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INDIA faces AAP hurdle

Kejriwal's efforts to demolish Cong bastion in Chhattisgarh triggers AAP-Cong war of words

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
NEW DELHI

Ahead of its scheduled meeting in Mumbai later this month, trouble seems to be brewing in the rank of Opposition parties with Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) engaging in electioneering slugfest.

The war of words between Congress and AAP escalated on Saturday after AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday visited the Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh where he announced lucrative "freebies" which includes promises of free electricity, monthly "samman rashi" for women and ₹3,000 monthly allowance for the unemployed.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during a public meeting in Raipur on Saturday PTI

Kejriwal also took a swipe at Congress over what he claimed was "terrible quality" of government schools in Chhattisgarh.

The AAP's foray into Chhattisgarh where Congress is attempting to retain the power comes couple of days after the Congress first announced it would contest all the seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi and later backtracked.

Reacting to Kejriwal's comments, Congress media head Pawan Khera questioned the Delhi CM over the need for comparing Chhattisgarh with Delhi, when the comparison should be with the previous Raman Singh Government in Chhattisgarh.

Raman Singh-led BJP Government. Let us choose a sector of your choice and compare the performance of the Congress Government in Delhi vs your Government. Ready for a debate?" Khera said reacting to Kejriwal's swipe.

Khera was longtime associated and OSD to the then Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit who has been credited for

holistic development of the national Capital in Congress' 15 years of consecutive rule.

Addressing an AAP workers' convention at Raipur, Kejriwal said his party's Governments in Delhi and Punjab have fulfilled the guarantees given to people, and if it comes to power in Chhattisgarh, it would do the same thing.

The INDIA alliance is facing trouble in Maharashtra, too, where Congress and Uddhav Shiv Sena has questioned frequent meetings of Sharad Pawar with Ajit Pawar's faction.

The AAP had entered the electoral fray in Chhattisgarh for the first time in the 2018 assembly elections, fielding candidates in 85 of the total 90 seats, but drew a blank. None of its candidates even succeeded in saving the deposit.

Senior journalist and political analyst R Krishna Das said the guarantees given by Kejriwal indicated that the AAP is trying to follow the Congress' strategy last time when it had promised a slew of freebies. Congress won 68 seats in 2018 assembly elections, ending 15 years of BJP rule, riding on promises like higher Minimum Support Price for paddy, loan waiver, half electricity bill scheme and regularisation of contractual employees, he noted.

Both AAP and Congress are part of the Opposition's INDIA alliance at the national level. But in Chhattisgarh, the Kejriwal-led party is likely to eat into the vote share of the ruling Congress which would benefit the BJP, Das said.

Govt slaps 40% export duty on onions to curb price rise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To curb the upward spiral of onion prices, the Center has imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onions.

A notification issued by the Union Finance Ministry said the export duty will remain in effect until December 31, 2023.

This move comes against the backdrop of growing concerns regarding the surge in onion prices.

To mitigate this situation, the Government announced a strategic plan on August 11: The release of onions from its buffer stock in targeted regions. By releasing these stored onions, the Government sought to stabilise prices and ensure affordability for consumers until the arrival of the new crop in October.

Currently, the Government holds 3 lakh tonnes of onions under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) to address any urgent requirements in case prices significantly escalate during periods of limited supply.

The Government's multi-pronged approach also encom-



passes various distribution channels for the onions.

These options include e-auctions and e-commerce platforms, as well as partnerships with State Governments to provide discounted rates through retail outlets operated by their respective consumer cooperatives and corporations.

In the current year, a substantial procurement of three lakh metric tonnes of onions has been secured for the buffer stock.

This procurement is a proactive measure to alleviate potential supply shortages and price volatility.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Consumer Cooperative Federation of India (NCCF) have procured 1.50 lakh tonnes each of rabi onions during June and July.

This effort, focused on Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, signifies a coordinated effort to manage the onion price crisis and ensure a steady supply of this essential kitchen staple.

SC slams HC's delay in hearing rape survivor's plea to end pregnancy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Gujarat High Court's adjournment of a rape victim's plea for the termination of her 26-week pregnancy met with disapproval from the Supreme Court on Saturday. The apex court expressed concern that the delay in addressing the matter had resulted in the loss of crucial time.

A special session on a Saturday saw Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan assert that cases of this nature demand urgency, criticising the High Court's nonchalant approach of treating it as routine and simply postponing it.

The petitioner's counsel informed the apex court that the 25-year-old woman had presented her case to the High Court on August 7, with the hearing scheduled for the following day.

On August 8, the High Court directed the establishment of a medical board to assess both the pregnancy's status and the petitioner's health.



The medical college where she was examined submitted the report on August 10.

Remarkably, the top court noted that the report was officially accepted by the high court on August 11, but the case was listed for hearing 12 days later on August 23. This scheduling oversight disregarded the significance of each day's delay given the circumstances of the case.

Additionally, the petitioner's counsel informed the SC bench 1 that while the High Court rejected the petition on August 17, the reasons behind the decision were not stated in court, and the order was still pending upload on the High Court's website.

Continued on Page 2

Need for cautious use of social media, warns SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has underscored the need for cautious use of social media, emphasising its impact and far-reaching consequences, as it rejected a petition filed by actor and former Tamil Nadu MLA S Ve Shekher. The actor is facing charges for sharing a Facebook post in 2018 that allegedly contained derogatory remarks against women journalists.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and P K Mishra was presiding over the plea filed by Shekher, challenging the Madras High Court's order of July 14, which dismissed his request to quash the criminal proceedings related to the controversial post he shared.

The Supreme Court bench advised the advocate representing the petitioner to exercise vigilance in utilising social media due to its potential impact and reach. The judges stated that individuals who engage with social media platforms should be aware of the repercussions associated with their actions.

In response, the lawyer argued that Shekher had



applied medicine to his eyes on the day of the incident, which prevented him from reading the content of the post he shared.

The bench acknowledged the significance of prudence when using social media and stressed that those who choose to employ such platforms must also be prepared to accept the consequences.

The Madras High Court had previously highlighted that Shekher had allegedly "published/circulated an abusive, derogatory and vulgar comment in his Facebook account" on April 19, 2018. This led to a complaint filed with the Chennai Commissioner of Police, resulting in an FIR being registered and private complaints being filed against him in various parts of Tamil

Nadu. Shekher's counsel had argued before the High Court that he had forwarded the message from his Facebook account without being aware of its content. After discovering the offensive remarks, Shekher reportedly removed the content within a few hours and subsequently issued an unconditional apology to the concerned women journalists and the media.

The HC's order highlighted the gravity of the message forwarded by Shekher, describing it as derogatory and demeaning towards women journalists and the press in Tamil Nadu. The court noted the rapid dissemination of messages through social media, emphasizing the need for responsible behavior considering its wide-reaching impact.

Rahul rides bike from Leh to Pangong Lake

PTI ■ CHENNAI



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi riding his way to Pangong Lake on Saturday PTI

An elderly woman and her three granddaughters died due to asphyxiation in a freak fire accident allegedly triggered by a mosquito repellent machine in their house at Mathur MMDA near Manali here, police said on Saturday.

The woman identified as Santhanalakshmi, 65, and her granddaughters — Sandhya, Priya Rakshita and Pavithra, aged between 8 and 10 years — were sleeping in their house when the fire broke out.

According to a police official, when neighbours noticed smoke coming out of the house early in the morning, they reportedly tried to break open the door after nobody answered their calls.

When they entered the house, they found Santhanalakshmi and the three children lying unconscious. Then they informed the police.

Upon their arrival, the police found all four persons unconscious and immediately rushed them to a hospital where the doctors declared them "brought dead".

Preliminary enquiries by the police reveal that the mosquito repellent machine kept in the room where the family members were sleeping fell on some nylon material triggering a fire. The three children had to their grandmother's house to spend the night as their mother had to visit a hospital to take care of their father.

Rahul reached Leh on a two-day visit on Thursday, later deciding to extend his stay in the region by four more days to cover Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley and Kargil district, Congress spokesperson and leader of opposition in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, Tsering Namgyal told PTI on phone.

After covering more than 130 km on motorcycle, Rahul will stay overnight at Pangong Lake where a token celebration will be organised in connection with the birth anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on Sunday, he said.

Continued on Page 2

9 soldiers killed as Army truck plunges into gorge

PNS ■ JAMMU

Nine soldiers were killed and another was critically injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Leh district of Ladakh on Saturday, officials said.

The accident took place near Kiari in southern Ladakh's Nyoma, the officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Leh PD Nitya said the Army vehicle, with 10 personnel on board, was on its way to Nyoma from Leh when its driver lost control and it plunged into a gorge at 4.45 pm.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condoled the death of the

personnel.

"Saddened by the loss of Indian Army personnel due to an accident near Leh in Ladakh. We will never forget their exemplary service to our nation," the Defence Minister said on X, formerly Twitter.

"My thoughts are with the bereaved families. The injured personnel have been rushed to the Field Hospital. Praying for their speedy recovery," Singh said, without mentioning the number of soldiers killed and injured in the accident.

SSP Nitya said a police team rushed to the accident site and all the injured soldiers were shifted to an Army medical facility where eight personnel

were declared dead. Another jawan died subsequently, she said.

The officer said one more jawan was undergoing treatment and his condition was stated to be "critical".

Condoled the death of the soldiers, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Ladakh in which we lost our valiant soldiers, as their vehicle fell into a gorge."

"The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. My sincerest condolences to them. May the injured recover at the earliest," he posted on X.

Jan Dhan crosses 50 cr mark, Modi hails 'Nari Shakti' as 56% a/c holders women

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the achievement of 50 crore "Jan Dhan" accounts as a significant milestone, highlighting that 56 per cent of these accounts are held by women, showcasing the power of 'Nari Shakti' (women empowerment).

The Union Finance Ministry announced that the total number of "Jan Dhan" accounts in the country has now surpassed 50 crores, with women holding 56 per cent of them. Around 67 per cent of these accounts have been established in rural and semi-urban



areas, according to a statement from the ministry.

The Prime Minister praised the rapid growth in the number of "Jan Dhan" accounts and underscored the participation of women.

"It is heartening to see that

more than half of these accounts belong to our 'Nari Shakti'. With 67 per cent of accounts opened in rural and semi-urban areas, we are also ensuring that the benefits of financial inclusion reach every corner of our nation," Modi said.

The total deposits in the Jan Dhan accounts have exceeded ₹2.03 lakh crore, and approximately 34 crore RuPay cards have been issued free of cost with these accounts, as per the Finance Ministry. Initiated by the Modi Government in 2014, the Jan Dhan bank account scheme aimed to enhance financial inclusion by providing a range of financial services, including direct ben-

efit transfers, to the economically disadvantaged.

The scheme's objectives encompass universal access to banking services, financial literacy, access to credit, insurance, and pension facilities. Moreover, beneficiaries receive a RuPay Debit card with built-in accident insurance cover of Rs 1 lakh. The withdrawal limit for these zero-balance accounts is Rs 10,000 per month, and account holders can deposit a maximum of Rs 1,00,000 under the scheme. The banks also offer free mobile banking services, enabling account holders to easily check their Jan Dhan account balance.

Indian economy shining as beacon of hope, says PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that India's economy is shining as a beacon of hope in these challenging times.

"With robust growth and resilient spirit, the future looks promising. Let us keep this momentum and ensure prosperity for 140 crore Indians," he said on X, reacting to news portal MoneyControl's 'Bullish on India' campaign.

Detailed report on P6

Badrinath shows fresh signs of subsidence as cracks appear

PTI ■ GOPESHWAR

A stretch about 50 metres along on the Rishikesh-Badrinath National Highway near Pursari village is showing signs of land subsidence with cracks appearing on it. The stretch located between Chamoli and Nandprayag is apparently sinking towards the Alaknanda River. Alarmed by the situation, authorities have warned vehicles coming from the mountainside to go slow.

A police team has been deployed on the affected spot to alert the drivers.

The subsidence-sensitive spot has been demarcated with reflective tapes for the safety of vehicles and drivers are being asked to drive carefully, Traffic Inspector Praveen Alok said.

Land subsidence near Pursari increased after the



Kedarnath disaster in 2013.

As a result, the government undertook a road stabilisation project roping in big companies and experts from the area and constructed concrete blocks along the banks of the Alaknanda at the cost of crores of rupees after which the subsidence stopped.

However, the place is showing signs of erosion again.

The engineers of the National Highways Authority of India are making efforts to repair the landslide-prone area by filling the cracks with soil and stones, a government official said.

Heavy rain this monsoon has not only led to the emergence of fresh landslide points along the highway but has also activated old ones due to which the traffic is getting

disrupted frequently, he said.

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHID-CL) General Manager Shailendra Kumar, who is involved in the construction of the National Highway in the area, told PTI that to prevent landslides, concrete blocks had been constructed on the banks of the Alaknanda which had stopped the erosion of the river.

The road had since been stable but the rise in the water level in the Alaknanda is making water flow over the concrete blocks which may have led to increased subsidence in the area, Kumar said.

"About 50 metres of the road is affected. As a temporary remedy, the road is being repaired by pouring mud and stones into the cracks and filling them," he said.

BJP leader warns retaliation if Cong eyes to induct its leaders in K'taka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Amid speculation that Congress was looking at inducting leaders from other parties in Karnataka, ahead of Lok Sabha polls, BJP leader C T Ravi on Saturday warned the ruling party of a strong retaliation. The former BJP national general secretary advised the Congress to focus on giving good administration as it has full majority in the Assembly, and not to indulge in any misadventure.

"I want to tell Congress people -- you won in the election, you got 135 seats, also independents are supporting your government, so focus on giving good administration. Leaving that if you try to do too much, we know how to do Operation Hasta -- the hand, which is Congress' symbol -- (like Operation Lotus). If we do it, you know what will be the consequence," Ravi said.

Speaking to reporters here,



he said Congress need not worry about numbers as it has a clear majority, despite that if it tries to play too much, the situation will be bad, and advised the ruling party not to bring itself to such a situation.

"You (Congress) have a clear majority, give good administration for which the people have voted to power, instead of that if you try to do something unnecessary, we are not the sort of people who will remain silent, and if we do something -- I can say this much -- you will not be able to raise or get up -- if they (Congress) cross limits it is not

right for me to say what we will do, but one can touch and feel it," he said.

There have been speculation in political and media circles in the state that few leaders and sitting MLAs from the opposition -- especially the BJP, who had earlier quit the Congress, leading to the collapse of the then Congress-JD(S) coalition government in 2019 -- will be rejoining the party ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

State Congress president and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's statement on Wednesday that several political workers were willing to join the party, and a decision will be taken keeping in mind party interest and aimed at increasing the votes share in Lok Sabha polls, has added to the speculations.

Pointing out that after 2018 Assembly polls, BJP had got 104 seats and no party had got a clear majority, Ravi trying to

defend defections of Congress-JD(S) MLAs to BJP in 2019 said, "Congress-JD(S) tried to run a coalition government but within three months, situation had turned to worst between the alliance partners, and they also lost Lok Sabha polls despite a joint contest."

"As there was a sense of uncertainty and anarchy, they (Congress and JDS MLAs) felt BJP was an alternative and came out," he said, noting that the situation is not similar now, as Congress has a clear majority.

Asserting that no one will quit BJP and go, Ravi said Congress is not in a position to keep its own senior leaders in good terms, and everything is not good within the ruling party.

"I don't think anyone will go... Despite that if Congress tries to do something excessively, we know how to save our party and respond politically," he added.

G20: Gandhinagar NIFT organises design show 'Ayurvastram'

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

A design collection show on the theme of 'Ayurvastram' was presented by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Gandhinagar at the G20 meet of deputies and health ministers here, the premier institute said on Saturday.

The design show, which was organised on Friday, is a collection of 60 hand-crafted ensembles, extending the spirit of thousands of years of Indian wisdom marked by the idea of 'Ayurvastram' (clothing for health), NIFT Gandhinagar Director Sameer Sood said.

"Clothes and clothing for one's purity and well-being has been an integral part of Indian thought as articulated in ancient Vedic scriptures," the institute said in a release.

NIFT Gandhinagar curated the cultural fashion show



extending Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision on Mission LiFE and the corresponding concept of Ayurda (giver of life) and Ayush (healthy life) through Ayurvastram (clothing for health), the release said.

Each of five collections, namely 'Jannan' (origin of life), 'Poshan' (nurturing life), 'Rakshan' (caring of life), 'Vardhan' (flourishing life) and 'Parayan' (enshrining life) incorporates the medicinal properties of indigenous plants and herbs as prescribed in Ayurveda, Sood said.

Tibet in critical situation under Chinese regime: Tibetan parl in exile

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A three-member delegation of Tibetan parliament in exile on Saturday claimed that their country is in a critical situation under the Chinese regime.

Claiming that Tibet is ranked as the least free country in the world as per the Freedom Index report of the Freedom House for the third consecutive year, the delegation appealed to the Indian government to call on the Chinese government to re-engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama without preconditions to resolve the Tibet-China conflict.

"The situation in Tibet has deteriorated to the extent of cultural genocide and total annihilation of Tibetan identity," Youdon Aukatsang said.

Apart from her, Geshi Monlam Tharchin and Tashi Dhondup are members of the delegation visiting West Bengal, Sikkim and Odisha to highlight the Tibetan cause. "We are looking for gen-



uine autonomy for Tibet where Tibetans will have all the internal autonomy in terms of education, development and environment. We want a totally demilitarised zone," she said.

The members of the delegation said UN human rights experts have expressed serious concern over large-scale colonial boarding schools in Tibet.

Alleging cultural genocide, they claimed that thousands of Tibetan children were being taken to boarding

schools to wipe out their Tibetan identity.

Stating that the Tibetans in India are very grateful to the country's government and people for having them here, Tharchin said, "while we are flourishing here, our Tibetan brothers and sisters are suffering there."

Asserting that the future of the Tibetan freedom movement is very strong, she said, "We have been very resilient and hopeful; we have been in exile for over 64 years but our struggle is going on."

Congress suspends Abohar MLA Jakhar for 'anti-party' activities

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Congress Saturday suspended Abohar MLA Sandeep Jakhar from the party for allegedly indulging in "anti-party activities."

The action against Jakhar came following a complaint filed by Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. Jakhar is the nephew of Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar who had last year left the Congress.

Punjab Congress posted a communication on X and said, "Sandeep Jakhar is suspended from the party with immediate effect."

According to the party's communication to Jakhar, Congress general secretary Tariq Anwar said "You have not been participating in any of the party programmes including Bharat Jodo Yatra" and also "The house in which you stay is a common accommodation on which a BJP flag flies atop." The communication also



alleged open rebellion against party's on Jakhar's part.

"You have been speaking against the party and the PCC president and also you are openly defending your uncle Sunil Jakhar," it read.

"After careful consideration, the DAC (Disciplinary Action Committee) has decided to place you under suspension from the party with immediate effect," wrote Anwar, a DAC member.

Jakhar, the first time MLA, and Warring had earlier engaged in a war of words.

Warring had once dared Jakhar to resign from the Congress and get a fresh mandate "if he was so confident about their support in Abohar."

TMC leader's son-in-law joins Congress

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Senior Trinamool Congress leader and city mayor Firhad Hakim's son-in-law joined the opposition Congress here on Saturday.

Yasser Haider, who is known for his close relation with TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and was once the state secretary of the party's youth wing, had quit the party early this year.

Speaking about his reasons for quitting TMC and joining Congress, Haider expressed his "unhappiness" over his name being "mysteriously" removed as the party's youth state secretary.

"I was not known as a political leader but as a social worker. I have close associations with people at the grassroots level."

I worked day in and day out for the party but did not get any reward for that. In 2019, I found my name missing," he said.

He joined Congress in the presence of Chowdhury.

BJP, Cong attack BRS Govt over 'assault' on woman in police station

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The opposition BJP and Congress on Saturday hit out at the BRS government over the alleged "abuse and assault" on a tribal woman in a police station here and demanded that the government provide help to her.

Slamming the BRS government for allegedly not



responding on the incident so far, BJP MLA Eatala Rajender demanded that those responsible should be arrested after registering a case under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention

of Atrocities) Act. There should be an inquiry into the incident and those involved should be removed from service, he said.

Former Congress MP Madhu Yashki Goud demanded that the government provide medical aid and ex-gratia to the woman. He said the Congress would also take up the issue with State Human Rights Commission.

Telangana Governor Tamsilasi Soundararajan on Friday sought a report from senior government officials regarding the alleged assault on the woman.

