

# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

CHANDIGARH | GURUGRAM | JALANDHAR | BATHINDA | VOL. 143 NO. 237 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00 | REGD. NO. CHD/0006/2021-2023 ESTABLISHED IN 1881 ■ HARYANA



**IMRAN CONFESSES TO LOSING CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS** **WORLD**



**DISCRETIONARY GRANTS OF CM, MINISTERS MAY BE REDUCED** **PUNJAB**



**NEED TO SCALE UP CLIMATE-SMART FARMING** **INFOCUS**

**PRIGOZHIN DECLARED DEAD, ELIZAROV MAY BE NEXT** **WAGNER CHIEF** **BACK PAGE**



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MONDAY | 28 AUGUST 2023

## TOREX

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## PM: Global framework must to ensure ethical use of AI, counter crypto threat

**B20 meet** Says imbalance in supply of critical minerals, rare earths may trigger form of colonialism

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called for a global framework for ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) as he flagged concerns surrounding bias in such modern technologies and their impact on the society.

Speaking at a B20 summit, PM Modi warned corporates and businesses of the emergence of a new form of colonialism if supply chains were not made more resilient and sustainable, as he went on to make a strong case for developing an integrated approach to deal with issues concerning cryptocurrencies.



The G20 logo on a bridge near the venue of the summit in New Delhi.

“There is a challenge related to cryptocurrencies. There is a need for more and more integrated approach in this matter. A global framework should be created for this, in which all stakehold-

ers are taken care of,” he said at the gathering attended by global and domestic business leaders.

A similar approach was needed regarding AI as well, he said. “Today, the world is showing a

### TREATING NATIONS AS MARKETS WON'T WORK

“Treating other nations as markets will never work. It will harm producer-country. Making equal partners in progress is the way forward.”



Narendra Modi, PRIME MINISTER

lot of excitement regarding AI. But amidst the excitement there are also some ethical considerations. Regarding skilling and re-skilling, concern is being raised about algorithm bias and its impact on the soci-

ety. Such issues also have to be resolved together,” said the PM. Stressing the need to take business beyond the bottom line, the PM said: “This can only be done by focusing on supply chain resilience and sustainability.”

The PM pointed out the phenomenon was being acutely experienced in the area of critical materials and rare earths. “At some places there are too many of these and at some they are simply not there. But the need is felt by all. If we don't see this from a global perspective, we will promote a new form of colonialism, this is my serious warning,” said the PM.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

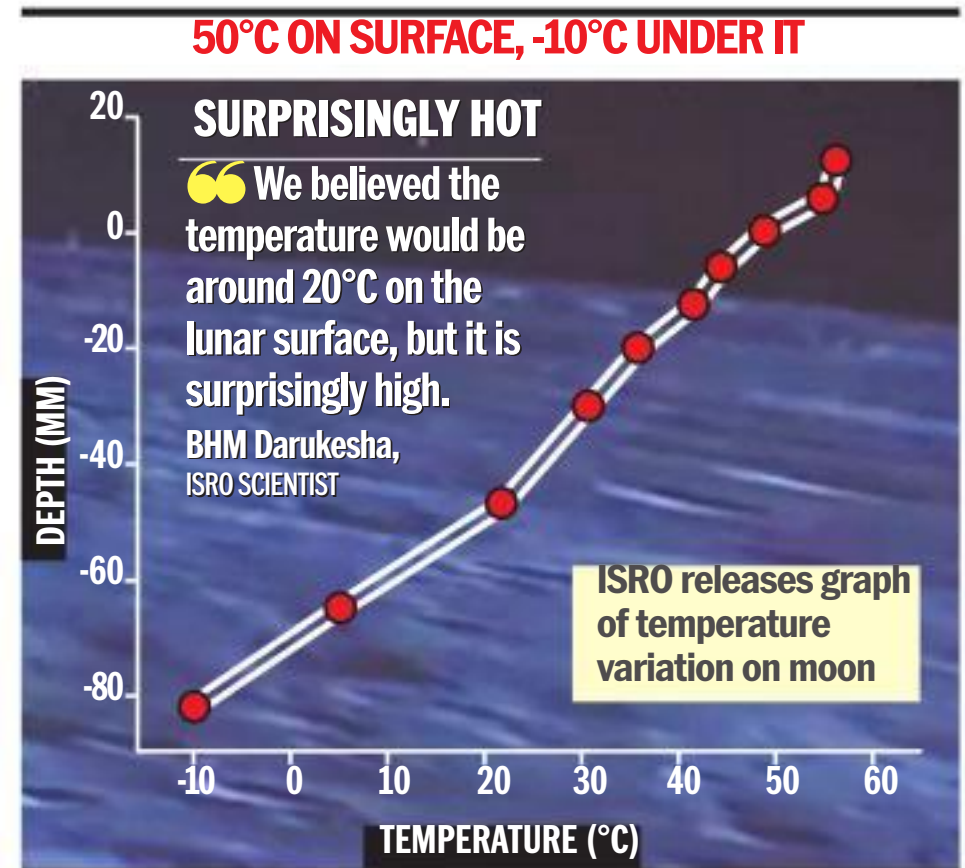
## Lunar south pole blows hot, cold: 60°C difference in 8 cm

BENGALURU, AUGUST 27

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday released a graph of the temperature variation on the lunar surface and a senior scientist of the space agency expressed surprise over the high temperature recorded on the moon.

The space agency said Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) payload onboard Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander measured the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the pole to understand the thermal behaviour of the moon's surface.

At a depth of 8 cm, the payload recorded temperature as low as -10°C. With the gradual rise towards the surface, the temperature could be seen



rising. Above the surface, the graph showed relative stagnancy in temperature between 50-60°C.

“These are the first observations from the ChaSTE payload onboard the Vikram”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## Manipur tense, 3 houses set ablaze

IMPHAL, AUGUST 27

Unidentified men torched three abandoned houses at New Lambulane locality in Manipur's capital Imphal on Sunday. Firemen rushed to the spot and put out the blaze, officials said. **BACK PAGE**

Air surcharge: Leh and beyond Rs 2.00

## Wary of violence, Nuh residents choose to remain indoors today

GEETANJALI GAYATRI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NUH, AUGUST 27

The frightening smell of fear fills up every lane in the city and every home in the vicinity. Fingers crossed, locals are hoping tomorrow will pass off peacefully whether or not the already-disallowed shobha yatra, announced by right wing outfits, is held.

Having suffered a double whammy given the arrest of local youth and demolition of houses after the July 31 clashes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

### Shobha Yatra: Locals fear outsiders may create trouble



RAF personnel deployed in Nuh district on Sunday. PTI

### 15 SEERS MAY BE ALLOWED FOR SYMBOLIC YATRA

Nuh SP Narender Bijarniya on Sunday said a maximum of 15 seers could be allowed to carry out a symbolic yatra

## Tarn Taran hamlets under water, not a drop to drink

GURBAXPURI

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 27

In a duality of fate, residents of at least 19 villages in Tarn Taran district, which were inundated due to a breach along the Sutlej near Ghadam village a week ago, are crying for drinking water.

Reason: The villages have not been getting any power supply due to which the motors of the Water Supply

### NO POWER SUPPLY, MOTORS NOT FUNCTIONAL; 19 VILLAGES HIT



Work underway to plug a breach at Ghadam village in Tarn Taran.

## Pressure mounts, minister Sandeep Singh on way out?

PRADEEP SHARMA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 27

Haryana's Minister of State for Printing and Stationery Sandeep Singh, who is facing charges of molesting a woman coach, seems to be on his way out. With the chorus for his resignation getting louder, Sandeep Singh's continuation on the post is snowballing into a major embarrassment for Chief Minister

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

### OPPN TO TAKE UP ISSUE DURING SESSION

Retaining a 'tainted' minister may snowball into a huge embarrassment for the Khattar govt in the run-up to next year's polls



Oppn to target govt on the minister's continuation in the Vidhan Sabha on August 28 and 29

## Homeless, 1,800 Mandi families await rehab

MONSOON FURY

DIPENDER MANTA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 27

The monsoon fury has wreaked havoc on Mandi this year, leaving over 1,800 families in the district homeless. The worst-affected areas of the district are Sadar, Balichowki, Sarkaghat, Sundernagar and Karsog subdivisions, where a large number



A damaged house in Dharampur subdivision of Mandi. JAI KUMAR

### IN BRIEF

**More political parties to join INDIA bloc: Nitish**  
PATNA: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has said a few more parties were likely to join the opposition INDIA bloc during its meeting in Mumbai. PTI

**SC to hear plea on illegal structures in Mathura**  
NEW DELHI: The SC will on Monday hear a petition on demolition drive to clear "illegal" structures near the Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura. PTI

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# 15 seers may be allowed for symbolic yatra

SUMEDHA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, AUGUST 27

With Right wing outfits adamant on the Jalabhishek yatra tomorrow despite being denied permission by the authorities, tension seemed to have gripped Nuh and surrounding districts.

As the outfits refused to budge from their stand, Nuh has been converted into a fortress, with 1,900 Haryana Police personnel and 24 companies of paramilitary forces deployed at the place.

The Nuh police have clearly stated that they will not allow the procession at any cost.

“At maximum, we can allow 10 to 15 seers to carry out a symbolic yatra, but not more than that. The security has been set up and the district will be sealed on August 28. We will not let anyone disrupt peace this time,” said SP Narender Bijarniya.

The police have put checkpoints at all district borders, especially Gurugram, and announced that they will not allow anybody from outside Nuh to enter the place. The

Nuh sealed, no entry without district ID card: Police



Police personnel check vehicles before their entry into Nuh on Sunday.

**WE WILL GO AS PLANNED**

“How can they deny us permission when we have not even asked for it? Why would we require permission to visit our temples? The entire drama around the yatra makes us feel accused and not victims. We will go as planned and carry out the yatra.”

A VHP official

entrants will have to produce valid ID cards of the district or will be denied entry. The entire proposed route of the yatra will be under drone surveillance. The police, meanwhile, during the day detained many persons as a preventive measure.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Mamta Singh was in the field reviewing the security arrangements.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had issued an appeal, asking all to carry out jalab-

hishek in temples near them and announced that the yatra had got no permission, but various groups, led by the VHP, had refused to adhere to the police and administration orders.

“How can they deny us permission when we have not

even asked for it? Why would we require permission to visit our temples? The entire drama around the yatra makes us feel accused and not victims. We will go as planned and carry out yatra,” said VHP in official statement. Meanwhile, the police of nearby districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Palwal, Alwar and Bharatpur had increased vigilance on borders and were carrying out heavy checking. Traffic congestion was reported at the Ghamdoz toll plaza, which has been cited as a sensitive entry point to Nuh from Gurugram.

Interestingly, while Monu Manesar will not be attending the yatra, the absconding cow vigilante Shrikant Marore, wanted in the Nasir Junaid murder case, has posted several social media posts, urging maximum participation in the event.

Deputy Commissioner Nuh Dhirender Khadgata said they had once again appealed to the groups to follow the police and administration instructions and maintain law and order in the area.

Residents told not to participate in yatra

ROHTAK, AUGUST 27

The district police have advised local residents not to participate in the proposed Braj Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra in Nuh on Monday, stating the Nuh administration has not given permission to the yatra. It has also warned them of action if found participating in the yatra.

“We have received information from social media and other sources that some people from Rohtak are going to Nuh to attend the yatra. Our officials have talked to them and also requested them not to participate in it. Appropriate action as per the law may be taken against those who will take part in the yatra which has not been accorded permission,” said Himanshu Garg, SP.

Garg said social media platforms were continuously being monitored to check the spread of rumours or any false information regarding the yatra. — TNS

# Miscreants paste evacuation posters in G'gram slum area

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

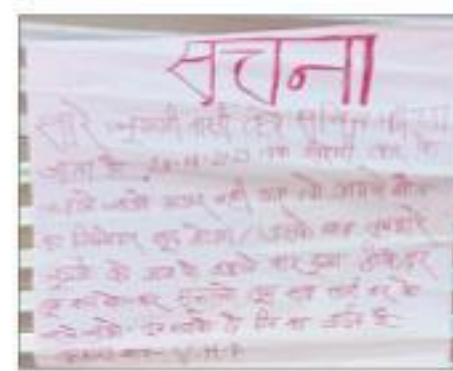
GURUGRAM, AUGUST 27

Miscreants tried to create unrest in Sector 69 here today as they pasted evacuation threats in a migrant colony.

