

OPINION 6

WHO WILL REPLACE
GEN BAJWA, IF AT ALL?

WORLD 8

LEAKS, POSSIBLE CRACK THREATEN
TO DELAY NASA MOON LAUNCH

MONEY 10

RELIANCE TO ENTER FMCG SEC,
PARTNER 1 CRORE MERCHANTS

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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AFGHANISTAN
TO FACE B'DESH
IN ASIA CUP
12 SPORTHC sets aside order asking
Antrix to pay \$562 mn fineArbital Tribunal had directed
ISRO body to pay damages to
Devas for nixing deal in 2011PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In a big win for the Centre, the Delhi High Court on Monday set aside an arbitral award directing ISRO's Antrix Corporation to pay damages of USD 562.2 million with interest to Devas Multimedia Private Limited for "unlawfully" terminating the controversial deal in 2011.

Antrix is a Central Public Sector Enterprise and is engaged in the business of marketing and sale of products and services of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to national and international customers. Devas is a limited liability company incorporated in December 2004.

The HC said the award suffered from "patent illegalities and fraud", and was in conflict with the public policy of India.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva allowed the petition filed by Antrix under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act seeking direction for setting aside the arbitral award passed on September 14, 2005, by the Arbitral Tribunal constituted by the International Chamber of Commerce which had allowed

the claim of Devas.

Antrix and Devas had entered into a contract on January 28, 2005, for the lease of Space Segment Capacity on ISRO/ Antrix S-band Spacecraft. It provided for the lease to Devas of transponders on satellite GSAT-6, referred to in the contract as Primary Satellite 1 or PS1.

It also contained an option for Devas to lease transponders on a second satellite, GSAT-6A, referred to in the contract as Primary Satellite 2 or PS2. 13. The contract was executed between Antrix and Devas only, and neither the Department of Space nor ISRO or any other Government agency was a party to the contract.

The High Court referred to a January 17, 2022, judgment of the Supreme Court which held that the very seeds of the commercial relationship between Antrix and Devas were a product of fraud perpetrated by Devas and thus every part of the plant that grew out of those seeds, such as the agreement, the disputes, arbitral awards etc, are all infected with the poison of fraud.

"The basic notions of



against Antrix claiming huge compensation and won in that courts.

Antrix had sought winding up of Devas before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) alleging that Devas was formed for a fraudulent and unlawful purpose and its affairs had been conducted in a fraudulent manner. The NCLT had allowed winding up of Devas which was then challenged by the company and Devas Employees Mauritius Pvt Ltd before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

In September 2021, NCLAT dismissed both the appeals and the orders were then challenged before the Supreme Court which also dismissed the appeals on January 17 this year.

Since the order for winding up of Devas had been upheld until the Supreme Court, the company was represented during the High Court proceedings by the Official Liquidator. Antrix had notified Devas in February 2011 that the contract was terminated, which the latter refused to accept and claimed damages.

The High Court, in its verdict, said contravention with the fundamental policy of Indian law or being in conflict with the most basic notions of morality or justice or contrary to national economic interest and disregarding the superior courts in India would be "antithetical" to the fundamental policy of Indian law.

morality and justice are always in conflict with fraud and that allowing Devas and its shareholders to reap the benefits of their fraudulent action would send another wrong message namely that by adopting fraudulent means and by bringing into India an investment in a sum of ₹579 crores, the investors can hope to get tens of thousands of crores of rupees, even after siphoning off ₹488 crores," the apex court had noted in its order.

The High Court, in its 87-page judgment, said the objections filed by petitioner Antrix under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act are allowed and it is held that the impugned award of September 14, 2015, suffers from "patent illegalities and fraud and is in conflict with the Public Policy of India" and it is set aside.

Due to controversy on illegalities and corruption charges, ISRO's Antrix in 2011 cancelled spectrum frequency allotment contracts with Devas, a US registered firm promoted by NRI scientists. The CBI has registered a case under Prevention of Corruption Act. Devas filed a case in the US and Paris

Face-off aside, India, China
to take part in military drill50K troops from
several nations
will participate
in exercise in
Russia in OctPIONEER NEWS
SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW
DELHI/MOSCOW

Despite being engaged in military stand-offs at some friction points at the border in Ladakh for the last two years, India and China are likely to take part in a multi-nation military exercise in Russia next month.

The mega drill, where more than 50,000 troops from several countries will be present, also takes place against the backdrop of the ongoing Russian military action in Ukraine.

The eight-day Vostok 2022 military exercises involving more than 140 aircraft and 60 warships will commence from September 1 in different locations in the Far East and the Sea of Japan.

India and China are likely to take part in the drills spread over 13 locations and not exercise together.

"The Vostok 2022 strategic command and staff exercise envisages various scenarios of operations by combined arms and coalition forces (troops) to ensure military security of the Russian Federation and its allies within the area of responsibility of the Eastern Military

District," the Russian Defence Ministry was quoted as saying by the state-owned TASS news agency in a statement.

The drills will "practise defensive and offensive operations" at seven training grounds of the Eastern Military District and in maritime and coastal areas of the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan, the Ministry said.

"The strategic maneuvers will bring together over 50,000 troops and more than 5,000 items of armaments and military hardware, in particular, 140 aircraft, 60 combat ships, gunboats and support vessels," it said, adding that it will engage troops from China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Syria and several ex-Soviet nations.

Russia's military contingent in the drills will involve military command centers and troops of the Eastern Military District, Airborne Force units, long-range and military transport planes.

"The drills are set to master the skills of commanders and headquarters in exercising command and control of combined arms and coalition forces to repel acts of aggression in the Eastern direction and in the Far Eastern maritime zone, raise compatibility and interoperability of the collation forces in jointly coping with the objectives of maintaining peace, protecting interests and ensuring military security in the Eastern region," the Ministry said.

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PLA prevents Ladakhi
herders from grazing
animals on Indian landPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Even as face-offs persist at some places in Eastern Ladakh between the Armies of India and China, the Chinese soldiers recently stopped Indian shepherds in the Demchok region, claiming it to be their territory.

However, the issue was resolved after intervention of local commanders of the two Armies thereby preventing escalation.

There is a big presence of troops from both the sides in Demchok and talks at the diplomatic and military levels are on to disengage from there.

The latest incident took

place on August 21 when the Chinese Army stopped some Indian graziers claiming they were on the Chinese territory. The exact location was near CNN junction in Demchok near the Line of Actual Control (LAC), said sources, adding there was no face-off.

This area has seen such incidents in the past too when Indian herders were prevented by the Chinese from frequenting that section, sources said.

In 2019, the shepherds were also roughed up. Indian shepherds go there every year as it is the traditional pasture and area for their livestock for grazing.

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CAPSULE

4 COVID DEATHS IN
DELHI, +VITY DIPS

New Delhi: Delhi on Monday reported 214 fresh Covid-19 cases with a positivity rate of 3.77 per cent, while four more people succumbed to the viral disease, according to data shared by the city health department. The new cases came out of 5,683 tests conducted the previous day, the department said.

COVID SPIKE IN CHINA:
ELECTRONIC MKT SHUT

Beijing: China's technology hub Shenzhen on Monday ordered the closure of the world's largest electronics wholesale market to contain a recent spike in coronavirus cases in the southern city, amid a call by a leading Chinese think tank for a change in the country's "zero-Covid" policy that it said was causing widespread disruption of business. P9

COUPLE MURDERED IN
HONOUR KILLING

Basti: An interfaith young couple was allegedly killed in Padaria Chetsingh village of Rudhauri area here by the girl's family which did not approve of their relationship, police said.

Hours after towers
razed, people returnOver 75% residents
of ATS Village, half
of Emerald Court's
population back

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

About 75 per cent residents of the ATS Village and nearly half of the Emerald Court, the other residential complex just metres from the demolished twin towers, are back home a day after the demolition of the two Supertech skyscrapers.

Around 5,000 residents of the two societies, closest to the razed twin towers — Apex (32 storeys) and Ceyane (29 storeys) — were evacuated on Sunday ahead of the 2.30 pm explosion that brought down the towers in just 12 seconds along with thousands of tonnes of debris and clouds of dust that spread in the nearby areas.

Gaurav Mehrotra of



Emerald Court said around half of residents of his society had returned by Monday afternoon.

Naresh Keswani said, "The return process is gradual and hassle-free. Some people who had stayed in nearby locations returned last night only, some who had put up in hotels came after 11 am and 12, close to hotels' check out time."

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AAP-BJP overnight showdown on House premises

AAP seeks probe
against LG; BJP
demands sacking
of Sisodia, Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The tussle between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena took a turn for the worse on Monday as MLAs of the ruling party and the Opposition BJP decided to stage overnight protests on the Delhi Assembly premises on Monday night.

The AAP MLAs are demanding a probe against Lieutenant Governor for allegedly putting pressure on KVIC employees for allegedly changing demonetised currency notes during his term as the KVIC chairman in 2016. They alleged that the notes didn't belong to the KVIC.

In a statement, Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said BJP MLAs have



AAP MLAs stage overnight protest demanding resignation of Delhi Lieutenant Governor. (R) BJP MLAs sit on protest over not being heard in Delhi Assembly, at night on Monday

been forced to sit on a dharna as they were not heard in the Assembly. All of the BJP's eight MLAs were not part of the proceedings of the Delhi Assembly's Special Session on Monday and Friday as they were marshalled out of the House on both days.

The BJP is seeking sacking of Manish Sisodia and also

protesting against Deputy Speaker's action to marshal out Opposition MLAs from the House.

Also, the BJP demanding action against Satyendra Jain over alleged corruption.

Meanwhile, Raj Niwas sources have denied the allegations made against the LG, saying they would issue a



(R) BJP MLAs sit on protest over not being heard in Delhi Assembly, at night on Monday

detailed note on Tuesday. Sources said Saxena himself had initiated action against KVIC employees when he learned of allegations about irregularity in changing of demonetised currency notes.

During the House proceedings on Monday, the ruling party legislators trooped to the Well of the Assembly, alleg-

ing that the "scam" worth ₹1,400 crore took place in KVIC when Saxena was its chairman.

They demanded his resignation, besides a probe by both the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the alleged scam.

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Schoolgirl set on fire by stalker
succumbs, Jharkhand outraged

PNS ■ RANCHI

The sensational immolation of 17-year-old girl Ankita Singh in Dumka by her stalker has triggered massive protests against Jharkhand.

Ankita's neighbour Shahrulk Hussain poured petrol on her and set fire to her four days ago when she was sleeping in her house. She succumbed to injuries on Sunday. The girl named Shahrulkh in her dying statement to a magistrate. She also named another person, Chhotu Khan, who the police are interrogating in custody.

Shahrulkh was seen in a video smiling as he was arrested by the police.

The issue has snowballed into a political issue as the



A candlelight march protest against the murder of a class-12 student, who was set on fire by a man in Jharkhand's Dumka district, in Ranchi, on Monday PTI

Opposition BJP attacked the JMM/Congress Government for its "appeasement policy".

Chief Minister Hemant Soren has announced financial assistance of ₹10 lakh to the family of the victim and

ordered DGP Neeraj Sinha to file an early report on the progress of the investigation by an SP-rank officer. The CM has also directed the matter to be heard in the fast-track court.