Soundararajan was deeply anguished upon learning about the alleged assault of "Lambada tribal woman at a police station in Rachakonda Commissionerate limits on August 15 through media reports," a Raj Bhavan press communique had said on Friday. She has called for a detailed report on the incident from the Chief Secretary, the Director General of Police and the Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, within 48 hours, it said.

Rahul rides bike from Leh to Pangong..

From Page 1
Rahul shared several pictures of his motorcycle expedition from Leh to Pangong on his social media account with a caption "On our way to Pangong lake, which my father used to say, is one of the most beautiful places in the world."

"On Sunday, he is leaving for Nubra Valley on the motorcycle for a night stay there. En route, he is likely to meet commoners including shopkeepers and farmers," Namgyal said, adding he will be back in Leh on Monday.

Though the trip was described by his party colleagues in Leh as "non-political" with no consideration of next year's parliamentary elections, Rahul was given a warm

welcome by party workers on his arrival on Thursday.

He also had a meeting with party colleagues and interacted with the youth besides watching a football match between two local clubs.

Rahul will be visiting Kargil district either on Monday or Tuesday, the Congress spokesperson said, adding he is likely to interact with party workers and people, especially the youth, there.

The visit of Rahul to the district assumes significance as LAHDC, Kargil is going to polls on September 10. The National Conference and the Congress have already announced a pre-poll alliance for the hill council elections.

SC slams HC's delay in hearing rape...

From Page 1

Consequently, the bench instructed the Supreme Court's secretary general to communicate with the Registrar General of the Gujarat High Court and verify whether the contested order had been published. The petitioner was represented by advocate Vishal Arun Mishra in the apex court.

The petitioner's counsel further explained to the bench that the woman was in her 26th week of pregnancy when the medical board was constituted. The bench questioned the purpose of postponing the case from August 11 to August 23 and the loss of valuable time in the interim.

The court observed that precious days had been squandered due to these delays. When the petitioner initially approached the high court seeking pregnancy termination, she was already 26 weeks pregnant. The apex court urged for a sense of urgency in handling such cases and criticized the casual approach of treating them as ordinary cases with routine adjournments.

The Supreme Court scheduled the case as the first item on the docket for August 21. Additionally, the bench summoned a response from the state government and relevant agencies regarding the plea.

Cong rejects 'non-cooperation' charges levelled by Kerala FM against its MPs over Central fund

PTI ■ KOTTAYAM

The Congress on Saturday termed as "strange" the charges of non-cooperation levelled by Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal against its MPs in getting deserved allocations from the Centre, and said he was trying to cover up his own incompetence by raising baseless allegations.

Categorically rejecting the minister's charge that none of the Congress-led UDF MPs had gone to submit a memorandum to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman detailing the state's demands, the grand old party said they were not invited by him for the purpose.

There was no need for any UDF MPs to go for handing over the memorandum without any proper invitation, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly V D Satheesan said here.

"The state Finance Minister's allegation that the non-cooperation by the UDF MPs in submitting a complaint to the Centre is the cause of the state's financial crisis is strange," he told reporters.

At the onset, it should be made clear why the Centre was denying funds to the state, he said.

The LOP further said the opposition had warned several times inside and outside the Assembly that thousands of crores of rupees borrowed outside the state budget for the Kerala State Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) and pension fund would finally come under the budget limit.



The alarming financial position of the state was also mentioned in the White Papers released by the Congress-UDF recently, he pointed out.

"The current fiscal crisis is due to the state government's mismanagement and failure in collecting taxes," Satheesan alleged.

When GST came to existence, all states had changed their tax collection system but Kerala was reluctant to do it and so the state had no tax revenue now, he further charged.

The southern state should have received the highest tax revenue through GST but it receives only less than 10 per cent now, he said and alleged that though tax collection is less, extravagance and corruption are high in the state.

The mismanagement and indiscriminate borrowing outside the budget during the time of the first Pinarayi Vijayan government have pushed the state to the present financial crisis, Satheesan said.

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA

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TENDER NOTICE
(E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)
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No. NGS/SportsEquipment/2023/LawnBowls/2651 Dt: 18/8/2023

The Executive Director, Sports Authority of Goa (SAG) on behalf of Governor of Goa invites online percentage bids "Supply & Installation of Lawn Bowls Sports Equipment for the 37th National Games, Goa 2023"

TENDER SCHEDULE

a) Last date for ONLINE SUBMISSION of Tender is 31/08/2023 upto 1500 hrs.

b) The Technical Bid will be OPENED on 01/09/2023 at 15:00 hrs.

c) The date of opening of the Financial Bids will be conveyed through letter of CORRIGENDUM (which shall be uploaded on <https://eprocure.goa.gov.in> website only)

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

(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)
THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF GOA

Robbers go on stabbing spree; 1 killed, 2 hurt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death, and two others sustained injuries with knives attacked in three separate incidents where three robbers went on a stabbing spree in North East Delhi's Welcome area on Friday night, police said on Saturday, adding they have arrested two of the three accused. Police said they received three PCR calls related to incidents of stabbing at the Welcome police station between Friday night and early Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Gufan (32), while the two injured have been identified as Sher Mohd (25) and Sharik (22), all residents of the Janta Mazdoor Colony in Delhi. According to police, three calls related to incidents of stabbing were received at the Welcome police station between 11.30 pm on Friday and 1.02 am on Saturday. Sher Mohammad (25) of Janta Mazdoor Colony in Welcome

was stabbed in his abdomen, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said, adding that the man somehow managed to save himself by hiding inside a house.

The second call came around 12.20 am. Gufan, a resident of the same colony, was stabbed in his back, the DCP said. He said Gufan succumbed to injuries and his mobile phone was taken away.

The third victim, Sharik (22), also a resident of the Janta Mazdoor Colony, was stabbed in his neck. He ran away and managed to save himself, police said. All three accused are known ruffians and two of them have past criminal records, police added.

The DCP said two of the assailants have been apprehended — Kapil Chaudhary (25) and Sohail (22). Chaudhary has past criminal records and was arrested in 2021 for an attempt to murder and in 2022 for a stabbing incident. He came out of jail three

months ago. The robbed mobile phone and a blood-stained knife were found in his possession, Tirkey said. He identified the third accused as Sameer.

Upon interrogation, the arrested accused revealed that the three of them were drinking at night and hatched a plan to rob people and hence went on a stabbing and robbery spree in the area. Two blood-stained knives and a mobile phone were recovered from the two accused. They had bought recently from the Ballimaran area, police said.

A case under sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 392 (punishment for robbery), 397 (robbery, or dacoity, with an attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC has been registered, they said.

Efforts are being made to trace Sameer. He was involved in criminal activities in the past and was arrested for robbery under provisions of the Arms Act in 2022, police said.

PWD installs more CCTV cameras, elevated pumps ahead of G20 meet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Increasing the number of CCTV cameras for better monitoring and elevating underground pumps to clear accumulated water are among the measures being taken by the public works department of Delhi as part of its rain contingency plan for the G20 Summit.

Many areas of the national capital were inundated last month due to a rise in the water level in the Yamuna, leading to a situation where 27,000 people had to be evacuated from the floodplains along the river.

The areas of Rajghat, Pragati Maidan Tunnel and Bhairon Road, which are likely to be frequented by delegates during the summit, were flooded too, giving rise to concerns.

"We have prepared a rain contingency plan for the summit. We have increased the number of CCTV cameras installed on various roads to monitor them round the clock. Apart from this, the underground pumps that were sub-



merged during the floods have been reinstalled at a height," a PWD official said.

Ten locations have been identified to prevent waterlogging in case there is a heavy downpour. These include the areas around the gates of ITPO, the venue for the summit, the Pragati Maidan tunnel, Tilak Marg near the Patiala House Court, the underpass near the ITO skywalk and the Indraprastha Marg opposite PWD headquarters.

According to an official, 72 CCTV cameras have been installed inside the Pragati Maidan tunnel as it is likely to be used by delegates. Some of

these cameras have been installed by the Delhi Police, he added.

Sixteen permanent pumps with a total capacity of 540 kilowatts are functioning inside the tunnel. Apart from these, six mobile pumps of 40 HP each have been deployed, the official further said.

The Indraprastha Marg stretch opposite the PWD headquarters was also one of the locations inundated following the heavy rainfall last month. Seven pumps with a total capacity of 337 HP are functioning there with two mobile pumps of 50 HP each kept on standby. "The PWD

2 women killed, five injured after truck hits car

Gurugram: Two women were killed and five people, including a child, injured after a speeding truck hit their car on the Karawal-Sohna Road in Gurugram, police said on Saturday.

The accident occurred late on Friday. The women died in hospital while the injured are undergoing treatment at a private health care facility in Gurugram, they said. The truck driver fled with his vehicle after the accident, the police added.

Indrapal, a resident of Dohla village near Sohna, said in his police complaint that the accident occurred near the Karanki turn at 7.30 pm on Friday when they were returning in their car from Bhadak village in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district.

There were seven people, including a one-and-a-half-year old child, in the car at that time. "When our car, being driven by my brother Hariom, reached near the Karanki turn, it was hit by a speeding center (truck) coming from Harchandpur village side. SR

Rain brings relief from sultry weather

Delhi-NCR sees waterlogging, traffic jam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy rainfall lashed parts of Delhi and the National Capital Region, including Noida, Gurugram on Saturday morning, leading to severe waterlogging, traffic jam and bringing much-needed respite from sultry weather conditions experienced over the last few days.

While the rain brought much-needed respite from sultry weather conditions, several commuters took to X (formerly Twitter) to complain about traffic snarls, requesting



Delhi Police to take action. Visuals from the Delhi-

Gurugram Expressway in Haryana showed people strugg-

ling on flooded roads with the water reaching above their knees. According to Gurugram police, heavy rainfall on Saturday morning led to waterlogging in several parts of Gurugram, including the Narsinghpur stretch of the Delhi-Jaipur highway.

While there were no reports of major traffic congestions, vehicular movement was slow on the highway for some time and school students and office goers faced inconveniences, they said.

In addition to the usual spots on arterial roads that get waterlogged, some internal roads were inundated too on Saturday. According to the district administration, the city received 66 mm of rainfall between 5:10 am and 6:30 am.

The areas affected included Narsinghpur, Golf Course Road Extension, Pataudi

Chowk, Udyog Vihar, AIT Chowk, Sohna Road, Subhash Chowk, Vatika Chowk, sectors four, nine, 10, 14, 38, 45, 54 and 100 to 104, and Basai road but no major traffic congestion was reported, the traffic police said. Traffic movement was not affected anywhere and traffic personnel are stationed across the city to deal with any situation.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Virender Vij said. Similar visuals surfaced from Delhi's Outer Ring Road, Bahadurgarh Road, among others. The situation worsened, the Delhi Traffic Police asked the commuters to avoid certain routes that were waterlogged due to rain. "Traffic is affected on Outer Ring Road and connected stretches due to waterlogging in both the carriageways of Bhera Enclave underpass. Kindly avoid the

stretch," it tweeted. In a separate tweet, it informed about traffic being affected on Bahadurgarh Road due to waterlogging. "Traffic is affected on Bahadurgarh Road in carriageway from Bahadurgarh Stand, Firni Road, Najafgarh towards PTC Jharoda Kalan due to waterlogging. One carriageway is already affected due to DJB work. Kindly avoid the stretch," it said.

Additionally, it also informed about the traffic jams on Rohtak Road in carriageway from Peeragarhi towards Punjabi Bagh; and Ring Road in the carriageway from Bharat Darshan Park towards roundabout Punjabi Bagh but their reasons were not rain-related.

Meanwhile, some commuters tagged traffic police on X, drawing their attention towards certain other affected routes."



Kejriwal expert in spreading lies, alleges Sachdeva

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday charged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal masters the art of selling of dreams and is an expert in spreading lies when he goes to other States. These claims were made by Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

Sachdeva said Kejriwal showed a dream of turning Delhi into Singapore in 2018 but five years later Delhi has not seen any development or beautification projects. All the major infrastructure or beautification projects Delhi has seen in last 9 years have come from the central funds, he claimed.

The BJP chief said for last two years Kejriwal has been been City of Lakes dream but nothing has come into existence. On the other hand L. Governor of Delhi has successfully cleaned and revived Sahibi river which had been turned into Najafgarh drain and developed Asita East Ghat on Yamuna bank.

Kejriwal's claim that my idea of City of Lakes has found place in Bloomberg is laughable. Some months ago Kejriwal government had claimed that our government schools have been showcased by New York Times and Dubai Times but a day later it proved

to be a sponsored story, Sachdeva said. Similarly, Kejriwal has claimed international recognition for his Mohalla Clinics concept which not only badly let down Delhiites during covid phase but even today they are a flop show with doctors and medicines missing and no facility for medical tests therein, he charged.

Claiming that Kejriwal spreads lies when he visits other states, Bidhuri said people of Delhi have already understood his corrupt practice very well, and people from other states are not falling for Kejriwal's deceptive tactics either.

Bidhuri referred to Chief Minister Kejriwal's recent statement given in Chattisgarh as a complete falsehood, in which he claimed that before coming to power, in 2014, there used to be power cuts for seven to eight hours in Delhi.

Bidhuri emphasized that improvements were made afterwards when electricity was privatized in Delhi. When Kejriwal came to power, there was no electricity shortage issue in Delhi and a round-the-clock electricity supply. He is trying to take false credit for it.

Bidhuri mentioned that Kejriwal is not a provider of 24-hour electricity to the public but an expert magician in the art of deception.

AAP got ₹13 cr for Goa poll: Conman Suresh writes to LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Suresh Chandrasekhar, the alleged conman lodged in jail in a Rs 200-crore extortion and cheating case has written a fresh letter to Delhi L-G, accusing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Health Minister Satyendar Jain of flouting rules to award medical contracts to a private firm, Metropolis Laboratory and Pathology Centers. He alleged that Rs 13 crore was given to AAP by the private firm for the Goa elections.

"Kejriwal's Government in Delhi has awarded multiple medical contracts to a private firm, Metropolis Laboratory and Pathology Centers, to process blood and other biosamples of various hospitals under the Delhi Government, mainly for all Delhi Jail inmates.

The reason for filing this application/complaint is



because during the last Goa elections, a payment of Rs 13 crores was collected in 3 tranches from the office of Metropolis labs in Mumbai by my staff on the instructions of Satyendar Jain given to me," reads his letter.

Chandrasekhar has further alleged that in one of the FaceTime chats, Jain and Kejriwal had mentioned that the director of Metropolis Labs is a close friend and he is contributing funds, as they have

helped the company, and the amount should be collected from Mumbai and sent to Goa and Bengaluru. "Thereafter, my staff collected the amount of 13 crores in two tranches from the office of Metropolis in Mumbai in a matter of 7-8 hours, and constant coordination was done by Jain.

Out of 13 crores, 5 crores were sent to Bengaluru, to cousins of Jain, Dr. Himesh, who lives in Indranagar, Bengaluru. The balance of 8 crores was sent to Goa, which was collected by unknown persons whose details were sent by Jain, Chandrasekhar alleges in his letter.

Chandrasekhar claimed that after the delivery of the said funds, Kejriwal personally called up and thanked him on a FaceTime call and requested the L-G to get the contracts given to Metropolis Labs by Kejriwal's government investigated in detail.

Drug cartel busted, ₹40 cr opium seized; 2 arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of two members, the Delhi Police Special Cell claimed to have busted an inter-State drug cartel operating in the Delhi-National Capital Region with links to Manipur and Myanmar in the Mangolpuri Industrial Area in the national capital. During the raids, sleuths recovered over 56 kgs of opium estimated to be Rs 40 crore in the international market.

The duo identified as Paramjeet Singh (53) and Raj Kumar (38), had brought opium from the North-Eastern states and which was meant for supply to different parts of the country. Besides, a truck, several mobile handsets, and SIM cards used in the drug trafficking activities have also been recovered from them, officials said. According to police, on July 20, a specific information was received about Paramjeet



and Raj Kumar, both residents of Jammu, who are indulged in drug trafficking activities on the directions of one Nirmal, a resident of Bokajan, Assam.

"It was revealed that both of them, on the directions of Nirmal, after procuring the supply of opium from Thangmai, a resident of Manipur, would come in truck at Mangolpuri Industrial Area," said the Special Commissioner of Police (special cell) HGS Dhaliwal.

"A trap was laid and Paramjeet and Raj apprehended," said the official. On sustained interrogation, the duo revealed that they were part of

an interstate narcotics syndicate. "Paramjeet disclosed that he had been involved in drug trafficking activities for the last two years. He further disclosed that he procured recovered opium from Thangmai, a resident of Manipur, on the directions of Bokajan, Assam.

He further divulged that he worked as a carrier for Nirmal, and on his directions, he received supplies of opium and further supplied the same to various persons in Bihar, West Bengal, and Delhi/NCR," said the Special CP.

"He further revealed that Nirmal used to communicate with Thangmai via mobile phone and accordingly, would direct him to receive supplies of opium from suppliers at various places in Manipur and Nagaland. He used to travel in his truck up to the hilly areas of Manipur and Nagaland," the Special CP.

LG OK's restructuring of Delhi Administration Subordinate Services

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the restructuring of the Delhi Administration Subordinate Services (DASS) cadre according to a decades-old demand of officers and employees, an employees' federation said on Saturday.

The DASS cadre had not been restructured since its formation in 1967 despite several government orders, the Federation of Officers and Employees of DASS Cadre said in a statement. Saxena earlier directed to prepare a proposal in this direction.

Officers S B Shashank and Kulanand Joshi and serving IAS officer Y V V Rajasekhar was constituted for the purpose and this committee identified 221 Group 'A' posts which could be included in 'DASS', the statement said. The Services Department submitted the proposal to Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar.

Kumar submitted the proposal, along with his recommendation, to Saxena for his approval. The lieutenant governor has now approved the proposal for creation of 221 Group 'A' posts in DASS cadre, it said. The lieutenant governor's decision was welcome by officers and employees of the DASS cadre, it added.

Man dupes many by giving fake pollution certificates, arrested

New Delhi: A 42-year-old man was arrested for allegedly duping people by providing them with fake Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) certificates. The arrested accused has been identified as Manish Poddar, a resident of Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, according to police.

A sweet shop owner, in his complaint on July 23, said he set up a new workshop in the Naraina Industrial Area and an outlet at Pitampura and required Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) certificates to run those. He met Poddar, who claimed to have knowledge of the DPCC's procedure and, after taking Rs 2,01,600 (Rs 2.01 lakh) as fees and consulta-

tion charges, provided the complainant with four pollution certificates. These documents were later found to be fake, a senior police officer said. During investigation, the police received a tip-off that the accused was hiding at Sector 3 in Greater Noida. After pinpointing his specific location, a trap was laid and Poddar nabbed, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav said.

Poddar disclosed during interrogation that he visited business associations, where he came in contact with various businessmen and factory/shop owners who wanted to easily obtain the DPCC certificates, Yadav said. **Staff Reporter**

Court to hear ex-WFI chief matter on Aug 26

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court will resume hearing on August 26 the arguments on whether to frame charges against former WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in an alleged sexual harassment case lodged against him by women wrestlers.

The matter, which was scheduled to be taken up for hearing on Saturday, was adjourned for a week because the judge hearing it was on leave.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal had on July 20 granted bail to Singh, along with suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) assistant secretary



Vinod Tomar. The Delhi Police had filed a charge sheet against the six-time MP on June 15 under sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), 354D (stalking) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Court rescinds case against nat'l shooter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has quashed a criminal complaint under the customs law against a 26-year-old woman national level shooter whose father was found using her licence in the alleged import of firearms, saying she ought not to be punished for the purported acts of her father.

The high court said prima facie no case is made out against petitioner Disha Langan under the provisions of the Customs Act as the allegations against her do not disclose the essential ingredients of the offence she is charge with and no presumption can be drawn that she had knowledge of the alleged offences committed by her father.

"Considering the fact that the petitioner is a young girl of 26 years with a bright future ahead and who while studying law is also keeping her aspirations flying high through shooting and bringing laurels for the country, this court is of the considered opinion that she ought not to be punished for the alleged acts of her father solely on the pretext of her license being used by him," Justice Saurabh Banerjee said. The high court said it is a general practice in most, if not all, Indian families that a student studying in school, college, or university, and that too when it happens to be in another state or country, it is the family, primarily the parents, who play the role of supporting them and fill in for them.

AXIS BANK LTD. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS

THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY AVAILED. AS THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 31.08.2023 AT 12.30 PM TO 3.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS".