The posters, put in name of the VHP, asked the migrants, primarily Muslims, to vacate and leave the place before the yatra on August 28 or “face consequences”. There are around 200 families, mostly migrant workers from West Bengal, residing in the slum located in Sector 69.

The VHP, meanwhile, denied any connection with the posters and demanded action against those trying to defame it.

In the morning today, residents woke up to the posters threatening attacks. The police was immediately called which tore off the posters and deployed security in the area. No accused had been identified, but the police sought help of people to trace the culprits. “The matter has come to our notice and we have ensured the deployment of policemen along with the PCR vans for the safety of the people. We recovered the warning posters from the spot. The matter is under investigation. Those responsible behind this act will be arrested,” said Satish Deshwal, SHO of the Badshahpur police station.



Meanwhile, police detained two senior CHP leaders from Gurugram late evening leading to major uproar in party ranks. The duo was, however, let off after questioning.

# Now, Ajay Chautala hits back at Birender's family on Uchana Kalan seat

DEEPENDER DESWAL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, AUGUST 27

A day after former BJP MLA Prem Lata accused Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala of betraying people of the Uchana Kalan Assembly segment in Jind, JJP leader Ajay Chautala hit back at her, stating that Dushyant had released a list of works worth about Rs 1,000 crore during a visit to the Uchana Kalan segment recently.

Ajay Chautala, who is father of Dushyant, stated that the JJP was part of the NDA coalition and, thus, the JJP would also contest the Lok Sabha poll as its alliance partner. Stating that there was a legal hitch in his contesting the poll, Ajay said Digvijay would be the likely candidate from this Lok Sabha seat. “We have started the preparations for the mission 2024 and, thus, the party has also finalised to organise a rally in Dadri town, which is part of the Bhiwani Mahendergarh Lok Sabha segment in September 17,” he said.

Targeting the BJP leader and former Union minister Birender Singh, he said he had lost his mind (“vo sathiya gaye hai”). “Dushyant made announcements of development works worth Rs 1,000 crore during a visit to Birender's native village recently”. Taking a dig at Birender's son Brijendra Singh, who is BJP MP from the Hisar Lok Sabha segment, Ajay said people in the Bawani Khara Assembly segment (part of Hisar Lok Sabha seat) even don't know the name of their MP. “Even

**WAR OF WORDS BETWEEN FAMILIES**

■ The war of words between political families of Ajay Chautala and Birender Singh continues over the Uchana Kalan Assembly segment, represented by Dushyant Chautala, who had defeated Birender's wife Prem Lata as BJP candidate in the 2019 Assembly poll

■ While Dushyant claimed that he would re-contest the poll from the segment, Birender's family staked its claim over the segment, stating that Uchana Kalan was their home segment

today they have an impression that Dushyant Chautala is the MP,” he claimed.

The war of words between political families of Ajay Chautala and Birender Singh continues over the Uchana Kalan Assembly segment, which is presently represented by Dushyant Chautala who had defeated Birender's wife Prem Lata as BJP candidate in the 2019 Assembly polls.

While Dushyant claimed that he would re-contest the Assembly poll from the Uchana Kalan Assembly segment, Birender's family staked its claim over the segment, stating that Uchana Kalan was their home segment.

Prem Lata, during a visit to Uchana Kalan segment yesterday, had taken potshots at Dushyant Chautala, stating that he had done nothing for the segment, adding that they (any member of Birender's family) would definitely contest from Uchana Kalan.

# Travelling on NH-44 set to become dearer

Toll at 3 plazas revised from Sept 1

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMBALA, AUGUST 27

Commuters passing through the Ghaggar, Gharaunda and Ladowal toll plazas on the NH-44 will have to pay more from September 1 as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has revised the user fee (toll) rates.

The rates have been increased by Rs 10 to 120, depending on the category of vehicle from single journey to multiple journeys within a day.

As per the NHAI, the user fee rates for the Panipat-Jalandhar section of the NH-44 will be revised with effect

from September 1 at the Gharaunda toll plaza near Bastara village in Karnal, Ghaggar toll plaza at Devi Nagar in Ambala and Ladowal toll plaza in Ludhiana.

The user fees for the single trip of cars, jeeps and van have been increased by Rs 10, fees for light commercial vehicles, truck/bus and multi-axle vehicles (MAV) increased by Rs 15, Rs 30 and Rs 45, respectively, at the Ghaggar toll plaza (for 66 km).

A senior NHAI official said based on the wholesale price index (WPI) adjustments every year, the user fees (toll) are revised.

## रक्षा बंधन के पावन पर्व पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

“रक्षाबंधन के पावन अवसर पर सभी देशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनायें।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

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## Receding Sutlej leaves trail of destruction behind

ANIRUDH GUPTA

**FEROZEPUR, AUGUST 27** Hundreds of dwelling units in over 40 villages along the Sutlej in this border district have either developed cracks or in some cases, the houses have been totally damaged due to onslaught by the river, leaving the border folks in the lurch.

At certain locations, the entire foundation has caved in or roofs have fallen down much to the distress of these people most of whom are either marginal farmers or daily wagers.

Ramesh Kumar, a resident of Nai Gatti Rajo ke, said that his house is situated close to a 'kutchah bandh' in the village. "When the water level increased, we left the house and moved to a safer place.



A damaged house in a Ferozepur village. TRIBUNE PHOTO

When we came back yesterday after the water level receded, we found that several cracks had appeared on the walls," said Ramesh.

It is not an isolated case here. The picture is equally appalling in most of the villages situated close to the Sutlej. Pyara Singh, a resident of Tindiwala, said that

two rooms of his house have been completely damaged due to the floods. "Even the belongings which had been kept in the house have been destroyed," he said.

Similar is the situation in other flood-affected villages, including Gatti Rajo ke, Chandiwala, Muthianawala and Nihale Kilche.

## 1,807 medallists to get ₹5.94 cr cash prizes

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 27

The Sports Department has prepared a list of 1,807 medal winners from Punjab who have been deprived of cash prize money since 2017.

The Chief Minister will felicitate these 1,807 players with a total prize money of Rs 5.94 crore at the opening ceremony of the season-2 of 'Khedan Watan Punjab Day' at Bathinda on August 29 on the occasion of National Sports Day.

Sports Minister Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer said that it had come to the notice of the Punjab Government that there were many sports persons in the state, who despite winning medals, did not receive cash prize money for the past five years.

The Sports Department has prepared a list of 1,807 such players from 2017 till now.

## Discretionary grants of CM, ministers may be cut by 30%

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 27

The government is all set to reduce the discretionary grants of the Chief Minister from Rs 50 crore to Rs 37 crore and that of all its ministers from Rs 1.5 crore per annum to Rs 1 crore per annum.

This will be the second time during the calendar year that the discretionary grants of the ministers will be reduced. Earlier in January, the grants of the Cabinet Ministers were reduced from Rs 3 crore to Rs 1.5 crore. During the initial days of the Congress rule, the ministers used to get Rs 5 crore.

Interestingly, during the four-month-long Charanjit Singh Channi rule from September 2021 onwards, he had reportedly used Rs 200 crore ahead of the elections. The

Issue to be discussed at Cabinet meet today



LIKELY FIGURES

CM ₹50 cr to ₹37 cr

Ministers ₹1.5 cr to ₹1 cr

2ND IN A YEAR

■ In January, the grants of the Cabinet Ministers were reduced from ₹3 crore to ₹1.5 crore

■ During the initial days of the Congress rule, the ministers used to get ₹5 crore

AAP government, in January this year, had fixed this fund at the disposal of the CM to Rs 50 crore.

After the Aam Aadmi Party government was formed in March 2022, the ministers had no discretionary grants at their disposal. It was only in January this year that the Cabinet had approved a policy for disbursement of discretionary grants by the Chief Minister and his Council of Ministers.

The issue, to be taken up for discussion at the meeting of the Council of ministers scheduled for Monday, has led to heartburn among some ministers. Since these grants are used by ministers for development and welfare works to be undertaken in any area they visit, the reduction in grants is being seen by them as a "limitation".

On the other hand, the reason why the grants are being reduced is to bring more

financial accountability and also because of the depleting fiscal health of the state. In the first quarter of this year (April to June), the government has spent just Rs 449.18 crore as capital expenditure (on building assets) against a total expenditure of Rs 26,810.14 crore, which is less than 2 per cent. By reining in discretionary grants, the government hopes to save money and utilise it for building capital assets.

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We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount of more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices issued, together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules not limited to taking possession and selling the secured asset entirely at the risk of the said borrower(s)/co-borrower (s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) at your own cost and consequences.

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Date: 28.08.2023  
Place: Haryana

Sd/-  
For Protium Finance Limited, Authorized Officer

## Kapurthala native killed in Canadamishap

JALANDHAR, AUGUST 27

A 27-year-old youth, Gurshinder Singh Ghotra, died in an accident in Canada.

A native of Bhadra village in Kapurthala, Ghotra died on August 23 after the vehicle he was travelling in caught fire after an accident. He was to join the Canadian Police Services on Monday. He was going back from his academy to meet his parents at home.



## Mann hands over ₹1 cr cheques to kin of soldiers killed in Leh mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FATEHGARH SAHIB, AUGUST 27

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann today visited the residence of martyr Tarandeep Singh at Kamali village of Bassi Pathana subdivision here to attend the 'antim ardas' of the soldier. Mann express his condolences to the aggrieved family.

The CM also visited the residence of martyr Ramesh Lal — who was also killed in the Leh mishap — in Sarsiri village of Faridkot. Their families were given cheques



CM Bhagwant Mann at the house of jawan Tarandeep at Kamali.

of Rs 1 crore each.

Tarandeep was among the nine soldiers killed in a road accident in Leh a few days ago.

The CM told the family that the country was indebted to

Tarandeep, who had sacrificed his life while performing his duty for the nation. Addressing mediapersons later, the CM announced a government job for the sister of the martyr.

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## The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

## The new, bigger T-11

Moving beyond anti-West sentiment

At its Johannesburg summit last week, the BRICS group of five nations decided to more than double its membership to 11. The debate over expanding BRICS topped the agenda, reflecting the unspoken assumption that the bloc was in dire need of rejuvenation and modernisation. BRICS needs to move beyond the success of the New Development Bank (NDB), which admittedly has risen to the challenge of meeting the needs of its members and other developing countries without the onerous terms that the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Asian Development Bank are prone to imposing as per the agenda of their predominantly western and Japanese shareholders.

The expansion brings countries with deep pockets to recapitalise NDB, as also nations that are trade entry points to Africa and Latin America, giving a fillip to trade in their respective national currencies. As was the case with the original BRICS, there is little cause to fear inordinate Chinese influence on the expanded grouping. Of the six new members — Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — only Iran can be termed anti-West and none has ever been accused of being pro-Beijing. In fact, all these nations take pride in their middle-of-the-road foreign policies. Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are among India's key allies in the Arab world.

BRICS can never recreate the Bandung spirit of 1955 — the world and its leaders today are too transactional and opportunistic. But this is an opportunity for countries ignored or marginalised by the West to modify the current international system in their favour. BRICS will have to build institutions to strengthen the members' resolve to trade in their own currencies. Success on this front would convince the sceptics that BRICS has a life beyond the anti-West sentiment.

## Deepening divide

UP schoolteacher's communal bias shameful

The disturbing video clip in which a teacher of a private school in Uttar Pradesh is seen sowing the seeds of communal bias and violence in the impressionable minds of her students is a reflection of a social situation that is, sadly, contrary to the national motto of 'unity in diversity'. That she should point out the Muslim identity of the boy and humiliate him by making his classmates slap him for not learning maths tables is particularly perturbing for two reasons. One, a teacher articulated a reprehensible thought, stemming from a deeply entrenched religious divide. Two, her innocent eight-year-old students were easily taken in by her communal remark.

