Eicher, Amazon join hands to deploy electric trucks for middle, last-mile deliveries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Eicher trucks and buses, a division of VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd, on Wednesday said it has entered into a collaboration with Amazon for electrification of the middle-mile and last-mile delivery operations of the e-commerce major in India. Under the collaboration, the company is aiming to introduce up to 1,000 zero-emission electric trucks across various payload categories into Amazon's delivery operations over the next five years, deployed through Amazon's transport service partners, VE Commercial Vehicles (VECV) said in a statement. Amazon will progressively deploy 50 Eicher electric trucks in major hubs like Delhi, Manesar, and Gurugram over the coming months as a first step, it added.

"This partnership reflects our commitment to promoting smart sustainable solutions and developing a zero-emission transport ecosystem," VECV Managing Director and CEO Vinod Aggarwal said.

Amazon India Vice-President Customer Fulfilment, Amazon Transportation Services, Global Specialty Fulfilment, and Supply Chain, Abhinav Singh said,"We remain committed and are well on our way to integrate 10,000 EVs into our delivery fleet in India by 2025."

"We continue to invite fellow innovators and solution providers in the electric mobility and sustainable transportation space to join us in accelerating decarbonisation of the logistics industry," he further said.

the pioneer
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Breaking into world's top 3 is my target now: Prannoy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



He may be one of the front-runners in the Olympic race but star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy doesn't want to think about Paris right now and is instead focussing on "short-term targets" like breaking into the world's top three.

The most consistent Indian singles player in the last 12 months, Prannoy, ranked world number 9, won the Malaysia Masters in May and came within sniffing distance of bagging another title in Sydney, before finishing runner-up at last week's Australian Open.

"Right now, probably I am in a good position. I had a few decent tournaments post-May but I would say I am never satisfied and I always want to go out there and win big tournaments, that's been always my ambition," Prannoy said.

"Last couple of years, I have been consistently able to play quarterfinals and semifinals and now I am trying to make sure that I go that extra one more round and be in the final and win those tournaments."

The 31-year-old Indian, who reached three quarterfinals and a semifinal besides the two finals this season, had achieved the world number 8 ranking in 2017 before health issues affected his game as he plummeted to 33 in 2021.

However, the man from Thiruvananthapuram returned to the top 10 in December last year before achieving a career-best world number 7 ranking in May this year.

"In the coming months that will be the challenge: to get into the top five, or be in the top three in the world, which I have never been able to do till now. I think that is the target as of now. I am not looking way ahead, at the Olympics," Prannoy said.

"Now the targets are much shorter, how we can perform next week or say World Championship or China Open, that's the only target and the rest of things will take care of itself."

The next assignment will be the World Championships (August 21-27) in Denmark, followed by China Open Super 1000 (September 5-10) and the Asian Games (September 23-October 8) in Hangzhou.

Prannoy had quarterfinal finishes in last two editions of the World championships but he doesn't want to put himself under any kind of pressure this time as recovery will be the key, especially after coming from three successive tournaments.

"I am not really looking into the world championships as of now, I know it is just two weeks away. To be honest, we had three back-to-back tournaments -- Korea, Japan and Australia," he said.

"I had a good three weeks of tournaments. Korea was also good but conditions were tricky, I couldn't go past quarters.

"Japan and Australia were very good, I played some good matches against top players and to reach a final of a third tournament is always tough physically and mentally."

Prannoy, who played a pivotal role in India's epic Thomas Cup win, reached the pre-quarters in Korea, and quarters in Japan before making the final in Australia.

"Looking forward to the World Championships, we hardly have 10 days. With a hectic schedule, it is tough to get back to 100 per cent in such a short span, but yes, I will try to get my body ready for the World Championships.

"But I am not really forcing myself in any way saying that I should perform really well in the World Championships, because we have to understand that we have to take care of the body first, because we have a really long season ahead."

The 12-month Olympic Qualification period began on May 1, 2023. The qualification will run until April 28, 2024, with players across the globe competing week after week, fighting for the ranking points with the Race to Paris ranking lists (as of April 30, 2024) used to determine the initial list of qualifiers.