Sr. No.	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DATE OF RECALL NOTICE	GROSS WEIGHT	NET WEIGHT
BRANCH NAME : ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
1	GAURAV BANSAL	XXXXXXXXXX4570	₹ 681,545.99	22-07-2022	₹ 238.00	₹ 199.90
2	JUNAID ALAM	XXXXXXXXXX5322	₹ 32,176.84	28-02-2023	₹ 11.60	₹ 11.00
3	SUNIL KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX7661	₹ 109,216.20	08-02-2023	₹ 60.30	₹ 57.50
4	JITENDER KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX3905	₹ 409,871.13	30-05-2023	₹ 139.90	₹ 131.55
5	PANKAJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX3350	₹ 91,320.05	30-05-2023	₹ 35.10	₹ 33.70
6	PANKAJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX5857	₹ 27,891.42	30-05-2023	₹ 9.30	₹ 8.70
7	SHIKHA MINGLANI	XXXXXXXXXX2579	₹ 537,174.00	28-02-2023	₹ 176.60	₹ 163.70
BRANCH NAME : BADSHAHPUR GUR HR						
8	POONAM	XXXXXXXXXX7213	₹ 107,212.00	30-05-2023	₹ 43.40	₹ 34.10
BRANCH NAME : BALI NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
9	JASPREET KOUR BHATIYA	XXXXXXXXXX2577	₹ 383,647.00	05-09-2022	₹ 128.60	₹ 115.10
10	RASHMI TANEJA	XXXXXXXXXX7347	₹ 352,560.36	08-02-2023	₹ 157.10	₹ 141.50
BRANCH NAME : DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]						
11	KULDEEP	XXXXXXXXXX6560	₹ 274,044.00	30-05-2023	₹ 87.20	₹ 76.20
12	UPENDRA SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8135	₹ 39,772.00	28-02-2023	₹ 13.00	₹ 12.60
13	KAVITA GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXX3441	₹ 298,697.00	03-09-2022	₹ 117.20	₹ 104.30
14	BIKASH AGARWALLA	XXXXXXXXXX7441	₹ 336,726.00	30-05-2023	₹ 127.70	₹ 105.95
15	GULAB SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX5531	₹ 37,994.00	27-06-2023	₹ 13.40	₹ 13.15
BRANCH NAME : FARIDABAD [HR]						
16	AKSHAY PANDEY	XXXXXXXXXX6881	₹ 279,850.00	12-10-2022	₹ 81.90	₹ 80.40
17	SAGAR	XXXXXXXXXX8960	₹ 88,059.00	07-01-2023	₹ 88.00	₹ 82.00
18	POOJA RANI	XXXXXXXXXX0699	₹ 301,969.00	30-05-2023	₹ 93.30	₹ 89.90
19	POOJA RANI	XXXXXXXXXX0987	₹ 61,769.42	27-06-2023	₹ 21.60	₹ 20.92
20	LOKESH	XXXXXXXXXX4270	₹ 241,500.78	22-06-2022	₹ 85.70	₹ 81.10
21	JITENDER KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX9641	₹ 254,420.00	08-02-2023	₹ 77.90	₹ 74.20
22	MANISH KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX6612	₹ 131,340.00	30-05-2023	₹ 42.10	₹ 39.60
23	SANU RAI	XXXXXXXXXX9114	₹ 34,609.00	08-02-2023	₹ 11.80	₹ 11.34
24	RANI JYOTSNA	XXXXXXXXXX4184	₹ 255,950.00	27-06-2023	₹ 87.80	₹ 85.00
25	RANI JYOTSNA	XXXXXXXXXX2504	₹ 123,003.00	30-05-2023	₹ 38.10	₹ 35.90
BRANCH NAME : GHAZIABAD [UP]						
26	AAS MOHD	XXXXXXXXXX0043	₹ 271,017.00	09-01-2023	₹ 98.40	₹ 91.90
27	ANJALEE PATHAK	XXXXXXXXXX8332	₹ 104,438.58	28-02-2023	₹ 37.90	₹ 34.00
BRANCH NAME : JYOTI NAGAR DEL DL						
28	MANVI GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXX4370	₹ 1,088,950.16	20-04-2023	₹ 375.20	₹ 350.88
29	DIPANSHU KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX0858	₹ 356,681.00	07-01-2023	₹ 105.50	₹ 102.40
30	HAIDAR ALI	XXXXXXXXXX0175	₹ 410,248.00	30-05-2023	₹ 129.70	₹ 117.30
31	ANUJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX8071	₹ 130,745.34	08-02-2023	₹ 50.20	₹ 37.70
32	GOVIND KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX7973	₹ 113,709.56	28-02-2023	₹ 38.10	₹ 36.40
33	DEV KUMAR GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXX4891	₹ 98,254.66	08-03-2023	₹ 31.20	₹ 29.80
34	ANJU	XXXXXXXXXX7545	₹ 238,208.00	30-05-2023	₹ 65.60	₹ 63.10
35	SANJEEV KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX2411	₹ 131,787.00	30-05-2023	₹ 46.20	₹ 44.40
36	VINIT BHATI	XXXXXXXXXX9579	₹ 94,962.00	30-05-2023	₹ 30.70	₹ 29.40
BRANCH NAME : KALKAJI, NEW DELHI [DL]						
37	BIJU J ABRAHAM	XXXXXXXXXX4078	₹ 81,943.00	15-06-2023	₹ 23.30	₹ 22.70
BRANCH NAME : LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
38	RAGINI SINHA	XXXXXXXXXX2270	₹ 43,000.00	18-07-2023	₹ 20.10	₹ 15.82
BRANCH NAME : MALVIYA NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
39	GUDIA DEVI	XXXXXXXXXX1438	₹ 87,005.00	08-02-2023	₹ 31.40	₹ 27.20
BRANCH NAME : MAYUR VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
40	DEWANI RAM	XXXXXXXXXX9712	₹ 191,477.00	22-07-2022	₹ 67.70	₹ 53.65
BRANCH NAME : MEERA BAGH, NEW DELHI [DL]						
41	MANPREET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX2263	₹ 57,424.00	08-02-2023	₹ 17.00	₹ 16.70
BRANCH NAME : NANGLI DEL DL						
42	ABDUL NOOR P	XXXXXXXXXX3663	₹ 47,821.00	30-05-2023	₹ 13.20	₹ 13.00
BRANCH NAME : NAZAFGARH, NEW DELHI [DL]						
43	ROHIT	XXXXXXXXXX3941	₹ 94,142.00	15-06-2023	₹ 36.20	₹ 25.20
44	VIJAY KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX4461	₹ 57,395.00	18-07-2023	₹ 19.10	₹ 18.50
45	LAXMI SODHI	XXXXXXXXXX8834	₹ 26,303.00	18-07-2023	₹ 9.40	₹ 9.05
46	AJAYVEER SINGH YADAV	XXXXXXXXXX0485	₹ 171,807.36	30-05-2023	₹ 111.30	₹ 105.36
BRANCH NAME : NEW FRIENDS COLONY, NEW DELHI						
47	SACHIN GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXX6135	₹ 64,839.24	03-09-2022	₹ 19.00	₹ 18.40
48	BIJU J ABRAHAM	XXXXXXXXXX4831	₹ 435,615.21	15-06-2023	₹ 137.80	₹ 132.60
49	AKASH	XXXXXXXXXX4371	₹ 29,976.36	27-06-2023	₹ 8.30	₹ 8.00
BRANCH NAME : NOIDA [UP]						
50	AMIT KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX0984	₹ 64,052.00	12-09-2022	₹ 16.40	₹ 15.50
51	PRASHANT KUMAR VAISH	XXXXXXXXXX1605	₹ 818,955.40	03-09-2022	₹ 270.80	₹ 259.40
52	MITHAN YADAV	XXXXXXXXXX1680	₹ 425,555.00	28-02-2023	₹ 141.00	₹ 135.40
53	RAZAUDDIN	XXXXXXXXXX3620	₹ 57,673.90	28-02-2023	₹ 20.80	₹ 19.80
54	RAMKRIPAL SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX1463	₹ 287,884.92	30-05-2023	₹ 93.30	₹ 88.70
55	ARVIND KUMAR PANDEY	XXXXXXXXXX2356	₹ 110,730.73	30-05-2023	₹ 37.40	₹ 35.80
56	AMARJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX2749	₹ 83,300.00	30-05-2023	₹ 29.80	₹ 28.70
BRANCH NAME : NOIDA EXTENSION GNO UP						
57	RAUSHAN KUMAR SHRIVASTVA	XXXXXXXXXX3169	₹ 164,009.00	28-02-2023	₹ 50.40	₹ 48.30
58	PIYUSH KUMAR PANDEY	XXXXXXXXXX8497	₹ 68,222.95	18-07-2023	₹ 23.74	₹ 21.50
BRANCH NAME : PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON [HR]						
59	SANJAY SANJAY	XXXXXXXXXX9947	₹ 50,101.00	03-09-2022	₹ 9.80	₹ 9.80
60	ARTI ARTI	XXXXXXXXXX4334	₹ 50,617.00	28-02-2023	₹ 15.30	₹ 15.00
61	GAURAV SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXX2456	₹ 73,612.00	30-05-2023	₹ 28.10	₹ 24.50
62	ANIL	XXXXXXXXXX4597	₹ 54,914.00	30-05-2023	₹ 18.00	₹ 17.20
63	RAJA KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX2538	₹ 36,422.00	30-05-2023	₹ 12.20	₹ 11.70
64	BHAJAN SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX8067	₹ 36,736.00	30-05-2023	₹ 11.60	₹ 11.20
65	SATEESH SATEESH	XXXXXXXXXX3128	₹ 77,643.00	30-05-2023	₹ 21.70	₹ 21.40
66	BRAJESH KUMAR JHA	XXXXXXXXXX3258	₹ 65,797.00	27-06-2023	₹ 21.60	₹ 20.30
BRANCH NAME : PALAM, DELHI [DL]						
67	ANNIRUDH SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0465	₹ 95,798.00	15-06-2023	₹ 32.90	₹ 31.20
68	MEERA KUMARI	XXXXXXXXXX2442	₹ 66,629.00	30-05-2023	₹ 21.50	₹ 19.50
69	MANDAKINI BAJPAI	XXXXXXXXXX1705	₹ 147,129.00	30-05-2023	₹ 43.00	₹ 41.00
BRANCH NAME : PALWAL [HR]						
70	DINESH	XXXXXXXXXX1694	₹ 46,205.00	03-09-2022	₹ 27.60	₹ 25.30
71	BHAGAT SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX3567	₹ 70,080.00	30-05-2023	₹ 23.20	₹ 22.00
BRANCH NAME : PARADISE MALL S GUR HR						
72	KAMLESH PATHAK	XXXXXXXXXX1821	₹ 248,729.74	30-05-2023	₹ 100.90	₹ 85.60
73	ANIL KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX6934	₹ 946,602.00	27-06-2023	₹ 326.20	₹ 312.00
74	MADHU SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXX3032	₹ 74,085.00	05-09-2022	₹ 26.90	₹ 25.80
BRANCH NAME : ROHINI, DELHI [DL]						
75	SARABJEET KAUR	XXXXXXXXXX6879	₹ 208,362.00	05-09-2022	₹ 72.10	₹ 68.85
76	RITU	XXXXXXXXXX5205	₹ 274,376.00	30-05-2023	₹ 78.90	₹ 76.00
77	RESHMA KUMARI	XXXXXXXXXX1570	₹ 185,731.00	30-05-2023	₹ 55.30	₹ 52.90
78	MUKESH KUMAR MANDAL	XXXXXXXXXX0943	₹ 71,277.00	27-06-2023	₹ 24.60	₹ 22.90
BRANCH NAME : SECTOR 10A, GURGAON [HR]						
79	USHA DEVI	XXXXXXXXXX2142	₹ 30,838.03	03-09-2022	₹ 9.80	₹ 9.30
80	MANOJ KUMAR JAISWAL	XXXXXXXXXX7099	₹ 32,199.00	28-02-2023	₹ 10.60	₹ 10.10
81	ANKIT YADAV	XXXXXXXXXX2524	₹ 35,962.81	28-02-2023	₹ 11.50	₹ 10.90
82	RAJEEV MALHOTRA	XXXXXXXXXX5679	₹ 114,740.00	30-05-2023	₹ 38.00	₹ 36.40
83	ARJUN	XXXXXXXXXX6199	₹ 45,900.00	27-06-2023	₹ 15.30	₹ 14.60
84	AJAY PRAKASH	XXXXXXXXXX3020	₹ 41,699.00	27-06-2023	₹ 15.30	₹ 14.70
BRANCH NAME : SECTOR 14, GURGAON [HR]						
85	ABDHESH KUMAR SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXX2451	₹ 50,791.26	21-02-2023	₹ 17.10	₹ 16.50
86	RAVINDAR PRATAP SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX9395	₹ 62,881.00	18-07-2023	₹ 17.80	₹ 17.80
BRANCH NAME : SECTOR 16, FARIDABAD [HR]						
87	ROMA BHATI	XXXXXXXXXX4084	₹ 232,360.00	30-05-2023	₹ 78.00	₹ 74.10
88	BHARTI	XXXXXXXXXX8982	₹ 59,687.00	27-06-2023	₹ 17.20	₹ 16.40
89	PREM CHAND	XXXXXXXXXX9738	₹ 120,819.56	30-05-2023	₹ 40.30	₹ 38.25
90	CHANDAN MAYASHANKAR CHOUDHARY	XXXXXXXXXX4370	₹ 77,415.00	30-05-2023	₹ 25.10	₹ 23.89
91	TARA CHAND	XXXXXXXXXX7928	₹ 742,077.41	30-05-2023	₹ 210.10	₹ 201.00
92	PAWAN KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX5141	₹ 58,728.83	27-06-2023	₹ 15.10	₹ 14.80
BRANCH NAME : SECTOR 31-32A, GURGAON [HR]						
93	BIJENDER KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX7020	₹ 40,461.00	30-05-2023	₹ 14.30	₹ 11.90
BRANCH NAME : SECTOR-24, ROHINI, NEW DELHI [DL]						
94	ANKIT SOLANKI	XXXXXXXXXX2791	₹ 288,905.00	18-07-2023	₹ 145.80	₹ 138.55
95	RESHMA KUMARI	XXXXXXXXXX5524	₹ 266,808.00	30-05-2023	₹ 74.70	₹ 71.80
BRANCH NAME : SHAHDARA, DELHI [DL]						
96	VISHAL KUMAR BISAIYA	XXXXXXXXXX9808	₹ 248,679.00	22-07-2022	₹ 87.50	₹ 84.00
BRANCH NAME : SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI [DL]						
97	NAGENDRA KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX5979	₹ 104,792.00	18-07-2023	₹ 31.10	₹ 29.55
BRANCH NAME : SWASTHYA VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
98	PANKAJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX0318	₹ 46,026.00	07-01-2023	₹ 14.70	₹ 14.20
BRANCH NAME : TILAK NAGAR, DELHI [DL]						
99	SANDEEP KUMAR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX0911	₹ 94,218.50	21-02-2023	₹ 54.20	₹ 52.50
100	MOHIT RAGHAV	XXXXXXXXXX9751	₹ 150,970.11	30-05-2023	₹ 62.60	₹ 59.10
BRANCH NAME : UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
101	VIJAY YADAV	XXXXXXXXXX1741	₹ 93,400.00	30-05-2023	₹ 28.70	₹ 27.70
102	MANAS KUMAR PARIDA	XXXXXXXXXX2417	₹ 356,228.00	22-07-2022	₹ 106.40	₹ 102.30
BRANCH NAME : WAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]						
103	AMARJEET SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX5537	₹ 41,798.00	30-05-2023	₹ 13.50	₹ 12.60
BRANCH NAME : VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI [DL]						
104	SWETA SINGH	XXXXXXXXXX3584	₹ 26,961.78	18-07-2023	₹ 11.40	₹ 10.70
105	MANOJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXX5335	₹ 26,365.68			

Russian missile attack kills 7 in Chernihiv

AP ■ CHERNIHIV

A missile attack in the center of a northern Ukrainian city killed seven people and wounded scores of others on Saturday, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy travelled to Sweden, his first visit to the country since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year.

The dead in the daytime strike on the northern city of Chernihiv included a 6-year-old girl, while 12 children were among the 117 wounded, acting mayor Oleksandr Lomako said.

Zelenskyy condemned the attack, which he said hit buildings including a theater and a university.

"This is what a neighbourhood with a terrorist state is, this is what we unite the whole world against. A Russian missile hit right in the center of the city, in our Chernihiv," he wrote on Telegram. "A square, the polytechnic university, a theater. An ordinary Saturday, which Russia turned into a day of pain and loss."

In Sweden, Zelenskyy met officials at Harpsund, the prime minister's official summertime residence, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of Stockholm. He will also meet Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia at a palace in the area.

At a joint news conference, Zelenskyy and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson announced that the two coun-



tries agreed to strengthen cooperation on production and training and servicing of the Swedish CV-90 infantry fighting vehicles.

As part of the agreement, Zelenskyy said, Swedish CV-90 vehicles will begin production in Ukraine. He also stressed the importance of supplying Ukraine with modern aircraft.

"We do not have superiority in the air, and we do not have modern aircraft. In reality, the Swedish Gripen is the pride of your country, and I believe that the Prime Minister could share this pride with Ukraine," Zelenskyy said, adding that "appropriate actions" would be taken in the following weeks to "open up the

possibility of obtaining the appropriate aircraft."

"I will also have negotiations with several other states tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. I am confident that we, together with our partners, will do everything and achieve the appropriate result in the sky so that the Russians do not have an advantage there," he said. Kristersson expressed his condolences to Zelenskyy for the attack in Chernihiv. He called the Russian missile strike an "act of brutality" which "only reinforces the need for us to stand with you in all your struggles."

Sweden abandoned its longstanding policy of military nonalignment to support

Ukraine with weapons and other aid in the war against Russia. The government says Sweden has provided 20 billion kronor (1.7 billion euros) in military support to Ukraine. Sweden also applied for NATO membership but is still waiting to join the alliance.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin visited top military officials in the city of Rostov-on-Don near the Ukrainian border.

The Kremlin said that Putin listened to reports from Valery Gerasimov, the commander in charge of Moscow's operations in Ukraine, and other top military brass at the headquarters of Russia's Southern Military District.

Imran can be poisoned in Attock jail, says wife

PTI ■ LAHORE

Imran Khan's life is still in danger and he can be poisoned in Attock jail, his wife Bushra Bibi has said as she demanded better prison facilities for the incarcerated former Pakistan prime minister.

In her letter to the Punjab home secretary on Saturday, the 49-year-old wife of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman wrote that the court had directed the authorities concerned to shift her husband from Attock jail in Punjab to Adiala prison in Rawalpindi.

"My husband has been imprisoned in Attock jail without any justification. According to the law, my husband should be transferred to Adiala jail," she said.

She demanded that the 70-year-old PTI chief be provided B-class facilities in the prison given his social and political status, Geo News reported.

Bushra said Khan "can be poisoned" in Attock jail, the report said.

She said two assassination attempts have been made on Khan's life and those involved in them are yet to be arrested.

"His life is still in danger [and] there is a fear that my husband will be poisoned in Attock jail," she wrote in the letter.

WORLD BRIEFS

PAK POLICE THWART MAJOR TERROR PLOT

LAHORE: Pakistan's law enforcement agencies on Saturday claimed to have averted a major terror plot by arresting 13 terrorists, including three ISIS commanders, who were planning to target important installations across the Punjab province. The militants were arrested from Lahore, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Rawalpindi, Chiniot, Kasur and Multan during the last couple of days, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police said in a statement. "The arrested terrorists had planned to target important installations across the province," it said. With the arrest, law enforcement agencies foiled a "major terror plot" in the Punjab province, it said. The arrested terrorists belong to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Daesh (ISIS), Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan and Al-Qaeda. Some 2,360 grams of explosives, one IED bomb, 11 detonators, pistols and bullets and banned literature have been recovered from them, the statement said. Last week, the CTD arrested 21 terrorists in Punjab. Hundreds of terrorists of TTP and ISIS have been nabbed this year after the truce between the Pakistan government and TTP ended in November last year. The attacks on security forces have seen a rise in the country after the truce ended.