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Karnataka seer
booked for sexual
assault on 2 girls
staying in muttAGENCIES ■ CHITRADURGA
(KARNATAKA)

A case of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and certain sections of the IPC has been registered against Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, chief pontiff of the prominent Murugha Mutt in Karnataka, for alleged sexual abuse of two high school girls. The two girls were staying in one of the hostels administered by the mutt.

The pontiff on Monday broke his silence over the issue, claiming it was part of a long drawn conspiracy against him, indicated an inside job and vowed to come out clean in the case.

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Maha tops suicide numbers,
all-India rate rises by 6.2%PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra reported the highest number of suicides among all the States, followed by Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh, in 2021, a year that recorded 1,64,033 such cases— a 7.2-per cent increase compared to 2020— across the country, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Professional and career-related problems, a sense of isolation, abuse, violence, family problems, mental disorders, addition to alcohol, financial loss and chronic pain are the main reasons behind incidents of suicide in the country, the report said.



"Majority of suicides were reported in Maharashtra (22,207), followed by 18,925 suicides in Tamil Nadu, 14,965 suicides in Madhya Pradesh, 13,500 suicides in West Bengal and 13,056 suicides in Karnataka, accounting for 13.5 per cent, 11.5 per cent, 9.1 per cent, 8.2 per cent and 8 per cent

of total suicides respectively" the report said.

These five States together accounted for 50.4 per cent of the suicides reported in the country.

The remaining 49.6 per cent cases were reported from the 23 other States and eight Union Territories.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous State (with a 16.9 per cent share of the country's population), reported a comparatively lower percentage share of suicidal deaths, accounting for only 3.6 per cent of the suicides reported in the country.

Delhi, the most-populous Union Territory, reported the highest number of suicides (2,840) among the UTs, followed by Puducherry (504).

A total of 25,891 suicides were reported in the 53 mega cities of the country in 2021. The rate (the number every lakh) of suicides has increased by 6.2 per cent in 2021 in contrast to the previous year. The all-India rate of suicides was 12 in 2021.

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Two minor girls raped daily in 2021 in Delhi: NCRB

'Cases of crimes against women surged 40%; Mumbai next in line for dubious distinction'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) stated that two minor girls were raped every day last year in the national Capital, which was the most unsafe metropolitan city for women across the country. According to NCRB data, the



city also recorded 13,892 cases of crimes against women in 2021, a significant surge of more than 40 per cent compared to 2020 when the figure was 9,782. The cases of crimes against women in Delhi



accounted for 32.20 per cent of total crimes in the category among all 19 metropolitan cities, according to the NCRB data. Delhi was followed by the financial capital Mumbai, which saw 5,543 such

instances, and Bengaluru with 3,127 cases. Mumbai and Bengaluru accounted for 12.76 per cent and 7.2 per cent of total crimes in 19 cities, respectively. Delhi has also reported the highest number of cases of crimes against women in the categories related to cruelty by husbands (4,674) and girl child rapes (833) as compared to other metropolitan cities with over two million population in 2021. On average, over two girls were raped every day in Delhi in 2021, the data showed. Delhi registered 13,982 cases of crimes against women

in 2021, while the total crimes in all 19 metropolitan cities were 43,414. The city registered 136 cases of dowry death in 2021, which is 36.26 per cent of total deaths due to the menace in 19 metropolitan cities. The Capital also reported 3,948 cases of abduction of women, out of a total of 8,664 cases in all metropolitan cities and 2,022 cases of assault on women with the intent to outrage their modesty last year. There were 1,357 reported cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (girl child victims only) in 2021, the NCRB said. The

NCRB data showed that Delhi recorded the highest number of kidnapping cases among the 19 metropolitan cities last year. The city witnessed the highest number of kidnapping in 2020 at 5,475 as against 4,011 the previous year. The police managed to rescue 5,274 kidnapped people, including 3689 women. Seventeen of the kidnapped people, including eight women, were found dead. Meanwhile, Delhi registered a marginal decline in the number of murder cases. It reported 454 cases of murder in 2021 as compared to 461 in

2020 and 500 in 2019, according to the report. A majority of the murders in 2021 were the fallout of various disputes, including those related to property and family. In 23 cases, the bloodshed was due to a love affair gone wrong and 12 killings were over illicit relationships. The motive behind 87 of these murders was personal vendetta or enmity, while 10 killings were due to personal gain. There was no murder in the national Capital last year due to dowry, witchcraft, child/human sacrifice and for communal, religious or caste

reasons. During dacoity and robbery, the city witnessed 20 murders. As many as 177 murders were reported due to various disputes related to property, family and petty quarrels. One of the high profile murders that made headlines last year was that of former junior national wrestling champion Sagar Dhankar. Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, along with others, allegedly assaulted Dhankar and his friends at the Chhatrasal Stadium in May 2021 over an alleged property dispute. Dhankar later succumbed to his injuries.



AAP MLAs display placards during a protest against Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena at the State Assembly, in New Delhi on Monday for allegedly pressurising his employees to exchange demonetised notes worth ₹1,400 crore in 2016 when he was KVIC chairman. **RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER**



Delhi BJP leaders seeking the sacking of Deputy CM Manish Sisodia in the alleged Excise Policy scam protest against the AAP Government at the State Assembly, in New Delhi on Monday. **RANJAN DIMRI | PIONEER**

BJP MLAs again thrown out of Assembly by marshals: LoP

AAP Govt has forgotten traditions, rules of democracy, says Bidhuri

House with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. "The AAP Government has forgotten all the traditions and rules of democracy and is behaving in a dictatorial and arbitrary manner. The BJP MLAs were demanding a Calling Attention Motion and a short discussion on various issues under Rule-55," he said. "A notice of discussion was given by Vijender Gupta on classroom scam, Abhay Verma on liquor scam worth thousands of crores, Mohan Singh Bisht on crises of drinking water and Ajay Mahawar on the removal of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Minister Satyendar Jain from the Cabinet. The Speaker rejected their demand for Calling Attention Motion. When the proceedings of the House started, BJP members requested the Speaker to reconsider his decision, but all the BJP MLAs were forcibly thrown out by the marshals on

the order of the Speaker," he alleged. "The Kejriwal Government is surrounded by allegations of corruption and if it is clean, then why is it running away from discussion on these issues in the Assembly. Obviously, it has no answer to these allegations. There is no discussion on the matters of Delhi in the Assembly, no question hour, no short-term discussion is held under Rule-55, nor can the issues of its own area be raised under Rule-280," the LoP said. "The Delhi Government is using the Delhi Assembly only to abuse the Central Government. The issues being discussed in the Assembly have nothing to do with Delhi. Crores of rupees are being spent on the Assembly session with the amount of tax collected from the hard-earned money of the people and only the politics is being shined in it by the ruling party," Bidhuri added. **SR**

CBI will check my bank locker, won't find anything: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed on Monday that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials will come to check his bank locker on Tuesday and the agency sleuths will not find anything in it. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader is among the 15 people and entities named in an FIR registered by the CBI in connection with alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 after it raided 31 locations, including Sisodia's residence on August 19. "Tomorrow, the CBI is coming to check our bank locker. They did not find anything in a 14-hour-long raid at my residence on August 19. They won't find anything in the locker too. The CBI is wel-



come. My family and I will extend full cooperation in the probe," Sisodia tweeted in Hindi. Sisodia has been saying he has been made an accused in a false case to stop the march of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has emerged as an alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. During a special session of the Delhi Assembly on Friday,

the AAP leader had claimed that the BJP-led Centre is acting like a serial killer to eliminate State Governments and described the CBI FIR against him as "fake" and based on "mere sources". He had also alleged that the agency conducted raids at his residence because the Delhi Government's good work is being praised across the globe. Sisodia said CBI officers searched his clothes and even his children's clothes during the 14-hour raid at his house but found nothing. "The FIR against me is completely fake. I have committed no corruption.... They (BJP) are acting like a serial killer to eliminate State Governments. The effort they are putting in to kill State Governments should have been put into building schools and hospitals for the citizens," Sisodia had said.

Confidence Motion a ploy to distract public from scams, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal moved a Confidence Motion in the Delhi Assembly on Monday to prove that all Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs were with him, Delhi BJP leaders called it a ploy to distract people's attention from the alleged "liquor excise and education scams." The BJP on Monday questioned who had asked for it in the Delhi Assembly. BJP leaders on Monday held protests at 13 places in Delhi demanding the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

BJP MP from West Delhi Parvesh Verma tweeted, "Kejriwal is a headline hunter. He lives and loses by his media image. The liquor scam has exposed his corrupt Government. He tried to change the narrative to some imaginary plot to break the AAP, but questions on the liquor scam refuse to go away." "Kejriwal is orchestrating a made-for-media 'confidence motion' just to change headlines from the liquor scam. Will the media play along with a scamster or will they call his opportunism out? He has no credibility left, but I'm sure the media has," Verma added. BJP information technology cell head Amit Malviya tweeted, "Who has asked for a Confidence Motion in Delhi Assembly? No one. It is just a desperate ploy to distract from the liquor excise and education scams, somehow obfuscate truth. There is no threat to Kejriwal's Govt. Question is - will media relent or wilt under pressure of ad money?" North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari said, "The party with 62 MLAs out of 70 will bring a confidence motion

against itself, then get it passed, then it will get it printed in the media. What does AAP think of people of Delhi? Wasting public money and time. If you have to do it, then discuss the CAG report and give an account of the loot of liquor and school rooms." Addressing the media, BJP Delhi Chief Adesh Gupta alleged that Kejriwal appointed an architect, who is a close consultant of Minister Satyendar Jain, without tender and sought a probe into the matter. "Everything happens via tender. He (Delhi CM) arbitrarily appointed an architect, a consultant close to jailed Minister Satyendar Jain - Babbar and Babbar. He appointed a consultant without tender. It should be probed," said Gupta. "It has been found that Babbar and Babbar Associate, too, was appointed by the Delhi Government without tender. This is a matter of grave corruption," he alleged. BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said that "corruption is in the DNA of Arvind Kejriwal. It's not AAP sarkar but PAAP ki sarkar (government of sins)." "He and (Manish) Sisodia are experts in corruption... Where did this money go? Did it go in your pocket, Arvind Kejriwal ji? Did you take note of the report? What action did you take on it?" Bhatia said. "The AAP Government promised to construct 500 new schools in Delhi. That never happened. They then said they will build more classrooms in the existing schools. The number of rooms was increased from 2,400 to 7,180. The construction cost was increased by up to 90 per cent," he alleged.