"I always think that if there was one qualification mark like athletics, like timing or number then you don't have tension for six months or one year. But unfortunately, we don't have that in badminton," Prannoy said.

"We will have to play the entire year and it is as simple as that, by the end of April 2024, you will have to be in the top 16 in the world, you have to be the top two from the country.

"But it is very hectic with the number of tournaments we have, we have to plan well in advance. We have to be very sure about which events we have to play, that is the pressure."



ACT 2023: Japan beat China 2-1 to stay in semifinal hunt

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Japan edged past China 2-1 in their final round robin league match to stay in contention for a semifinal spot in the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

All the three goals in the match came via penalty corners. For Japan, Shota Yamada (8th minute) and Kentaro Fukuda (54th) found the net, while China's lone goal was scored by Suozhu Ao in the 57th minute.

By virtue of this win, Japan have now moved to five points, same as fourth placed Pakistan and defending champion South Korea but remained on fifth spot and their fate now rest on the results of the last two league matches.

The opening quarter saw possession-based play from both the sides.

Even though China tried to keep their defence compact, Japan took the lead in the eighth minute when Yamada converted the match's first penalty corner with a flick to the left-bottom corner of the goal.

The early goal rocked China as Japan came out with positive intent in the second quarter.

After the change of sides, both the sides created a few chances but to no avail. Trailing, China came out with positive intent in the final quarter with three straight attacks on the Japanese citadel but failed to make use of them.

While Fukuda doubled Japan's lead in the 54th from another penalty corner, China struck back three minutes later, too from a set pet piece through Ao to reduce the deficit to 2-1.



Pakistan recall Ashraf, Shakeel for Afghanistan ODIs

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan on Wednesday named all-rounder Faheem Ashraf and Saud Shakeel in their 18-member squad that will take on Afghanistan in a three-match ODI series in Sri Lanka from August 22.

Pakistan selectors also named Tayyab Tahir who is yet to make his ODI debut. The squad will be pruned to 17 for the Asia Cup slated later this month.

Afghanistan are the designated hosts of the series, and because of the political turmoil back home both the Boards have agreed upon a neutral venue in Sri Lanka which will also co-host the Asia Cup with Pakistan.

While Ashraf last played ODI cricket for Pakistan in July 2021, Shakeel's last appearance in the format was in March 2022. Tahir has so far played three T20Is.

Shan Masood and Ihsanullah are the two players dropped from the squad, who played against New Zealand in a five-match ODI series.

The recently-appointed chief selector and former captain Inzamam-ul Haq released the names of 18 players after consultations with team director Mickey Arthur and head coach Grant Bradburn.

For the Asia Cup, one player would be dropped from the list of 18 players while two others will probably be named as reserves.

The selectors also decided to give the in-form Shakeel another chance in the ODIs after he didn't impress in five matches earlier in the format.

Saud, who has scored two centuries and six fifties in his first seven Tests, is competing for a spot in the middle order with Tayyab, Agha Salman and Iftikhar Ahmed.

Pakistan squad: Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam (c), Salman Ali Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Tayyab Tahir, Saud Shakeel (only for Afghanistan series), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Haris (wk), Shadab Khan (vc), Mohammad Nawaz, Usama Mir, Faheem Ashraf, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Afridi.

Murray and Zverev master Toronto wind to advance

AP ■ TORONTO



Former Toronto Masters winners Andy Murray and Alexander Zverev dispatched first-round opponents in windy conditions on Tuesday to power into the second round of the Canadian hardcourt event.

Britain's Murray worked through a marathon opening set before dominating the second for a 7-6 (7/3), 6-0 victory over Italy's Lorenzo Sonego.

The 36-year-old Scotsman, with three Canadian titles on his resume, earned his first victory in the country since his 2015 trophy as he defeated the Italian in two hours, eight minutes in a challenging wind.

Germany's Zverev, who defeated Roger Federer for the 2017 Canadian title, reached the second round by defeating Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).

Third seed Casper Ruud began his US Open run-up after a bye, struggling at the start but wrapping up a 7-6 (8/6), 6-4 defeat of Jiri Lehecka for a 199th career ATP match win.