Not surprisingly, the clip has drawn flak from various quarters, including the authorities concerned, child rights bodies and Opposition parties. Even as the father of the victimised child has chosen to take him out of that school, a thorough investigation into the case is called for. If found guilty of inciting hatred, the teacher should be given exemplary punishment that would serve as a warning to all those who look at people through a communal prism, especially those belonging to the disadvantaged or minority sections of society.

That Islamophobia is becoming the elephant in the classroom is evident from the increasing frequency of such cases being reported. Last December, the video clip of a Muslim student of Manipal University in Karnataka confronting his teacher for comparing him with Ajmal Kasab had gone viral. In this atmosphere of political polarisation, educational institutes should set an example by preaching and practising communal harmony. Otherwise, the social fabric of our country would be in danger of becoming tattered.

ON THIS DAY...100 YEARS AGO

## The Tribune.

LAHORE, TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1923

## THE ALI BROTHERS' OPPORTUNITY

THE Ali brothers have either been or are about to be released after serving their sentences. Differences of opinion have been there and will be there both as regards the political views of the two brothers, and as regards the manner in which they have sometimes chosen to express those views. But no well-informed person has ever questioned either their sincerity of purpose or their deep religious convictions, or the steadfastness and courage with which they have pursued the path they have chalked out for themselves. It is these qualities which have won them the almost unique regard in which they are held by the bulk of their community at this moment, and the high place they fill in the public life of their country. It is these qualities that have won them in the heart of the greatest Indian of our time (MK Gandhi) — one who in so many respects stands almost at the opposite pole — the admiration and esteem which again and again found expression in his speeches and writings. And it is these qualities, more than any special set of political views represented by them, that explain the keen interest with which the release of the two brothers is at this moment looked forward to all over the country, entirely irrespective of all differences of creed, of political ideals or political methods. But the interest in this case is accompanied by an equally lively sense of expectation. The country which will welcome the Ali brothers today is in some essential respects a very different country from that which about this time two years ago expressed its poignant regret at their forcible removal from the field of their labours.

## France's offer to Indian students

The decision is testament to an unshakable belief in the transformative influence of education

EMMANUEL LENAIN  
AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE  
TO INDIA

THE strategic partnership between France and India is built on a strong foundation of people-to-people ties and a genuine friendship between the French and Indian peoples. Never was this connection more evident than on July 14, when French crowds cheered the Indian armed forces' contingent marching on the Champs Elysées, and France celebrated India as the Guest of Honour of our National Day. Such moments show that in the grand tapestry of international relations, it is the individual threads of mutual understanding, friendship and collaboration that weave together the fabric of lasting partnerships.

That is why the Indo-French Roadmap 2047 adopted by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasises the significance of people-to-people ties as one of the three pillars of our partnership. It includes several new announcements benefiting students and alumni.

President Macron has announced the ambitious goal of welcoming 30,000 Indian students to France by 2030. This decision is testament to our unshakable belief in the transformative influence of education. By opening our academic institutions to Indian minds, we are not only enriching our classrooms with diverse perspectives but also laying the foundation for cultural comprehension and a lifelong friendship between the two nations. Education transcends borders, serving as a bridge that enriches societies, and France



ROADMAP 2047: President Macron and PM Modi have adopted a plan to strengthen the bilateral partnership. PH

believes that is the best investment we can make in the future of our strategic partnership.

The introduction of a five-year short-stay Schengen circulation visa for Indian alumni is a heartening gesture that acknowledges the enduring ties forged during the academic journeys. The memories, experiences and relationships developed during a semester or more in France are treasured and now this visa will also help nurture these. This special provision underscores France's commitment to fostering lasting connections and empowering Indian alumni to maintain robust associations with France, thus reinforcing the people-to-people fabric that binds our nations.

At present, almost 95 per cent of the Indian students studying in France opt for one of the 1,600-plus English-taught programmes offered in our higher education institutions. Our goal is to enable more Indian students to also engage in French-taught programmes so as to expand their range of opportunities. That is why we are creating 'International Classes'. These specialised programmes imparting comprehensive training in the French

By opening our academic institutions to Indian minds, we are laying the foundation for a lifelong friendship between the two nations.

language and various academic disciplines illustrate our commitment to facilitating a smooth transition for these students. Our aspiration is for all Indian students to feel at home in France, to thrive in their studies and to contribute significantly to the academic landscapes of both our nations.

As the Ambassador of France to India, opening up new opportunities for Indian students in France has been a top priority since my appointment. In my interactions with students, par-

ents, alumni and university representatives, I have highlighted that France has always been an inclusive and diverse nation, eager to share its rich cultural heritage and exceptional educational opportunities. To the younger generations in India, I convey this message: France will always be your friend, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that your academic journey in our country is nothing short of extraordinary.

There are many compelling reasons to choose France. French institutions enjoy global recognition for their academic excellence and research, offering wide-ranging programmes spanning aerospace engineering to social sciences, catering to varied interests. Our education system is substantially subsidised by the government, resulting in competitive tuition fees and living costs. Moreover, France emphasises inclusivity, further enabled by the numerous scholarships extended to Indian students. Earning French qualifications ensures globally acknowledged degrees, enhancing employability and opening promising

career paths, as evidenced by France's second position in the Global University Employability Rankings published by the Times Higher Education.

The 2018 agreement on the mutual recognition of degrees between India and France further amplifies the value of French qualifications in India. Moreover, a two-year post-study work visa for holders of a French master's degree and above empowers Indian students to gain valuable professional experience and explore diverse career prospects in France upon graduation. Not to mention the interest that a French graduate sparks among the 570 French companies operating in India, collectively employing over 4,00,000 individuals in the country. Studying in France offers Indian students a rewarding blend of academic rigour, cultural immersion and professional potential.

Since July 14, French teams have been working double time to implement the decisions by President Macron and Prime Minister Modi. In alignment with these commitments, I am delighted to announce the upcoming Choose France Tour 2023. This educational fair, organised by the French Government and Campus France, will offer a platform for Indian students and parents to engage with representatives from over 40 esteemed French higher education institutions. The tour will take place from October 8 to 15 and cover four major Indian cities — Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai — providing a unique occasion to explore a wide range of study options and establish first-hand connections with reputable institutions.

As we embark on this new chapter of our partnership, I am confident that the connections we cultivate today will shape a brighter future for both our nations. Let us jointly celebrate the voyage of knowledge, understanding and friendship that defines the France-India partnership.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If any agreement between two nations is to last, it must serve the best interests of both nations. — Jimmy Carter

## A life lived in truth

SHELLEY WALIA

As it was the last year of Senior Cambridge, we were asked to join school in January instead of March for 'extra-rigorous' preparation for the finals. It was a dismally cold month to be up in the mountains. We had a house lower down in the valley and my mother sent our family cook to accompany me. He would make me delightful minced mutton and Spanish omelettes and we would sit around the fire talking about our village into the night. There was a certain warmth in his company.

It was in these bitter winter months that I came close to our teacher, Brother Mulligan — who often springs alive before my eyes, chatting, laughing, joking — during the evening tutorials that always turned out to be invigorating and profoundly engaging. Our many tête-à-têtes with him infused in us students a spirit of freethinking, of speaking up even if we disagreed with him, a practice sadly lacking in the highly codified systems that we have degenerated into. One-way dialogue was anathema to him, an exercise in dumping knowledge on students.

Over the years, I kept in touch with him and received warm and edifying replies to every letter. It is difficult to forget how stridently he argued against the use of the atomic bomb or the Bay of Pigs crisis that brought the world perilously close to a nuclear holocaust. Voicing a political opinion was for him a way of attaining some intellectual space in times when it is increasingly shrinking. His adversarial stand on regionalism or racism was the raison d'être of his 'living ideology'. His commitment to liberalism gave him a balanced worldview, in which he envisioned a society full of justice and commitment to the idea of free critical thinking. It was in one of his letters that I discovered that his political concerns for Irish nationalism, and the continuous turmoil that he had experienced as a lad growing up in Northern Ireland, were responsible for the quiddity of his sensitivity when it came to echoing the ethical dimension of politics.

Early on in life, I began to appreciate his progressive views on civil society, which for him comprised not merely the rule of law, but also a public effort to create collectively a democratic space distinct from the state and its valorisation of ideology. With this perspective, he continued to believe in the efficacy of determined intellectuals and writers who keep working silently towards a better tomorrow, a new civil and democratic politics discernable in the post-war years when oppressive colonialisation failed to douse the smouldering flame of liberty. I recollect that he could never accept lies in a world where the frailty of the human political condition demanded an animated commitment to human dignity.

I am saddened to know of his passing. At such times of loss of dear ones who have given us so much and so warmly, I face an emptiness exacerbated by the real-life stories of natural disasters, mass deaths and, of course, the venomous makings of ethnic violence, betrayal and parochialism. Remembering him today draws me face to face with these pressing issues of human concern.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Resist political interference

Apropos of 'Tier-two people, first-rate engineers' (*Nous Indica*); talent needs opportunity to evolve and express itself. It is imperative that students and researchers in tier-two institutions are exposed to latest tools and opportunities available in elite institutions. The onus is on those heading eminent organisations, such as ISRO, to resist political and bureaucratic interference and motivate the budding Homi Bhabhas and Vikram Sarabhais. Talented professionals from fields such as engineering and medicine often opt for careers in civil services instead of continuing in their specialised domains. This phenomenon can have serious implications for sectors that require highly skilled individuals.

LALIT BHARADWAJ, PANCHKULA

## Talent knows no boundaries

Refer to 'Tier-two people, first-rate engineers' (*Nous Indica*); the success of Chandrayaan-3 demonstrates that talent and innovation can come from anywhere. It's a testament to the fact that people from tier-two towns can excel and make significant contributions when provided with the right opportunities, resources and encouragement. While optimism is important, it's also crucial to address the challenges that might hinder the growth and development of talent in these areas. Some individuals associate government institutions with inefficiency and red tape. However, the ISRO team achieved remarkable success in space exploration despite budgetary constraints.

HIRA SHARMA, BY MAIL

## Exemplary state

*Nous Indica* (August 26) was extremely readable and enlightening. I have been to Kerala twice to pay a visit to the Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, and Amritapuri Ashram, Kayamkulam. My impression is that the people of the state have a God-given gift to do well in education and healthcare. Kerala was the first state to meet the health parameters set by the WHO under its 'Health for All by 2000' programme. Kerala can become a state conforming to interna-

tional standards if it makes rapid strides under the Total Sanitation Campaign.

RN MALIK, GURUGRAM

## No clarity in talks

Refer to 'Modi-Xi meeting'; as expected, the meeting between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit did not achieve the desired result. While India has been sticking to peace along the border areas, China has been arguing that the border issue should not impact overall relations. If the situation resolves satisfactorily in disengagement and de-escalation despite the variations in the perspective of the two leaders, the Xi-Modi meeting at the Johannesburg summit will be remembered for a long time to come.

GREGORY FERNANDES, MUMBAI

## Bar politicians from sports bodies

Refer to 'WFI knocked out'; the involvement of politicians in sports federations in India has always shamed the country and sports persons. Individuals with little or no sports knowledge become chiefs of federations through muscle and money power. Politicians use their positions to benefit themselves or their associates rather than focusing on the welfare of athletes and the overall development of sports. Political interference and power struggles can impede the autonomy of sports organisations, leading to ineffective governance. India's prestige has been hijacked by politically powerful individuals. The government must bar politicians from becoming sports body chiefs to save sports.

WG CDR JS MINHAS (RETD), MOHALI

## Governor-CM feud

Apropos of 'May recommend President's rule: Governor to Mann'; the bitter feud between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and CM Bhagwant Mann is intensifying, much to the dismay of the bureaucracy and the public. A neutral perspective would advocate for an amicable resolution. But if the situation escalates, it could potentially lead to the recommendation of the President's rule. To resolve the crisis, the CM and the Governor should sit together and find common ground.