Find reasons for fall in enrollment in Govt schools, L-G tells CS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Lieutenant-Governor's office on Monday shot off a letter to Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar over the Economic Survey 2021-22, which stated that there was a fall in enrollment and rise in absenteeism in city Government schools, despite increase in expenditure on Education from ₹6,145.03 crore in 2014-15 to ₹11,081.09 crore in 2019-20. Raj Niwas also directed the Chief Secretary to examine the reasons for the anomaly in larger public interest and put up a note to this effect for L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena's scrutiny. According to the letter written by Anikita Mishra Bundela, Secretary to the L-G, as per data published in the Economic Survey 2021-22 of Delhi Government, the expenditure on school education by the State Government increased from ₹6,145.03 crore in 2014-15 to ₹11,081.09 crore in 2019-20. Consequently the per student per annum expenditure incurred by the city Government on education increased from ₹42,806 in 2015-16 to ₹66,593 in 2019-20. "Despite substantial increase in the investment in the Education Sector by the State Government both in absolute terms and as part of the total budget, it is seen that



during the same period, the enrollment in Delhi Government, schools declined from 15.42 lakh in 2014-15 to 15.19 lakh 2019-20," it read. "As per information provided by the Directorate of Education, the percentage of students attending classes in Delhi government schools has been declining and the percentage of attendance in Delhi Government schools was in the range of 55 per cent- 61 per cent between 2016-17 to 2019-20 which indicates high absenteeism in the range of approximately six lakh children not attending schools regularly," it said. "LG has observed with concern that the decline in enrolment of students in Delhi government schools and significant absenteeism of students from the schools despite high investment made by the government in improving school infrastructure and teaching and learning processes," the letter read.

Showers help to check pollution after twin towers' demolition

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The city, including the Sector 93A area where the Supertech twin towers were demolished, received rains on Monday evening, with pollution control department officials saying the showers will help settle the post-demolition dust. Residents of Emerald Court and ATS Village — the two societies most impacted by the demolition — were also upbeat over the sudden rain, a day after the nearly 100-metre tall illegal twin towers were razed to the ground, leaving behind a whopping amount of

debris and dust. The debris would take 90 days to be cleared from the area, according to officials involved in the demolition. "No doubt the rainfall will be very effective in checking the dust around the twin towers area. While water sprinklers and anti-smog guns have been deployed there since Sunday evening, there still remain some areas, like terraces of towers, etc, where dust settles. The rains would even clean up those areas and also have an effect on the debris site," Regional Officer, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Praveen Kumar said.

Power, gas, water supply restored post demolition

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

The domestic gas services resumed on Monday morning while the cleaning work continued in full swing in the residential societies and roads around the now-demolished Supertech twin towers on Monday. Meanwhile, police personnel remain deployed at a road stretch in front of the now-demolished twin towers. The stretch has been barricaded for a fortnight now for security reasons. Since morning, water sprinkling machines were deployed to settle the dust particles while the cleaning of debris on roads and residential

societies continued. The Noida Authority CEO, Ritu Maheshwari said cleaning activities like washing and sweeping, which had started on Sunday evening itself, were continuing in full swing and a large number of workers and officials were on the job. "Water was being sprinkled on trees and plants in the two societies and nearby areas that got covered by dust in the wake of the demolition, while roads were also being washed," she said. She said electricity, domestic gas and water supplies were restored soon after the inspections post demolition. "The supplies are running normal

and no malfunction has been observed by our officials till now. We are keeping a close eye on all the supply lines," the senior IAS officer said. "Green garbage caused due to twin tower demolition has been cleared from various areas. Washing, sweeping and other cleaning activities ongoing," Maheshwari tweeted. An official said that most of the repairing works of window panes, which cracked during the demolition, have also been completed. A huge mound of debris comprising top three floors of Ceyane toppled during demolition had fell into the ATS Village compound, damaging a

nine metre wall patch. Mayur Mehta, project manager for Edifice Engineering, said, "this particular piece of debris fell inside the range that had already been marked by the demolition team had in its calculation. The damage to the wall was already factored in." While the twin towers are gone now, several locals tried to reach close to the huge mounds of debris to take pictures and videos from close quarters Monday. Standing nearly 100-metre high — taller than Qutub Minar (73 metre — the twin towers are India's tallest illegal residential structures to have been demolished.

India joins 100-metre demolition club of nations

The twin towers were grounded by waterfall implosion technique in a matter of 12 seconds, says Brinkman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

India has joined the club of countries that have razed buildings taller than 100 metres after successful demolition of Noida's twin towers on Sunday. Joe Brinkman of South African firm Jet Demolitions has said. The twin towers were grounded by waterfall implosion technique in a matter of 12 seconds. According to the 62-year-old Brinkman, the Apex

(32 storeys) and Ceyane (29 storeys) towers of Supertech had a height of 103 metres each in Noida's Sector 93A were grounded by waterfall implosion technique in a matter of 12 seconds. "India and Edifice have now joined the 100-metre club of countries which have buildings over this height that have been demolished and that too with residential buildings standing so close to them, making the project extremely challenging," said Brinkman adding that all credit goes to the entire team. Mumbai-based Edifice Engineering, which was tasked with the demolition, had selected Jet Demolitions as its expert



partner for the job. The two had together previously demol-

ished four residential complexes in Maradu municipal area of Kochi, Kerala, in a similar fashion. Jet Demolitions holds a distinguished position globally for demolition works. In November 2019, the firm had grounded the 108-metre-tall Bank of Lisbon building in Johannesburg within a few seconds in an eye-popping event and ensured that a structure barely seven metres next to it was safe too. Brinkman said the whole process for demolishing the Noida twin towers took 12 seconds. He said the team's first priority was to ensure that there were no injuries to people during the implosion and no structural damage caused to

any of the buildings around. He added that very few buildings taller than 100 metres have been demolished in a controlled manner across the world. Edifice Engineering partner Utkarsh Mehta described Brinkman as the "mastermind" of the successful demolition. He said around 35,000 cubic metres or approximately 80,000 tonnes of debris was left after the demolition. Around 50,000 tonnes of it has been absorbed in the basements of the now-demolished towers while the remaining would be disposed of in 90 days, he said. We will have to coordinate with the Emerald Court and ATS Village societies for the disposal since the debris

would have to be first processed at the site only and then it would be taken to construction and demolition waste processing centres. Coordination would be needed for fixing the timing for work at the site to cause least disturbance to residents, said Mehta. Jigar Chheda, another Edifice partner, said they took six months to plan the clean execution of the demolition and the whole exercise was a very challenging process. Days and nights went into the preparation for this day. Over 9,000 holes were drilled for explosives in the two buildings; they had to be most accurate and all this was challenging, said Chheda.

Azad tasked to slander party: Congress

Quip comes after Ghulam says Cong needs drugs prescribed by doctors, not by compounders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday slammed its former leader Ghulam Nabi Azad for his latest attack on its top leadership, saying he has been tasked to "slander" the party and by doing so he diminishes himself further.

This, after Azad in his latest salvo said the Congress needs medicines for treatment but they are being provided by compounders instead of doctors. He also accused the Congress leadership of not having time for setting the organisation right. Azad, who quit the grand old party on Friday, alleged that the leadership being projected in the party in states is making party



members leave instead of uniting them. He also said that he will not join the BJP as it will not help his politics in Jammu and Kashmir and that he would soon set up a new party there as assembly elections could be announced anytime.

"I can only give my best wishes to the Congress, but the Congress needs medicines more than my wishes. And, these medicines are being provided to the Congress by compounders instead of doctors and there is a need for specialists," Azad said talking to media at his residence. Hitting back, the Congress accused Azad of

indulging in "treachery" and said he was "diminishing himself" further. "After such a long career, courtesy entirely the party he's been tasked to slander, by giving interviews indiscriminately, Mr Azad diminishes himself further.

What's he afraid of that he's justifying his treachery every minute? He can be easily exposed but why stoop to his level," Congress general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

Azad continued his attack on former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, saying, "It seems he does not have the aptitude for politics, as we tried to make him into a leader and made many efforts in this regard". Azad also questioned the DNA of those who questioned him and accused those leaders in the Congress of conspiring and "planting news" against party leaders and thus weakening the organisation.

Azad sung paean for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and remarked how as the

Gujarat CM he displayed humanity while recalling a terror-related incident during the farewell speech for Azad in Rajya Sabha.

Azad said Modi's emotional speech at his retirement was given a different twist by some "illiterate" Congressmen and their emotions expressed in the House were about the tragedy and not for each other. "When the chief minister of Gujarat called, I was crying loudly. He heard me crying and he was told that I cannot talk right now and have to treat those who are injured.

When I talked to the chief minister to ask for two planes, one for the dead and the other for the injured and I again cried... He (Modi) turned emotional while referring to my state," Azad said. Recalling Modi's tears in the Rajya Sabha, Azad said he also broke down when the prime minister spoke about the tragic incident and his response.

Taking a swipe at Rahul, he said it was Rahul who hugged

Modi in Parliament, not him. Asked about Congress' criticism, Azad said Modi is merely an excuse and they were riled ever since he and 22 other Congressmen wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi in August 2020, challenging their way of functioning. He was referring to the letter sent by the G-23 dissident group seeking large-scale reforms in the party.

On post-poll alliance, Azad said there are other parties also and the new organisation can align with them too. Azad also alleged that 90 per cent leaders had left the party and only his group was left. He claimed that ex-MLAs and ministers have all come with him and five of the six Congress MLAs in J-K have also joined him, otherwise they would also have left and joined the BJP or others.

He said his respect for Sonia Gandhi is the same as it was 30 years ago and it is the same for Rahul as he belongs to the family of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Opp slams Jay Shah for 'no' to waving Tiranga post India win

Opp seeks Amit Shah's views after Asia Cup video goes viral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Opposition leaders took a dig at Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah for appearing to turn down an offer to wave the national flag after India beat Pakistan in a cricket match at the Asia Cup in Dubai on Sunday. The video footage has sparked a controversy with Congress, TMC Shiv Sena and others criticizing Jay, son of Home Minister Amit Shah.

Rajya Sabha member and Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi said, "Staying neutral as ACC (Asian Cricket Council) president doesn't at

any point mean being disrespectful to any nation's flag, especially your own....". Chaturvedi said the Tricolour in hand is a symbol of the resolve and loyalty of Indians to the nation and to "dismiss it in this way is an insult to the country's 133 crore population".

Several Congress leaders slammed Jay Shah, who is Union Home Minister Amit Shah's son. Tagging the video footage of the BCCI appearing to turn down an offer to wave the flag, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh tweeted in Hindi: "I have papa, keep the

Tricolour with you."

Congress leader Ajoy Kumar also tweeted the footage and wrote in Hindi: "Looks like the tricolour was of 'Khadi'... Not of 'polyester'!" Congress has been strongly criticising an amendment of the flag code under which the national flag can now be made of polyester and with the help of machines.

Commenting on the video, TMC leader Derek O'Brien said: "Dear Amit Shah, please tell the nation whether this act infuriates you? Whether the act hurts your nationalistic sentiments? Or, will this act be forgiven only because he's your son?" "We are not looking for excuses. We are looking for concrete answers. Sincerely, an angry Indian," he said.

TMC spokesperson Saket Gokhale said the ruling BJP has argued that Jay Shah did not hold the Tricolour on Sunday night because he was there as the ACC president and was following protocol.

IN SHORTS

EX-JD(U) MP CONVICTED IN LTC SCAM CASE

New Delhi: A special CBI court on Monday convicted former JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Sahani in the LTC scam case for fraudulently claiming travelling and dearness allowance reimbursements when he was a member of the upper house. It was alleged that Sahani, now an RJD MLA, forged e-tickets and fake boarding passes to defraud Rajya Sabha of Rs 23.71 lakh as travel and dearness allowance reimbursement without undertaking any journey.