The Norwegian trailed 4-0 in the first-set tiebreaker but found form in his first hardcourt match of the summer to reach the third round.

EVANS, NORRIE OUSTED

Britain failed to get two men into the second round as 11th-seeded Cameron Norrie went down 7-5, 6-4 to weekend Los Cabos finalist Alex de Minaur of Australia.

Britain suffered another blow as Dan Evans, who took his first ATP title in 2 1/2 years on Sunday at Washington, lost to Canadian wild card Gabriel Diallo 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, the local taking his first tour-level match triumph.

Canada lost its number one as Felix Auger-Aliassime suffered his fifth consecutive loss on his 23rd birthday, falling 6-4, 6-4 to Australian qualifier Max Purcell, the world number 78 whose next foe will be Murray.

Wozniacki wins WTA

AP ■ MONTREAL

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki made a triumphant comeback in her return to competition after a layoff of more than three years at the WTA Montreal Open on Tuesday.

The 33-year-old Danish star defeated 115th-ranked Australian qualifier Kimberly Birrell 6-2, 6-2 in her comeback match at the hardcourt event, a tune-up for the US Open, which starts on August 28 in New York.

"I'm happy," Wozniacki said. "A little tired. Just it was fun to be out there again playing on center court in front of a big crowd. I'm just thrilled that I could win my first match in 3 1/2 years."

Her second-round opponent will be reigning Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, the Czech world number 10 who ousted Egypt's 33rd-ranked Mayar Sherif 6-4, 6-2.

Boult back in NZ ODI squad for Eng tour

AP ■ AUCKLAND



Seamer Trent Boult is set to play international cricket again after being named Wednesday to the New Zealand ODI squad that will face England in September ahead of the World Cup.

Boult, 34, is set to play his first 50-overs international for 12 months after being included in the 15-man squad to face England.

He was left out by the Black Caps last year after turning down a central contract to play in Australia's lucrative Big Bash League.

Boult is back in the squad and on course to play at October's ODI World Cup in India, after signing a "casual playing agreement" with New Zealand Cricket earlier this year.

New Zealand head coach Gary Stead said it was "great to welcome Trent back into our ODI unit as he begins his preparation towards the World Cup".

Boult is one of the world's best ODI bowlers, having taken 187 wickets at that level and a further 74 for his country in T20 cricket.

Kyle Jamieson, who has taken 72 wickets in 16 Tests, also returns to the New Zealand white ball squad after a back injury.

Batter Tom Latham captains an experienced side that includes Test skipper Tim Southee, who is set to resume his bowling partnership with Boult.

New Zealand play four ODIs against England between September 8 and 15.

Stead said England will provide a good test for New Zealand heading into the ODI World Cup.

The Black Caps also play three T20 against the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from August 17-20 as well as four T20 matches against England from August 30 to September 5.

New Zealand also has a three-game ODI series in Bangladesh at the end of September.

New Zealand ODI squad to play England: Tom Latham (captain), Finn Allen, Trent Boult, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Will Young

Lopetegui quits as Wolves coach

AP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON



Julen Lopetegui has left his job as Wolves coach just days before the start of the Premier League season after reportedly being unhappy over the club's recruitment policy.

"Wolves and Julen Lopetegui have reached an agreement to part ways, ending the Spaniard's nine-month reign as head coach at the club," Wolves said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The head coach and club acknowledged and accepted their differences of opinion on certain issues and agreed that an amicable end to his contract was the best solution for all parties."

Former Bournemouth head coach Gary O'Neil, sacked this summer after steering the Cherries to top-flight safety, is reported to be in line to replace Lopetegui.

Former Spain and Real Madrid boss Lopetegui joined Wolves in November, replacing Bruno Lage, with the club bottom of the Premier League and helped them stay in the top flight, finishing 13th.

But the 56-year-old was said to be frustrated by their approach in the transfer market, with a number of first-team players departing this summer and few replacements found.

AP ■ PARIS

Enrique faces tough challenge, with uncertainty over Mbappe & Neymar's PSG future

Luis Enrique is the eighth coach to take charge of Paris Saint-Germain in 12 years of Qatari ownership of the French club, a hire-and-fire approach which has so far failed to deliver the ultimate goal of winning the Champions League.