VK SYAL, SANGRUR

Letters to the Editor, typed in double space, should not exceed the 200-word limit. These should be cogently written and can be sent by e-mail to: [Letters@tribunemail.com](mailto:Letters@tribunemail.com)

# India took a nuanced stand on BRICS expansion



**KP NAVAR**  
STRATEGIC ANALYST

**W**ISER by the experience of previous summits, India took a nuanced stand in Johannesburg last week on the expansion of the BRICS group. "India fully supports the expansion of the BRICS membership. And welcomes moving forward with consensus on this," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the organisation's 15th summit before the expansion was agreed on. Enlargement was the biggest challenge at the Johannesburg summit. It can be a game-changer for the international order, which is seeing convulsions that were unimaginable at the dawn of this decade.

Once six more countries were offered membership, PM Modi went to great lengths to dispel the impression that India was being the spoilsport on enlarging BRICS. "I am pleased that our teams have come to an agreement on the guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures for expansion," he said. Criteria and consensus were Modi's two watchwords during phone conversations with several of his counterparts in recent weeks and at the Johannes-

burg summit. At the core of his arguments was India's firm belief that "this step (phased expansion) will further strengthen the faith of many countries in a multipolar world order". One of the fundamentals of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's diplomacy is the promotion of a multipolar world order. "And based on these (criteria), today we have agreed to welcome Argentina, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates into BRICS," PM Modi said in a statement within minutes of the summit's consensus on expansion. At least two dozen more countries are in the queue to join BRICS. During Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra's pre-summit media briefing, everyone lost count of their number. "Somebody mentioned 40, 23... a large number of countries have expressed interest in the expansion of the BRICS," Kwatra said without mentioning a precise figure.

With 46 years of diplomatic experience behind him, Jaishankar relies heavily on his institutional memory and on the archival resources of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in advising PM Modi on foreign policy. In April 2010, at the second BRIC summit in Brasilia, India alone blocked the move to include South Africa. That summit's host, Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, without due diligence, assumed that there would be no opposition to South Africa's admission to BRIC.



**GAME-CHANGER:** Enlargement of the group was the biggest challenge at the Johannesburg summit. PTI

He invited that country's then President Jacob Zuma to Brasilia, in preparation for South Africa's entry. However, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh dug in his heels and said the nascent group should first consolidate itself before expanding. Zuma, all decked up like a bride, had to return home early and empty-handed. But he had the last laugh.

On the eve of the summit, a volcano in Iceland named a mouthful Eyjafjallajökull violently erupted, spreading ash all over western Europe, forcing most countries on the continent to close their airspace to passenger aircraft. When the time came for the Indian Prime Minister's special aircraft to ferry Manmohan Singh home from Brasilia, Air India flight 001 had nowhere to go. Anand Sharma, then

Of the six new entrants, India has very strong bonds with the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Minister for Commerce and Industry, offered to arrange the PM's return home, rerouting AI-001 via South Africa. Sharma is married to a South African and had received a special award from that country during the sesquicentennial celebrations of the first arrival of Indians in South Africa. So, the VVIP flight, on which this columnist was part of the media contingent, landed in Johannesburg on the night of April 16. In sweet revenge for spurning his country's application to join BRIC, Zuma arranged almost his entire cabinet to line up at the airport to greet PM Manmohan Singh, notwithstanding the inhospitable hour of his stopover.

Zuma's gesture, however, fell flat. The Special Protection Group (SPG), which guards Indian Prime Minis-

ters, would not allow the PM to deplane because the Johannesburg airport had not been security-cleared as per their manual. While South Africa's cabinet ministers twiddled their thumbs on the tarmac of their own airport, the SPG, after much toing and froing with its local counterparts, allowed South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Emily Nkoana-Mashabane — whom Singh was well acquainted with — to board the Air India plane and greet the Prime Minister. During the eight years that remained of Zuma's tenure, his relations with New Delhi soured. Meanwhile, China amassed goodwill in Pretoria and Johannesburg — the executive and legislative capitals of that country, respectively — by successfully paving South Africa's way into BRICS when President Hu Jintao hosted the organisation's next summit on the island of Hainan a year later.

Modi went the extra mile last week to make sure that such wrong-footed Indian diplomacy was avoided in BRICS. He made no attempt to disguise his reasons. "India has deep and historic relationships with all these countries (which have been newly admitted to BRICS)," the Prime Minister said in his post-expansion statement. "With the help of BRICS, we will also add new dimensions to our bilateral cooperation," he added. Enlightened self-interest is at the root of a

change in tactics from 2010, rather than a foundational commitment to BRICS as was the case with Manmohan Singh. Of the six new entrants, India has very strong bonds with three — the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iran. New Delhi is attempting to deepen relations with a fourth one, Egypt.

For a long time, Washington's attitude to BRICS was to ignore it altogether. It changed its tactics last week as some of the closest allies of the US decided to jump on the emerging bandwagon. President Joe Biden's National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan is now leading the charge from the White House to underplay the expanding group's relevance, although it has 40 per cent of the globe's population and a quarter of the world's GDP.

"We are not looking at the BRICS as evolving into some kind of geopolitical rival to the US," Sullivan said in a conference call with select journalists. He is hoping that differences within BRICS will make the group fall apart as it expands. "This is a very diverse collection of countries in its current iteration, with Brazil, India, South Africa's democracies; Russia and China as autocracies. With differences of view on critical issues. We will continue to work on the strong positive relationships we have with Brazil, India and South Africa," he said. Sullivan is looking for Trojan horses inside BRICS. India should be vigilant and on its guard.

# When the development model subverts democracy



**NEERA CHANDHOKE**  
POLITICAL SCIENTIST

**M**EMBERS of the G20 are meeting in New Delhi next month. Undoubtedly, leaders of the Global South will bemoan lack of development in their countries and ask for concessions. Development is a tricky buzzword. It carries tragedy in its wake.

In April, a Vande Bharat train speeding through Alwar district in Rajasthan hit a cow. The cow, thrown 30 metres away, hit a man who was relieving himself, as people deprived of toilets tend to do, on the tracks. The man lost his life and the cow died too. In October last year, the nose panel of a Vande Bharat train was dented because it hit four buffaloes on the Mumbai-Gandhinagar route. Railway officials said the carcasses were removed fast enough. What does a death or two matter as long as it is for the cause of development — the ultimate magic mantra of governments?

The assumption that development leads to well-being is one of the major mockeries of history. Development does not automatically lead to democracy and redistribution of wealth.

This year, January brought news that should make every right-thinking Indian stagger. Oxfam India's report on inequality told us that 5 per cent of the Indians own over 60 per cent of the country's wealth. The bottom 50 per cent of the population owns only 3 per cent. The marginalised continue to suffer in a system which ensures 'survival of the richest'. Is this development?

Since the 1970s, scholars have criticised the notion of development that seeks to replicate the path followed by capitalist societies — industrialisation, commodification and accumulation. It is forgotten that advanced industrialised economies benefited from colonialism because they stripped the Global South of resources and labour. Development and underdevelopment are two sides of the same coin, wrote Andre Gunder Frank, the guru of the dependency theory. The West developed because colonies paid for the cost of the process. It will take us decades, if not centuries, to catch up with the developed world.



**UNFAIR:** The government can take away land, rivers and forests of tribals in the name of development. PTI

In the 1990s, a compelling critique of development began to be articulated by a number of distinguished scholars, such as Arturo Escobar, Gustavo Esteva, Ivan Illich, Ashis Nandy and Vandana Shiva. *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power* (2009), edited by Wolfgang Sachs, contributed greatly to the critique. Scholars subscribed to different methodologies and adopted diverse approaches. But all of them believed that development is based on the epistemological domination of the West. The Global South, far

The assumption that development leads to well-being is one of the major mockeries of history.

from achieving self-sufficiency, has sought to become a clone of the advanced capitalist world.

The idea of development, argued post-development theorists, is flawed beyond belief. It rests on the assumption that man can conquer nature through technology. It was technology that was used to execute millions of Jews in Hitler's Germany, put to death millions in Stalin's Soviet Union, and create surveillance states, cause environmental destruction and trigger climate change. It has led to stockpiling of weapons, civil wars and destructive nuclear power. This technology can only help dictators; it

cannot give food to starving millions, provide jobs to the unemployed, or promise people lives that are worth living.

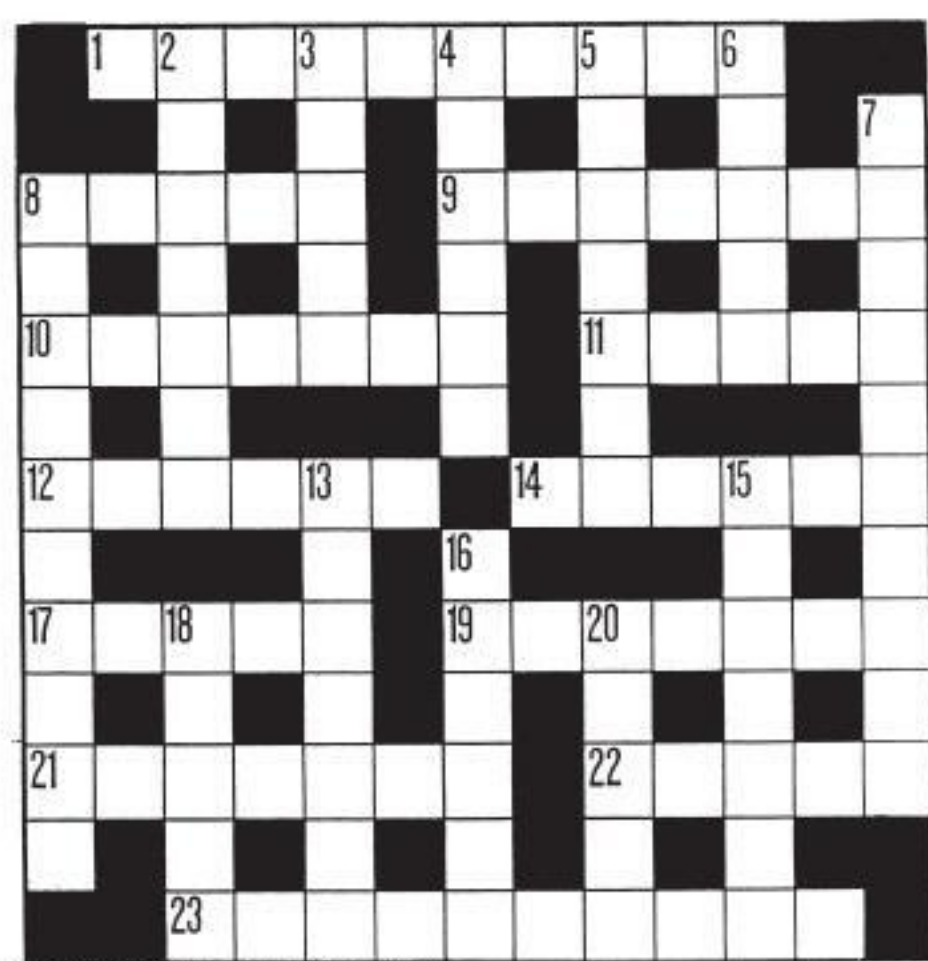
The jury is still out whether post-developmentists offer a sound alternative to development that is promoted by global institutions. The alternative is largely Gandhian: decentralisation, participation and respect for diversity. A number of scholars believe that the alternatives offered by social movements can provide models for specific regions and their specific needs. The alternative offers a corrective to the damage that development has done to democracy.

The government can take away land, rivers and forests of tribal communities who live off these resources — in the name of development. Rivers are polluted by industrial effluents and the delicate environmental balance of the Himalayan region is wrecked by the building of roads and highways. The region has experienced floods and earthquakes, houses have collapsed, and people have been rendered homeless. In the Doon valley, thousands of trees are cut down to provide rapid transit to the 'abode of the gods', leaving behind only barren, arid landscapes. The govern-

ment can take away our civil liberties because they are a hindrance to development. Democracy is perpetually subverted by so-called development.

The notion of development is meaningless. It is teleological; it assumes that societies reach from point X to Y along a straight line. Defenders of development ignore the simple fact that to reach a goal, societies take detours, traverse hilly paths, cross valleys, and often take a U-turn. In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was condemned by the gods to roll a boulder up a hill. The gods certainly knew the law of gravity, which relentlessly pulls boulders that are rolled uphill to the centre of the earth. There is no linearity in history. Marx had prophesied that history repeats itself, first time as tragedy, and the second as farce. In both cases, development is power — power over natural resources, power over human beings, and power for the sake of power. It is astonishing that the name of the coalition of Opposition parties, INDIA, includes the word 'developmental'. Is not the 'D' of democracy infinitely preferable to the 'D' of development?