FLOOD-DEVASTATION IN PAKISTAN SADDENS PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was saddened to see the devastation caused by the floods in Pakistan and hoped for an early restoration of normalcy. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and all those affected by this natural calamity and hope for an early restoration of normalcy," Modi said in a tweet. The death toll from the devastating floods in Pakistan neared 1,100 Monday.

NEET-PG COUNSELLING DEFERRED: MINISTRY

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry on Monday deferred the NEET-PG counselling for admission to postgraduate medical courses, which was scheduled to begin from September 1, to allow the National Medical Commission to complete the process of adding new seats. Counselling is likely to begin in the third week of September.

SC: JITENDRA TYAGI MUST GIVE UP BY SEPT 2

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday directed Jitendra Narayan Tyagi, an accused in the Hardwar Dharma Sansad case related to alleged inflammatory speeches made against Muslims, to surrender by September 2. Tyagi, formerly known as Wasim Rizvi, is currently out on medical bail.

TIME SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

New Delhi: The Centre sought more time from the Supreme Court on Monday to hold meetings with states and Union Territories on the issue of identification of religious minorities, including Hindus, at the state level.

SC SEEKS TN RESPONSE ON SWAMY'S PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Tamil Nadu government to a plea filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy who alleged the state took control of nearly 40,000 temples and other Hindu religious institutions "arbitrarily".

WHAT PUNISHMENT FOR HOARDERS, ASKS SC



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre and States on a plea seeking stricter punishment to control hoarding, adulteration and black marketing of items.

India-UAE committed to partner in trade, investment, renewable energy, says MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will review the entire spectrum of their strategic partnership during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's talks with the leadership during his three-day visit commencing Wednesday.

Jaishankar will carry out the review with his counterpart from the Gulf nation Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and third India-UAE Strategic Dialogue.

"These meetings will provide an opportunity to both the ministers to review the entire spectrum of comprehensive strategic partnership between India and UAE and regional and global developments," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday. Jaishankar will also meet other dignitaries of the UAE.

There has been a regular exchange of high-level interaction between India and the UAE this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to Abu Dhabi on June 28 and met President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Earlier, both leaders had also held a virtual summit on February 18 during which India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed and a vision



statement was adopted. Both leaders also participated in the I2U2 summit held virtually on July 14. US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid also attended the summit. The new grouping is known as 'I2U2' with 'I' standing for India and Israel and 'U' for the US and UAE.

"Both India and UAE are committed to moving forward in their partnership in diverse areas, including trade, investment, conventional and renewable energy, food security, health, skill development, education, culture, defence, space, consular issues and people-to-people ties," the MEA said in a statement.

It said these areas were also discussed at official levels during meetings of sub-committees of JCM held on August 23 to 24. The CEPA sealed by India and the UAE in February is expected to facilitate Indian exporters to gain access to Arab and African markets besides increasing two-way trade to \$100 billion in next five years from current \$60 billion.

New mechanism for listing of matters soon: CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A new mechanism for the listing of matters will be devised soon, Chief Justice of India UU Lalit said on Monday, his first working day in the Supreme Court as the CJI. He asked lawyers to mention cases for urgent hearings before the registrar rather than requesting the first court to entertain such pleas.

"We will have a new mechanism by Thursday. Till then, we will look at it in the chamber and if urgent we will list it... For mentioning, we will go back to the original practice of mentioning before the registrar," the CJI said.

The observation came after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta sought to know about the mechanism of mentioning the matters before the bench.

As the bench headed by the Chief Justice of India commenced proceedings for the day, Mehta welcomed CJI Lalit and assured him of full support from the government.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave also wished the CJI on behalf of the entire bar. Over 900 petitions, including 60 PILs, were listed before the top court on Monday along with pleas against the Karnataka High Court verdict that wearing hijab by women doesn't form an essential part of religious practice in Islam.

CJI Lalit, who was holding the bench along with Justice S Ravindra Bhat, heard 62 petitions out of which 10 were



Public Interest Litigations. As CJI, Justice Lalit will have a short tenure of 74 days and demit office on November 8 on attaining the age of 65 years. Justice D Y Chandrachud, the senior-most judge after Justice Lalit, is next in line to be the country's top judge.

Justice Lalit will be the sixth chief justice of India to have a tenure of less than 100 days. Justice Kamal Narain Singh, who was the CJI between November 25, 1991, and December 12, 1991, had a tenure of 18 days.

While Justice S Rajendra Babu had a tenure of 30 days between May 2 and May 31, 2004, Justice J C Shah was the CJI for 36 days between December 17, 1970, and January 21, 1971.

Justice G B Patnaik had a 41-day tenure from November 8 to December 18, 2002, and Justice L M Sharma had a tenure of 86 days between November 18, 1992, and February 11, 1993.

Hathras case: SC seeks UP Govt response on bail plea of scribe

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Uttar Pradesh Government on the bail plea of Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan, arrested in October 2020 while on his way to Hathras where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being gang-raped.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and S Ravindra Bhat fixed the plea for final disposal on September 9. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had earlier this month rejected the bail application of Kappan, who was booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the alleged Hathras conspiracy case.

He was arrested while travelling with PFI activists. The FIR had been filed under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the UAPA against four persons having links with the Popular Front of India (PFI).

Recently, the High Court granted bail to driver of vehicle, saying he was not in association with other three including Kappan. The PFI was accused in past of funding protests against Citizenship Amendment Act across country.

Def Min reviews functioning of IAF's Air Command and Control System

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday visited a premier radar station of the IAF here and witnessed the functioning of the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS). The system is the backbone of IAF's march towards network centricity and is a key enabler in operations.

Giving details of the defence minister's visit, officials said the system's capabilities endow its users with an enhanced situational awareness that reduces IAF's sensor-to-shooter loop. The robust system has redundancies built

into its functioning which enable seamless operations between its assets across the country. Rajnath saw various networked operations conducted at varied locations across the country. These included the networked and synergised operations of fighter, transport and Remotely Piloted Aircraft.

He was also briefed about the nuances of peacetime command and control functions which include ensuring the air defence of critical areas on a day-to-day basis, as well as during large events. Rajnath lauded the air warriors for keeping the nations' skies safe throughout the year.

Wildlife panel's review to delay Hubli-Ankola rly project

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wait for the ambitious Hubli-Ankola New Railway line project in Karnataka, which proposes to pass through tiger corridors connecting Kali Tiger Reserve with Sharavathi Sanctuary in the State and entails diversion of a good chunk of forest land besides felling of 2 lakh trees, got extended further with a central top wildlife committee deciding to have a relook at the project's implication on the fragile region.

In this regard, the Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) in its recent meeting called for setting up a panel that shall hear public representatives, NGOs and

other stakeholders in the region. The panel will submit its report within two and half months.

The proposal for wildlife clearance for the project involving diversion of an area of 595.64 hectares of forest land has been pending since 2017. The Standing Committee of the NBWL that the site appraisal committee of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had not recommended the project in the initial stage, "considering its wider ecological ramifications on the fragile Western Ghats and its impacts on future persistence of many endangered species, and recommended its complete abatement." The proposed project is falling in a continuous area between Bhadra Tiger Reserve

and Kali Tiger Reserve and is used by elephants for crossing at several places. This area is inhabited by tigers and their estimated number in this area is six. "Finally, after lots of discussions, the proposal was recommended by the State Board for Wild Life and Karnataka Government," as per minutes of the meeting held in June this year.

The members of the Standing Committee of NBWL also noted that since the case has gone through under the legal scanner of the State High Court and Supreme Court too, it has to be examined carefully and therefore suggested for the constitution of a committee. One of the members, Dr H S Singh, suggested that the views of

local NGOs may also be taken into consideration by the Committee to be constituted to examine the proposal, survey the area, assess the impacts of the project over forest and wildlife etc.

The committee shall comprise of Additional Director General of Forests, (Forest Conservation) Union Environment Ministry, Dr HS Singh and Dr R Sukumar, both members of the Standing Committee of NBWL, representatives of Indian Institute of Technology, Dharwad, Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Director General, IFCRE, Dehradun as members and Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife) of the Ministry, said the minutes.



BJP national president JP Nadda pays homage to Dr Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, in Agartala on Monday

PTI Photo

Congress steps up attack on Centre over price rise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday stepped up its attack on the BJP-led Centre over rising prices and accused the government of diverting attention from the real issues of the people.

While in the national Capital a meeting of senior leaders, State Units chiefs, general secretaries and coordinators were held, party leaders conducted press conferences in 22 cities across the country and gave a "Dilli Chalo" call for its 'Mehangai Par Halla Bol rally' in Ramlila Maidan on September 4. The rally will be addressed by senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.

AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal said leaders met to fine tune the final programme of Bharat Jodo Abhiyan and the proposed

rally. "We discussed the detailed arrangements of the programme, 2-3 major points we decided today. One is the Yatra is going to happen only in 10 states. Wherever the main Yatra is not going, there should be a street level Bharat Jodo Yatra, for example- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Assam, North-Eastern State. In all the states from October to January, respective PCC Presidents and CLP Leaders would hold the Bharat Jodo Yatra," Venugopal said briefing the media along with senior leaders Digvijay Singh and Jairam Ramesh.

Addressing a press conference on the issue of Mehengai Par Halla Bol, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said the Centre has been "misusing the CBI and ED" to "silence the Opposition" but the party will continue to raise its voice against the rising inflation and imposition of GST on essential food items.



Addressing a presser in Mumbai, Congress' media department head Pawan Kherra reminded that during the Congress-led UPA government, the price of crude oil was USD 106 per barrel, still the price of petrol was Rs 71 per litre and that of diesel was Rs 55. Since 2014, the BJP-led Centre has been constantly increasing the excise duty on fuel.

At a press conference in

Lucknow, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said the Modi government is "trampling" the country under inflation and its record in the last eight years exposes this truth. Ajoy Kumar addressed the media in Kolkata, Jitu Patwari in Jaipur, Aradhana Misra in Bhopal, Shobha Oza in Chandigarh, Ragini Nayak in Raipur, Shama Mohammad in Visakhapatnam and Akhilesh Singh in Patna.

Fact-check: J&K-based 'non-locals' already voting since three decades

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Several Kashmir based regional political parties have been accusing the Bharatiya Janta Party led Union government of importing 'non-local voters' in Jammu and Kashmir to win seats.

A fact check on the ground clearly revealed a large number of non local voters have already been exercising their right to franchise without facing any hardship. In addition, the majority of these non-locals have already made Jammu and Kashmir their second home and have been earning their livelihood for over four decades now.

According to these non-locals, their voter cards were prepared three decades ago and have been regularly voting in the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, some of these voters claimed to have voted even during 1996 and 2002 Assembly polls. They claimed since 2008 they have not voted

in the Assembly polls claiming the rival party workers had raised objections following which their names were struck off from the voters list.

Rough estimates suggested there are more than 30,000 Non Permanent voters registered in Jammu and Kashmir and majority of them have exercised their right to franchise in 2019 Lok Sabha polls as well. These Non Permanent voters mostly hail from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and other states.