The former Spain and Barcelona coach signed a two-year contract in July after Christophe Galtier was fired. He faces a dual task: making the side competitive in Europe and providing a more attractive brand of football than his predecessors.

Club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said Enrique's arrival will mark the start of a new cycle and a better style of play, but such pledges at PSG are easier made than carried out.

First up is a home game against modest Lorient on Saturday night, where Enrique will look to deploy his preferred 4-3-3 formation. But even before he has taken charge of his first game, reports in Spanish media last weekend said he already wants to quit PSG out of frustration at the handling of the Kylian Mbappe transfer situation.

At this stage, Enrique doesn't even know if Mbappe will be included in his team at all as his standoff with the club continues, and leading sports daily L'Equipe reported Monday that fellow superstar Neymar wants to leave this summer. PSG did not comment, but the Brazil forward has been linked with a move back to Barcelona, all of which makes things harder for Enrique even before his first game.



If Mbappe does stay this season, then Enrique will be his fifth coach since joining in 2017. The previous incumbents could not win the Champions League, with only Thomas Tuchel reaching the final in the pandemic-shortened 2020 edition.

Enrique had been without a job since Spain's elimination from the World Cup last year. He pledged to keep the same attacking philosophy that made his reputation at Barca, where he won the treble in 2015.

That attack featured Luis Suarez, Neymar and Messi, who won't be reunited with Enrique after joining Inter Miami in the MLS.

He comes at a time when PSG is very much in transition. But he has revamped teams before, doing so with Spain after its elimination in the round of 16 of the World Cup in Russia.

If Mbappe is sold, then Enrique will rely heavily on Neymar - providing he stays - and whoever comes in to strengthen the attack. France winger Ousmane Dembele has been widely reported to be an imminent signing for PSG.

The skilful Dembele's speed is even a match for Mbappe, but he does not have nearly the same ability in front of goal - scoring a modest 40 goals in 185 games for Barcelona and only four in 37 for France.

Enrique would need a top-class striker to replace Mbappe, but they are in short supply. England striker Harry Kane is in talks to join German powerhouse Bayern Munich, while Barca striker Robert Lewandowski turns 35 on August 21 and is too advanced in age for a long-term contract.

PSG has been linked with Eintracht Frankfurt forward Randal Kolo Muani, who is a very quick and highly skilled player but is still developing as a finisher with a career-best 15 league goals last season.

Clinching another league title should be within Enrique's reach, with only Marseille as a realistic contender.

But challenging for the elusive Champions League trophy could again be a step too far in Enrique's first season, and that's with or without Mbappe.

the pioneer
NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 10, 2023

INDIA VS PAK NOW ON OCT 14

Nine WC Games rescheduled: India to play Netherands on Nov 12, Pakistan vs England on Nov 11

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The marquee World Cup match between arch-rivals India and Pakistan will now be played on October 14, one day before the original slot, the ICC confirmed on Wednesday as the world governing body announced rescheduling nine games of the tournament.

As per the latest update, Pakistan and England will have three of their games rescheduled (either date or time), while dates of India's two games have been altered.

The other India game that has been rescheduled is their last league match against the Netherlands which was originally scheduled for November 11 but now it will be held on November 12 in Bengaluru.

That India versus Pakistan match will be advanced by a day was reported by PTI recently after security agencies expressed inability to provide adequate security on October 15, which is the first day of Hindu festival, Navratri.

As a result, England's fixture against Afghanistan in New Delhi will be moved from Saturday, October 14 and will now be played 24 hours later on Sunday, October 15.

With Pakistan needing adequate gap before India game, their match against Sri Lanka scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on October 11 will instead now be played on October 10.

On the same day, England were earlier scheduled to play Bangladesh at Dharmsala in a day-night game but will now play a day match starting 10.30 am.

Similarly, the high profile non-India game between England and Pakistan, earlier scheduled on November 12 will now be held on November 11.