GREEK AUTHORITIES RESCUE 60 MIGRANTS

ATHENS: Greek authorities on Saturday rescued nearly 60 migrants in inflatable dinghies trying to cross from Turkey to the nearby eastern Aegean Sea islands in two separate incidents, the coast guard said. In recent weeks Greece has seen a rise in such arrivals, mostly in small unseaworthy boats provided by smugglers. A coast guard statement said a patrol boat located 41 people early Saturday on a drifting inflatable dinghy off the island of Lesbos. All were safely evacuated and taken to a reception centre on the island. Following a chase earlier Saturday, a coast guard patrol boat stopped another dinghy carrying 17 people near the eastern Aegean islets of Arkii. The migrants were taken to the island of Patmos, while one of them was arrested on suspicion of belonging to a smuggling ring.

BOMBING SUSPECT COMMITS SUICIDE TO EVADE ARREST

BEIRUT: A Syrian citizen suspected of being behind a deadly bombing that killed and wounded dozens near the capital, Damascus, last month committed suicide when gunmen tried to detain him in Lebanon where he fled, state-run National News Agency reported on Saturday. The agency identified the man as Wissam Dalla and said that he entered Lebanon illegally and was staying with relatives in a southern suburb of Beirut — a stronghold of the militant group Hezbollah — where he was planning another "terrorist attack." The 23-year-old man jumped from the 7th floor of the building where he was staying late on Friday night and later succumbed to his wounds in hospital. NNA did not report on who tried to detain Dalla but other media outlets said they were members of Hezbollah, adding that the dead man was suspected of links to the extremist Islamic State organisation. On July 28, a motorcycle planted with explosives detonated in the Damascus suburb of Sayida Zeinab near a Shiite Muslim shrine killing at least six people and wounding dozens a day before the solemn holy day of Ashoura.

BRAZIL ARRESTS 7 MILITARY POLICE OFFICERS OVER RIOTS

BRASILIA: Brazil's federal police on Friday arrested seven senior military police officers accused of assisting right-wing rioters during the Jan. 8 attacks on government buildings in the capital, Brasilia. Prosecutors say text messages obtained from the officers' mobile phones show Brasilia's military police were aware of the attackers' intentions. Not only did the officers fail to prevent the attacks, say prosecutors, but they assisted the rioters in their efforts to oust President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and reappoint former President Jair Bolsonaro in a coup. The officers have not been charged. Among those arrested on Friday is Klepter Rosa Gonçalves, general commander of the military police of Brasilia. The police also detained three other people and dispatched 16 search and seizure warrants. Prosecutors say military officials knew that the protesters intended to attack the capital and spread false information about the legitimacy of the country's electronic voting system.

JACKSON'S ABUSE LAWSUITS REVIVED BY APPEALS COURT

LOS ANGELES: A California appeals court on Friday revived lawsuits from two men who allege Michael Jackson sexually abused them for years when they were boys. A three-judge panel from California's 2nd District Court of Appeal found that the lawsuits of Wade Robson and James Safechuck should not have been dismissed by a lower court, and that the men can validly claim that the two Jackson-owned corporations that were named as defendants in the cases had a responsibility to protect them. It's the second time the lawsuits — brought by Robson in 2013 and Safechuck the following year — have been brought back after dismissal. The two men became more widely known for telling their stories in the 2019 HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland." A judge who dismissed the suits in 2021 found that the corporations, MJJ Productions Inc. and MJJ Ventures Inc., could not be expected to function like the Boy Scouts or a church where a child in their care could expect their protection. Jackson, who died in 2009, was the sole owner and only shareholder in the companies.

The Netherlands, Denmark get US approval to give F-16s to Ukraine

AP ■ THE HAGUE

The United States has given its approval for the Netherlands and Denmark to deliver F-16s to Ukraine, officials in Washington and Europe said on Friday, in a major gain for Kyiv, even though the fighter jets are unlikely to affect the war any time soon.

It was not immediately clear when the first F-16s might enter the conflict, but Ukrainian pilots will first have to undertake at least six months of training on the aircraft, according to officials.

Ukraine has long pleaded for the sophisticated fighter to give it a combat edge. It recently launched a long-anticipated counteroffensive against the Kremlin's forces without air cover, placing its troops at the mercy of Russian aviation and artillery.

Even so, Air Force Gen. James Hecker, commander of US air forces in Europe and Africa, told reporters in Washington he did not expect the F-16s to be a game-changer for Ukraine. Getting F-16 squadrons ready for battle could take "four or five years," he said.

But in eastern Ukraine,

attack helicopter pilots welcomed the news. They said Russia has a clear advantage in the skies, but the introduction of better fighter jets could dramatically shift the balance of power Kyiv's way.

Ukrainian air forces supporting infantry are using decades-old Soviet-era planes, which are vulnerable to air-to-air missile attacks from Russian fighter jets, Capt. Yevgen Rakita, a spokesman for the 18th Army Aviation Brigade, told The Associated Press.

"A modern war cannot be won without aviation" capabilities, Rakita said.

In making the decision on F-16 deliveries, Washington aims to ensure warplanes can be provided to Ukraine as soon as its pilots complete training, according to a US administration official who was not authorised to comment and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken sent a letter to his Dutch and Danish counterparts earlier this week, offering formal assurance that the US would fast-track approval of all requests from third parties to transfer F-16s to Ukraine.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi arrested

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, a close aide of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, was arrested by police from his house here on Saturday.

Qureshi, 67, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's Vice Chairman, was taken to the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) headquarters after the arrest. The charges leading to Qureshi's arrest were not clear but the FIA is currently interrogating incarcerated PTI chief Khan in a case related to a missing diplomatic cable which he has for long mentioned as evidence of a "foreign conspiracy" to remove him as the prime minister in April last year. "PTI vice chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi has been illegally arrested once again," the PTI said in social media post on X, formerly known as Twitter. Qureshi was foreign minister when the issue of the diplomatic cable erupted. The purported cipher (secret diplomatic cable) contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, and Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan last year.

Chinese military drills near Taiwan

AP ■ BEIJING

The Chinese military launched drills around Taiwan on Saturday as a "stern warning" over what it called collusion between "separatists and foreign forces," its defense ministry said, days after the island's vice president stepped over in the United States.

Taiwanese Vice President William Lai's recent trip to Paraguay to reinforce relations with his government's last diplomatic partner in South America included stops in San Francisco and New York City. The mainland's ruling Communist Party claims democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and says it has no right to conduct foreign relations.

A spokesperson for China's Eastern Theater Command said in a brief statement that the military exercises involved the coordination of vessels and planes and their ability to seize control of air and sea spaces.

It was also testing the forces' "actual combat capabilities," Shi Yi said. The drills were a warning over provocations from pro-Taiwan independence forces and foreign forces, he added.

The command released footage of the drills online that showed soldiers running, as well as military boats and



A Chinese warship conducts drills in an area around Taiwan on Saturday

planes.

State media CCTV reported that missile-equipped boats and fighter jets were involved in the operation and that units worked together to simulate the surrounding of Taiwan.

Taiwan's defense ministry strongly condemned what it called "irrational, provocative moves" in a statement. It said it would deploy appropriate forces to respond to the drills and take action to "safeguard freedom and democracy."

It said its military would stand ready in the face of the threats posted by the Chinese army, adding that its forces have "the ability, determination and confidence to safeguard national security."

It posted a video on Facebook that showed previous military drills and said the Chinese military exercises reflected a militaristic mental-

ity.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 following a civil war that ended with the ruling Communist Party in control of the mainland. The self-ruled island has never been part of the People's Republic of China, but Beijing sees Taiwan as a breakaway province to be retaken by force if necessary.

China's official Xinhua news agency on Saturday reported that an unnamed official in China's Taiwan Work Office strongly condemned what it called further collusion between Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party and the US and said it was a "new provocative move."

The official pointed to the stopovers in the US, an interview Lai gave to news outlet Bloomberg and his meeting with US officials in Paraguay, the report said.

2 Israelis killed in West Bank

BALATA REFUGEE CAMP: Two Israelis were killed in a suspected Palestinian shooting attack on Saturday in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli military said, the latest outburst of violence to rock the region.

The military said it was searching for suspects and setting up roadblocks near the town of Hawara, a volatile area in the northern West Bank. Since last spring, the West Bank has seen some of the deadliest fighting between Israel and the Palestinians in nearly two decades.

Also on Saturday, the Israeli military said it was looking into reports of a shooting in a volatile area of the West Bank. The country's rescue service said two men, aged 60 and 30, were wounded. Further details were not immediately available.

According to Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency, Mohammad Abu Asab, 19, was shot in the head on Wednesday during an Israeli army incursion into the Balata refugee camp near the northern West Bank city of Nabulus. It cited medical officials.

The Israeli military said in its statement Wednesday that a commando unit raided Balata seeking to destroy an underground weapons factory. While demolishing the site and its stockpile of improvised explosives, the military said a firefight broke out in the dense camp's warren of alleys between soldiers and armed Palestinians. (AP)

SL to review national security strategy amid rising global rivalries: Wickremesinghe

PTI ■ COLOMBO

President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Saturday highlighted the need for a comprehensive review of Sri Lanka's national security strategy to chart a course devoid of entanglement in the emerging international rivalries and maintain neutrality in the Indian Ocean region.

The review will include a broad range of factors, emerging economic trends and the impacts of climate change, Wickremesinghe said, addressing a Naval gathering in the southern district of Galle. The President has already appointed a team led by a retired Major General to report to the National Security Council for formulating contemporary security policies.

He said the dynamics of today's landscape witness the encroachment of global power struggles into the Indian Ocean's realm.

"On one front, a contest for supremacy unfolds between the United States and China across the expanses of the Pacific Ocean. Simultaneously, a power struggle emerges between the Western nations and Russia in the context of Ukraine. This competition for influence extends even to remote reaches such as Niger in Africa," he said. Wickremesinghe said Sri

Lanka should maintain neutrality in the Indian Ocean region.

"Undoubtedly, the Indian Ocean hosts the world's pivotal trade routes, making Sri Lanka an integral player at this stage. As we navigate these waters, it is imperative that we chart a course devoid of entanglement in these international rivalries, maintaining an impartial stance. Our foremost concern must be the safeguarding of our security within this sphere," the president said. He said the utilisation of submarines in the Indian Ocean has increased. In light of this, the island nation's maritime security strategy should be directed towards the development of a robust programme tailored to submarine surveillance and control. Upon the completion of the review report, a blueprint for modernised security policies of the National Security Council will be adopted. Sri Lanka which is going through its worst economic crisis since independence has faced criticism over larger budgetary allocations for defence spending while the healthcare and education budgets remain lower.

Demands are to prune its security forces and reduce the level of presence in the former north and eastern conflict zones to promote reconciliation with the Tamil minority.

Driverless bus service launched in San Francisco

San Francisco (AP): First came the robotaxis. Then the driverless buses arrived.

San Francisco has launched an autonomous shuttle service -- less than a week after California regulators approved the expansion of robotaxis despite traffic and safety concerns.

The free shuttle will run daily in a fixed route called the Loop around Treasure Island, the site of a former US Navy base in the middle of San Francisco Bay. The Loop makes seven stops, connecting residential neighborhoods with stores and community centers. About 2,000 people live on the island.

The all-electric vehicle, which doesn't have a driver's seat or steering wheel, is staffed with an attendant who can drive the bus with a handheld controller if necessary. The county is offering the shuttle service as part of a grant-funded pilot program to assess how autonomous vehicles can supplement the public transit system. "Having the attendant on board makes everyone feel comfortable," said Tilly Chang, executive director of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority. "This is just a demonstration for now to see, what does it look like and how does it work to have a driverless shuttle in a low-volume, low-speed environment?"

Kishida to visit Fukushima plant before deciding water release date

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he will visit the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant on Sunday before setting a release date for its treated radioactive wastewater, as his government continues working to promote understanding over the controversial plan at home and abroad. "The government has reached the final stage where we should make a decision," Kishida told reporters in Washington on Friday after wrapping up his summit with US and South Korean leaders at the American presidential retreat of Camp David.

Since the government announced the release plan two years ago, it has faced strong opposition from Japanese fishing organisations, which worry about further damage to the reputation of their seafood as they struggle to recover from the accident. Groups in South Korea and China have also raised concerns, turning it into a political and diplomatic issue.

The government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., say the water must be removed to make room for the plant's decommissioning and to prevent accidental leaks from the tanks because much of the water is still contaminated and needs further treatment.

The release "cannot be

postponed," Kishida said.

Japan has obtained support from the International Atomic Energy Agency to improve transparency and credibility and to ensure the plan by TEPCO meets international safety standards. The government has also stepped up a campaign promoting the plan's safety at home and through diplomatic channels.

IAEA, in a final report in July, concluded that the TEPCO plan, if conducted strictly as designed, will cause negligible impact on the environment and human health, encouraging Japan to move ahead.

While seeking understanding from the fishing communi-

ty, the government has also

worked to explain the plan to South Korea to keep the issue from interfering with their relationship-building. Japan, South Korea and the US are working to bolster trilateral ties in the face of growing Chinese and North Korean threats.

Kishida said the outreach efforts have made progress, but he did not mention a starting date for the water release, which is widely expected to be at the end of August. He said the decision will factor in safety preparations and measures for possible reputation damage on the fisheries. Japanese media reports say his ministers will decide the date at a meeting next week.

Genetic testing scam lands Indian-origin lab owner in jail

Houston (PTI): An Indian-origin laboratory owner from the US state of Georgia was sentenced to 27 years in prison for his involvement in a USD 463 million genetic testing scam spanning over three years to defraud Medicare.

Minal Patel, who owned LabSolutions LLC, was sentenced on Friday to 27 years in prison for his role in the scheme to defraud Medicare by submitting over USD 463 million in genetic and other laboratory tests that patients did not need and were procured through the payment of kickbacks and bribes.

The 44-year-old conspired with patient brokers, telemedicine companies and call centres to target Medicare beneficiaries with telemarketing calls falsely stating that their package covered expensive cancer genetic tests, the Department of Justice said on Friday.

After the Medicare beneficiaries agreed to take tests, Patel paid kickbacks and bribes to patient brokers to obtain signed doctors' orders authorising the tests from telemedicine companies, the department said in a press release.

To conceal the kickbacks, Patel required the patient brokers to sign contracts that falsely stated that they were performing legitimate advertising services for LabSolutions. From July 2016 through August 2019, LabSolutions submitted more than USD 463 million in claims to Medicare, including for thousands of medically unnecessary genetic tests, of which the national health insurance programme paid over USD 187 million.

In that timeframe, Patel personally received over USD 21 million from Medicare in connection with the fraud. "Deception, kickbacks, and bribes

have no place in the provision of legitimate genetic testing and telemedicine services to patients who need them," said Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey B. Velti of the FBI Miami Field Office.

Patel bilked hundreds of millions of dollars from Medicare through a complex testing fraud scheme. He is now paying the price for this crime," he said.

The case was brought as part of Operation Double Helix, a federal law enforcement action led by the Health Care Fraud Strike Force under the supervision of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section.

It focused on fraudulent genetic cancer testing, resulting in charges against dozens of defendants associated with telemedicine companies and cancer genetic testing laboratories for their alleged participation in one of the largest healthcare fraud schemes ever charged.

Indian economy shining as beacon of hope in challenging times: Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that India's economy is shining as a beacon of hope in these challenging times. "With robust growth and resilient spirit, the future looks promising. Let us keep this momentum and ensure prosperity for 140 crore Indians," he said on X, reacting to news portal Moneycontrol's 'Bullish on India' campaign. The portal, which specialises in reporting on markets and financial sector, had posted on X that the country's economy has not just withstood challenges, but thrived setting the



stage for optimism. The 'Bullish on India' campaign showcases India's economic resilience and growth potential in various critical sectors, it said. It aims to analyse the key drivers of India's economic growth while fostering awareness about the unparalleled potential the nation offers at a time of a global economic slowdown, the portal said in a separate statement. "With detailed analysis of macroeconomic factors such as manufacturing, demography, economy, markets and India's rising stand in the global leadership, 'Bullish on India' has been presented as a data backed

campaign that underlines India's resilient economic growth," it said. The campaign seeks to analyse key drivers of India's economic growth while fostering awareness about the "unparalleled potential" the nation offers at a time of a global economic slowdown, it added. "There are various adversities that have shaken economies worldwide in the past few years. However, India is standing tall, retaining its stature as the 'world's fastest-growing major economy,'" it said, noting that the country is set to become the third largest economy in the coming years.

'Growing demand to help Indian food, beverage packaging industry to reach \$86 bn by 2029'

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The Indian food and beverage packaging industry that is growing by 14.8 per cent annually is expected to reach USD 86 billion in 2029, following rapid urbanisation, rising disposable incomes and evolving consumption patterns, All India Food Processors Association said on Saturday. "Post-Covid-19, the demand for natural food ingredients has surged. FSSAI's new regulations for nutraceuticals and organic foods are driving growth in the sector. "Packaging has evolved from protection to marketing and sustainability. Trends like natural, organic, vegan, and GI-tagged products are reshaping the landscape," All India Food Processors Association, Western Region, chairman Prabodh Halde said in a statement on the last day of the Food Ingredients (Fi India) and ProPak India.



The organised packaged ingredients market is valued at about Rs 20,000 crore annually, indicating a shift from loose to packaged products, he stated at the 17th edition of Food Ingredients (Fi India) and the 5th edition of ProPak India, organised by Informa Markets in India from August 17-19. Over 230 exhibitors and more than 1,000 brands participated in Fi India, while 85

exhibitors and over 300 brands took part in ProPak India. The exhibitions witnessed participation from international exhibitors including those from the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Belgium, the USA, Poland, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Thailand. "The Indian food and beverage packaging industry is currently valued at USD 32 billion in 2022, and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 14.8 per cent to USD 86 billion by 2029. The shift towards plastic-free and mono-packaging materials reflects the industry's dedication to sustainability," Halde said. This industry is expected to add 9 million jobs by 2024, and by 2030, India's annual household consumption is believed to quadruple, making it the fifth-largest consumer in the world, he said. The sector's size is estimated to be around USD 322 billion, and it is expected to reach USD 543 billion by 2025, growing at a CAGR of 14.6 per cent, he added. The industry should focus on developing new and innovative products, especially in the organic and health food categories, to cater to the changing consumer preferences, Halde stated. "The food processing industry's vision for the next five to ten years should be to increase the sector's contribution to the GDP from the current 8 per cent to 20 per cent," he added.

Govt unveils Green Hydrogen standards, sets emission thresholds for production

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The government on Saturday unveiled Green Hydrogen standards and included electrolysis and biomass-based methods in its definition. In a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the government has notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India, the New and Renewable Energy Ministry said in a statement. The standards issued by the ministry outline the emission thresholds that must be met in



order for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i.e., from renewable sources. The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydro-

gen production methods, it stated. After discussions with multiple stakeholders, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (i.e., including water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, drying and compression of hydrogen) of not more than 2 kg CO₂ equivalent / kg H₂. The notification specifies that a detailed methodology for measurement, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification, and

certification of green hydrogen and its derivatives shall be specified by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. The notification also specifies that the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects. The notification of the Green Hydrogen Standard brings a lot of clarity to the Green Hydrogen community in India and was widely awaited, it stated. With this notification, India becomes one of the first few countries in the world to announce a definition of Green Hydrogen.

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA)
KURUKSHETRA-136119

Advt. No.24/2023
Admissions to M.Tech. and M.Sc. programmes for the Academic Year 2023-24

National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra invites online applications through Google Form for admissions in M.Tech. (Left over seats of CCMT-2023, Self-Financed seats, Sponsored seats) and M.Sc. (Left over regular and Self-Financed seats of CCMN-2023) for the Academic Year 2023-24. The last date for submission of online applications is **26th August 2023**. Application submitted without fee, incomplete or late will not be considered. For more information kindly visit the Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in under Admissions 2023.

Registrar /I/c

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA)
KURUKSHETRA-136119

Advt.No.23/2023
Notification for Submission of Diamond Jubilee Mercy Chance examination forms (Re-appear) during odd semester (July-December, 2023) of the Academic Year 2023-24

The Senate of NIT Kurukshetra has decided to grant Mercy Chance on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee Year Celebration to the Students of UG and PG programmes on certain conditions in respect of no. of re-appear and prescribed fee for re-appear examinations. For more information, the concerned students are advised to visit institute's website and read the notification thoroughly. The mercy chance will be given during Odd Semester (July-December, 2023) of the Academic year 2023-24. Further, those who were already given mercy chance on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Institute are not eligible for this mercy chance. The last date to submit examination form at Students Help Desk has been extended upto **31.08.2023 before 5:00 pm**. No examination form will be accepted after the last date. For further details, please visit the Institute website www.nitkkr.ac.in or may contact through email ID: academic@nitkkr.ac.in.