## QUICK CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- Original creative idea (10)
- Suspension of fighting (5)
- US Civil War general (7)
- Gratify wishes of (7)
- To cast (5)
- Smoked and salted herring (6)
- An oriental salutation (6)
- Squander (5)
- Sale by bidding (7)
- Indisputable (7)
- Copper and zinc alloy (5)
- Justifiably (4,6)

### DOWN

- Summary of events (5-2)
- Visionary (5)
- Pamper (6)
- Indisposition to change (7)
- To dissent (5)
- Undecided (2,3,5)
- Reconsider before acting (5,5)
- Refined and luxurious (7)
- A musical term (7)
- Way of doing (6)
- Spread about (5)
- Venomous snake (5)

### SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

**Across:** 1 Shabby, 4 Falter, 9 In a word, 10 Gloom, 11 Creed, 12 Sell-out, 13 Shenanigans, 18 Finesse, 20 Taboo, 22 Avoid, 23 Devotee, 24 Dither, 25 Cranny.  
**Down:** 1 Switch, 2 Agate, 3 Broaden, 5 Angel, 6 Too soon, 7 Remote, 8 Odds and ends, 14 Handout, 15 Get over, 16 Afraid, 17 Comedy, 19 Sidle, 21 Baton.

## SU DO KU

		3			
	8	7			1
6	2		5		9
9		6		3	
	7	2		1	
	2		3		4
7		8		5	6
1			7	4	
			5		

V. HARD

### SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

5	1	6	3	8	2	9	7	4
9	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	1
7	8	2	9	4	1	3	6	5
6	7	9	2	3	5	4	1	8
2	4	8	1	9	6	7	5	3
3	5	1	4	7	8	6	9	2
8	6	5	7	2	3	1	4	9
1	9	7	8	5	4	2	3	6
4	2	3	6	1	9	5	8	7

### CALENDAR

AUGUST 28, 2023, MONDAY	
■ Shaka Samvat	1945
■ Bhadrapad Shaka	6
■ Bhadrapad Parvishite	12
■ Hijari	1445
■ Shukla Paksha Tithi 12, up to 6.23 pm	
■ Ayushman Yoga up to 9.56 am	
■ Saubhagya Yoga up to 6.01 am	
■ Uttarshadha Nakshatra up to 2.43 am	
■ Moon enters Capricorn sign 10.40 am	

## FORECAST

<b>SUNSET:</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>18:50 HRS</b>
<b>SUNRISE:</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>05:57 HRS</b>
<b>CITY</b>	<b>MAX</b>	<b>MIN</b>
Chandigarh	35	26
New Delhi	36	27
Amritsar	33	26
Bathinda	36	27
Jalandhar	34	25
Ludhiana	34	26
Bhivani	36	26
Hisar	37	27
Sirsa	37	28
Dharamsala	27	18
Manali	25	18
Shimla	21	15
Srinagar	25	14
Jammu	34	23
Kargil	26	14
Leh	24	09
Dehradun	35	22
Mussoorie	24	15

TEMPERATURE IN °C







## GLOBE TROT

REUTERS



Revellers during the Notting Hill Carnival in London, UK.

## Taliban stop women from visiting national park

**ISLAMABAD:** The Taliban will use security forces to stop women from visiting one of Afghanistan's most popular national parks, according to a spokesman for the Vice and Virtue Ministry. The ministry alleged women were not wearing hijab, or Islamic headscarf, in a proper way when going to Band-e-Amir in the central Bamian province. "Going sightseeing is not a must for women," the ministry had said a week ago. AGENCIES

## 600 firefighters struggle to control Greece blaze

**ATHENS:** More than 600 firefighters, including reinforcements from several European countries and backed by a fleet of water-dropping planes and helicopters, were battling three major wildfires in Greece on Sunday, two of which have been raging for days. A massive blaze in Evros and Alexandroupolis is believed to have caused 20 of the 21 wildfire-related deaths in the past week in Greece. AGENCIES

## 3 US Marines killed, 20 hurt in aircraft crash at Oz drill

CANBERRA, AUGUST 27

A United States Marine Corps aircraft with 23 Marines aboard crashed on a North Australian island, killing at least three and injuring 20 others, five critically, during a multinational training exercise on Sunday. Three were confirmed dead on Melville Island and five were flown in serious condition 80 km to the mainland city of Darwin for treatment after the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey aircraft crashed around 9.30 am, a statement from the Marines said.

"Recovery efforts are ongoing," the statement said, adding the cause of the crash was under investigation. A plane had been sent from Darwin to retrieve more survivors from the remote location. No further details on the fate of the other 15 Marines on board had been released hours later.

A US military official reported to Australian air traffic con-

## FIVE OF THEM CRITICAL

■ As many as 20 Marines have been injured in the crash involving an Osprey aircraft. Five of them are critical.

■ The US, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor are taking part in the training exercise in Melville Island.

## 6 MISHAPS IN 11 YEARS

■ Before Sunday's crash, there have been five incidents involving Marine Ospreys since 2012, causing 16 deaths.

■ The previous mishap was in June 2022 when 5 Marines died in a crash in a remote part of California east of San Diego.

trollers a "significant fire in the vicinity of the crash site," according to an audio recording of the conversation.

Northern Territory Police Commissioner Michael Murphy said no one on board had escaped injury. One of the injured was undergoing surgery at the Royal Darwin Hospital, Northern Territory Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said around six hours after the crash.

Australian PM Anthony Albanese said only Americans were injured in the crash during Exercise Predators Run, which involves the militaries

of the US, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor. "Australia will continue to provide assistance to our friends for as long as is required," Albanese said.

Around 150 US Marines are currently based in Darwin and up to 2,500 rotate through the city every year. They're part of a realignment of forces in the Asia-Pacific that's broadly meant to face an increasingly assertive China. The 12-day exercise is scheduled to end September 7.

The Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but during

flight can rotate its propellers forward and cruise much faster like an airplane. Versions of the aircraft are flown by the US Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. Before Sunday, there had been five fatal crashes of Marine Ospreys since 2012, causing a total of 16 deaths.

Melville is part of the Tiwi Islands, which along with Darwin are the focus of the exercise that involves 2,500 troops. It's Indigenous-owned land and is mostly covered by tropical woodland. Its population is around 1,000 mostly Indigenous people. Darwin is a large city by the standards of Australia's sparsely populated tropical north with a population of 1,50,000.

The US military was also taking part in a multinational military exercise in July when four Australian personnel were killed in an army MRH-90 Taipan helicopter crash off the northeast Australian coast. — Agencies



Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy interacts with Indian-Americans in Urbandale, Iowa. PTI

## 'Robust India ties can help US decouple with China'

DES MOINES (IOWA), AUGUST 27

A stronger relationship with India would help the US declare its "independence" from China, Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has said. "The US is economically dependent on China today, but with a stronger relationship with India, it becomes easier to declare independence from that Chinese relationship," Ramaswamy said. He also sought a military relationship with India in the Andaman Sea. At 38, Ramaswamy is the youngest Republican presidential candidate ever. He is currently on a two-day swing to the crucial State of Iowa. On January 15, Iowa would kick off the 2024 Republican presidential primary season. A second-generation Indian-American, Ramaswamy founded Roivant Sciences in 2014 and led the largest biotech IPOs of 2015 and 2016, eventually culminating in successful clinical trials in multiple disease areas that led to FDA-approved products, according to his bio.

"The US should also have a stronger strategic relationship with India, including even a military relationship

## WANTS PRESENCE IN ANDAMAN SEA

☞ The US should also have a stronger strategic relationship with India, including even a military relationship in the Andaman Sea. Vivek Ramaswamy, REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

in the Andaman Sea. Knowing that India, if necessary, could block the Malacca Strait where actually China gets most of its Middle Eastern oil supplies. So, these are areas for real improvement in the US-India relationship. I think that would be good for the US and that's exactly why I would lead accordingly," Ramaswamy, a multimillionaire biotech entrepreneur-turned-politician, said in response to a question.

Ramaswamy, if tapped as vice-president and later elected, would be the second youngest ever to serve in the role, behind John Breckinridge who served as President James Buchanan's second in command when he was just 36. Breckinridge served as President from 1857 to 1861. — PTI

## Imran interrogated, admits to losing confidential diplomatic documents

ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 27

Jailed former PM Imran Khan admitted misplacing a confidential diplomatic cable as he was interrogated by Pakistan's top investigative agency at the Attock jail in a case filed under the Official Secrets Act for wrongful use of the classified document, according to media reports on Sunday.

Khan, 70, is currently serving a three-year jail term after he was sentenced by a court in a corruption case earlier this month. The counter-terrorism wing (CTW) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Saturday visited the former

## ACCUSED AMERICANS OF TOPPLING GOVT

Days before his ouster as the PM in April 2022, Imran had waved a document at a rally, claiming it was proof of foreign (US) conspiracy.

PM in the jail, media reports said. FIA sources said a six-member joint investigation team, led by FIA Deputy Director Ayaz Khan, interrogated him for over an hour.

Khan had waved a document at a rally days before his ouster as the PM in April 2022,

saying it was proof of foreign conspiracy. During questioning, Imran denied that the paper he waved before a gathering last year, days before the ouster of his government, as proof of the conspiracy was the diplomatic cable. "The paper I gestured in the public were cabinet meeting minutes and not cypher," he said.

The investigation agency had booked Khan and PTI vice chairman and ex-minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, after ascertaining their deliberate involvement in misusing the cypher and its misplacement following a probe. — PTI

## Kyiv probes collision of warplanes

KYIV, AUGUST 27

Ukrainian authorities have launched an investigation after a midair collision between two warplanes in the west of the country killed three pilots. Ukraine's air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat said it wasn't immediately clear how long the probe would take.

Russian forces, in the meantime, targeted central and northern regions of Ukraine with cruise missiles overnight. Ukraine's air force on Sunday reported air defences successfully intercepted four of them.

The falling debris left two persons injured. — Agencies

## Sunak may face questions over wife's Infosys shares

LONDON, AUGUST 27

British PM Rishi Sunak could face some transparency questions related to wife Akshata Murty's Infosys shares, worth an estimated 500 million pounds, in a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with India, according to a media report.

The *Observer* claims the Opposition Labour Party and trade experts are questioning the full financial impact as Infosys, the Bengaluru-headquartered software service major co-founded by Akshata's father Narayana Murthy, stands to benefit from any

such trade deal. India and the UK have been negotiating an FTA, now in its 12th round of negotiations, as Sunak prepares for his first visit to India as British Prime Minister for the G20 Leaders' Summit next month.

"As the PM recently learned, it's important he declares any interests properly. I expect him to do so in respect of the India trade deal too," said Darren Jones, Labour MP and chair of the cross-party House of Commons Business and Trade Select Committee — which has been scrutinising the FTA talks. — PTI

## INFOCUS AGRICULTURE CLIMATE CHANGE

## Need to scale up climate-smart farming

With comprehensive planning and a coordinated push, the Green Credit Programme can become a potent instrument for enabling farmers to adopt transition pathways towards climate-smart agriculture, besides improving overall farm incomes by bringing economies of scale and resource-use efficiency. The involvement of local farmers and other stakeholders while planning and developing the framework for the GCP is essential for its successful implementation.

A. AMARENDER REDDY AND TULSI LINGAREDDY

INDIAN agriculture needs to gear up for tackling climate change in order to secure the nation's food security and protect farmers' livelihoods. Extreme weather events have resulted in significant damage to agricultural production in recent years. An estimate by the Ministry of Agriculture indicates that nearly 340 lakh hectares of cropped area was damaged between 2015-16 and 2021-22 primarily due to floods, while a similar amount of cropped area was lost due to drought. This is a perilous situation for the farming community, especially the smallholders who account for over 80 per cent of India's farmers.

The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices is a must. The Green Credit Programme (GCP), as per the notification released on June 26 as part of 'Lifestyle for Environment' (LiFE) under the Nationally Determined Contributions, is a timely step in the right direction.