Falling on November 12, Kali Puja is the second biggest Hindu festival for Bengalis after Durga Puja, and the Kolkata Police had expressed apprehension about providing adequate deployment for the game

New Zealand's game against Bangladesh, originally scheduled as a day match for October 14 in Chennai, has been moved back and will now be held on Friday, October 13, which will be a day-night contest.

Australia will meet South Africa a day earlier in Lucknow on October 12.

All the venues for the changed matches remain same.

TICKETS SALE

The tickets will go on sale from August 25 with fans having the option to book their seats for all non-India warm up and non-India event matches.

For India matches, tickets will be available from August 30 to September 3 and for the semi-finals and the final, the fans can book tickets on September 15.



Shubman, Kishan climb to career-high ODI rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

The Indian opening duo of Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan achieved career-best rankings in the latest ODI list released on Wednesday, less than two months from the start of the 50-over World Cup in the country.

Gill climbed two spots to be fifth overall and be within touching distance of Pakistani trio of Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq.

While Pakistan skipper Babar remains well in front, Gill rose to 743 rating points on the back of his excellent series against the West Indies and has third-placed Zaman (755) and fourth-placed Imam-ul-Haq (745) well within his sight.

Kishan too earned a new career-best rating after jumping nine places to 36th overall, while Hardik Pandya improved 10 places to be placed 71st in the batting chart following his efforts against the West Indies.

A host of Indian players made big ground in the latest list. Pandya also rose five places to 11th overall on the list for ODI all-rounders, while it was left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav and underrated seamer Shardul Thakur who made the biggest impression on the rankings for ODI bowlers.

Kuldeep jumped four places to be inside the top-10 at 10th place following his seven wickets in the series against the West Indies, while Thakur — who led both sides with a series-best eight scalps — improved three spots to 30th.

TILAK VARMA 46TH IN T20I BATTERS LIST

India newcomer Tilak Varma entered the T20I batters' rankings at 46th spot following a flying start to his international career.

Varma had scores of 39, 50 and 49 not out in the first three T20Is against the West Indies.

On the bowling front, Kuldeep Yadav (up 36 places to 51st) is the biggest eye-catcher on the list for India.

Tilak could be the X-factor in ODI WC, feels Ashwin



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has urged the national selectors and team management to show faith in talented Tilak Varma and include him in the World Cup squad as he could possibly be the answer to India's middle-order woes with multiple batters still recovering from injuries.

Ashwin's comments were also backed by former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad, who wouldn't mind seeing Varma in the final 15, provided Shreyas Iyer fails to make the cut.

The 20-year-old stylish Hyderabad left-hander has impressed one and all with scores of 39, 50 and 49 not out in three T20I games in the West Indies and not for once looked out of place at the international level.

"This is neck-and-neck with respect to the World Cup. So, will they think about Tilak Varma as an option if we don't have enough backups? Because Sanju Samson has performed really well in ODIs.

"But the exciting part about Tilak Varma is that he is a left-hander and Team India is lacking left-handers. Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) is the only left-handed batter in the top 7," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

With star batters KL Rahul (thigh surgery) and Iyer (lower back surgery) running against time to get fit for the 50-over showpiece starting October 5, the two back-up options, Suryakumar Yadav and Samson have not inspired confidence of the highest order as the conundrum with regards to the No. 4 slot continues.

While Surya enjoys the team management's confidence and will make it as an extra middle-order option in the squad, Samson has wasted way too many opportunities and if Rahul is fit, then certainly Ishan Kishan will be the second keeper-cum-reserve opener.

Ashwin gave his rationale behind picking Varma as he feels the top cricket playing nations won't have quality finger spinners who can trouble a rookie.

"And look at the spinners from all the top teams. Australia have Ashton Agar. England have Moeen Ali and a leggie in Adil Rashid. So, most teams don't have a finger spinner to challenge the left-handed batters. That is why the emergence of Tilak is crucial."

Ashwin knows that it could be difficult to fast-track Varma but there is no harm in giving him a chance, especially after his ongoing exploits in the Caribbean.

"It is still early but will they see him as an option? He has at least made everyone notice him. He is surely in the contingency plan. Because any selector who would have seen that knock would have gone, 'Woah!'" he said.