Registrar /I/c

PARIJAT PAPER MILLS LIMITED
CIN : L21012UP1989PLC010589, ISIN:INE447K01014
Vill: Jat Mujhera 10.6 km Stone Bhopa Road, Muzaffarnagar - 251 308 (U.P.)
Ph: 0131-2468591, Email: parijatpapermills@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

- Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Parijat Paper Mills Limited (the Company) will be held on Friday, **08th day of September, 2023** at 02:00P.M. IST at the registered office of the company situated at Vill- JAT MUJHERA, 10.6 Km, Stone, Bhopa Road, Muzaffarnagar- 251308, Uttar Pradesh, India to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of **Friday, 01st September, 2023**, may cast their vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM. Members participating through in person shall be counted for reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act.
- Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2023 of the Company has been sent to all the members, whose email ids are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository participant(s), as on the cut-off date i.e. **11th August, 2023**. 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 Circulars. The Notice and the Annual Report will also be available and can be downloaded from the website of the Company www.parijatpapermills.com.
- The facility of casting the votes by the members ("e-voting") will be provided by **Link Intime India Private Limited** and the detailed procedure for the same is provided in the Notice of the AGM. The remote e-voting period commences on **Tuesday, 05th September, 2023 at 9:00 A.M. to Thursday, 07th September, 2023 till 05:00 P.M.** During this period, members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of **Friday, 01st September, 2023**, may cast their vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM. Members participating through in person shall be counted for reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act.
- 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 parijatpapermills@share@gmail.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.
- The Register of Members and Share Transfer books of the Company will remain closed from **Saturday, 02nd September, 2023 to Friday, 08th September, 2023** (both days inclusive).
- The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2022-23 sent to members in accordance with the applicable provisions in due course.

For Parijat Paper Mills Limited.
Sd/-
Shilpi Agarwal
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
M. No. F7123

Date: 18.08.2023
Place: Muzaffarnagar

Titan acquires 27.2% extra share of CaratLane in ₹4,621 crore deal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Branded jewellery maker Titan on Saturday announced the acquisition of an additional 27.18 per cent stake in its subsidiary CaratLane, taking its total holding to 98.28 per cent. The Tata group-controlled firm entered into a share purchase agreement on Saturday to acquire 91.90 lakh equity shares held by the founder of CaratLane Trading Pvt Ltd and his family members, said a regulatory filing. "CaratLane is a subsidiary of the company and on completion of the aforesaid share purchase would result in an increase in shareholding of the company in CaratLane from 71.09 per cent to 98.28 per cent on a fully diluted basis," it said. Over the cost of the acquisition, Titan said it will pay "Rs 4,621 crore towards the purchase of 27.18 per cent equity shares of CaratLane on a fully diluted basis."

PTI ■ LUCKNOW
For 23-year-old Shwetank Pandey, it was a tryst with destiny as he was appointed the Chief Gaming Officer (CGO) of iQOO, after seeking a year for himself from his family to pursue his passion for gaming, and also bought a smartphone on EMI in this regard. Describing his journey from a student to a CGO, Shwetank Pandey, who was in Lucknow recently told PTI: "The journey was simply brilliant, because if you are pursuing e-sports in India, then giving time to it and garnering support of the family for this is really very difficult. "But, thanks to my family, I was able to pursue e-sports, and I started e-sports in 2019, when I was in class 12th. I used to play games with my friends then, but it was not competitive. "After completing class 12th, I pursued graduation with a focus on communication skills. I also worked for a year, so as to assure my family that the future of their child is secure, and so that there are no doubts in their mind. "During the job, I purchased a phone on EMI, and I had told my family members that I had bought the phone with my money, so that I can do proper gaming. This was in 2022," Pandey, who dropped the idea of pursuing an MBA, said. He added that after this, his parents were assured that their son's future is secured, and they agreed to give him "a last try at gaming." Expressing his joy over becoming iQOO's Chief Gaming Officer, Shwetank said, "I feel on top of the world right now. When I initially filled out the form, I was reluctant and hoped to be among the finalists. Little did I know that it would lead me this far and eventually result in becoming iQOO's first-ever CGO."

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client, Smt. AMARJIT KAUR AHANWA, wife of Sri Ishwinder Khanna, resident of 12 Godavari Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019, have lost/misplaced the original documents issued by DDA (i.e. Allocation Letter, Allotment-cum-Demand Letter, Possession Slip and NOC for Water and Electricity, etc.) and Conveyance Deed also in respect of FREEHOLD, DDA SFS, CATEGORY-II SECOND FLOOR, FLAT NO. 398, with Scooter Garage, POKET-A, NILGIRI APARTMENTS, ALAKNANDA, NEW DELHI - 110019, issued by DDA. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing I.R.No. 183748/2022 dated 17/08/2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest over documents or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact above named person at above address/phone no. 9562233767 or to Dy. Director (LAD)/H or Director (H)-1, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Achin Sharma (Advocate)
(En. No. D/5425/2021) G-2/210 and 210A, Tuls Tower, Alaknanda Market, New Delhi-19. M: +91-9810221449

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client, Mrs. MANJU MEHRA, wife of Mr. K.N. Mehra resident of Flat No. B-1/209, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110053, have lost/misplaced the original documents issued by DDA (i.e. Allocation Letter, Allotment-cum-Demand Letter, Possession Slip and NOC for Water and Electricity, etc.) and All Agreement to Sell(s) and All General Power of Attorney(s) and Conveyance Deed, etc. in respect of FREEHOLD, DDA SFS, CATEGORY-III, FIRST FLOOR, FLAT NO. B-10-B, WITH SCOOTER GARAGE ON GROUND FLOOR SITUATED AT POKET B, GANGOTRI ENCLAVE, ALAKNANDA, NEW DELHI-110019, issued by DDA. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing I.R. No. 783798/2023 dated 17/08/2023. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest over documents or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact above named person at above address/phone no. 9810221449 or to Dy. Director (LAD)/H or Director (H)-1, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Achin Sharma (Advocate)
(En. No. D/5425/2021) G-2/210 and 210A, Tuls Tower, Alaknanda Market, New Delhi-19. M: +91-9810221449

CH- CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, MEERUT
(NAAC ACCREDITED WITH A++ Grade)
SIR CHHOTU RAM INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

REGISTRATION/ADMISSION FOR SESSION 2023-24
B.TECH./M.TECH./MCA/MBBA/MBA(HA)

Online Registrations/Admissions in B.Tech. (AG, CH, CS, EC, EI, IT & ME), B. Tech. Lateral entry (AG, CH, CS, EC, EI, IT & ME), M.Tech. (CSE, ECE), MCA, MBA & MBA (Hospital Administration) in University campus are going on For more details visit official web portals www.ccsuniversity.ac.in/cesum or www.ccsuniversity.ac.in/scriet or www.ccsuforms.in or contact: 7579685826, 7579685832, and 7579685819, 0121-2774974, 2770083.

REGISTRAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
SS/CW/Tender/23-24/510/2023/130 Date : 19.08.2023

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered appropriate class of contractor for 66 building works in different schools as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website <https://www.assamtenders.gov.in>. The last date of submission of tender is 11-09-2023 upto 2:00 PM.

Sd/-
Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha, Assam
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2273/23



Followed passion for gaming, job came as surprise, says iQOO new CGO Shwetank

I-T notifies rules for valuing rent-free stay provided by employers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Employees drawing substantial salaries and having rent-free accommodation provided by their employers will now be able to save more and get a higher take-home salary as the income tax department has revised norms for valuing such houses. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified amendments to the Income Tax Rules which will come into effect from September 1. As per the notification, where furnished accommodation is provided to employees other than the central or state government employees and such accommodation is owned by the employer then the valuation shall be: (i) 10 per cent of salary (reduced from 15 per cent) in cities having population exceeding 40 lakh as per 2011 census (earlier, 25 lakh as per 2001 census), (ii) 7.5 per cent of salary (reduced from 10 per cent) in cities having population exceeding 15 lakh but not exceeding 40 lakh as per 2011 census (earlier, 10 lakhs but not exceeding 25 lakhs as per 2001 census). AKM Global Tax Partner Amit Maheshwari said employ-

ees who are drawing substantial salaries and receiving accommodation from the employer will be able to save more since their taxable base is going to be reduced now with the revised rates. "The perquisite value shall be lower resulting in relief to them in the form of take-home pay." AMRG & Associates CEO Gaurav Mohan said these provisions incorporate the insights 2011 census data and aim to rationalise the perquisite value calculation. "Employees enjoying rent-free accommodation would see rationalisation of perquisite value leading to a reduction in taxable salary, increasing the net take-home pay. It is worth noting that the reduction in the perquisite value of rent-free accommodations will yield dual implications: on the one hand, it will generate tangible savings for employees, while on the other hand, it will result in a corresponding decrease in government revenue," Mohan said.

Coworking firm BHIVE to set up ₹400 cr fund to acquire commercial real estate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Bengaluru-based co-working firm BHIVE group is setting up a Rs 400 crore alternate investment fund (AIF) to acquire commercial real estate. In a statement, BHIVE said the company has launched its new co-working-focused Rs 400 crore CAT-2 AIF. The fund will acquire commercial real estate properties at prime locations with clear titles and occupancy certificates, it added. The new fund will offer an opportunity to High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) and family-owned businesses looking to participate in the commercial real estate growth story with a minimum investment of Rs 1 crore. BHIVE said it has decided to wind up its current Rs 400 crore AIF fund, which was launched last year but has not yet been operationalised. "There has been exponential growth in the number of AIFs in India. Unlike a decade ago, when offshore investors were funding India's AIFs, the expanding pool of domestic investors is helping them grow today," She-shagiri Rao Paplikar, Founder & CEO of the BHIVE Group, said. "We see a tremendous opportunity in this segment and will go aggressive with our plans as we embark on the next growth phase of the organisation," he said.



New National Cooperative Policy almost ready: Suresh

PTI ■ KOLKATA
The new National Cooperative Policy is almost ready, and a 47-member committee is in the process of submitting the draft to the central government, chairman of the panel and former Union minister Suresh Prabhakar said. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah had last year announced that a dedicated policy will soon be prepared to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country, and that Prabhakar will head the national-level committee. The panel members include experts and representatives of the cooperative sector and officials of central ministries. "The policy document is almost ready and the submission process is underway. We can now look forward to the release of the policy and its implementation," Prabhakar told PTI on the sidelines of an event organised by the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry here.

BUSINESS BRIEF

ODOP DISPLAY WINDOW TO OPEN
JAIPUR: One District One Project (ODOP) innovation is being started by the Industries Department of the Government of Rajasthan as per the announcement of the Prime Minister.

FRESHMEN ORIENTATION EVENT CELEBRATED
GURUGRAM: KR Mangalam University celebrated its Freshmen Orientation Programme 'AARMBH' for the session 2023-24 with great enthusiasm and grandeur on August 19, 2023. The university organised this programme to welcome the new entrants with high spirits and zeal.

ENG MUST PLAY 'GAME OF OUR LIVES' IN WC FINAL: BRIGHT

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Skipper Millie Bright said that England will need to play "the game of our lives" to beat Spain in Sunday's Women's World Cup final.

When the Lionesses kick off at Stadium Australia in Sydney they will attempt to do what no England side, men or women, has managed since 1966 — win the World Cup.

Bright said the European champions must treat it as just another game, but admitted there was no escaping the enormity of the occasion for the country, the team and the players.

Like Spain, England are into the final for the first time.

"We know how passionate our nation is back home and how much they want us to win," Bright said on Saturday.

"But for us there is a process, we have a game plan to execute and we need to play the game of our lives."

Sarina Wiegman's side has grown through the World Cup, combining defensive resilience with ruthlessness in front of goal.

While Wiegman and Bright were keen to take the pressure off, the captain admitted it was "massive for the team" and her personally.

"I've always said it's 'we' and not 'me' and I think it will be the biggest moment in our careers," she added.

"I always say 'our' careers and 'we' because it is a team. It's a dream come true being in a World Cup final, there's no words to describe it."

England are boosted by the return of



potent attacker Lauren James, who missed England's last two games after being sent off against Nigeria.

Wiegman was coy about what role James could play and sounded a warning about the threat posed by a Spain side who have passed their opponents into submission at times.

"I think the Spanish team is in a good place, they've had a very good tournament," she said.

"As always they want to play a possession game, they're very dynamic,

they want to go forward all the time. "At moments they will challenge us, but we will challenge them too."

Spain and England met last year in the quarter-finals of the European Championship, with the Lionesses squeezing through 2-1 in extra time.

They went on to win the title for their first major trophy in international women's football.

Wiegman has been instrumental in transforming England's fortunes and she is in her second consecutive World

Cup final. She steered her native Netherlands to the decider in 2019, when they lost 2-0 to the United States.

The Dutch coach said she had learnt lessons from that defeat, but cautioned that "this is a whole new situation, I'm coaching another team".

"I think England is in a very good place, everyone is fit. We have grown through the tournament, we've grown in confidence and we are just preparing as we always do," she added.



Australia at 'crossroads moment' after World Cup exploits: Coach

AFP ■ BRISBANE (AUSTRALIA)

Coach Tony Gustavsson said there must be long-term investment in Australian women's football, warning they were at a "crossroads moment" following their fourth-placed finish Saturday at the World Cup.

There was to be no consolation prize for the co-hosts in front of nearly 50,000 in Brisbane as they were soundly beaten 2-0 by Sweden in the third-place playoff.

But this was still the Matildas' best World Cup ever and they have captivated the nation and won legions of new fans.

Gustavsson said now was the time to take full advantage of the surge in interest — or see their exploits go to waste.

"We have a massive amount

of work to do now to capitalise on this," the Swede said.

"The next thing is investment — long-term investment and not just a quick fix.

"A lot of these players are going to play in the Olympics (next summer) as well so we need to keep investing in these players and have a lot of other players knocking on the door wanting to be a part of it.

"But now there needs to be long-term investment to really make sure we really benefit from this crossroads moment in women's football in this country."

Australia came into the tournament 10th in the FIFA rankings and had never got beyond the quarter-finals before.

But the gulf in class told in a 3-1 semi-final defeat to England and Sweden, third in

FIFA's rankings, were also worthy winners.

Gustavsson felt his team overachieved despite disappointment on the night, with many of his players left in tears on the pitch at the end.

"It's a massive achievement for these players considering the resources we have," he said.

"When you compare the financial resources of the top-10 teams, in terms of how much return we get for our investment, to be able to break into the top four in the world is unique.

"I think that in some way these players have overachieved if you look at where the players play compared to the top-10 nations."

Australia's next assignment is the second round of Olympic qualifiers, which will be held in Perth in October.



Sweden beat Aus to claim third place at the Women's WC

AFP ■ FRANCE

Sweden scored either side of half-time to spoil Australia's party and claim third spot at the Women's World Cup with a 2-0 win in Brisbane on Saturday.

In front of a crowd of nearly 50,000, Sweden took the lead with a 30th-minute penalty by Fridolina Rolfö and doubled their advantage with a powerful strike from Kosovare Asllani just after the hour. Ranked third in the world, this is the fourth time that Sweden have finished third at the tournament.

They fully deserved their win against the hosts, dominating the midfield and keeping talismanic Australian striker Sam Kerr relatively quiet.

Australia's other dangerous attacker, Mary Fowler, had a night to forget as she struggled physically against the size and power of the Swedish defenders.

By contrast, Sweden striker Stina Blackstenius caused havoc among the Australian defence during her 63 minutes on the pitch and had a hand in both goals. The Swedes opened the match with far more intent than the Matildas and dominated for most of the first period.

Playing a bit like England in their 3-1 semi-final win over the Matildas on Wednesday, the Swedes slowed the ball down and controlled the midfield.

Australia only really looked

dangerous on the transition and for much of the time they seemed to be chasing shadows, struggling to get any meaningful possession.

The Swedes had a golden chance to take the lead in the first 60 seconds when Blackstenius shot low across goal.

Australian goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold, who had another excellent night, parried the ball away and Ellie Carpenter did well to clear from in front of an open goal.

The Matildas didn't have their first shot until the 24th minute when a Hayley Raso drive drew a good save from Sweden keeper Zecira Musovic.

But minutes later Sweden

took the lead when VAR ruled that Clare Hunt had clipped Blackstenius's heel after yet another dangerous run into the box from the Swedish striker.

Australian coach Tony Gustavsson made an attacking change on the 60-minute mark, bringing on Emily van Egmond and Cortnee Vine, but it was Sweden who continued to control the match.

They went some way to silencing the sell-out crowd when Blackstenius laid a ball across goal for Asllani, who smashed a powerful strike past a diving Arnold.

It was their last contribution of the night as both were subbed almost immediately.

World Cup showcases progress but also challenges for women's football

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Sunday's World Cup final between England and Spain is the final act of a month of drama which highlighted how far women's football has come — and the challenges that lie ahead.

There had been fears that the biggest-ever Women's World Cup — 32 teams, up from 24 four years ago — would dilute the spectacle in Australia and New Zealand.

Lopsided scorelines were a feature of the previous eight World Cups and critics said debutants such as Haiti, the Philippines and Morocco would be on a hiding to nothing.

But the opposite proved to be true and the tournament will be best remembered for the large number of shocks and the end of the United States' long reign as world champions.

Among the surprises, Germany were beaten 2-1 by Colombia on the way to a group-stage exit. Italy, Brazil and Olympic champions Canada also went out at the first hurdle.

The United States were chasing an unprecedented third title in a row but it very quickly became apparent that they were not the force of old and that the rest had caught up.

Their exit in the last 16 on penalties to Sweden was their worst World Cup ever and coach Vlatko Andonovski quit this week.

There was no fairytale end-



ing for Megan Rapinoe, who retires from football at the end of the season.

"It has been an amazing World Cup with 32 teams and lots of teams who have improved," Sweden coach Peter Gerhardtsson said following his team's 2-1 defeat to Spain in the semi-finals.

"Everywhere around the world there will be a lot more interest in women's football."

Gerhardtsson said that Sweden's last-gasp 2-1 victory over South Africa in the group stage had been a taste of things to come.

"Physically, many (teams) have caught up. With better training, they can last 90 minutes and then there is the tech-

nical ability and the speed," he said.

'REAL LEGACY'

Co-hosts New Zealand and Australia will regard the World Cup as a success on and off the pitch.

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Poor water quality halts Paris Olympics swimming test event

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Olympics organizers and other officials canceled a triathlon swimming test event Saturday in the Seine River because of new concerns about water quality.

The competition was transformed into a duathlon instead, involving just running and biking. The cancellation is a fresh blow both to organizers of the 2024 Summer Games and to the city's ambitions to reopen the iconic river to public swimming after next year's Olympics.

Swimmers took to the Seine in competition on Thursday and Friday, but results of water quality tests showed "significant discrepancies" in the hours leading up to Saturday's events, organizers said in a statement.

It said officials from World Triathlon, the Paris Olympics, Paris City Hall and the Paris region jointly decided to cancel Saturday's events "as a measure of precaution, to not put the health and safety of the athletes in danger."

A previous test event had to be canceled earlier this month because heavy rain had caused



overflows of untreated waste in the Seine, leaving water quality below safety standards. Rainfall also hit Paris ahead of Saturday's cancellation. New tests will be conducted and a decision will be made early Sunday on whether Sunday's swimming events can be held as scheduled, organizers said.

France's capital city is spending massively on water-management projects that officials say will make pollution

caused by storms less frequent. The triathlon event takes athletes and spectators - watching for free - to some of the French capital's most striking vistas: The swimming portion of the race starts from the bottom of the spectacular 19th century Alexandre III bridge and its golden statues. The bike and run laps go along the Champs-Élysées avenue and through some of the most prestigious neighborhoods of Paris.

Spain's Paralluelo looks to shine in Women's WC final

AFP ■ FRANCE

Teenage forward Salma Paralluelo has had plenty of success on Spain's youth football side - and also as an athletics professional. Having chosen to dedicate her career to the beautiful game, Spain's sporting prodigy is looking to make her mark on the big stage in the Women's World Cup final against England on Sunday.

At just 19 years old, FC Barcelona forward Paralluelo has put in a Women's World Cup performance that could provide plenty of reasons for the England side to lose sleep ahead of its clash with Spain in the tournament final on Sunday.