The agriculture sector is marked by diverse soil and climatic conditions across the country. The highly fragmented landholdings pose a challenge for the adoption of practices and technology for climate change mitigation and adaptation. A common approach for selecting the activities under green credits and their implementation framework for the country as a whole may not work. In order to be successful, the GCP for the agriculture sector needs to address the existing complexities while devising a comprehensive framework and implementation mechanism.

India is divided into 15 agro-climatic regions based on parameters such as topography, soil, geographical formation, rainfall pattern, cropping system, irrigation etc. Agro-climatic region-specific information is critical for understanding, evaluating and addressing the challenge of climate change and its impact on agriculture in each region. This will, in turn, help in efficient planning for judicious use of natural resources with suitable crops and cultivation practices, thereby achieving desired results.

The involvement of local farmers and other stakeholders while planning and developing the framework for the GCP is essen-

## TRANSFORMING AND REORIENTING AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agri systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate

**75%** of world's food-insecure people rely on agriculture & natural resources for their livelihood

Following drought, agriculture absorbs up to **84%** of the economic impact in developing countries

Climate financing & agriculture investments are critical to a global transformation to **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

SUSTAINABLY INCREASE AGRI PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES



REDUCE AND/OR REMOVE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



CSA in 3 PILLARS

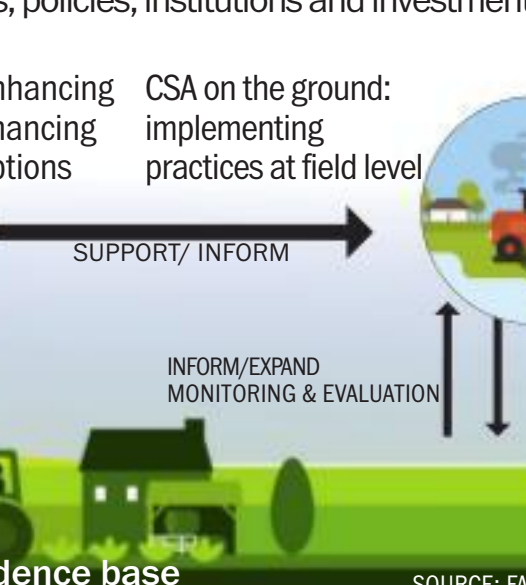
ADAPT &amp; BUILD RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE



ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE CSA

CSA is not a set of practices that can be universally applied, but rather an approach that involves different elements embedded on-farm and beyond the farm and incorporates technologies, policies, institutions and investment.

Strengthening national and local institutions; Supporting enabling policy frameworks; Enhancing financing options; CSA on the ground: implementing practices at field level; Inform/expand monitoring & evaluation; Expanding the evidence base



on a constant basis, in line with changing scenarios of climate change and its impact on the ecosystem in general and agricultural production in particular. The average size of operational holdings declined from 2.28 hectares in 1970-71 to 1.08 hectares in 2015-16, according to the Agricultural Census by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. The smallholder farmers are extremely vulnerable to crop losses. Cooperative or community farming can be an apt solution to attain economies of scale for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural technol-

ogy and practices.

Cooperative farming can help smallholder farmers in three major ways. First, it can facilitate the successful adoption of sustainable agricultural practices to earn green credits. Second, it can help in trading the green credits on the proposed trading platform. Third, it can contribute to enhancing farm incomes through efficient use of resources. It can also help in producing uniform quality of farm produce that can be easily aggregated to get a better price, instead of individual farmers producing the same crop of varying quality, leading to problems in aggregation and consequently lower prices.

There are a large number of successful farmers' cooperatives in the areas of animal husbandry, fisheries and horticulture. However, in the case of agricultural crops, the widespread presence of farmers' cooperatives is largely confined to post-harvest management of the produce. Hence, there is a need to promote cooperative farming not only for the successful implementation of the GCP but also for the efficient use of natural resources, enhancing farmers' incomes and adoption of technologies such as drones.

The national agricultural research and extension system under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is an established network with district-level Krishi Vigyan Kendras and block-level agricultural offices. The system connects farmers across the country and helps in the transfer of knowledge and technology, thereby facilitating its successful adoption. The outreach and implementation of the GCP can

be more effective if the established agricultural extension system with its network of stakeholders is optimally utilised.

A big impediment is the lack of awareness among farmers about climate change and the extent of risks arising from it, the need for adopting sustainable agricultural practices for mitigation and adaptation, apart from the technological know-how about specific activities and practices for availing green credits. There is a need for creating awareness among farmers and other stakeholders about the impact of climate change and the need for undertaking mitigation and adaptation activities, which can be incentivised through the GCP. The agricultural extension system can play a vital role in reaching out to the farmers and other stakeholders.

Thus, successful implementation of the GCP needs to consider two important aspects — addressing the challenges and vulnerabilities of Indian agriculture; and adopting a coordinated approach to benefit from institutions equipped with information and outreach networks to connect with farmers and other stakeholders.

With comprehensive planning and a coordinated push, the GCP can become a potent instrument for enabling farmers to adopt transition pathways towards climate-smart agriculture, besides improving overall farm incomes by bringing economies of scale and resource-use efficiency.

Reddy is Head, Design and Analysis, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad; Lingareddy is Consultant Economist, Sustainable Finance, Agriculture and Markets. Views are personal

BRIEFLY

**SALALAH (OMAN)**  
**India beat Thailand in Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier**  
 India continued their unbeaten run in the women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup qualifier after registering a hard-fought 5-4 win over Thailand in their third match of the tournament here today. For India, skipper Navjot Kaur (1st minute), Monika Dipi Topo (1st, 7th), Mahima Choudhary (20th) and Ajmina Kujur (30th) were on target. India had registered a 7-1 win over Japan on Saturday night.

**GEORGE (SOUTH AFRICA)**  
**India finish third in tent pegging World Cup**  
 A five-member Indian team achieved a historic first by finishing third in the tent pegging World Cup. The team comprised Dinesh Karlekar, Mohit Kumar, Amit Chetri, Mohammed Abrar and Goutam Kumar. India had finished sixth and seventh in the last two editions.

**TORONTO**  
**Canadian skater Olympian Alexandra dies in car crash**  
 Former Olympics figure skater Alexandra Paul has died at the age of 31. Paul, who represented Canada at the Sochi 2014 Games and finished 18th in the ice dance competition, died in a car crash on Tuesday. According to the reports, Paul's infant son was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

**KOLKATA**  
**Durand Cup: Mohun Bagan beat Mumbai to enter semis**  
 Reigning Indian Super League champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant came up with a fine performance to outplay Mumbai City FC 3-1 in the fourth quarterfinal of the Durand Cup here today. For Mohun Bagan, the goal-scorers were Jason Cummings, Manvir Singh and Anwar Ali, whereas Jorge Pereyra Diaz scored for Mumbai. Mohun Bagan will face FC Goa in the semifinals.

**CHANDIGARH**  
**Punjab to award cash prize to medal winners on Tuesday**  
 The Punjab Government has prepared a list of 1,807 medal winners who have not been awarded cash prizes since 2017 and decided to honour these players on the National Sports Day. The Chief Minister will felicitate these players with a total prize money of Rs 5.94 crore at the opening ceremony of the 2nd edition of the Khedan Watan Punjab Day in Bathinda on August 29.

**COLOMBO**  
**World No. 1 Pakistan add Shakeel to Asia Cup squad**  
 Pakistan has added middle-order batter Saud Shakeel to their Asia Cup squad and will go into the tournament as the top ranked ODI team following their 3-0 series sweep against Afghanistan. Left-handed batsman Shakeel's inclusion comes at the expense of Tayyab Tahir, who was part of the original 17-member squad, but will now travel with the team as a reserve player.

**BUDAPEST**  
**Uganda's Kiplangat takes marathon gold**  
 Uganda's Victor Kiplangat won the men's marathon at the World Athletics Championships, while Maru Teferi of Israel finished with silver despite taking a tumble.

**WROCLAW (POLAND)**  
**Usyk knocks out Dubois to retain heavyweight titles**  
 Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk knocked out British challenger Daniel Dubois in the ninth of 12 rounds on Saturday to retain his WBA, IBF and WBO heavyweight boxing world titles in a fight overshadowed by a low blow controversy. The key moment came in Round 5 when the Ukrainian went down gasping for breath after being hit on the band of his shorts. Dubois denied it was a low blow and said he had "been cheated out of victory". — AGENCIES

# Another bite at Big Apple

Back after missing last edition, Djokovic biggest hurdle in Alcaraz's quest to retain title

**NEW YORK, AUGUST 27**  
 Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic will bring a Broadway buzz to the US Open as tennis's hottest rivalry takes centre-stage at the season's final Grand Slam.

There is no guarantee the world's two top-ranked players will square off at Flushing Meadows but it is without doubt the matchup everyone wants for the men's final on September 10.

Although they have met just four times, the rivalry has already reached a Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal frenzy, pushing ticket prices through the Arthur Ashe Stadium's retractable roof.

In tennis you pay your money (\$652 for a last row upper bowl seat) and take your chances. If the stars align you get a Djokovic and Alcaraz final or you could find you have just paid \$25,000 to sit courtside to watch Jannik Sinner and Alex de Minaur play for the title as they did in Toronto.

Federer and Nadal clashed 40 times, many of them epic encounters including Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon finals, but it was a matchup denied the US Open.

Not only did the two greats never play for a US Open title their head-to-head meetings did not feature a single match on the Flushing Meadows hard courts. The prospect of a third Alcaraz-Djokovic final in two months has excited the tennis world and is more than marketing hype. "It's remarkable what we're watching, and certainly him (Djokovic) and Alcaraz are the two guys coming in that you figure the odds are pretty good that one of those two is going to win it," assessed seven-time Grand Slam



Novak Djokovic serves during a practice session in New York. REUTERS

## CHALLENGERS FOR MEN'S CROWN

**JANNIK SINNER**  
 World No. 6 Sinner reached the semifinals at Wimbledon this year to record his best Grand Slam finish, before going on to claim the biggest trophy of his career by winning the Canadian Open title — his first Masters 1000 victory. Last year, Sinner was eliminated from the US Open following a marathon five-set defeat by Alcaraz, but the Italian emerged victorious in their last meeting to level their head-to-head record at 3-3 — which will give him confidence with the two on course to meet in the quarterfinals.

**DANIIL MEDVEDEV**  
 World No. 3 Medvedev, who won the US Open in 2021, has had a less than ideal build-up to the tournament, having lost to Alex de Minaur in straight sets in the Cana-

dian Open quarterfinals, before being beaten by Alexander Zverev in Cincinnati. The Russian has reached five finals on hard courts this year, winning in Rotterdam, Doha, Dubai and Miami and finishing runner-up at Indian Wells.

**CASPER RUUD**  
 World No. 5 Ruud will be hoping to go a step further after falling to Alcaraz in last year's final, but little has gone right for the Norwegian in the past few weeks. The 24-year-old was knocked out in the second round of both Wimbledon and the Canadian Open, before losing his opening match at the Cincinnati Masters. However, Ruud has shown this year that he can rise to the occasion at Grand Slams, reaching the final of the French Open despite having a poor start to the season.

champion John McEnroe, now a commentator.

As a sporting spectacle Alcaraz and Djokovic matches have delivered on every level and would be worthy of the Big Apple spotlight.

The two currently own all four Grand Slams with

Djokovic holding the Australian and French Open crowns and Alcaraz the Wimbledon and US Open titles.

Djokovic's French Open win over the rattled Spaniard followed by an absorbing three-set victory in the Cincinnati Open final last

Sunday signalled the Serb is going to have to be dragged from his throne.