Prasad, who was the head of the selection panel during the last ODI World Cup, feels that someone like Varma is an equally capable ODI player.

"Look at his List A record for Hyderabad. He has played 25 List A games and has an average of 55 plus (56.18). Five hundreds and five half-centuries. It means at least 50 per cent times he is converting fifties into hundreds. A strike rate of 100 plus," Prasad told PTI.

"I think it won't be a bad idea provided Shreyas (Iyer) can't make it. Only then you can think of Varma. But I am sure he will be a white ball regular for India across formats going forward," the former India stumper added.



My ODI numbers are poor, no shame in accepting that: SKY

PTI ■ PROVIDENCE

With the ODI World Cup on the horizon, the Indian team management has asked swashbuckler Suryakumar Yadav to play at least 45-50 balls in the last 15-18 overs, in the format in which his numbers are ordinary and he has "no shame in accepting that".

After guiding India to a seven-wicket victory over the West Indies with his brutal knock of 83 off 44 balls in the third T20I, which kept the five-match series alive, the batter was candid in his assessment of his poor record in the 50-over game.

"My ODI numbers are very poor and there is no shame in accepting that. Being honest is very important because everyone knows that, because we all talk about honesty.

"So it is very important to stay honest about your performance. But what is more important is how to improve that," Suryakumar said at the post-match press conference.

Captain Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid have advised him to play this format more. "Rohit and Rahul sir have told me that this is the format that I don't play much so you have to play it more and think about it.

"If you are batting in the last 10-15 overs, think what you can do for the team. All we want from you is to play 45-50 ball if you are getting to bat in the 15-18 overs, play your own game. It's in my hand now how to change the responsibility into an opportunity," he said.

In the ODI series against the Windies, he could not make his presence felt, managing scores of 19, 24 and 35 in the three matches.

New Zealand haven't ruled out Williamson from ODI WC

PTI ■ ACUKLAND

New Zealand have not ruled out the recovering Kane Williamson from the ODI World Cup in India even if it means missing the first few fixtures.

Head coach Gary Stead and the team management are optimistic about Williamson's recovery.

The star batter hasn't played any cricket since March when he ruptured the ACL in his right knee while fielding for Gujarat Titans. He underwent surgery in April and has recently begun training and batting in the nets.

The 33-year-old is also set to link up with the team during its series against England next month ahead of the World Cup.

"Kane's working on a day-by-day, week-by-week process and we've been really clear and careful with him that we don't look too far ahead and get expectations too big or not big enough at times as well," Stead told reporters on Wednesday.

"We will take every measure we can to make sure that we get the medical advice that lines up and he's where we want him to be before we make that call on whether he goes (to India for the World Cup) or not."

New Zealand will play nine group stage matches while the semifinals begin on November 15. Williamson had played a crucial role in New Zealand's campaign in 2015 and 2019 editions when they reached successive finals.



Stead said the Black Caps will be considering including him even if he misses the first few fixtures.

"I think that's something we are talking about at the moment. If it's the knockout stages, I think that might be too late because you're really saying something that you may or may not even be there, but if it was earlier in the World Cup we'd definitely be considering it." The Black Caps have to name their World Cup squad of 15 by September 5, a month before the tournament commences.

Tom Latham, who has been leading New Zealand in Williamson's absence, will be captaining the side in the marquee event as well.

The World Cup begins on October 5 with New Zealand taking on reigning champions England in the tournament opener.

NADA Test: Jadeja most tested Indian cricketer so far in 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja gave dope samples thrice between January and May this year, making him the most tested cricketer during this period, according to data released by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

Altogether 55 cricketers (male and female, 58 samples) underwent dope testing in the first five months of this year, with more than half of the samples taken 'Out Of Competition' (OOC), according to a recent list put up by the NADA on its website.

This meant that the number of samples collected from cricketers this year is expected to be much more than the previous two years. According to the data, the NADA had collected 54 and 60 samples respectively from the cricketers in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

India captain Rohit Sharma and star batter Virat Kohli were not tested during the first five months of 2023.

Hardik Pandya, who has been leading the India T20 International side for some time, underwent one test — 'Out Of Competition' (OOC) urine sample in April.