The left-footer was in the starting line-up for Spain's first four 2023 World Cup matches and shone in the round of 16 match against Switzerland - which La Roja, as the Spanish side are known, won 5-1. Paralluelo's power, talent and lightning speed are an essential part of her team's attack, which has proven to be one of the most successful in the competition with 17 goals in total.

Sable fails to qualify for final round in 3000m steeplechase

PTI ■ BUDAPEST

National record holder 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable failed to qualify for the final round of the World Athletics Championships after finishing a disappointing seventh in his heat race in a shocking result here on Saturday.

Three Indians brought up the rear in the men's 20km race walk final while young Shaili Singh also failed to make it to the women's long jump final on a mediocre opening day for the country's athletes.

Sable, who trained abroad for many months on Sports Ministry's funding to prepare for this showcase event and was exempted from competing in domestic events, clocked 8 minute and 22.24 seconds to finish seventh in heat number one. It was a tactical race and the 28-year-old failed yet again on the biggest stage. He was the lead runner at the 2300m mark but lost momentum later on, especially in the last lap, to clock well below his national record time of 8:11.20.



Only the top five finishers in the three heats make it to the final round.

Sable was expected to at least make it to the final, if not win a medal. His performance is a huge disappointment for the Indian camp.

This was Sable's third World Championships appearance and the first time he could not reach the final round.

He had finished 11th in the final in Eugene, USA, last year, unable to deal with a tactical race that was one of the slowest in the

history of the showpiece. He was 13th in the 2019 Doha edition.

World record holder Lamecha Girma of Ethiopia clocked the best time going into the final with 8:15.89 as he won heat number three, while Olympic and world champion Soufiane El Bakkali of Morocco was second in heat two with 8:23.66.

In the men's 20km race walk, Vikash Singh finished 28th in a time of 1 hour 21 minute 58 seconds, while Paramjit Singh (1:24:02) and Akashdeep Singh (1:31:12) were 35th and 47th respectively in the event in which 50 athletes competed.

The performance of national record holder Akashdeep (NR: 1:19:55) was all the more disappointing as he was the last athlete to finish the race.

Two race walkers did not finish while one was disqualified. Shaili, a protégé of the legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George, finished 14th out of 18 competing athletes in Group B qualification round with a best effort of 6.40m.

CONFIDENT INDIA EYE SERIES WIN



Everyone was waiting to see this Bumrah: Bishnoi

PTI ■ DUBLIN

Everyone was waiting to see this Jasprit Bumrah, leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi said of the India pacer after he shone on his comeback to international cricket following an 11-month injury layoff.

Leading the Indian T20I team in the absence of regular skipper Hardik Pandya, Bumrah claimed two wickets in his very first over, setting the platform for the side's win against Ireland in the opening match here on Friday.

Bumrah registered impressive figures of 2/24, including 16 dot balls in his four-over spell, as India restricted Ireland to a below-par score of 139 for seven.

"It was his first match after nearly 11 months. First ball he bowled was on the legs but after that the five ball he bowled was so good to see. Everyone was waiting for this Bumrah and it was so good to see him back in his rhythm," Bishnoi said at the post-match press conference.

"The type of bowler he is, the whole world has seen his bowling. His first deliv-



ery didn't work out but the five balls after that, was fun to watch. Everyone was waiting to see this Bumrah, and it was fun to watch him bowl," added Bishnoi, who also ended with excellent figures of 2/23.

India won the match by two runs via the Duckworth/Lewis method after rain intervened. The visitors were 47 for two in 6.5 overs when the heavens opened up.

"We were a bit unfortunate that the

match was curtailed by the rain. Overall, we have played good cricket. We bowled really well and got a good start from our openers as well. If not for those wickets, we lost in the last over, we might have been in a very good condition," Bishnoi said.

"We won the toss and we got that advantage. If they would have won (toss) the advantage would have been with them. Toss always plays a crucial factor in such conditions. Today we were lucky," he added.

On Ireland being defensive against him, the leg-spinner said: "It must be their game plan. But I was bowling aggressively and was trying to pick more wickets."

Bishnoi, who plays for Lucknow Supergiants in the Indian Premier League, was also part of the white-ball squad in the recently-concluded tour of the West Indies.

"There is lot to learn. I was in West Indies for the five-match series, I played in one match and didn't play the rest four. But I was ready that whenever I will get a chance I will give my 100 per cent. I was ready for that opportunity."

PTI ■ DUBLIN

buoyed by Jasprit Bumrah's impressive return, fancied India will hope for better weather and a chance for the team's young batters to show their mettle in the second T20 International against Ireland here on Sunday.

After the Jasprit Bumrah-led bowling attack impressed to restrict Ireland to 139 for seven in the series opener, incessant rain denied the middle-order batters an opportunity to prove

their worth. India were declared winners by two runs via the Duckworth/Lewis method and both the teams will hope that they get to play a full match in the second game.

Expected to lead the Indian batting in the coming years, the likes of Shivam Dube, Rituraj Gaikwad and Rinku Singh will hope they get a chance to spend sufficient time in the middle.

Having got out after getting a good start in the first match, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal will look for a big score and so will

Tilak Varma, who was dismissed for a golden duck days after his stupendous performance in the West Indies.

While the newcomers in international cricket dominate the top-order, veteran wicket-keeper-batter Sanju Samson lends a bit of experience to the Indian batting order in the absence of people like Suryakumar Yadav, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya.

Though injuries have remained a part of his career, all-

rounder Washington Sundar has also gained enough experience at the top level, and he will be pressed into service by Bumrah, who is leading the team in the absence of regular T20I skipper Hardik.

As far as the batting is concerned, India were cruising until Craig Young's two wickets in the last over pegged them a bit.

Leading the side on his return after an 11-month injury layoff, Bumrah claimed 2 for 24 in his first match in almost a year, including bowling nine dot

balls while forming a formidable partnership with T20I debutant Prasidh Krishna (2/32) — also on a comeback trail — to restrict Ireland to a modest total after opting to bowl.

In these conditions, toss can play a vital role and India were lucky in that aspect, and the visitors wouldn't mind if the coin lands in their favour on Sunday, too. In the post-match press conference, leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who also picked up two wickets in an excellent spell, had no qualms in admitting that

India didn't mind winning the toss.

As far as Ireland are concerned, they struggled to recover after Bumrah claimed two wickets in his very first over, setting the platform for his side's win. The home team will have to dish out a much-improved performance with the bat if they are to challenge India who are strong even in the absence of the seniors.

Like Bumrah did for India, the seasoned Paul Stirling will have to lead the way for Ireland.

The Irish will also look up to men like Andrew Balbirnie, Joshua Little, Craig Young and George Dockrell for guiding their team. The series is significant for Bumrah, who gets an ideal opportunity to test himself and get into the groove ahead of the Asia Cup and World Cup, tournaments where his presence will be vital from the Indian perspective.

TEAMS (FROM):
India: Jasprit Bumrah (captain), Rituraj Gaikwad (vice-

captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan.

Ireland: Andrew Balbirnie (captain), Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ross Adair, Mark Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Ben White, Craig Young, Theo van Woerkom.

'I am living my mother's dream: Rinku



Riders, Rinku was not included in the squad for the preceding five-match T20I series against West Indies. He finished as the top run-getter for KKR with 474 runs at an average of 59.25 and 149-plus strike rate.

His dream was realised before the start of the series against Ireland. However, he was not required to bat in the first game as India won via the Duckworth/Lewis method after rain intervened.

What was his family's reaction to the news of his India call-up?

"They were very happy. My mother always told me to work as hard as I can to earn the India call and that has happened now, so I am living their dream." Speaking about the difficulties his family faced as he grew up, Rinku said he was desperate to get his parents out of poverty.

"I have seen my family face financial struggles and I wanted to help them overcome through cricket. That desire to get them out of the grind kept me going. It kept me motivated to work hard and keep up my efforts."

"My family had a massive role in my journey to date. When they didn't have enough to fund my career, my mother borrowed money from others to keep me going. Where I am today is because of the support I have got from them."

The 25-year-old has also made the cut for the Hangzhou Asian Games scheduled from September 23 to October 8.

PTI ■ DUBLIN

Living his "mother's dream", Lswashbuckling batter Rinku Singh says a burning desire to give his parents a good life while wading through tough times paved the way for his inclusion into the Indian team.

Rinku was picked by the national selectors for India's ongoing T20I series in Ireland, rewarding him for his excellent showing on the domestic circuit, including the IPL.

"A lot of blood and sweat has gone behind to earn this call.

My passion for the sport helped me wade through a lack of support and financial hardships," Rinku said during an interview with JioCinema before leaving for Ireland.

"One thing that kept the desire burning was to give my family a good life, which was possible if I moved up the ladder in the sport. I had that self-belief and that made me stronger and helped me in my journey which has taken a new turn," he added.

Despite a stellar IPL campaign with the Kolkata Knight



Malinga set to return to MI as fast bowling coach

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Sri Lankan pace ace Lasith Malinga is set to return to five-time champions Mumbai Indians for IPL 2024, this time as their fast bowling coach replacing Shane Bond, according to a report on Saturday.

The Kiwi veteran had held that position for the past nine seasons. However an IPL source confirmed to PTI that Bond's contract with Mumbai is still under review.

"MI's contract with Bond is still not over as yet," the source said. Earlier, ESPNcricinfo has reported that it's also not clear whether Bond would continue as the head coach of MI Emirates in the ILT20 where they finished third this year.

Malinga had a fruitful career with Mumbai Indians winning five titles overall — four in IPL (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019) and the Champions League T20 in 2011.

Malinga played 139 matches for Mumbai, taking 195 wickets at an economy rate of 7.12. Out of those, 170 wickets came in the IPL, the joint-sixth-most in the league. This will mark Malinga's second involvement with Mumbai's support staff, following his mentoring role in 2018. A year later, Malinga made a comeback to the field, sharing the bowling responsibilities with Jasprit Bumrah as the duo played a key role in their fourth IPL triumph. Malinga had joined Rajasthan Royals in 2022 as fast bowling coach after his retirement in 2021.

'It's a big loss, we shouldn't feel her absence': Shafali opens up on Harman's suspension



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian women's cricket team star all-rounder, Shafali Verma feels that captain Harmanpreet Kaur missing the first two games of the upcoming Asian Games 2023 in September due to suspension, will be a huge blow to the team but India will have to cope up with the situation.

"Of course, it's a very big loss, but sometimes we have to change ourselves to situations. I hope we play well and we shouldn't feel her absence," Verma told to journalists at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 mascot event in Gurgaon. India U-19 World Champion and Delhi Capitals batter, Yash Dhull was also present at the event. Harmanpreet Kaur was sus-

pending by the ICC for violating the Code of Conduct in a recent ODI series against Bangladesh.

It all started when Harmanpreet shattered the stumps in anger after being given out LBW off a Nahida Akter delivery in the 34th over of the Indian innings in the 3rd ODI. DRS was not in use in the ODI series. However, television replays showed that the ball, after hitting her bat, went to the slip fielder. While she was walking off the ground she also threw some words to the umpires.

During the post-match presentation ceremony, the Indian captain publicly criticised the umpires and also mocked the officials during the team photo session. Harmanpreet called the umpires to join the Bangladesh

team for the photo indicating that the match officials played for the home side. The series ended in a 1-1 stalemate.

"Kaur was fined 50 percent of her match fee for the Level 2 offence and received three demerit points on her disciplinary record. She was found guilty of breaching article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, relating to showing dissent at an umpire's decision, an ICC statement read.

Speaking on India's chances at the Asian Games, she is very much confident of her team and hope things go in the Women in Blue's favour.

"Look, there's always a 100 percent chance for us. I wish we win this time", she said.

Paine hits out at Stokes for coming out of ODI retirement to play in WC

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Former Australian Test skipper Tim Paine has lashed out at England Test captain Ben Stokes for coming out of ODI retirement to play in the World Cup, saying he cannot just "pick" and "choose" events.

Stokes, 32, had announced his ODI retirement in July last year saying playing three formats had become "unsustainable" for him. But he recently came out of retirement to be included in the 15-member England squad to play a limited-overs fixture against New Zealand at home, which is a preparatory series for the World Cup in India.

While England are excited about the all-rounder's return to the ODI side ahead of the World Cup in India from October 5, Paine indicated Stokes was being selfish. "Ben Stokes coming out of one day retirement, I found that interesting," Paine said on Sen Radio.



there isn't it? It was, I'll pick and I'll choose where I want to play and when I want to play, and, I'll play in the big tournaments."

Paine opined that England cricketers, who had been slogging for 12 months waiting to play in the World Cup, will have to sit out to make way for Stokes. "The guys who played for 12 months, Sorry, thanks. But can you go and sit on the bench because I want to play now?," said Paine.

Stokes has also been included in the 15-member squad to

face touring New Zealand in the limited-overs series in September and is likely to play as a specialist batter as bowling aggravates his chronic knee injury.

The England cricket board's decision to include Stokes for the New Zealand series had come at the expense of Harry Brook, indicated Paine.

Brook, who became the fastest player to compete 1,000 Test runs on a per-ball basis — he took 1,058 balls to achieve the feat — has failed to find a place in the squad.

"I don't know, he's (Stokes) not bowling. Harry Brook or Ben Stokes? As a bat. It would be very close, very, very close."

Paine, though, admitted that reigning ODI World Cup champions England will enter the upcoming showpiece as favourites alongside hosts India.

"Probably (England are now favourites), them and India. I think the Aussies if they can get hot (they can also win)," added Paine.

Indian squad could have additional members

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian selection panel, led by Ajit Agarkar, is likely to go for a 17-member squad for the upcoming Asia Cup in order to check out all possible options ahead of the ODI World Cup, starting October 5.

It is also learnt that BCCI is bucking the convention for the first time and head coach Rahul Dravid will also be present in his official capacity during the meeting scheduled in the national capital on Monday morning.

It can be confirmed that neither Ravi Shastri nor Anil Kumble were part of selection meetings during their tenure as national coach.

But it must be mentioned that unlike Cricket Australia, where chief coach is a part of NSP (National Selection Panel), in India, neither coach nor captain has a right to vote.

It is still not confirmed whether both skipper Rohit Sharma and Dravid will attend the meeting physically or join through video conference.

With key players — KL Rahul (thigh) and Shreyas Iyer (lower back) yet to prove their fitness, the BCCI brass and

selectors could opt for a safer options that gives them an opportunity to check all available players in the five (six if they reach final) Asia Cup games in Sri Lanka.

The Asian Cricket Council has kept provision for 17-member squads for Asia Cup. Accordingly Pakistan, Bangladesh have all picked 17-member squads.

"There is a possibility of

picking the provisional 15-member squad for the World Cup which needs to be submitted by September 5 but one could make changes as the deadline for final squad is September 27," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"For Asia Cup, a couple of more players could be picked."

The PTI has already reported on Friday that Rahul is nearing full fitness while a report in

ESPNcricinfo stated that Iyer had batted for 38 overs and fielded for 50 overs in a warm-up game at the NCA.

While left-handed batting sensation Tilak Varma will be discussed at the meeting, it is still not sure if he could find a place in final 15 in case both Iyer and Rahul are deemed fit.

Ditto for Sanju Samson, who could miss out on a final 15 berth as Surykumar Yadav with

better finishing abilities could take the additional batter's slot if both senior players (Rahul and Iyer) are fit and available for selection.

While Ravichandran Ashwin's name is doing rounds for World Cup, sheerly on basis of his skill-sets, a former national selector wondered why wasn't Ashwin asked to stay back in the West Indies after Test series and check his white ball form in the ensuing ODIs.

"If you could play Axar at No. 4, why couldn't you pick Ash just to check him out as he could be lethal in Indian conditions? Why pick him directly in Asia Cup, if at all?," a member of previous selection committee asked.

India's likely 17-member squad (including provisional 15 for Sept 5 deadline): Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (wk, subject to fitness), Shreyas Iyer (subject to fitness), Hardik Pandya (VC), Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Ishan Kishan (2nd wk), Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Yuzvendra Chahal/R Ashwin.



"You get what you give. What you put into things is what you get out of them"
—Tabitha Brown



"CAN RAHUL, PRIYANKA

DISRUPT UP'S POLITICAL SCENARIO?

Challenging the BJP's hegemony in Uttar Pradesh is no easy task, even if Rahul Gandhi and his sibling Priyanka Gandhi throw their hats into the UP electoral rings. However, such a scenario can help improve the INDIA alliance's overall prospects, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY

The buzz that former party chief Rahul Gandhi would once again be stepping into the electoral arena from the family bastion of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh could add a new dimension to the politics of the politically most vital state of India. While such a scenario would undoubtedly enthuse the Congress cadres, his presence in Amethi might not single-handedly reverse Congress's fortunes in the state, where its standing has been waning for decades.

However, the added possibility of Priyanka Gandhi's potential electoral venture from the state underscores the Congress party's resolve to embark on the journey of reclaiming its diminishing clout in this politically pivotal Hindi heartland state. But, beyond the confines of the Congress party, the decision to field both Rahul and Priyanka from Uttar Pradesh carries broader implications. It signifies a strategic move by the INDIA alliance, aimed at putting forth a formidable challenge to the well-entrenched Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been riding the wave of successive Lok Sabha and assembly victories since 2014.

The widespread speculation that Bihar's Chief Minister Kumar and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge might also throw their hats into the electoral ring in Uttar Pradesh in 2024 showcases a determined effort by both the Congress and its INDIA alliance partners to disrupt the BJP's stronghold over the state's political landscape. Their strategy revolves around making inroads into the Dalit and OBC (Other Backward Classes) communities while consolidating the Muslim vote bank.

Recent trends, particularly post the first phase of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, point towards a decisive shift in minority voters' preferences towards the Congress. An assertive Congress presence in Uttar Pradesh could play a role in avoiding fragmentation within the minority votes, especially in the context of parties like the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by

Asaduddin Owaisi, who split the Muslim votes on several seats in the last assembly polls in 2022.

Although not winning any seats, the AIMIM's presence succeeded in disrupting Samajwadi Party-led alliance candidates' prospects in at least several seats.

While the INDIA alliance relies on Congress to solidify the minority vote base, leaders such as Kharge and Nitish Kumar are aiming to make a dent in the Dalit and extremely backward caste votes. This dynamic aims to create a more challenging scenario for the BJP. With Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party's core Yadav votes, EBC votes, and the Rashtriya Lok Dal's (RLD) Jat votes in Western Uttar Pradesh, the alliance hopes to counterbalance the BJP's influence.

The INDIA alliance might also witness the inclusion of Chandrashekhar Azad in the coming weeks to further chip away at Mayawati's Dalit vote stronghold. This multi-pronged approach underscores the significance of Rahul Gandhi's return and Priyanka Gandhi's potential entry. It forms a pivotal part of the big-bang strategy of the INDIA alliance, designed to disrupt the prevailing political equilibrium in Uttar Pradesh.

However, challenging the BJP's hegemony in the state is no straightforward task. Recent municipal polls have demonstrated the BJP's sturdy position, seemingly unshaken. Adding to its advantage is the forthcoming inauguration of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya in January 2024, right before the elections. The opposition alliance, while facing a daunting task, can take solace in the fact that the Samajwadi Party made gains in the last year's assembly polls, recouping some lost ground.

In the last year's assembly elections, the BJP secured an increase of nearly two percentage points compared to its 2017 tally, elevating its vote share from 39.7% in 2017 to 41.6% this time. While the Samajwadi Party's vote share witnessed an upward jump from 21.8% to 32%, the disparity remained substantial. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) faced

a decline, dropping from 22.2% to 12.7%, and the Congress saw its vote share plummet from 6.3% to a meager 2.4%, falling even below the Rashtriya Lok Dal's (RLD) 3% share.

It's crucial to recognize that Lok Sabha elections and assembly polls have their dynamics. In comparison to the 2017 assembly polls, the BJP's vote share experienced an eight percent surge in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. In contrast, the combined vote share of the Samajwadi Party (SP), BSP, and RLD, who had formed a pre-poll alliance, witnessed a significant decline. Even the Congress faced a noticeable drop in its vote share compared to 2017. Riding high on the popularity of the Prime Minister, the BJP witnessed its vote share rising from 41.57% in the 2017 elections to an impressive 49.6%.

The political landscape in Uttar Pradesh is complex and dynamic, where electoral narratives are multifaceted. The return of Rahul Gandhi and the potential entry of Priyanka Gandhi are undoubtedly pivotal elements of the INDIA alliance's strategy. However, the road to challenging the BJP's dominance is far from straightforward. The upcoming months will be marked by relentless political maneuvering, calculated moves, and strategic decisions that will shape the destiny of millions.