This correspondent recently visited several areas in Jammu and met some of the non local voters regularly voting in the Lok Sabha polls.

A non local voter, hailing from Bhagalpur district of Bihar, told The Pioneer, "I have been staying in Jammu since 1981. It's been 41 years now. Initially, I used to work in the gun factories. Later, I started my own shop in a residential colony and raised my children". "I have been voting here since 1991. I also exercised my

जम्मू और कश्मीर 71-वां गांधी नर
निर्वाचक नामावली 2019 एन पी आर - विधानसभा चुनाव में मतदान करने के पात्र नहीं

SR. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Veena Malhotra/ Ajit Malhotra/ LBNOD00005332960/ LBNPN00005147670/ LBNPN00005147672	Plot No.156, Krishan Nagr Tehsil Camp Panipat Haryana/ August 22, 2022	September 27, 2021 Rs.44,60,795/-	Delhi/ NCR

vote during the 1996 and 2002 Assembly polls". His elder son, working here in Jammu as a fruit vendor claimed I, along with my wife and younger brother, are also registered here as voters.

"Now my children are also going to register themselves as voters as both of them have attained the voting age of 18 years. Currently, they are studying in SPMR college of commerce and determined to serve here and find a foothold. We are living here peacefully and have never faced any difficulty". "There are several hundred non local voters who are reg-

istered here as voters and have been exercising their right to franchise during polls", another local resident living in the same Preet Nagar area told The Pioneer.

Another family from Janjgir Champa district of Chhattisgarh, living in Jammu for over 33 years now claimed they are eager to enroll themselves as voters and settle down here permanently. "I also want to improve my living conditions. My children are studying in class 11 and class 10 and I have been running this tailoring shop for almost 33 years now", said Chhabhi Lal.

Didi claims plans afoot by Centre to arrest her; Abhishek slams Jay on Tricolour row

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP Government for using agencies to victimise its leaders and vowed to throw out the saffron party from power in 2024. The Banerjees' tirade came days after the arrest of senior Trinamool Congress leaders Partha Chatterjee and Anubrata Mondal on charges of corruption and cattle smuggling respectively.

Saying that plans were being hatched to arrest her too, the Chief Minister dared the Centre to go ahead with its plans and see the consequence. Abhishek Banerjee on the other hand chose Home Minister Amit Shah for "lecturing lessons on patriotism" while his own son Jay Shah refused to wave the National Flag when

offered to do so after India thrashed Pakistan in Sunday's match in Dubai.

"Every day they are sending agencies to the houses of some leader or the other," Banerjee said in reference to Partha Chatterjee and Mondal. "I don't mind law taking its own course but why this dis-information campaign ... then they arrested Keshto (Anubrata Mondal) who always helps others," Banerjee told while addressing a Trinamool Congress Chatra Parishad rally adding, the agencies were now targeting other senior leaders like Bobby (Firhad) Hakim, Abhishek Banerjee, Maloy Ghatak and even herself.

"The ED and CBI are planning to arrest Bobby, Chandrima Bhattacharya (Finance Minister), Abhishek, Maloy Ghatak and even me ... as if everyone in the TMC is a thief and everyone in the BJP is a Sadhu," the Chief Minister said during the BJP to arrest her

and see the consequence.

"Let them come and arrest me and then they will feel the consequence ... it is not so easy," Banerjee said adding her next and only aim was to oust the BJP from India. "This is my pledge to save India by throwing the BJP out of the country in 2024 elections," Banerjee said adding "even if you put me in jail I will show my mettle from there as I did during the last year's elections by defeating the BJP even after I was beaten up by them."

Abhishek Banerjee on the other hand slammed Amit Shah for preaching nationalism while failing to impart the same lesson in his own son.

"After yesterday's match in Dubai where India thrashed Pakistan everyone saw Amit Shah's son Jay Shah refused to waive the National Flag even after he was offered to do so ... is this the kind of nationalism you preach Amit Shah ji through your Azadi Ka Amrit



Mahotsav," the junior Banerjee said demanding either the Home Minister disowned her son or resigned his post.

"I ask the Home Minister to either disown his son or resign his post after the insult that his son heaped on the Indian tri-colour," Abhishek said.

He also attacked the Home Minister whose ministry is in charge of the BSF and CISF for failing to discipline his forces. "Here our leaders are arrested for cow and coal smuggling

whereas these two assets are guarded by the CISF and BSF which work with the Home Ministry ... so I must say that all the ill-gotten money goes to the Home Ministry and Amit Shah ... so the Home Minister must resign," the TMC MP said adding like it happened in the case of Partha Chatterjee who was arrested after the highly successfully July 21 party rally someone from the TMC would be arrested in five-six days' time after today's successful rally.

DA case filed against Didi kin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

In a development that could produce far reaching effects in Bengal politics, particularly for the ruling Trinamool Congress a disproportionate asset case was on Monday filed against the family of Mamata Banerjee prompting the Bengal Chief Minister to quickly deny association with her family members saying each unit in her extended family lived separately in the same house.

A case was filed in Calcutta High Court drawing attention of the judiciary on how a number of companies had been formed by people who were family members of the Chief Minister. It also alleged that a number of government

and private properties in South Kolkata had been purchased by the kin of the Chief Minister for prices far lower than the existing market rates.

Besides the petitioner, an advocate alleged how some companies that had bobbed up and flourished during and after 2013 a time when the chit fund scam came to light had links with the Chief Minister's kin. The petition also alleged how a Kolkata Municipal Corporation Councillor who is also a sister-in-law of the Chief Minister --- who lived in the same address --- had failed to reveal the details of properties owned by her son.

Quickly reacting to the reports the Chief Minister said how she was one of those a few politicians who did not accept the pensions she was entitled

to as an ex-MP and how she refused to accept the salary as the Chief Minister.

"I am entitled to a pension of Rs one lakh per month as an ex-MP and a salary of more than Rs 3 lakh as a Chief Minister ... but I refuse to accept the both ... just calculate the total amount I have forgone in the past 10-12 years by refusing these allowances," Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister also said that "though we live in the same house every unit is independent and we unite only during the Pujas, and other ceremonies," leading the opposition leaders to say how "Mamata Banerjee casts off not only her political friends but also her own relatives when there is a chance of getting implicated."

Child lifted from Mathura junction recovered from BJP councillor house



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An infant lifted from Mathura railway Junction last Wednesday has been recovered from the house of Bharatiya Janata Party leader and ward councillor Vinita Agarwal in Firozabad.

The infant was lifted and sold by a gang of four men and two women. This incident took place in the Mathura district and was captured on the CCTV camera of the railway junction. The accused fled the spot after lifting the child from the platform of Mathura junction.

The police said that a woman was sleeping with her

7-month-old child on platform number 8 of Mathura junction when the accused stole the child and fled. The CCTV camera installed at the junction showed a man coming to the station and after seeing the mother of the infant asleep, taking away the child. The police had been looking for the child lifter since then.

Finally, the Mathura Government Railway Police, with the help of Special Operation Group (SOG), recovered the child from the house of female councillor Vinita Agarwal at Bura Wali Gali located in the south area of Firozabad on Sunday evening.

KCR to meet Tejashwi, Nitish for 3rd front

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

In furthering his efforts to immobilize a third front (non-Congress and non BJP), Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is scheduled to meet Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav on Wednesday in Patna.

Nitish, who recently severed ties with BJP and joined hands with the RJD led by Tejashwi to form a grand alliance government in Bihar with Congress and others as its constituents, has significantly gained importance since and is being seen as the Prime Ministerial candidate against incumbent Narendra Modi for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Sources said that KCR will reach Patna and call on Nitish and Tejashwi at separate meetings and is likely to talk about the consolidation of an alternative force particularly against the BJP. The Telangana CM will also give financial assistance to the families of Indian soldiers who were martyred in the Galwan valley. Rao will also provide financial assistance to the families of the 12 Bihar



workers who died in the recent fire accident.

Just like KCR did in Punjab and Jharkhand recently, he will distribute the cheques along with Nitish. "Both the Chief Ministers will discuss the national politics on this occasion," said a statement from the Telangana CM's office.

KCR has earlier met non-BJP and non-Congress chief ministers including West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, others like the then Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren. KCR also held meetings on different occasions with important leaders like SP chief and former Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav and senior politician NCP supremo Sharad Pawar.

Rajnath releases book on PM's work for BJP



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his organizational competence and "complete dedication", Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday released a book, "The Architect of New BJP", which credits him for his "seamless connect" with the people and capacity for taking "tough decisions with good intention". Addressing the book release function which was also attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, Rajnath said Modi's personality has omitted the difference "between public and personal morality" like Maharaja Janak and delivered with results with great transparency.

Quoting the 166-page book penned by senior journalist Ajay Singh, Rajnath said the tough decision of demon-

etization drew support of the people though critics spoke to the contrary. He said soon after the demonetization, the BJP received massive electoral approval (for demonetization) in the UP polls.

Rajnath said the book unveils several yet unknown facets of Modi and details his courage to take difficult decisions and also capacity to "build consensus".

He said the book does not allow "prejudices" to creep while narrating the 50-year political journey of the Prime Minister.

He said under Modi the BJP has moved to the nook and corner of the country and formed governments in all the states of North-East which none could have "dreamt" of. He credited Modi with taking the party to every caste and group in the last eight years.

Phogat case: Will submit action taken report to Haryana CM, says Goa CM



PTI ■ PANAJI

The Goa government will submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sonali Phogat murder case to the Haryana government, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Monday.

Sawant told reporters that the Goa Police is investigating the case in the right direction. "I would like to say that Goa police have so far done a good investigation," the chief minister said.

He said the ATR will be submitted to the Haryana chief minister and the Director General of Police.

Phogat (43), a former Tik Tok star from Hissar in Haryana and a contestant on the reality TV show "Big Boss", was brought dead to a hospital in North Goa on August 23, a day after arriving in the coastal state with two of her male companions.

Cops record actor Ranveer Singh's statement in nude photo-shoot case

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Monday recorded the statement of Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh in a case registered against him for posting nude photographs of himself on social media, an official said. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Singh at Chembur police station here last month on the basis of a complaint filed by an office-bearer of a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

The police subsequently served him a notice to join the probe into the case.

The actor appeared before the investigating officer around 7 am on Monday and his statement was recorded, the official said.

Singh left the police station around 9.30 am, the official said adding that the actor will be called again, if required.

The complainant had claimed the actor "hurt the sentiments of women in general and insulted their modesty through his photographs."

Akhilesh blames Yogi for Mathura stampede

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav blamed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the stampede at the Banke Bihari temple in Mathura during Janmashtami celebrations in the early hours of August 20.

The chief minister had visited Mathura on Janmashtami.

Akhilesh Yadav said the police force meant to control the crowd was engaged in the security of the chief minister as a result of which two devotees were killed and seven injured in the stampede at the Banke Bihari temple in Mathura during Janmashtami

celebrations in the early hours of August 20.