At the same time Alcaraz has proven he is made of sturdy stuff, the world No. 1 rebounding from his French Open disappointment in steely style to deny Djokovic

**4** Djokovic and Alcaraz currently own all four Grand Slams, with the Serbian holding the Australian and French Open crowns and the Spaniard the Wimbledon and US Open titles



**53** Victories against just 6 losses for Alcaraz this year. He has lost just once in Grand Slams, winning 12 matches. The defending champion, however, has struggled on hardcourts this year, winning 16 and losing 3 matches

## TOP CONTENDERS FOR WOMEN'S TITLE



### IGA SWIATEK

**WORLD NO. 1**  
 Swiatek will be the favourite to win a second successive title in New York, but the Pole is no longer the indomitable force she was in 2022 and the top ranking she has held for 73 consecutive weeks is again hanging in the balance. The 22-year-old has won a tour-leading four titles this year, including the French Open, but lost in the semifinals of US Open tune-ups. Anything less than a title win opens the door for Aryna Sabalenka to become No. 1.

### ARYNA SABALENKA

**WORLD NO. 2**  
 The big-hitting 25-year-old is 17-2 at Grand Slam events this year having reached the semifinals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. With her powerful serve now more reliable, she will be relishing a return to her preferred surface in New York, where she has reached the semifinals in her last two appearances.

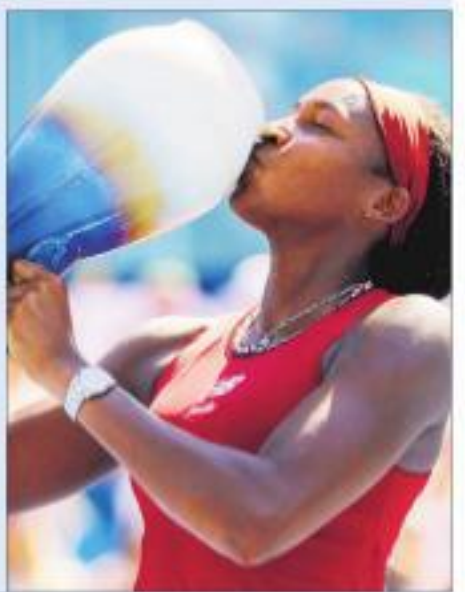
### ELENA RYBAKINA

**WORLD NO. 4**  
 Questions about Rybakina's fitness remain but she

is a proven performer on hardcourts and has beaten both Swiatek and Sabalenka on the surface this season. Rybakina beat both players during her title run at Indian Wells and also saw off Swiatek before reaching the Australian Open final. She finished runner-up in Miami but withdrew from the French Open due to illness. The 24-year-old Russian-born Kazakh reached the semifinals in Montreal before pulling out of the Cincinnati Open due to injury.

### COCO GAUFF

**WORLD NO. 6**  
 Gauff has been thriving on home soil and arrives in New York eyeing a Grand Slam breakthrough after notching her first ever win over Swiatek. The teenager backed up her WTA 500 triumph in Washington by beating Swiatek and French Open finalist Karolina Muchova in back-to-back matches to claim her third title of the season in Cincinnati last week. Since her first-round exit at Wimbledon Gauff is 11-1 on hardcourts.



## Video review system to help officials

The US Open will be the first Grand Slam to use a Video Review (VR) system to assist chair umpires when calls are challenged at this year's tournament, with the system already generating positive feedback at various ATP events. The system will allow players to challenge a range of decisions, such as those relating to double bounces and foul shots, and will use various camera angles.

## Former champ Andreescu pulls out with injury

Bianca Andreescu, the 2019 champion, pulled out because of a back injury. Paula Badosa also withdrew because of injury, meaning Venus Williams needs a new opponent for her first-round match. AGENCIES

# Focus on nutrition, tailor-made training key to Prannoy's success

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27**  
 A battle with injuries and health issues made HS Prannoy realise that understanding his body and crafting a tailor-made training programme for specific opponents are non-negotiable to keep alive his dreams of winning medals for India.

The 31-year-old from Kerala signed off with a World Championships bronze in Copenhagen, becoming only the fifth Indian to win a men's singles medal at the event.

The result was the culmination of a good season during which he bagged the Malaysian Masters title and finished runner-up at the Australian Open, besides managing a semifinal and three quarterfinal finishes.

"It is a mix of a lot of work that has reflected in good improvement in the game," Prannoy said. "On court, there has been a change with Pullela Gopichand and RMV Gurusaidutt making plans for specific players,

## An becomes S Korea's first world champion

**COPENHAGEN:** World No. 1 An Se-young became the first woman from South Korea to win singles gold at the BWF World Championships when she beat former champion Carolina Marin 21-12 21-10 in the final. An, the 21-year-old top seed, rounded off a perfect tournament by beating two Olympic champions en route to the title. She had knocked out Tokyo gold medallist Chen Yu Fei in straight games in the semi-finals on Saturday. "I'm so happy to win the match today. I enjoyed playing," An said after receiving her gold medal. Spain's Marin, the 2016 Olympic champion who is on the comeback trail after an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury, was looking to win her fourth world title but she was no match for An, who wrapped up the contest in 42 minutes. The men's final was a much closer affair where Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn came from behind to prevail 19-21 21-18 21-7 against Japan's Kodai Naraoka. The pair were neck and neck after two lengthy games which lasted 81 minutes, but Vitidsarn stormed ahead in a dominant final game to secure victory and become the first Thai player to win a men's singles gold. REUTERS

whom I might play. So, it has been tailor-made in that manner. Off the court, I have been training for the last three years with Rohan George Mathew, my strength and conditioning coach," he added.

"It is about understanding the body. Over the years, training keeps changing.

There is no perfect standard in training. It is about exploring different things and keeping what works. Intensity is always there but as you get older you need to know how much load you can bear and that you are not hitting the injury line, and back off when needed," he added. — PTI

# Bhullar charges up leaderboard, lies 3rd

**ST ANDREWS (SCOTLAND), AUG 27**  
 Gaganjeet Bhullar charged up the leaderboard to tied-third after shooting an electric 7-under 65 in the third round of the St. Andrews Bay Championship.

Bhullar is now 15-under, tied with Mito Pereira from Chile (67) and South African Jaco Ahlers (68). Turk Pettit (62) leads the field at 17-under, while Matt Jones (66) is second at 16-under. Bhullar had four birdies on the front-nine and four more in a row from the 12th to the 15th but dropped a bogey on the 16th.

Two other Indians are in the top-10. Ajeetesh Sandhu (64) moved to 14-under and is tied-sixth, while Anirban Lahiri, co-leader after the first round, shot a 67 and is tied-10th.

Among the other Indians, SSP Chawrasia (68) is T-27, Veer Ahlawat (72) is T-36, Viraj Madappa (71) is T-43, Rahul Gangjee (72) is T-49 and Rashid Khan (75) is T-65.

Bhullar, who last won a title in Indonesia a year ago, has had a low-key season so far. "It was smooth sailing. I actually got off to a really good start. I was just thinking



Gaganjeet Bhullar shot a 7-under 65 in the third round. FILE

about my whole round, I think I ended up hitting 16 greens in regulation. The first 15 were all greens in regulation, missed only one fairway today," Bhullar said.

"You know, it was the way I drove the ball, the way I putted, I was quite proud of myself. Actually, the last few months I've been trying to work on my game. I've been trying to figure out the loose ends and I guess it was one of those rounds when everything

came together," he added. Sandhu started the day at T-21 but went on a rampage with four birdies in the first four holes and added two more on the sixth and seventh.

A dropped shot on the eighth saw him turn in 5-under. On the back-nine, Sandhu, who is just coming back after an injury layoff, had four birdies against one bogey. His last five holes had three birdies and he returned a card of 8-under. — PTI

## Gandas slips to T-67

**PRAGUE:** Manu Gandas slipped to T-67 in the Czech Masters here. The Indian had two birdies against four bogeys on the penultimate day. Gandas had six birdies on the first day and four more on the second, but he has given away a lot of shots with small mistakes. Sami Valimaki and Matt Wallace shared a one-stroke lead.

## Hovland takes lead

**ATLANTA:** Viktor Hovland is 18 holes away from an \$18 million check and the FedEx Cup trophy. The Norwegian owns a six-stroke lead over Xander Schauffele after the third round of the Tour Championship.

## Khang's 3-shot lead

**VANCOUVER:** Megan Khang birdied four of the last five holes for a 4-under 68 and a three-stroke lead Saturday in the CPKC Women's Open. Seeking her first LPGA Tour victory, Khang rebounded from bogeys on Nos. 10 and 12 with birdies on Nos. 14-16 and 18 — holing a 15-footer on the last. AGENCIES



Erling Haaland scores Manchester City's first goal. REUTERS

# On a roll, City climb to top

**SHEFFIELD, AUGUST 27**  
 Manchester City moved to the top of the Premier League table with a 2-1 win at Sheffield United after Rodri scored an 88th-minute winner to secure their third victory of the season.

With the scores level at 1-1 and the clock winding down, the ball came to Phil Foden in the United box and although the English midfielder had no control over it, Rodri stepped in to power a half-volley into the top corner.

City manager Pep Guardiola was not on the touchline at Bramall Lane having under-

gone back surgery. But with assistant manager Juanma Lillo deputising for Guardiola, they got the job done.

City are the only team to have a perfect start to the season as they moved on to nine points, two ahead of West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal.

Erling Haaland missed a first-half penalty given for handball as his spot-kick hit the post. But the Norwegian made amends just after the hour-mark when he opened the scoring with a close-range header from a cross by Jack Grealish.

## Messi scores on MLS debut

**Miami:** Lionel Messi entered as a substitute in the 60th minute and scored his first MLS goal in spectacular fashion in the 89th to seal Inter Miami's 2-0 win over the host New York Red Bulls.

## Mbappe feels at home

**Paris:** PSG returned to winning ways and Kylian Mbappe returned to the Parc des Princes with a bang. Playing for the first time this season at PSG's home stadium following his contract stand-off with the club, Mbappe scored twice. — Agencies

**HARYANA BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS WELFARE BOARD**  
 Bays No. 29-30 (Pocket-II)  
 Sector-4, Panchkula - 134 112  
 Landline : 0172-2575300 Email : hbcwwb@gmail.com

**RFQ TO Provide vehicle-based operations and services of mobile play school for the children of construction workers under HBCOWWB Board**

Sealed Quotations are invited from the eligible firms/NGOs to provide vehicle-based operations and services of mobile play school for the children of construction workers under HBCOWWB Board. Interested parties may submit their quotations and all requisite documents mentioned in RFQ document available on [www.hrlylabour.gov.in](http://www.hrlylabour.gov.in) under tender section the application completed in all respect in sealed envelope to Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board Office on or before 05:00 PM on 10th September 2023.

**Sd/- Secretary**  
**HBCOWWB**

PRDH/1072/11/12/2024/20571/31/4

TODAY ON TV

US OPEN  
 SONY SPORTS 8:30PM

## IN BRIEF

**Dalit youth beaten to death over old enmity in MP, 8 held**  
Bhopal: A Dalit community youth was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people over an old enmity in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district, the police on Sunday said, adding they have arrested eight accused so far. The opposition Congress and as well as the BSP hit out at the BJP government over the incident, which took place on Thursday. PTI

**Another NEET aspirant dies by suicide in Kota**

Kota: A 16-year-old student, who was preparing for NEET for admission to undergraduate medical courses, allegedly died by suicide at his coaching institute in Rajasthan's Kota on Sunday. This is the 23rd such case this year. The police said Avishkar, who hailed from Maharashtra, took the step five minutes after appearing for a scheduled weekly test. PTI

**Hathras gangrape: SC asks UP to respond to kin's plea**

New Delhi: Citing inhuman treatment and socio-economic deprivation, the family members of the deceased victim in the Hathras gangrape case has moved the Supreme Court seeking their relocation outside the state. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on August 25 issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh Government and posted the matter for hearing on September 8. TNS

**Shah to chair Western Zonal Council meet in Gandhinagar**

New Delhi: The 26th meeting of the Western Zonal Council, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is scheduled to take place in Gujarat's Gandhinagar on Monday where a host of issues of mutual interests will be discussed, officials said on Sunday. The council comprises of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and the UTs of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. TNS

# Indian-origin women given radioactive chapatis in 1969 med trial

Labour MP says 'deeply concerned', calls for inquiry into iron deficiency study conducted in Coventry city of UK

LONDON, AUGUST 27

A UK Opposition Labour Party member of Parliament and shadow minister for women and equalities has called for a statutory inquiry into medical research dating back to the 1960s that led to Indian-origin women being given chapatis containing radioactive isotopes to combat iron deficiency.