As the Congress endeavors to rewrite its narrative in Uttar Pradesh, it must confront not only the BJP but also the intricacies of caste dynamics, regional affiliations, and the aspirations of a diverse populace. The unfolding chapters in this political saga will reveal whether Congress and its allies can

AS THE CONGRESS ENDEAVORS TO REWRITE ITS NARRATIVE IN UTTAR PRADESH, IT MUST CONFRONT NOT ONLY THE BJP BUT ALSO THE INTRICACIES OF CASTE DYNAMICS, REGIONAL AFFILIATIONS, AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF A DIVERSE POPULACE. THE UNFOLDING CHAPTERS IN THIS POLITICAL SAGA WILL REVEAL WHETHER CONGRESS AND ITS ALLIES CAN SUCCESSFULLY DISRUPT THE PREVAILING ORDER AND ESTABLISH A NEW EQUILIBRIUM THAT RESONATES WITH THE PEOPLE OF UTTAR PRADESH. THE STORY IS IN MOTION, THE STAKES ARE HIGH, AND THE POLITICAL EPIC REMAINS YET TO BE UNVEILED

successfully disrupt the prevailing order and establish a new equilibrium that resonates with the people of Uttar Pradesh. The story is in motion, the stakes are high, and the climax of this political epic remains yet to be unveiled.

Within the Congress circles, there's a buzz surrounding the possibility of Priyanka Gandhi contesting from the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency, which is presently represented by her mother, the former Congress president Sonia Gandhi. This speculation arises from the potential retirement of Sonia Gandhi due to health concerns.

Amethi, traditionally a stronghold of the Gandhi family, experienced a seismic shift in the 2019 general election when Smriti Irani of the BJP defeated Rahul Gandhi, who had held the seat since 2004. Currently, Rahul Gandhi represents Wayanad in Kerala as an MP. Meanwhile, Sonia Gandhi remains the sole Congress parliamentarian from Uttar Pradesh, representing Rae Bareilly. Following the state polls last year, the party's presence in the state legislature dwindled to mere two seats out of the 403-member UP House.

The newly-appointed UP Congress president Ajay Rai, belonging to the upper-caste Bhumihar community, had previously contested against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi in both the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections. His appointment as the UP Congress chief signals the Congress strategy to also aggressively woo the upper caste votes.

Apart from these developments, the Congress also hopes to leverage the second

phase of Rahul Gandhi-led 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' to invigorate its cadres and infuse new energy into the INDIA alliance in Uttar Pradesh. There's a likelihood that Rahul will dedicate nearly two weeks to the state during the upcoming phase of his yatra, commencing from Gujarat. During the first phase of this yatra, Rahul covered just four districts in UP, walking over 130km from Ghaziabad, and encompassing parts of Shamli and Baghpat before entering Haryana.

It is anticipated that this time, Rahul's presence in UP during the second phase of the Bharat Jodo yatra would span over two weeks and cover around two dozen parliamentary constituencies.

However, the Congress faces a substantial challenge in Uttar Pradesh. Beyond aiding the INDIA alliance, the party cannot aspire to emerge as a significant contender solely by fielding Rahul, Priyanka, or Kharge from the state.

Uttar Pradesh has undergone a profound political transformation over the last three decades. The Congress has witnessed a gradual decline during this period, while the BJP and regional forces have ascended. This transformation is evident in the shifting vote shares of these parties in both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

The Congress secured 54 Lok Sabha seats in the 1991 Lok Sabha polls, but by 1996, the SP and BSP had solidified their positions, heralding the rise of regional powerhouses. The SP secured 32 seats, while the Congress grappled with maintaining its influence amidst this evolving scenario.

The 2000s brought further fragmentation, with the BSP gaining prominence, particularly in the 2002 Assembly elections. The BJP, too, continued to make inroads, culminating in its historic performance in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, where it secured a remarkable 71 seats. This ascent stood in stark contrast to the Congress, which witnessed a consistent decline during this period, struggling to sustain its position in the state's

political hierarchy.

Several factors contributed to the Congress's decline and the rise of new powerhouses in Uttar Pradesh. One significant aspect was the emergence of caste-based politics. The SP, under Mulayam Singh Yadav, and the BSP, under Mayawati's leadership, capitalized on caste affiliations, resonating with specific voter segments. The Congress's inability to effectively address these caste dynamics cost it crucial support.

The leadership vacuum within Congress also played a pivotal role in its decline. Infighting, factionalism, and a lack of a cohesive strategy led to weakened unity and credibility. As a result, charismatic leaders from regional parties, like Mayawati and Mulayam Singh Yadav, filled the leadership void, further overshadowing the Congress's influence.

Shifts in voter aspirations also contributed to the transformation. The electorate sought leaders who could address immediate concerns, provide effective governance, and align with their identity. The Congress's failure to meet these evolving expectations pushed voters toward parties that resonated more effectively with their needs, like the BJP's development-oriented agenda.

As the BJP continues to consolidate its stronghold over Uttar Pradesh's politics, the Congress is faced with the daunting task of reshaping its narrative, rejuvenating its leadership, and reestablishing a connection with the electorate. Its resurgence hinges on its ability to learn from past experiences, navigate the intricate web of the state's socio-political dynamics, and position itself as a pertinent and appealing choice for the state's diverse population.

The return of Rahul Gandhi may inject vitality into the Congress, yet it may take considerable time to rebuild the party and reclaim its support base. However, the Congress's proactive stance in Uttar Pradesh could enhance the prospects of the INDIA alliance.

(Navin Upadhyay is the Executive Editor of the Pioneer)

LOK SABHA POLLS

	2004	2009	2014	2019
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	10.42%	8.85%	42.63%	55.02%
Samajwadi Party (SP)	26.42%	22.23%	22.3%	22.28%
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	19.75%	22.23%	20.84%	19.64%
Indian National Congress (INC)	14.58%	18.24%	7.52%	6.26%

SECOND-HAND SMOKE

LEAD EXPOSURE HARMFUL TO KIDS

Second-hand tobacco smoke exposure is harmful for children. It can increase frequency and severity of asthma attacks, respiratory infections, cancer, sudden infant death syndrome and behavioral problems. Now, for the first time, a new study has revealed a link between second-hand smoke and health hazards due to lead exposure in children. The HEALTH PIONEER shares the details

Published in the journal BMC Public Health, the study, led by Alexander Obeng, a doctoral student in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health, analyzed data on blood lead levels and second-hand smoke exposure in children and adolescents aged 6 to 19. The study was supervised by faculty members Dr Genny Carrillo and Dr Taehyun Roh.

The researchers used data from two cycles of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), one for 2015-2016 and one for 2017-2018. NHANES is a large-scale, nationally representative and well-regarded health survey. The researchers analyzed data on 2,815 children and adolescents, looking at levels of lead and a metabolite of nicotine known as cotinine.

Levels of cotinine act as an indicator of exposure to tobacco smoke. The researchers categorized participants by blood cotinine levels and age, with groups for ages 6 to 10, 11 to 15 and 16 to 19, and low, intermediate and heavy cotinine level categories. They also collected data on age, gender, race and ethnicity, household education level and obesity.

The analysis found that blood lead levels correlated with cotinine levels. Lead levels were 18 percent higher in participants in the intermediate cotinine group and 29 percent higher in the heavy group compared to those with low blood cotinine. They also found that male and non-Hispanic Black participants had higher blood lead levels than the median, while Hispanic participants had the lowest average blood lead levels. These findings seem to align with research showing that non-Hispanic Black adults are more likely to smoke than Hispanic adults.

The researchers also found that the 6-to-10 age cohort had the highest percentage of participants whose blood lead levels were over the median, with a decreasing trend in older groups. This could be because of behavioral differences in younger children, such as placing hands and other objects in the mouth more often, or in how younger children tend to absorb more lead than adolescents and



WHAT'S IN SECOND-HAND SMOKE?

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), smoke emitted from tobacco contains about 7,000 toxic chemicals. Of these, hundreds are known toxins and approximately 70 are known to be linked to cancer (carcinogenic).
- Chemicals such as benzene, formaldehyde, vinyl chloride, arsenic ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, and carbon monoxide are released into the air as a result of second-hand smoke. While smokers inhale these poisonous substances directly, non-smokers nearby do so in an indirect manner due to the chemicals.

adults. The researchers also found that obese children and adolescents had notably lower lead levels than non-obese participants.

The findings of this study provide evidence that

Second-hand smoke can cause a range of health problems in children

- Children who are exposed to second-hand smoke are at an increased risk for acute respiratory infections such as pneumonia and bronchitis, middle ear disease, more frequent and severe asthma, respiratory symptoms, and slowed lung growth.
- Wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath are more common in children exposed to second-hand smoke.
- Children whose parents smoke around them get more ear infections. They also have fluid in their ears more often and have more operations to put in ear tubes for drainage.
- Second-hand smoke can trigger an asthma attack in a child. Children with asthma who are around second-hand smoke have more severe and frequent asthma attacks. A severe asthma attack can put a child's life in danger.



second-hand smoke may be a source of lead exposure in children and adolescents.

"Further research will likely paint a clearer picture of this exposure route, especially in younger children, but the findings here can inform current efforts to eliminate low-level lead exposure in children," Carrillo said. "For example, education of parents about second-hand smoke as a source of lead exposure could help

decrease lead exposure in children and further build on the successes of past lead removal initiatives."

The lead menace does not end here. Yet another study has pointed out that lead exposure during pregnancy can be lethal. Doctors say that a pregnant woman, can pass her lead exposure to the fetus in her womb through the placenta. One can mitigate this exposure by maintaining a good iron

level and getting checked for anemia during prenatal care. Prenatal vitamins contain iron supplements.

Pregnant or breastfeeding women also should avoid being around renovations to a home built before 1978 since dust and particles from paint that is disrupted during construction can pose a risk for lead exposure. Pipes in homes also may be a source of lead exposure.

According to the doctors, adults absorb only about 1% of the lead in food or water. But for babies and children, the absorption rate is about 50% of the lead in water and food products.

Breastfeeding decreases the exposure of toxic metals to a baby, including lead. Complementary foods usually are introduced at six months in an exclusively breastfed baby. For other babies, foods typically are introduced at about four months. As with an adult, lead exposure from food can be decreased with a diverse diet.

Because some baby foods have higher levels of heavy metals, including lead, parents should consider feeding their babies a variety of foods to decrease their lead exposure. For example, rather than just using rice cereal, which may have a higher amount of lead, consider feeding a variety of grains, including oat, barley and multigrains. Read the food labels for information and recommendations based on age and possible allergens.

Babies and adults have less exposure to lead now than 30 years ago. Lead is measured more precisely, and food and environmental standards continue to increase. Talk with your health care team if you have concerns about lead exposure.



HYDROTHERAPY AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF INFANTS

Hydrotherapy, a therapeutic approach that involves water immersion, is given to babies in a special tub with neck tubes that support the baby and help them stay afloat. It is gaining popularity in India as the gentle nature of water creates an ideal environment for babies to enhance their motor skills, muscle strength, and overall physical well-being, says Dr. Prashanth Gowda, Paediatrician and Director of DYU Healthcare.



DR. PRASHANTH GOWDA

According to him major benefits are:

Enhances Motor Skills

Water provides a supportive medium for babies to explore and develop their motor skills. The buoyancy of water reduces the effects of gravity on their bodies, allowing them to move more freely and with less resistance. This freedom of movement encourages babies to practice various motor skills, such as kicking, reaching, and grasping. Through regular hydrotherapy sessions, babies can improve their coordination, balance, and spatial awareness.

Strengthens Muscles

The resistance provided by water during hydrotherapy sessions helps in strengthening the muscles of babies and infants. As they move their arms and legs against the water, they experience a gentle resistance that engages and tones their muscles. This resistance aids in building muscle strength, which is crucial for their overall physical development. Strong muscles provide a solid foundation for future milestones like crawling, standing, and walking.

Improves Range of Motion

Hydrotherapy allows babies to experience a wider range of motion than they typically do on land. The buoyancy and reduced gravitational pull in water enable babies to move their limbs more freely and with less effort. This increased range of motion aids in joint flexibility, promotes muscle relaxation, and improves overall body coordination.

Reduction of Colic

Hydrotherapy has been found to be an effective method for reducing colic in infants. The warm water and gentle movements create a soothing environment that can alleviate discomfort and promote relaxation in babies with colic. By incorporating hydrotherapy into the care routine of infants with colic, parents and caregivers can offer a natural and calming solution to alleviate colic-related discomfort and promote overall well-being.

Better Sleep

Hydrotherapy plays a significant role in promoting better sleep for infants. The warm water during hydrotherapy mimics the sensations experienced in the womb. This calming effect helps to reduce stress and anxiety, allowing infants to unwind and prepare for a restful sleep. Additionally, hydrotherapy aids in regulating the nervous system and promoting overall relaxation, which can contribute to improved sleep patterns.

Thus, Hydrotherapy offers a wealth of benefits for the physical development of babies and infants. As with any form of therapy, it is important to consult with a qualified professional experienced in hydrotherapy to ensure safe and effective sessions for babies and infants.

By incorporating hydrotherapy into their early developmental stages, parents and caregivers can provide their little ones with a nurturing environment that promotes physical growth, movement exploration, and a positive sensory experience.

OMPT: Hands-on Approach To Pain Relief

A lot of neuromuscular problems can be treated conservatively without medications and surgeries in India if people here have an awareness about Orthopaedic Manual Physiotherapy (OMPT) similar to those in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand among others, says MS PAWAN KUMAR, Orthopaedic Manipulative Physiotherapist & Ergonomist from Raa Physiotherapy Clinic, Chennai. He discusses with ARCHANA JYOTI what OMPT is and how it is used to treat patients

What is OMPT?

Orthopaedic Manual Physiotherapy (OMPT) is a specialty in physiotherapy which primarily focuses on diagnosis and management of neuro-musculoskeletal problems. One of the advantages of OMPT is that it is non-invasive and does not involve medication, injections or surgery, thus making it a safe and effective treatment option for many patients.

Additionally, OMPT can be used in conjunction with other forms of therapy, such as exercise and electrotherapy, to provide a comprehensive treatment approach.

Please share its history

The practice of manual therapy existed since ancient times, Hippocrates and Galen had practiced it. In the middle age, the traction and manipulation of spine was in use. Bone setters used manual therapy in form of manipulation. Andrew Taylor, still an American physician in 1874 found osteopathy and



MS PAWAN KUMAR

emphasized Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT). David Palmer in 1895 found chiropractic which focuses on manipulation exclusively. Orthopaedic physicians Menell and Cyriax in 19th century practiced and taught manual therapy for physiotherapists. In 19th century, physiotherapists Stanley V Paris, Freddy Kaltenborn, Geoffrey Maitland, Robbin Mckenzie, Brian mulligan and others developed their own school of thoughts in orthopaedic manual physiotherapy.



What about diagnosis and treatment in OMPT?

The diagnosis in OMPT is based on utilizing best research evidence in clinical diagnosis and treatment includes skillful application of manual physiotherapy techniques for spine, jaw, upper & lower limbs, and exercise prescription with clinical reasoning. The OMPT treatment includes Soft Tissue Mobilization (STM) for dysfunctional muscles, tendon, ligaments and fascia. Trigger point

therapy release for myofascial trigger points deactivation. Mobilization with thrust (manipulation) and without thrust for spinal, jaw, upper and lower limbs joint restriction and mal-alignment. Neural mobilization for peripheral nerve entrapment and restriction. Muscle stretching, strengthening and proprioceptive training.

What orthopaedic conditions can be treated with OMPT?

The orthopaedic conditions

HIGHLIGHTS

OMPT is uniquely based on scientific evidence for efficacy and on bio-psychosocial structure of every single patient thus ensuring a tailored therapeutic treatment

DISORDERS TREATED

- Functional spine disorders
- Acute and chronic low back pain
- hysical dysfunctions of peripheral nervous system
- Tension headache, migraine, cervicogenic headache, dizziness, ocular disorders, Stiff neck, cervical pain, cervicobrachialgia etc
- Appendicular skeleton functional disorders
- Articular hypomobility after immobility, trauma and surgery
- Painful shoulder, shoulder instability, adhesive capsulitis
- Muscle lesions and contusions, bursitis, tendonitis, tenosynovitis, overuse syndrome, osteoarthritis, fractures and dislocations
- Foot and ankle pathological alterations
- Distorsive trauma due to car accidents or work accidents)

that can be effectively treated by using OMPT are: Frozen shoulder, osteoarthritis, impingements, tendinitis, bursitis, muscle strain, ligament sprain, nerve

compressions (extra spinal), TMD (jaw pain), headaches, dizziness, neck and low back pains (due to spondylosis, disc bulge/herniation, nerve root

compressions and facet joint impingement), Thoracic Outlet Syndrome (TOS), ribcage dysfunctions, pelvic girdle pain, tail bone pain, bone stress injuries (BSI) and etc. Nearly 250 neuromusculoskeletal problems from mechanical origin can be treated with OMPT.

What is its status in India?

The OMPT practice and practitioners are in India for past two decades, at the beginning physiotherapists went abroad for pursuing OMPT education. But now few universities and institutes in India are offering full time and part time OMPT educational programs. Currently, the awareness about OMPT among general population is fairly less compared to countries like USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. If the people in India are made aware about OMPT, a lot of neuromuscular problems can be treated conservatively without medications and surgeries.

How OMPT works in orthopaedic conditions?

OMPT practitioners provide patient management on neuromusculoskeletal conditions ranging from simple to complex, and provide recommendations and interventions in the area of health and wellness. Also, when someone suffers from a neuromusculoskeletal disorder, an exercise and movement re-education program may be sufficient to restore full pain-free movement, function, and return to full activity. However, in some cases, soft-tissue and joint restrictions are present, resulting in these same interventions being painful or, worse, aggravating to the condition. In these instances, an OMPT therapist can provide hands-on techniques to improve mobility, reduce pain, and restore normal function of soft tissues and joints.

(Pawan Kumar is Director, International Institute of Digital Teachings and Vice-President at Physio Plus Tech

Informality in Indian economy: Facts vs reality

Even after two decades of rapid economic expansion, India continues to rely heavily on the informal economy, which employs more than 80 per cent of the workforce. Both the traditional informal economy and the growing informality within the formal sector exemplify this phenomenon. Due to the limited job opportunities within the formal economy, many individuals are compelled to seek employment in the informal sector. The increasing utilisation of contract labour and production outsourcing serves as the primary catalyst for the rising prevalence of informal employment within the formal sector. This signifies that merely encouraging the informal sector to transition to formalisation through a combination of incentives and enforcement is no longer adequate.

In this regard, initiatives such as the Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, the Contract Labour (Abolition & Regulation) Act, Workers' Welfare Boards, and programmes promoting micro, small, and medium enterprises represent some of India's efforts to combat informality.

In the year 2019-20, the informal sector employed around 82 per cent of the workforce, while the formal sector accounted for 17 per cent. This reflects the government's endeavours to extend social security measures to employees in the informal sector. Within the economy, a staggering 91.3 per cent of workers lack written contracts, paid time off, and other benefits. The prevalence of outsourcing is underscored by the 11.71 per cent of informal workers within the formal sector (Figure-1). The proportion of informal employment within the formal sector escalated from 6.64 per cent in 2004-05 to 11.71 per cent in 2019-20.