The SP chief, who visited Banke Bihari temple at Mathura on Sunday while returning from Noida, said on Monday that during the previous SP government, Janmashtami used to be celebrated with pomp but no such incidents (stampede) took place. "The tragedy took place in the Bharatiya Janata Party government, and for this incident, none else but the BJP government is responsible," he said.

Taking a dig at Yogi Adityanath over his visit to Mathura on Janmashtami, Akhilesh Yadav said, "When the chief minister knew that on



Janmashtami there is a sea of Krishna devotees in Mathura then what was the need to stay there for hours? The police force, which was meant to control the people, was engaged for him. As a result, there was a shortage of force at places where it was needed, and the tragedy took place."

Akhilesh Yadav also demanded adequate compensation to the family members of those killed in the stampede. "The families of the pilgrims killed in Banke Bihari temple tragedy should be paid Rs 50 lakh each," Yadav said.

On discussions that Vrindavan should be transformed into a corridor on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Akhilesh Yadav said the ancient nature of the holy town "should not be tampered with at all". The former chief minister also alleged that the BJP, instead of developing the Braj region, was destroying it.

On the electoral prospects of the opposition in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the SP

chief said there were several faces in the opposition for the post of prime minister but the BJP had only one.

He also criticised the Union government for the rising prices of commodities and unemployment.

"It is unfortunate that the dreams of the youth are being shattered through schemes like Agneepath military recruitment scheme," Yadav alleged.

Without naming the Bahujan Samaj Party, Akhilesh Yadav said, "The Samajwadi Party will go to the people and apprise them about the real character of certain political parties who contest election only for the division of votes for the benefit of the BJP."

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Authorized Officer
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FIRST COLUMN

DOL0650 ROW REVEALS DOC-PHARMA NEXUS

The noble medical profession today is more commerce than service. A PIL takes the matter to SC



PRAMOD PATHAK

The pharma-physician nexus has reached the apex court. That this relationship was not all fair and square is common knowledge and needs no further elaboration. There may be notable exceptions, but they are few and far between. The recent PIL in the Supreme Court of India is only a reiteration of the obvious truth that commerce, and not service, is the key motivating force in the healthcare industry.

The medical profession that is regarded as a noble service to humanity has time and again been proved to be otherwise. A profession that should have been driven by mission is now driven by commission. Everything is commerce and commerce is everything. The dubious doctor-pharma relationship remained under the scanner for a long time, but the corona pandemic brought it to the open.

The pandemic was, in fact, an eye opener as far as the healthcare sector is concerned. Of course, there are the good, the bad and the ugly faces everywhere, but some professions are too crucial to allow for the bad and the ugly. The wrong people in these professions can become merchants of death.

The conduct of top global health agencies and institutions left much to desire. The confusion that prevailed during the pandemic appeared more due to intent rather than accident. Look how things moved in the name of treatment. From the initial panacea for covid-19 being the drug hydroxychloroquine, to Dolo-650, to Azithral, to Ivermectin to Medrol, to Remdesivir, the prescription kept on changing frequently till the drugs went out of stock in the stores.



It was some kind of chaos. And many top doctors from top institutions were responsible for this. Steroids, antibiotics, paracetamol, blood thinners and what not. Ironically, every prescription was followed by a disclaimer that it may or may not work. The more intriguing aspect of the entire scenario was that everyone was talking on the basis of some research or the other, many even published in highly reputable international research publications.

Research and researchers seemed to be a part of the game plan. Perhaps, they were sponsored by lobbies to influence markets rather than test hypotheses. No wonder we saw an astronomical number of research papers, published on a daily basis. They were confused. The only conclusion was that there is no conclusion.

The powerful pharma lobby made hay while the people suffered. The question of medical ethics was never as debatable. From desi potions to chemical formulations, it was free for all. Even the advisories that came from the supposedly authentic sources smelt conspiratorial. The healthcare sector capitalised on health scare and many loss-making enterprises could turn their balance sheets around. While the patients continued to be treated like guinea pigs, humanity stood disgraced. It is not just about one pandemic. It's about one whole sector, and a critical one. It must come under scrutiny.

Corona validated what was always hypothesised. The skeletons in the cupboard of the health care business became visible to the common people. The question is what to do?

From prescriptions of medicines to referral hospitals to insurance cover to pathology and radiological investigations, commerce seems to rule the roost. The answer does not lie in legislation. Even medical ethics code will not help. They are ignored with impunity. As commissions take over missions only introspection can help. The problem lies in the head and can be solved only by the heart. The physician needs to heal himself.

(The author is a former professor at IIT, Dhanbad)

Businesses can't have the cake and eat it too

Record corporate profits, dividend payouts point out to their unwillingness to help boost economy's strengths



UTTAM GUPTA

Even as the industries and businesses (large corporations, domestic and foreign-owned included) expect the government to formulate policies and take fiscal measures to stimulate aggregate demand to put the Indian economy on an 'accelerated and sustained' growth trajectory, it's worth asking what exactly they themselves are doing in pursuit of this overarching goal?

An analysis of the financials of India's largest companies—those comprising the BSE 500 index (the index covers every sector; besides it includes public sector undertakings (PSUs), as well as overseas subsidiaries of Indian-owned private-sector businesses, hence captures a broad trend)—shows focus on revenue, profits and dividend payouts, which represent a slice of the profits distributed to the shareholders, over the past five financial years (FY).

The profits of corporations included in this index went up from ₹480,000 crore during FY 2017-18 to more than ₹1,000,000 crore during FY 2021-22. This is an increase of over 100 per cent whereas their revenues growth was only 47 per cent during this period. It means that payments to factors of production other than the owners of capital (read: shareholders) such as to employees/workers, purchase of inputs, interest payments, etc., have been kept under tight leash, resulting in a disproportionate boost to profits.

Aggregate dividends paid by these firms increased from ₹176,000 crore during FY 2017-18 to ₹302,000 crore during FY 2021-22—an increase of 72 per cent. In each of the last five years, they paid at least 30 per cent of aggregate net profit as dividend (the policy of keeping dividends tax-free in the hands of recipients also prompted them to follow this practice brazenly). Cumulatively, they distributed 34 per cent of profit as dividend. This is an unusually high payout ratio—even higher than 30 per cent paid by the world's largest companies included in America's S&P 500.

Thus, the companies have done little to re-invest the profits for growth. On the other hand, the government being the owner of PSUs has been using profit making undertakings to hand out large dividends to achieve its fiscal deficit target. It has done so despite the compelling need to invest to meet growth targets in their respective sectors (for instance, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation or ONGC must invest to increase domestic production of oil and gas).

Whether profits (albeit extraordinary) to the company or high dividend to shareholders, it has been paid for or come at the cost of millions of others. For instance, ₹1,000,000 crore profits of firms in the BSE 500 index during FY 2021-22 came at the cost of undermining the purchasing power of millions of consumers. If even 50 per cent of this amount or ₹500,000 crore had remained with the latter, imagine, the boost this



STEER
REDUCTION IN
CORPORATE
TAX RATE TO 15
PER CENT
FOR NEW
ENTERPRISES
AND TO 22 PER
CENT FOR
EXISTING
ENTITIES GIVEN
IN SEPTEMBER
2019 RESULTED
IN ANNUAL
LOSS OF CLOSE
TO ₹1,50,000
CRORE TO THE
EXCHEQUER

(The author is a policy analyst)



would have given to the aggregate demand.

Likewise, look at the ₹302,000 crore dividend paid to shareholders during FY 2021-22—an overwhelming share of this going to the promoters and other minority shareholders. If, instead of filling their coffers—the money that merely adds to their cash balances or spent on a few discretionary/luxury items—more of it were to be distributed as higher salary to employees/workers particularly at the lower rung, imagine what it would do to demand.

The above trends are manifestations of a tendency in every business whereby the benefits of growth are appropriated mostly by a few persons at the top even as the majority of those at the bottom of pyramid get very little. Indeed, this is something intrinsic to the way businesses are planned and orchestrated.

It all starts with the government offering a policy environment in which investors are offered an opportunity to earn an attractive rate of return on investment. What should be that attractive rate, this is not normally defined (though in certain sectors like power, fertilizers, it guarantees a minimum return); so any level however high can fall within the scope of 'attractiveness'.

A number of big businesses enjoy pricing power. For instance, those operating in metals such as copper, zinc, aluminum or in hydrocarbons like oil and gas enjoy natural monopoly. Leveraging this, they charge high prices making

windfall gains. The private banks too enjoy pricing power in regard to the loan extended by them enabling margins of 3-4 per cent and in turn, mammoth profits. Then, there are companies in the IT and IT-enabled sector which use their intellectual prowess to post huge profits year-after-year.

Enterprises in the chemical, petrochemicals, pharmaceutical and agrochemicals sectors have hugely benefited from a protective policy environment with high tariff on imports as well as licensing and registration requirements. They make money at the expense of millions of consumers, including farmers.

The owners/promoters of these businesses also leave no stone unturned in ensuring that their tax liability is kept at bare minimum. The government is also more than willing to help them in their zeal to maximize profits. Look at the steep reduction in corporate tax rate to 15 per cent for new enterprises and to 22 per cent for existing entities given in September 2019. The decision resulted in annual loss of close to ₹150,000 crore to the exchequer and corresponding bonanza to businesses yet yielded little in terms of spurring investment.

Most of these being capital-intensive and skill-intensive industries, the employees benefiting from profit sharing are minuscule in the country's workforce of over 500 million. On the other hand, labour intensive sectors such as textiles, apparels, footwear, food service, and hospitality provide jobs, including to un-skilled workers on a large scale.

Over 60 million small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are privately owned businesses also ape large enterprises when it comes to distributing the proceeds of wealth generation. Their owners spend the least on payment to workers, thereby boosting their earnings.

The other important job provider is agriculture. Here, mostly farmers are the owner as well as cultivator/worker. Tens of millions of them are at the mercy of a handful of traders. The latter buy crops from the farmer at throwaway price (MSP notified by GOI remains mostly on paper) and sell to the consumer at high price.

Briefly put, irrespective of the nature of business, big or small, or sector affiliation like agriculture, industry, services or trade, all are structured to result in concentration of income in the hands of their owners or highly paid professionals at the top of the pyramid. Even the benefit of tax concessions end up filling pockets of the top few.

Having filled their own coffers to mountain level (according to the Oxfam report, "Inequality Kills", collective wealth of India's 100 richest people in 2021 hit a record high of \$775 billion or over 25 per cent of India's GDP), for the businesses to expect that the vast majority left impoverished by former's actions would provide the much needed demand push or expect the government to fill the gap is an abhorrent idea. Surely, they can't have the cake and eat it too.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

POLICE HAVE FULL INDEPENDENCE TO PROBE THE (SEXUAL HARASSMENT) CASE (AGAINST MURUGHA MUTT HEAD SEER). IT'S AN IMPORTANT CASE. —KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER BASAVARAJ BOMMAI



THERE'S NO TRUTH IN THIS CASE. I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT HE'LL COME OUT INNOCENT AFTER INVESTIGATION. —BJP LEADER & EX-CM KARNATAKA BS YEDIYURAPPA



Cong revival may be difficult but not impossible

The Congress leadership must go back to the basics, devise a core strategy, rework its plans, and connect with voters

A day before his assassination on January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi proposed in his last will and testament to dissolve the Congress Party and replace it with a Lok Sevak Sangh (people's service organisation.) He said, "Congress in its present shape and form, as a propaganda vehicle and a parliamentary machine, has outlived its use."