In 2021 and 2022, Rohit was the most tested cricketer with three samples each, according to NADA data of the two years.

Kohli was not tested in 2021 and 2022 also. Around 20 samples in 2022 were from women cricketers.

But, in the first five months of this year, only two women cricketers — India captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana — were tested once each — out-of-competition urine samples collected in Mumbai on January 12.

Around 20 samples were taken in competition, most of them likely during the Indian Premier League.

There were seven blood samples out of the 58, all the remaining being urine.

All of Jadeja's three samples were of urine, and taken out of competition on February 19, March 26 and April 26.

Thangarasu Natarajan underwent two tests, one urine and one blood — both on April 27.

Blood testing allows detection of additional substances that in some cases may not be able to be found in urine.

Other prominent Indian cricketers who underwent dope tests from January to May this year include Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Mohammed Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Mayank Agarwal, Rahul Tripathi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Wriddhiman Saha, Dinesh Karthik, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ambati Rayudu, Piyush Chawla and Manish Pandey.

Some of the star players from abroad who underwent dope tests were David Wiese, David Miller, Cameron Green, Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, David Warner, Rashid Khan, David Willey, Trent Boult, Marcus Stoinis, Mark Wood, Adam Zampa, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone and Jofra Archer.

Prominent players from other sports who underwent dope tests during these five months include Olympic medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, boxer Lovlina Borgohain, shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth, wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat.

'India need an all-rounder like Stokes or Green to excel in overseas Tests'

PTI ■ LONDON

India lacking a seam bowler who can also bat is the crucial ingredient missing on the team's overseas assignments, feels former England captain Nasser Hussain, and adds that someone like a Ben Stokes or a Cameron Green can be the winning formula for the side on foreign tours.

India lost their second consecutive World Test Championship (WTC) final to Australia recently and Hussain said that Rishabh Pant was being sorely missed by India, hoping that the wicketkeeper-batter returns to the side sooner rather than later as he is a "massive miss at the moment".

"They (India) are brilliant at home... And the balance of their side at home is just wonderful," Hussain said in the ICC Review on Wednesday.

"(However) An Indian cricketer at the moment, a (Ben) Stokes type cricketer, a Cameron Green type cricketer, a Mitchell Marsh type cricketer, a batter at No.6 or No.7, away from home, that can bowl you 10 or 15 overs of genuine wicket-taking seam and swing, not a bowler who bats a bit, a batter who can give you 10 overs of seam bowling, and then that balance away from home makes them (India) formidable."

The former cricketer added that, in home conditions, players like captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and young Shubman Gill make India a formidable unit, but overseas a seam-bowling all-rounder like Hardik Pandya is an absolute necessity in Tests.



Pandya, while not officially retired from Tests, has shown little inclination to play the longest format since he returned from a career-threatening back injury.

"They've (India) got senior players like Rohit and obviously Virat and they are just world-class players and they've got youngsters coming in, like Shubman (Gill), who's going to be a superstar.

"It's away from home and the balance of the side and if they (India) can get a seam bowling all-rounder. Hardik (Pandya) would've been perfect if Hardik had stayed fit and continued that process," said Hussain.

Hussain also felt that if pacer Jasprit Bumrah can return fit and strong it will give a massive boost to India in all three formats of the game. Bumrah, after being out of action for more than a year due to a back injury, will be leading India in a three-match T20I series against Ireland beginning August 18.

The tour will be viewed with great interest to ascertain Bumrah's recovery and match-fitness at a time when India is getting ready for the Asia Cup and the ODI World Cup at home.

"If Jasprit (Bumrah) can come back as well, one of the great multi-format bowlers there is at the moment, if not the best, when fit.

"So, they've got those senior players and youngsters, and with the ball in India, those three all-rounders, and they are genuine all rounders in India — Axar (Patel), (Ravindra) Jadeja and (Ravichandran) Ashwin. That, for me, is a really balanced side because then you've got a No.7 (in Test cricket)," opined Hussain.

India recently defeated the West Indies 1-0 in the two-Test series with debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal scoring a brilliant century, and Hussain said the youngster is well placed to build on the impressive start to his Test career.