The employment structure reveals a decline in the proportion of informal sector workers over time, accompanied by notable expansion in

Figure-1: % of Informal Sector (IFS), Informal Workers (IFW), and IFW in Formal Sector (FS)



Industry Group	2004-05		2011-12		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	% of IFS	% of IFW	% of IFS	% of IFW	% of IFS	% of IFW	% of IFS	% of IFW	% of IFS	% of IFW
Agriculture & Fishing	99.75	99.94	99.67	99.91	99.47	99.90	99.64	99.91	99.51	99.81
Mining & Quarrying	36.42	71.47	38.53	72.15	35.27	76.31	33.29	78.65	43.66	69.62
Manufacturing	72.17	91.70	66.68	92.11	64.53	91.76	63.88	90.46	66.58	87.38
Electricity & Gas Water	7.83	29.84	9.15	40.85	18.84	53.26	17.01	54.09	18.34	49.32
Construction	81.53	98.29	71.53	97.13	79.53	97.00	81.53	97.58	71.50	94.23
Wholesale & Retail Trade	96.23	98.20	94.05	98.02	92.45	97.97	90.84	96.86	87.45	93.46
Hotels & Restaurants	87.63	95.72	86.10	96.25	86.09	96.71	83.25	96.26	81.07	91.80
Transport & Storage	76.89	85.54	76.52	86.56	78.96	90.56	77.77	89.92	78.33	88.71
Financial Intermediate	32.29	47.76	35.22	57.67	28.20	60.62	23.95	62.05	28.99	58.47
Real Estate	71.68	82.66	53.12	73.51	47.85	80.56	47.44	79.67	47.82	72.71
Education	32.32	47.55	25.96	49.83	24.48	55.27	23.74	53.49	34.30	53.64
Health	47.49	62.48	40.87	63.38	36.20	67.22	30.94	64.43	42.06	60.92
Other Services	95.80	96.53	91.89	95.45	90.83	93.91	90.00	94.33	89.05	92.37
Total Economy	88.39	93.98	83.69	93.29	81.80	92.97	81.34	92.43	81.89	91.30

formal sector employment. This shift was primarily attributed to a decrease in agricultural employment, while all industry categories, except mining, witnessed robust growth in formal sector

employment. Between 2004-05 and 2019-20, formal sector employment increased across construction, services, and manufacturing. Consequently, the percentage of workers within the formal sector rose from

11.6 per cent in 2004-2005 to 16.3 per cent in 2011-2012, further increasing to 18.1 per cent in 2019-2020.

The employment structure reveals a decline in the proportion of informal sector

workers over time, accompanied by notable expansion in formal sector employment. This shift was primarily attributed to a decrease in agricultural employment, while all industry categories, except

in construction. In the financial industry, the proportion of non-wage workers in the formal sector increased also. The percentage of non-formal employment in the real estate industry increased from 28.3

per cent to 52.2 per cent during the period 2004-05 to 2019-20. The share of informal employment increased significantly in the formal sectors of education, health, and community services. The overall rate of informal employment in the (formal) service sector increased quickly.

A big informal sector also has an impact on the government in terms of lost revenue because the entities operating in the informal sector do not figure toward the government's fiscal revenue net. As a result, the informal sector hurts the interests of the working class, the government, and finally even the employer. Informal markets are socially governed rather than by the government.

Many business associations and thousands of chambers of commerce exert societal corporatist control over apprenticeships, access to jobs, and work sites; they formally certify competences and skill; they handle contract disputes; they shape prices and set terms in derived markets; they organise collective insurance; they stand up for and defend their communities against threats from the state; and they create laws and regulations.

The rapid informalisation of employment in the formal non-agricultural segments severely impeded the shift towards formal employment even as the structure of employment in the economy shifted in favour of the non-farm and formal sector. The high persistence of informality in the economy is caused by the low levels of formal education and training among informal sector workers and low wages as well as low productivity prevailing in this sector. Therefore, government needs to consider to formalize the economy, for that a comprehensive framework is required.

(The writer is associated with Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. The views expressed here are his own)

India heavily relies on the informal economy, employing over 80 per cent of its workforce, despite rapid economic growth. In both traditional and formal sector, informality persists due to limited job opportunities. Contract labour and outsourcing fuel informal employment. Formalising the economy is crucial given high informal employment, low education, and productivity



SATYAM BHARTI

PERSPECTIVE

Trump's Prez bid in peril after 4th indictment

Georgia indictment and post-Civil War history make it clear that Trump's actions have already disqualified him from the presidency, write Loyola University Chicago's National Security and Civil Rights Programme Co-Director Joseph Ferguson and Distinguished Practitioner in Residence Thomas A Durkin

After three indictments of former US President Donald Trump, the fourth one in Georgia came not as a surprise but as a powerful exposition of the scope of Trump's efforts to remain in power despite losing the 2020 presidential election.

New conservative legal scholarship spells out how and why those actions — which were observed by the public over many months — disqualify Trump from serving in the presidency ever again. And our read of the Georgia indictment, as longtime lawyers ourselves, shows why and how that disqualification can be put into effect.

The key to all of this is the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which states that "No person shall... hold any office, under the United States... who, having previously taken an oath... to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof." Trump took that oath at his inauguration on January 20, 2017.

Both Trump's Georgia indictment, and his federal indictment in Washington, DC, cite largely public information — and some newly unearthed material — to spell out exactly how he engaged in efforts to rebel against the Constitution, and sought and gave aid and comfort to others

who also did so.

Legal scholars William Baude and Michael Stokes Paulsen, conservatives themselves and members of the conservative Federalist Society, have recently published a paper declaring that under the 14th Amendment, Trump's actions render him ineligible to hold office.

We believe the Georgia indictment provides even more detail than the earlier federal one about how Trump's actions have already disqualified him from office, and shows a way to keep him off the ballot in 2024.

Disqualification is automatic

Trump's supporters might argue that disqualifying him would be unfair without a trial and conviction on the January 6 indictment, and perhaps the Georgia charges.

But Baude and Paulsen, using originalist interpretation — the interpretive theory of choice of the powerful Federalist Society and Trump's conservative court appointees, which gives full meaning to the actual, original text of the Constitution — demonstrate that no legal proceeding is required. They say disqualification is automatic, or what's known in the legal world as "self-executing."

Recent public comments from liberal constitutional scholar Laurence Tribe and conservative jurist and former



federal judge Michael Luttig — who has characterised the events before, during and since January 6 as Trump's "declared war on American democracy" — suggest an emerging bipartisan consensus supporting Baude and Paulsen.

Backed by history

This is not a theoretical bit of technical law. This provision of the 14th Amendment was, in fact, extensively used after the Civil War to keep former Confederate leaders from serving in the federal government, without being tried or convicted of any crime.

A few former Confederates were charged with crimes asso-

ciated with secession, rebellion and open war against the United States. And most were pardoned by sweeping orders issued by President Andrew Johnson.

But even though they had no relevant convictions, former Confederates were in fact barred from office in the US.

In December 1865, several who had neither been convicted nor been pardoned tried to claim seats in the US House of Representatives. But the House clerk refused to swear them in. It took an act of Congress — the 1872 Amnesty Act — to later restore their office-holding rights.

There is no requirement in

the Constitution that the disqualification be imposed by any specific process — only that it applies to people who take certain actions against the Constitution.

A path through the states

For the US in 2023, we believe the most realistic avenue to enforce the 14th Amendment's ban on a second Trump presidency is through state election authorities. That's where the Georgia indictment comes in.

State election officials could themselves, or in response to a petition of a citizen of that state, refuse Trump a place on the 2024 ballot

because of the automatic 14th Amendment disqualification.

Trump would certainly challenge the move in federal court. But the recent disqualification proceedings against former North Carolina Congressman Madison Cawthorn provides a road map and binding legal precedent affirming the 14th Amendment as a valid legal ground for disqualification of a candidate for federal office.

The Georgia indictment against Trump and allies exhaustively details extensive acts of lying, manipulation and threats against Georgia officials, as well as a fraudulent fake elector scheme to illegally subvert the legitimate 2020 Georgia presidential vote tally and resulting elector certification.

Trump's failure to accomplish what is tantamount to a coup in Georgia and other swing states set the stage for the violent insurrection of January 6, 2021, that sought to achieve the same result — Trump's fraudulent installation to a second term.

In fact, the Georgia scheme is included in Special Counsel Jack Smith's federal indictment as one of the methods and means in "aid" of the larger January 6 federal conspiracy against the United States.

Baude and Paulsen acknowledge that "insurrection and rebellion" are traditionally associated with forced or violent opposition. But we see the

broader set of actions by Trump and his allies to subvert the Constitution — the Georgia vote count and fake elector scheme included — as part of a political coup d'état. It was a rebellion.

Georgia as a bellwether

So what makes the Georgia scheme and indictment compelling for purposes of disqualifying Trump from the 2024 Georgia ballot?

There are minimally six aspects revealed in the latest indictment that we believe justify Georgia — under Section 3 of the post-Civil War Fourteenth Amendment — keeping Trump off the ballot:

1. The racketeering scheme was a multifaceted attempt to subvert Georgia's own part of the 2020 electoral process;

2. The officials on the successful racketeering scheme were elected and appointed Georgia officials.

3. Whose actions to reject election subversion vindicated their own oaths to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States as well as Georgia's;

4. Most of these officials were and are Republicans — including Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger, Governor Brian Kemp and former Lt Governor Geoff Duncan;

5. These officials will, in 2024 as in 2020, collectively determine who is qualified to be on Georgia's presidential

ballot; and

6. These officials' testimony, and related evidence, is at the heart of the proof of the Georgia racketeering case against Trump.

In other words, the evidence to convict Trump in the Georgia racketeering case is the same evidence, coming from the same Georgia officials, who will be involved in determining whether, under the 14th Amendment, Trump is qualified to be on the 2024 presidential ballot — or not.

Little if any additional evidence or proceedings are needed. The Georgia officials already hold that evidence, because much of it comes from them. They don't need a trial to establish what they already know.

How could Trump avoid this happening? A quick trial date in Atlanta with an acquittal on all counts might do it, but this runs counter to his strategy to delay all the pending criminal cases until after the 2024 election. With no pre-election trial, there will likely be no Trump on the 2024 Georgia ballot, and no chance for him to win Georgia's 2024 electoral college votes.

Once Georgia bars him, other states may follow. That would leave Trump with no way to credibly appear on the ballot in all 50 states, giving him no chance to win the electoral votes required to claim the White House.

(The Conversation)

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You exude daring readiness to tackle challenges and difficulties, astonishing others with your determination. You will approach responsibilities calmly while displaying patience and wisdom. Coming Midweek hints at rapid changes that can bring potential overseas travel. Unexpected promotions or desired transfers could arise. Long-sought justice arrives, a reward for past good deeds. A favourable week indeed! Trust individuals born on the eighth; this number shapes future paths. Ponder deeply and align your actions. Week's end may yield rewards and recognition, a testament to your patience and fortunate stars. Enjoy the fruits of your labour. A good time to start a new health regime. You may think about enrolling in some yoga or meditation sessions.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Sapphire
Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Now is the opportune moment for reassessment, delving into your position to review past actions. Ensure alignment with your objectives. The midweek may introduce tough choices or demanding difficult circumstances, inducing weariness and helplessness, possibly linked to others' attitudes or deception. Shield your vulnerabilities, maintaining composure. Later, the week holds pleasant surprises—a reunion with an old friend or a true soulmate, dispelling stress. Joyous moments are anticipated, potentially involving travel home. Gift exchanges and heartfelt conversations will uplift you. Property disputes might find a resolution. Embrace the unfolding energies, navigate challenges with poise, and anticipate the blessings that await. Trust in your inner wisdom as you journey through the week.

Lucky number 9 | Lucky colour Lavender
Lucky day Monday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You've faced pressure and change in your life. Overloaded with responsibilities, your creativity suffers. Mental and physical burdens weigh you down. Midweek aligns your mind, heart, and spirit, propelling you forward. You're passionate about work and possess immense skills. Crafting practical plans and valuing teamwork drives your progress. Merging spiritual insight and technical prowess elevates your output, elevating you. Your intentions are transparent. In partnerships, you create a harmonious entirety. Chances of travels linked to the new venture. Your journey unfolds with cosmic support. Trust your intuition, for it holds the key to unlocking hidden potentials. Embrace challenges as opportunities for growth. Amidst celestial guidance, your path becomes clearer. Embrace the unknown, for it paves the way to transformation and fulfillment.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Under the celestial guidance of the Gurus and spiritual mentors, your path becomes illuminated with blessings. Desires manifest and confidence blossoms, propelling you forward. The allure of communal prayers, sacred rituals, and self-discipline beckons, captivating your interest. A phase of spiritual pursuit dawns, consuming your time as you strive for enlightenment. As the week commences, optimism envelops you, as harmony graces both home and profession, while your efforts garner recognition. Travel plans take shape, promising success, material comfort, and emotional contentment. Spiritual growth flourishes, marked by a profound connection. Mastery over your emotions, both negative and positive, empowers you. Triumphant over inner struggles enhances self-worth, transforming fears into stepping stones.

Lucky number 15 | Lucky colour Emerald
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Your standout traits include intelligence, quick thinking, and analytical prowess, which shine both at work and in your persona. A potent blend of determination and willpower fuels your ascent to success. A positive aura envelops you, enhancing your charismatic, authoritative presence, and motivating those around you. This week, your ambitions surge; aiming for a promotion or higher role, you have invest heart and soul. Challenges are embraced, adrenaline embraced; you alleviate not just your own fears, but others', assuring their triumph. Should uncertainty cloud support for a cause, know your power base is solid. Enjoy newfound power, channelling it productively. Expect accolades, recognition, and honours this week. A happy and successful week ahead for you.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Coral
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You possess a fervour for growth and transformation, enjoying outdoor pursuits and sports. Your vibrant energy places you in a leadership role, showcasing your diverse talents. Concerns arise about the well-being of an elderly family member, potentially necessitating financial outlays. You need to attend to domestic matters that require your focus. Midweek, you exude confidence in managing both home and work responsibilities. A relocation could be in the offing. To confront forthcoming challenges, your vigour and intellect are crucial. As the week concludes, disagreements, clashes, or ego clashes may emerge. Maintain assurance and consciousness of your entitlements to navigate these issues successfully. Stay resolute and self-aware as you navigate these trials. Your determination will guide you through.

Lucky number 25 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Money will take centre stage this week as you adopt a highly professional stance, driven by an unquenchable thirst for limitless earnings. The week's outset might bring feelings of financial constraint or anxiety about potential losses. However, it's imperative to leave past worries behind and focus on the promising horizon ahead. Fresh job prospects and improved financial prospects are in store, including unexpected monetary gains or inheritances. To attain triumph, action is paramount; this isn't the moment for idle dreaming. Diligence is your key to unlocking results, so stay practical and let your intuition and common sense steer you. As the week concludes, a project could land on your plate, demanding dedicated time and effort for successful completion.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

A promising period lies ahead for you. This week assures security and personal growth in various aspects, be it emotional or professional. Happiness through reconnecting with siblings and old friends is foreseen, accompanied by family support and cooperation. A drive to assist the needy will keep you occupied, alongside a pursuit of spiritual goals. Financially, transitions are in the cards, including potential meaningful investments. A significant highlight is the emergence of romantic attraction and connection with the opposite sex, reflecting your pure and elevated emotional state. Married individuals can strengthen their bonds, leading to harmonious domesticity. Venus, the deity of love, blesses you, igniting romance and passion. Work on your food habits, it can create health issues if not taken care of.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You might encounter work challenges one after another, each requiring unique solutions. Overcoming these obstacles will demand various approaches. A daunting hurdle could emerge, seemingly obstructing ongoing success or creative pursuits, yet confidence and self-improvement will surmount it. Mid-week favours triumph in business, financial ventures, negotiations, and transactions. Charitable initiatives will captivate you, while your dynamic actions will drive results. The week's end invites relaxation and leisure. Contentment across health, wealth, emotions, and finances is possible. Your advisory and healing abilities could shine, making you an excellent source of guidance. Trust your instincts, as they may lead you to profound insights. Additionally, connecting with like-minded individuals could amplify your positive influence and broaden your horizons.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You might sense a heavy burden on your shoulders this week. Initially, your creative expression and willpower could feel diminished, leaving you compelled to follow another's will. The drive to succeed and the determination to stand tall may wane. However, as the week progresses, warmth and affection could emanate from existing relationships. Newfound energy and creativity might make you feel assured that a higher power blesses you, bringing potential joy, happiness, or material prosperity. Confidence in utilizing your creative energy leads to success. Rely on intuition for simpler matters and your impartial, analytical nature for guidance. Instead of suppressing emotions, acknowledge and harness them for advantage. Achieving a balance between heart and mind becomes feasible, making this a promising week.

Lucky number 27 | Lucky colour Amber
Lucky day Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Prepare to confront upcoming challenges as a wake-up call. Expect an action-packed week with potential for new relationships or business ventures. You possess boldness, strength, and impressive skills, yet balance boundless energy with responsibility and compassion. Otherwise, expect struggles that demand self-assertion. Nurture your skills, ingenuity, and self-esteem, avoiding frustration and defensiveness. Respond cleverly, outspokenly, and with foresight. However, the week's end might bring disappointment, potentially involving denial or rejection in love matters. You'll yearn for your lover's return, or risk losing hope. Be cautious of setbacks, delays, and pessimism that could overpower you. Currently, you're enjoying a peaceful phase, but watch out for weight gain due to inactivity during the coming leisurely holiday.

Lucky number 29 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Sunday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week workwise, expect correspondence, possibly via mail, calls, or special applications. A long-distance call from kin might come your way, romance and passion define your demeanour. Matters of the heart take precedence over rationality. Anticipate the arrival of someone significant, along with invitations or pleas, possibly mediated through a third party. Singles have a chance to connect, finding both satisfaction and profound love. The week's end brings turbulence – confusion and uncertainty that may cloud your love life. Seek solutions and information, relying on intuition and self-assurance. Nurture yourself with music and artistic pursuits, acknowledging the heightened emotional climate. Amidst the emotional journey, remember that faith in yourself is your guiding light. Despite the challenges, staying attuned to intuition will lead you to triumph.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Monday

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BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Reinvent thought process for better tomorrow



A worried mother came asking: "What is in store of my son's destiny. Every now and then he gets injured. One astrologer suggested that he is running a maraka dasha. That has instilled a sense of fear as I have already lost a child when he was running maraka dasha." Maraka dasha and antardasha keep coming and going all through one's life. But that doesn't necessarily cause death. The planets marked as maraka also signify marriage, partnership, and business. How that dasha ends up will depend on various other related factors. True, your son is apparently running maraka dasha of Rahu. But Rahu occupies the nakshatra owned by Jupiter, the lagna lord tenanted in the 5th house. That assures life. And even in case of any injury or health issues, it ensures quick recovery. His astrological pointers do indicate susceptibility to injury for quite some time. But these indicators hint out on probable course of events. They can't be blindly taken in finality. "Sir, I am witness to what my son is faced with within the timeframe you also agree. Yet you call it a probability.

Can destiny indications be reversed, and particularly the effect of maraka?" Countered the lady. Your son himself is a living example. He was born in Mars dasha. And Mars occupies the 7th house marked as a maraka house. But he has already seen through that period. Going by the basic principles of astrology, three factors need to be taken into consideration while reading a chart – Kala (destiny indicating timeline), Desa (Environmental and External factors), and Patra (personality traits). Kala is subject to the other two variables. It is difficult to foresee overall environmental and external factors. But availability of medical facility is again an external factor, which comes to our aid in times of need. When India became independent, the average expectancy of life was below 50 years. Now it has gone above 70. It is not because destiny of Indian populace has with time taken a favourable turn. It is the improved medical facility that helped. Now coming to Patra, it needs to be appreciated that no matter whatever be the destiny indications, if you fail to put in quality effort, you won't achieve

it. In the same vein, if you could intelligently combat the challenges coming your way, you may overcome it. You can't change the effect of varying energy dynamics of planets. They are available in equal proportion to one and all. But how we respond to them individually, is within our hands. Here, it will be pertinent to note that human beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide

their actions by choice and discrimination. The irony, however, is that a large majority, stuck to the usual flow of life guided by their inherent tendencies, seldom remain alert to optimally use the above empowerment tools. And when faced with a difficult situation or failure, instead of identifying and acknowledging our own weaknesses, we find it convenient to shift the blame on destiny. We can't change environmental conditions but can use beneficial resources available. We can't straight-away overturn destiny indications either. But using our empowerment tools, we can change Patra factor – our desire & mind trends as well as habits tendencies - through conscious efforts. Thought process purified thus, will in the first place, help remain alert about keeping our empowerment tools in active use under all circumstances. We will avoid taking any call without due diligence. And we will move carefully in a focused way. This, by itself, could help navigate our life with relative ease and comfort. Second, we could intelligently deal with external factors. Third, we may discriminate between

'what we want' and 'what is right' to pick up the right lead. We, thus, could reinvent ourselves to even redefine our destiny indications. "Understood. But let me know the real reasons behind his frequent injuries, and a remedial measure if any to overcome that." Asked the lady. A look at his ongoing trends reveal that progressed Lagna is opposite natal Sun. Progressed Mars and Mercury are conjunct natal Venus, and opposite mischievous Neptune. Read together, it implies that he would have encountered emotional setback. Being too much touchy and sensitive, it has caught his attention so much – unnecessarily brooding and contemplating – that his thought process has become disoriented. Consequently, he has lost sense of alert and been conducting unmindfully. That's the reason underlying his frequent injuries. The best remedy for him is counselling for a while. Simultaneously taught the way to turn his thought process right. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com