It was not as if the Mahatma wanted Congress to die. He stated, "The Congress has won political freedom, but it has yet to win economic freedom, social and moral freedom. These freedoms are harder than the political."

These two paragraphs reveal the Gandhian thought about the Congress party's future. He would not have



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

visualised the party facing its present existential crisis. But times have changed, ideas have changed, and the country has changed since then. New forces have emerged. Congress, too, has undergone many changes.

A pan-national party like Congress certainly had its ups and downs. The latest crisis is senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad leaving the party. He was the Muslim face of Congress.

Azad said in his blunt resignation letter to Sonia Gandhi three days ago, "Under your stewardship since 2014 and subsequently that of Rahul Gandhi, the Congress has lost two Lok Sabha elections in a humiliating manner. It has lost 39 out of the 49 assembly elections held between 2014-

2022. The party only won four state elections and was able to get into a coalition situation in six instances. Unfortunately, today, Congress is ruling in only two states and is a very marginal coalition partner in two other states." This is what the party is today.

In short, the party is at its lowest ebb today compared to when Sonia Gandhi entered politics in 1998, brought the party to power in 2004, and ruled until 2014.

The exit of Azad is more than a wake-up call as he had been a Congress man for more than five decades and had held several important posts, including the general secretary. PCC president, chief minister, minister at the centre holding various portfolios like Health, Parliamentary affairs, etc.

Azad has been leading the rebel group of 23 for the past two years. In 2022, some senior leaders like Captain Amarendra Singh, Kapil Sibal, Hardik Patel, Ashwini Kumar, Sunil Jhakar, RPN Singh, Jaiveer Shergill, and Kuldeep Bishnoi quit the party for greener pastures.

Azad is not the first or last to leave Congress. Throughout the history of the Congress, many leaders have snapped ties with the grand old party. Indira Gandhi split the party in 1969 and became a massive success. Some, like Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee, and Jagan Mohan Reddy, succeeded and became their respective states' chief ministers. Others like Jagjivan Ram and Bishnoi of the Haryana Janhit Congress had no impact.

Azad has two options. One is to align with the other regional parties like the National Conference and PDP. The other is to tie up with the Bharatiya Janata Party. Most of those who quit Congress earlier joined the BJP.

It is an open secret that the BJP is looking for a strong leader in Jammu and Kashmir, and Azad fits the bill. He also has a good equation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Gandhi family has to take responsibility for the present crisis. The options are very few, but still it can do a few things. Rahul Gandhi should quit if he is not keen on politics and let someone else lead the party. The schedule for electing the new president has been announced; and on

September 19, the results will be notified. If a non-Gandhi is chosen, they would only be a rubber stamp. The family will have the remote control like Sonia Gandhi had when Manmohan Singh was in the driving seat for ten years during the UPA government. A non-Gandhi party chief would only be a loyalist.

Secondly, the Congress leadership should abandon the coterie culture. A few leaders in the party, like A.K. Antony, Digvijay Singh, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Anand Sharma could be consulted.

Thirdly, the Congress leadership must address the concerns of the G 23 rebel group. It has already been weakened with the many members leaving or being pacified.

Fourthly, the party should fully concentrate on winning Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where the Congress still has some presence.

Fifthly, with coalition politics gaining ground Congress should find suitable allies and work for the opposition's unity.

Sixthly, as long as Rahul is not leading from the front, the Congress should not be adamant in fielding him as the prime Ministerial opposition candidate.

A political revival of the Congress may be difficult but not impossible. It still has a 20 per cent vote share at the national level. All that is required is to go back to the basics, devise a core strategy, rework its plans, and connect with voters.

Leaks, possible crack threaten to delay NASA moon launch

AP ■ CAPE CANAVERAL

Fuel leaks and a possible crack discovered during final liftoff preparations threatened to delay the launch of NASA's mighty new moon rocket Monday morning on its shakedown flight with three test dummies aboard.

As precious minutes ticked away, NASA repeatedly stopped and started the fuelling of the Space Launch System rocket with nearly 1 million gallons of super-cold hydrogen and oxygen because of a leak.

The fuelling already was running nearly an hour late because of thunderstorms off Florida's Kennedy Space Centre.

The leak appeared in the same

place that saw seepage during a dress rehearsal back in the spring.

Then a second apparent leak in a valve turned up, officials said. Later in the morning, a crack or some other defect was spotted on the core stage — the big orange fuel tank with four main engines on it — with frost appearing around the suspect area, NASA officials said.

Engineers began studying the buildup.

The rocket was set to lift off on a mission to put a crew capsule into orbit around the moon.

The launch represents a major milestone in America's quest to put astronauts back on the lunar surface for the first time since the Apollo programme ended 50 years ago.

NASA's assistant launch director, Jeremy Graeber, said after the repeated struggles with the first leak that the space agency would have to decide whether to go forward with the Monday morning launch.

"We have a lot of work to get to that point," Graeber cautioned.

If Monday's launch can't go forward, the next attempt wouldn't be until Friday at the earliest.

The 322-foot rocket is the most powerful ever built by NASA, out-muscling even the Saturn V that took the Apollo astronauts to the moon.

No astronauts were inside the rocket's Orion capsule.

Instead, the test dummies, fitted with sensors to measure vibra-



tion, radiation and other conditions, were strapped for the six-week mission, scheduled to end with the capsule's splashdown in the Pacific in October.

Even though no one was on board, thousands of people jammed the coast to see the rocket soar. Vice President Kamala Harris was expected among the VIPs.

The launch is the first flight in NASA's 21st-century moon-exploration programme, named Artemis after Apollo's mythological twin sister.

Assuming the test goes well, astronauts will climb aboard for the second flight and fly around the moon and back as soon as 2024.

A two-person lunar landing could follow by the end of 2025.

The problems seen Monday were reminiscent of NASA's space shuttle era, when hydrogen fuel leaks disrupted countdowns and delayed a string of launches back in 1990.

Launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson and her team also had to deal with a communication problem involving the Orion capsule.

Engineers scrambled to understand an 11-minute delay in the communication lines between Launch Control and Orion that cropped up late Sunday.

Although the problem had cleared by Monday morning, NASA needed to know why it occurred before committing to a launch.

COVID SPIKE

China shuts down world's largest electronic market

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's technology hub Shenzhen on Monday ordered the closure of the world's largest electronics wholesale market to contain a recent spike in coronavirus cases in the southern city, amidst a call by a leading Chinese think tank for a change in the country's 'zero-COVID' policy that it said was causing widespread disruption of business.

Merchants in the Huaqiangbei district, home to the world's largest electronics market, received an official notice that the market will be closed till Thursday to contain the COVID spread.

All tenants are required to work from home during the period and take a nucleic acid test every day, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted one of the district's biggest operators, Huaqiang



Electronics World.

Key manufacturing enterprises, including telecommunications equipment giant Huawei Technologies Co, China's top chip maker Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp and Apple supplier Foxconn Technology Group, were ordered to follow a "closed-

loop" system for a week that restricted movement of employees, while keeping their production schedules on track.

The new virus cluster has emerged as Hong Kong, which is close to Shenzhen, has reported a big spike in cases. Hong Kong on Monday recorded 8,488 new cases, the second such big spread of the COVID-19 in recent months.

The cases could peak at 20,000 next month, a government pandemic adviser warned on Monday, the report said.

The former British colony has witnessed the worst outbreak a few months ago causing extensive deaths. Hong Kong so far recorded 1,522,460 cases and 9,668 fatalities.

Recently thousands of tourists were stranded for days when China shut down the biggest summer resort Sanya in Hainan cancelling flights and transport services to contain the

spread of the Omicron variant, which Beijing continues to find difficult to contain.

Shenzhen China's most modern industrial city itself faced several shutdowns in the recent past to deal with sudden spikes of the virus.

On Sunday China reported 301 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country, of which 161 were in Sichuan Province, the National Health Commission reported on Monday.

Altogether 1,255 local asymptomatic carriers were newly identified on Sunday, including 570 in Tibet and 98 in Hainan, said the commission in its report.

So far 5,226 people so far have died of the virus in China.

The periodic COVID-19 lockdowns, including the shutting of China's biggest city Shanghai a few months ago, have seriously affected supply chains of the industrialised goods in the world's second largest economy.

In Beijing, all the residents currently undergo mandatory testing three days a week to ensure proper checks on the periodic spikes.

The zero COVID-19 policy was expected to continue until the once-in-five-year congress of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) is held.

The meeting during which Chinese President Xi Jinping was widely expected to get nominated for an unprecedented third term was expected to be held in the next few months.

Lebanon presidential candidate on anti-Hezbollah platform

AP ■ BEIRUT

The granddaughter of a former Lebanese president and ex-diplomat on Monday announced her candidacy for the cash-strapped country's upcoming presidential elections on a platform critical of Iran-backed Shiite group Hezbollah.

The country's political woes are compounded by its crippling economic crisis, which the World Bank says is the worst worldwide in over a century.

The Lebanese pound has lost over 90 per cent of its value against the dollar, with three-quarters of its population living in poverty.

Tracy Chamoun, 61, the granddaughter of late former President Camille Chamoun, called for key reforms to rescue Lebanon's comatose economy and reestablish trust with international donors.

But she especially criticised Hezbollah's influential role in politics and security, its arms, and its impact on Lebanese relations with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

"Lebanon cannot continue without its independence and sovereignty and without a clear defence strategy," Chamoun said at a press conference in Beirut.

"Lebanon cannot be ruled by one group, and its decisions related to peace and war can only be done through its institutions."

Chamoun comes from a prominent Christian political family. Her grandfather, the late president, founded the right-wing National Liberal Party.

She also is the daughter of Dany Chamoun, who led the party's "Tigers" militia in the Lebanese civil war from 1975 until 1990.

Five gunmen assassinated her father in 1990 alongside his second wife Ingrid, and their sons,



5 and 7. The couple's youngest daughter, 11 months old, survived. Chamoun, then 30, was living in London.

Chamoun was Lebanon's ambassador to Jordan from 2017 until her resignation in August 2020, days after the Beirut Port explosion that killed over 200 people and wounded over 6,000 others.

Chamoun would be the second woman to officially announce her candidacy in the Lebanese presidential elections, after lawyer and civil society activist Nadine Moussa in 2014.

The term of the incumbent president, retired military general and Hezbollah-allied Michel Aoun, ends on October 31.



Jury selection begins for death penalty case in slaying of US family of 8

AP ■ COLUMBUS (OHIO)

The first trial in the case of eight members of a single Ohio family shot to death more than six years ago is about to begin after several delays related to the coronavirus pandemic and negotiations with other defendants.

Defendant George Wagner IV was charged in Pike County Court in the 2016 slayings of the Rhoden family near Piketon in southern Ohio.

Wagner, 30, faces the death penalty if convicted. Jury selection was expected to start on Monday in county court in Waverly, about 65 miles (105 kilometres) south of Columbus, with opening statements next week.