Taiwo Owatemi, who is the MP for Coventry in the West Midlands region of England, said in a post on X — formerly Twitter — recently that she is

"deeply concerned" for the women and families impacted by the study.

Around 21 Indian-origin women identified through a general practitioner (GP) in the city were given the bread containing Iron-59, an iron isotope, as part of a research trial in 1969 into iron deficiency in the city's South Asian population. "My foremost concern is for the women and the families of those who were experimented on in this study," said Owatemi. "I will be calling for a debate

## CONTROVERSIAL EXPERIMENT

Around 21 Indian-origin women in Coventry were given bread containing Iron-59, an iron isotope, as part of a research trial in 1969 into iron deficiency in the city's South Asian population

### WHY WERE THEY NEVER IDENTIFIED?

“How was this allowed to happen? Why were the recommendation of the MRC report to identify the women never followed up so that they could share their stories, receive any support needed?” Taiwo Owatemi, COVENTRY MP

on this as soon as possible after Parliament returns in September followed by a full

Statutory Inquiry into how this was allowed to happen, and why the recommendation

of the MRC [Medical Research Council] report to identify the women was never followed up so that they can share their stories, receive any support needed, and so that lessons are learnt," she said.

An MRC spokesperson said an independent inquiry, commissioned following a documentary on Channel 4 in 1995, had examined questions raised.

According to a BBC report, it emerged at the time that about 21 women were involved in the experiment after seeking

medical help from a city GP for minor ailments. The study was carried out due to concerns of widespread anaemia among South Asian women and researchers suspected traditional South Asian diets were to blame. Chapatis containing Iron-59, an iron isotope with a gamma-beta emitter, were delivered to participants' homes. They would later be invited to a research facility in Oxfordshire to have their radiation levels assessed. It was reported that the MRC

said the study proved that "Asian women should take extra iron because the iron in the flour was insoluble". The MRC said in a statement it remained committed to the highest standards, including "commitment to engagement, openness and transparency".

"The issues were considered following the broadcast of the documentary in 1995 and an independent inquiry was established at that time to examine the questions raised," the statement said. — PTI

# Chandrayaan-3 living example of women power, says PM Modi

MANN KI BAAT Calls India's G20 presidency 'people's presidency'

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the Chandrayaan-3, the third Indian lunar exploration mission, as a living example of women-led development and hailed the collective efforts of varied sectors in bringing the historic efforts to fruition.

Addressing the 104th episode of Mann ki Baat, his monthly radio broadcast, the Prime Minister also called India's ongoing G20 presidency the "people's presidency" and said several citizen records had been set during the period, even as "India made G-20 a more inclusive forum."

The PM especially mentioned the African Union joining the G-20 on India's invitation and the voice of the people of Africa reaching an impor-

## INDIA'S DAUGHTERS AMBITIOUS

“Many women scientists and engineers have been directly involved in this entire mission... when the daughters of a country become so ambitious, who can stop that country from becoming developed!” Narendra Modi, PM



tant global platform.

Commencing his address with salutations for ISRO scientists for the historic Chandrayaan-3 landing on the lunar south pole, the Prime Minister said: "India's Mission Chandrayaan is a live example of woman power. Many women scientists and engineers have been directly involved in this entire mission. They have handled many important responsibilities like project director, project manager of different systems. The daughters of India are now

challenging even the Space which is considered infinite. When the daughters of a country become so ambitious, who can stop that country from becoming developed?"

Seeking people's support to make the G20 summit a grand success, the PM said G20 had become a medium whereby the world is waking up to the immense potential of India.

Noting that the government had taken G20 events to 60 cities rather than confining these to the national capital, the PM added, "Wherever the

G-20 delegates went, people warmly welcomed them. These delegates were very impressed, seeing the diversity of our country and our vibrant democracy. They also realised that there are so many possibilities in India."

In another important segment during his broadcast, the PM engaged four sportspersons who recently won laurels for the country in the World University Games held in China, where India won a historic 26 medals, more than the combined tally won since the Games started in 1959.

The PM spoke to archer Pragati from UP, athlete Amlan from Assam, race walker Priyanka from UP and archer Abhidanya from Maharashtra. The sportspersons spoke of their personal travails and challenges which they overcame to bring home medals.



Houses set on fire by unidentified miscreants in New Lambulane locality of Imphal on Sunday. PTI

# 3 houses set ablaze in Imphal

IMPHAL, AUGUST 27

Unidentified men torched three abandoned houses at New Lambulane locality in Manipur's capital Imphal on Sunday afternoon. Firemen rushed to the spot and put off the blaze, officials said.

Soon after the incident, people gathered in the area and demanded state and central forces deployed in the locality to allow them to enter the area,

## Weapons from security personnel snatched

officials said, adding that the security forces later fired a few rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

In another development, unidentified men snatched three weapons from the security personnel guarding the

residence of former health and family welfare director K Rajo around 2 am on Sunday, police said. The incident took place at Sagolband Bijoy Govinda under Imphal PS in Imphal West district, police said, adding the snatched weapons included two AK series rifles and a carbine. Investigation is on to determine the circumstances leading to the incident, officials said. — PTI

# Govt: No basmati export below \$1,200/tonne

SANDEEP DIKSHIT  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

The government on Sunday announced new export control measures to check the domestic prices and ensure domestic food security in rice, especially the non-basmati rice which is being misclassified for exports.

The Commerce Ministry has now asked Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to register and allot contracts for basmati exports. The government has decided not to allow basmati export below \$1,200 per tonne. It has directed APEDA to keep existing contracts below \$1,200 per tonne in abeyance and get the export orders evaluated by a committee headed by its chairman.

The committee must find out the variation in prices and use of this route for export of non-basmati white rice. The government's suspicions have

## Decision taken to keep grain prices in check

arisen because of the large variation in the contract price of basmati being exported. The contract price is as low as \$359 per tonne in some cases as against the average export price of \$1,214 during the current month. The committee has been asked to submit its report within a month to enable a decision on the low-value basmati rice exports.

Despite restriction on certain varieties, rice exports have been high. Up to August 17, total rice exports (except broken rice) were 7.33 million tonne compared to 6.37 million tonne during the corresponding period of previous year, registering an increase of 15%. There has been a spurt in the export of both parboiled and basmati rice; both varieties did not have any restriction on exports.



The IAF contingent that departed for Egypt. This is for the first time that the IAF is taking part in the exercise. PHOTO: DEFENCE MINISTRY

# India to take part in 34-nation military exercise in Egypt

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

An Indian military contingent will participate in an exercise involving 34 nations being conducted in Egypt. An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent departed today. Called the 'Bright Star-23', this is a biennial exercise being held in Cairo.

This is for the first time that the IAF is taking part in the exercise which will also see par-

ticipation of contingents from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar. The IAF contingent will consist of five MiG-29 jets, two IL-78 planes that can refuel the jets mid-air, two C-130s and two C-17 aircraft. Personnel from the IAF's Garud Special Forces will participate in the exercise. The IAF transport aircraft will also airlift approximately 150 per-

sonnel from the Indian Army. Egypt's armed forces announced that some 8,000 troops from 34 countries were expected to participate in the two-week exercise. The aim is to enhance military cooperation and combat common threats and risks, according to an Army statement.

The IAF today said the objective of the exercise was to prac-

tice planning and execution of joint operations. Besides leading to the formation of bonding across borders, such interactions also provide a means to further strategic relations between participating nations.

India and Egypt have an exceptional relationship wherein the two jointly undertook development of aero-engine in the 1960s. — TNS

# Prigozhin confirmed dead; Elizarov next Wagner chief?

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

After a Russian investigative committee confirmed on Sunday that the Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin has died in a plane crash, speculation mounted on his successor with reports stating that a leading commander of Wagner Private Military Company, Anton Elizarov, with call sign "Lotus", may replace Prigozhin as the chief.

Elizarov is said to have led Wagner's operations at Soledar and Bakhmut and has also served in Syria, Libya, and the Central African Republic. A former airborne trooper from the Russian Army, he is said to have created Wagner's combat training programmes.

The Russian probe committee wrote on Telegram that identities of all 10 persons killed in the plane crash correspond to the manifest of the flight. "As part of the investigation into the plane crash in the



Yevgeny Prigozhin

Tver Region, molecular genetic examinations have been completed. Based on their results, the identities of all 10 victims have been established, they correspond to the list stated in the flight manifest," the committee wrote on Telegram. According to the name list released by Russia's Federal Agency for Air Transport, Wagner Group private military company's leader Prigozhin was among the 10 victims.

While Russia denies any role in his death, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said he had obtained secret information about plans to kill Prigozhin and this was forwarded to the Kremlin. — TNS

# Death proposed for lynching under BNS

SATIYA PRAKASH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

Five years after the Supreme Court recommended to Parliament to make a special law categorising lynching as a separate offence with severe punishment, mob lynching has been proposed to be made punishable with the death penalty under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023.

Introduced in the Lok Sabha by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 11, the Bill seeks to repeal and replace the Indian Penal Code. It has been

## BILL REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE

- Introduced in the LS by Home Minister Amit Shah on August 11, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill seeks to repeal & replace the IPC
- It has been referred to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs for wider scrutiny and suggestions

referred to the department-related Standing Committee on Home Affairs for wider scrutiny and suggestions.

Clause 101 of the Bill prescribes the death penalty as the maximum punishment for murder. Clause 101(2) of the Bill says, "When a group of five or more persons, acting in concert, commits murder on the

grounds of race, caste or community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief or any other grounds, each member of such group shall be punished with death or with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years, and shall also be liable to fine."

It means when a murder is

committed by a group of five or more persons and it is done on the grounds of race, caste or community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief or any other grounds, each individual in that group will face the death penalty or life imprisonment or a prison term of seven years or more.

The SC on July 17, 2018, asked Parliament to consider enacting a new law to effectively deal with incidents of mob lynching, saying "horrendous acts of mobocracy" could not be allowed to become a new norm.

# Goyal, UK minister review FTA talks

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

Following the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers' Meeting, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and the UK's Secretary of State for Trade Kemi Bade-

noch met in Delhi on Saturday to review the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks. They "expressed commitment to reaching a conclusion on a balanced deal". — TNS

# Centre exercises caution on civil code as agricultural laws' memories linger

ADITI TANDON  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his strongest ever public pitch for the Uniform Civil Code from Bhopal on June 27, a sense of urgency was palpable.

This urgency got reiterated on June 30 when former SC judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, the chairperson of the expert committee set up by Uttarakhand to examine the matter, announced that the exercise was near complete and the UCC report would be submitted "very soon". A day later, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami announced that the state would act on the draft UCC as soon as it receives the committee report.

Two months after Dhami's

## Agenda on table but discussions key: Sources

### BJP'S CORE ISSUE

Uniform Civil Code is the only agenda among the BJP's core commitments that is yet to be fulfilled. The other two — building the Ram Temple at Ayodhya and abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir — have been achieved.

### RSS' FIRM STAND

RSS in 1995 adopted a resolution welcoming the then SC order advocating the need for UCC. "We stand by that resolution and feel the government should build a consensus on the issue and set a time table for implementation," it said.

remarks and Ranjana Desai's statement, there is no sign of the report. Public remarks on the issue by top BJP leaders have also since toned down, begging the question as to whether the government was recalibrating its strategy. Top sources said while the UCC was "very much on the table, consultations with stakeholders were

key to implementation". "Farm laws were discussed for three years and still we all know what happened," a source said, indicating a cautious approach on the government's part so far as the UCC agenda goes. Sources pointed to the government's consultation-based approach on major issues saying "even the three new criminal law draft Bills

seeking to replace IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act have been sent to the parliamentary committee for wider debate."

BJP sources said the UCC required wider consensus which was sought to be achieved through the Law Commission examining the issue at the national level. The commission's deadline to receive responses ended on July 28 and one core responses had come by then. The commission is now in the process of holding stakeholder meetings on UCC across the country, indicating that the process could take time. Meanwhile, the BJP's line that the best option was to implement UCC through state assemblies is intact on the eve of 2024 Lok Sabha elections.