Authorities say the shootings of seven adults and a teenage boy stemmed from a dispute over custody of a child that Jake Wagner had with one of the victims. Wagner's parents and his brother, Jake Wagner, were also charged.

Pak dismisses Afghan Minister's charges about allowing use of its airspace by US for drone attacks

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has rejected allegations by the Taliban's acting defence minister about the use of its airspace by the US for drone attacks in Afghanistan, saying his remarks were "highly regrettable" and defied the "norms of responsible diplomatic conduct."

The allegations were made by Mohammad Yaqoob on Sunday, nearly a month after al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed by a missile fired from a CIA drone against his hideout in central Kabul on July 31.

The attack was the first known strike by the US on a target in Afghanistan since Washington withdrew its forces from the war-torn country on August 31 last year.

Yaqoob told reporters in Kabul that US drones have been entering Afghanistan via Pakistan's airspace.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed said in an overnight statement that Pakistan has noted, with



deep concern, the allegation by the Acting Defence Minister of Afghanistan regarding the use of Pakistan's air space in the US counter-terrorism drone operation in Afghanistan.

"In the absence of any evidence, as acknowledged by the Afghan Minister himself, such conjectural allegations are highly regrettable and defy the norms of responsible diplomatic conduct," he said.

Pakistan reaffirmed its belief in the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and said that it condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Palestinian toll mounts as Israel steps up West Bank raids

AP ■ TUBAS (WEST BANK)

At least 85 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank this year as Israeli forces have carried out nightly raids in cities, towns and villages, making it the deadliest in the occupied territory since 2016.

The military says the vast majority were militants or stone-throwers who endangered the soldiers. The tally, from the Palestinian Health Ministry, includes Palestinians who carried out deadly attacks inside Israel.

But it also includes several civilians, including a veteran journalist and a lawyer who apparently drove unwittingly into a battle zone, as well as local youths who took to the streets in response to the invasion of their neighbourhoods.

The length and frequency of the raids has pulled into focus Israel's tactics in the West Bank, where nearly 3 million Palestinians live under a decades-long occupation and



Palestinians view the military's presence as a humiliation and a threat.

Israeli troops have regularly operated across the West Bank since Israel captured the territory in 1967.

Israel says it is dismantling militant networks that threaten its citizens, and that it makes every effort to avoid harming civilians. Palestinians say the raids are aimed at maintaining Israel's 55-year military rule over territories they want for a future state — a dream that appears as remote as ever, with no serious peace negotiations held in over a decade.

China's drought-hit areas get rain, bringing flood risks

AP ■ BEIJING

Tens of thousands of people were evacuated to safer areas by Monday as heavy rains brought flood risks to a region of southwest China that for most of the summer was devastated by a heatwave and drought.

Heavy rain was forecast for parts of Sichuan and Chongqing provinces through at least Tuesday.

Chongqing, a megacity built in a hilly area and that also oversees the surrounding mountains and countryside, issued a flash flood warning for both days. Authorities have moved 61,000 people in Sichuan to safer places since Sunday evening as heavy rain fell overnight, state broadcaster CCTV said Monday.

One village under the jurisdiction of Guangyuan city recorded 18.8 centimetres of rain. The city was one of the two in Sichuan most affected by the drought.

The shift in the weather brought some relief from the heat, and full power was restored for factories in Sichuan after two weeks of restrictions stemming from reduced hydropower output.

Iran President: No way back to nuclear deal if probe goes on



AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's president warned Monday that any roadmap to restore Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers must see international inspectors end their probe on man-made uranium particles found at undeclared sites in the country.

In a rare news conference marking his first year in office, President Ebrahim Raisi also issued threats against Israel and tried to sound upbeat as Iran's economy and rial currency has cratered under the weight of international sanctions.

Despite the international attention on the deal as talks in Vienna hang in the balance, it took Raisi well over an hour before fully acknowledging the ongoing negotiations. Tehran and Washington have traded written responses in recent weeks on the finer points of the roadmap, which would see sanctions lifted against Iran in exchange for it restricting its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

The International Atomic Energy Agency for years has sought for Iran to answer questions about man-made uranium particles found at undeclared sites. U.S. Intelligence agencies, Western nations and the IAEA have said Iran ran an organized nuclear weapons program until 2003. Iran long has denied ever seeking nuclear weapons.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)

No. AD/RSC-I-21/16/2013(PLI)/2205 Dated, the 24th August, 2022

Advertisement

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 05 (five) **General Duty Medical Officer** on contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.

For further details, visit our website www.paradiport.gov.in.

PPA/PR/190/22-23 Dt. 29.8.22 **Dy. Secretary, Paradip Port Authority**

SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED
R-13, S/F GREATER KAILASH-I, NEW DELHI -110048 CIN: L34102DL1985PLC020156
Email: sidhindia1985@gmail.com; Website: www.sidhgroup.in Tel No.: 011-41053325

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 37th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Members of **SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED ("the Company")** is scheduled to be held on **Friday, September 30, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.** at R-13, S/F Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi -110048 to transact the special businesses as set out in Notice convening the AGM of the Company.

The dispatch of the notice of AGM, inter alia indicating the process and manner of remote e-voting, along with attendance slip and proxy form, has been completed on August 29, 2022, to the Members whose names appear in the Register of Members/List of beneficiaries received from the depositories in the following manner:

- Through email to the Members who have registered their email ID; and
- Through post to other Members who have not registered their email ID.

In terms of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the 'Act') read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended, and Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the 'Listing Regulations') and Secretarial Standard on General Meetings (SS2) issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, the Company is providing the facility to its Members to exercise their right to vote by electronic means on any or all of the businesses specified in the Notice convening the AGM of the Company (remote e-voting), through e-voting services of Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL"). The details pursuant to the Act and Rules made thereunder are as under:

- Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form and whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories, as on the cut-off date, i.e. September 23, 2022 ('eligible Members'), shall be entitled to exercise their right to vote by remote e-voting as well as voting to be held at AGM on any or all of the businesses specified in the Notice convening the AGM of the Company;
- The remote e-voting will commence on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 09:00 A.M.;
- The remote e-voting will end on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.;
- The remote e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter and voting through electronic means shall not be allowed thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by a Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently;
- Members may note that:
 - the facility for voting through ballot paper shall be made available at the AGM and the members attending the meeting who have not casted their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their rights at the meeting through ballot paper;
 - A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote at the AGM.
- In case a person has become a Member of the Company after the dispatch of the AGM Notice but on or before the cut-off date i.e. September 23, 2022, may obtain the login ID and password by sending request at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com.
- A person, whose name is recorded in the register of Members or in the register of Beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM through ballot paper.
- In case of any queries, you may refer to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the Download sections of <http://www.evoting.com> or contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL), at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call at 1800-200-5533/+91-22-23058543 at CDSL, Marathon Futurex, A-Wing, 25th floor, NM Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013.
- The Board of Directors has appointed Ms. Teena Rani, Practicing Company Secretary appointed as Scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting through Remote e-voting and Insta Poll process in a fair and transparent manner.
- The Register of members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday, September 24, 2022 to Friday, September 30, 2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

Members may go through the Notice for the AGM for detailed process and manner on remote e-voting. Any grievances or queries of the Members of the Company, connected with the electronic voting may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A-Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compound, N.M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on toll free no. 1800 225 55 33 or may write to the Company Secretary at the Registered Office of the Company.

The Notice convening the AGM and other relevant documents will be available on the website of the Company at www.sidhgroup.in and the website of CDSL at evoting.cdslindia.com.

By the order of the Board
For **SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED**
Sd/-
ANIL SHARMA
Managing Director
DIN: 02928210

Date: 29.08.2022
Place: New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

To, be known to all that I, **Mrs. GYAN JYOTI SAXENA W/O SHRI K. C. SAXENA R/O FLAT NO.23-D, POCKET-1, MAYUR VIHAR, PH-1 DELHI-110091**, is the owner of **DDA MIG FLAT NO.23-D, 1ST FLOOR, POCKET-1, MAYUR VIHAR, PH-1 DELHI-110091, VIDE DDA FILE NO.F/9(13)/1980/GEN/T/P**, have applied for Conversion of leasehold from freehold of the aforesaid property in DDA. The original documents i.e. **POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER & ELECTRICITY CONNECTION, SITE POSSESSION SLIP**, of the above said property have been lost or misplaced and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An F.I.R./NCR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi.

(L.R.No.723421/2022 dated 24.08.2022.

Any person/s claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with **above named person** at above Address/Phone No.9910507159, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (LAB Housing) or Director (Housing), Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

Mrs. GYAN JYOTI SAXENA

SUMMONS
Plaintiff's Advocate:- **A.P.PARKH**
IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BHAVNAGAR (SHREE H.K.RAMAWATJI WARI) (GUJARAT STATE)
Reg. Civil Suit No.327/2019
Fixed date-30/09/2022

Partner Javeli Patel of M/S J.J. Patel (Plot no. 5b Shiv Society, Opp Naupal Park, Airport Road, Bhavnagar) ...Plaintiff.

vs.

(1) The M.D. Director & Authorized Person of The Indure Pvt. Ltd.
(2) Mr. Narendra Prakash Gupta M.D.
(3) Mr. Anand Gupta M.D.
(4) Mr. Naga Sai yelkar Director
Having its Head Office At Greater Kailash - II New Delhi-110048 ...Defendant.

WHEREAS:
plaintiff Owning at has Instituted a Suit in this Court against Defendant, for money Recovery (Rs. 4,58,273/-) with 18% interest, interest is hereby Summoned to appear in this Court, in Person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the Suit, or who shall be accompanied by some other person able to answer all such questions, on the 30th day of September 2022 at 10:45 O'clock in the MORNING the answer of the claim, and as the day fails your appearance is appointed for the Settlement of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that day all the written Evidence and all the document upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the suit will be heard and determined in your absence Also take notice that in default of your filing an address for service on or before the date mentioned you are liable to have defence struck out.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court
Summons issue Date: 24/08/2022
Bhavnagar

Prepared By: (U. Rajgopal) Branch Clerk Grade -2 (U.S. Bhatia) J. Bhatia
Additional Senior Civil Court, Additional Senior Civil Court, Principal Senior Civil Court, Bhavnagar

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED
CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779
Registered Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Park, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi - 110091
Corporate Office: Block C, Sector 45, Gurgaon-122003
Tel. No. : (+91-11) 49482870 • Fax : (+91-11) 49482900
Email: info@kamaholdings.com; Web: www.kamaholdings.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Certificates pertaining to Shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder/ Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	SPP0008056	SUBHOD LAXMICHAND MEHTA /MR. SOBHAN SUBHOD MEHTA	9512	583038-75	38
2	SPP0008386	VEENA JAIN	9871	598517-64	48
3	SPP0003195	BALBIR KUMAR	3299	123968-92	25
4	SPP0006043	JAYANT CHINTAMNI KHARKAR	7365	492598-638	41
5	SPP0004495	NEERA SHARMA	5523	392958-3037	80

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim /objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for **KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED**
Sd/-
EKTA MAHESHWARI
WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR, CFO & COMPANY SECRETARY

Place : Gurugram
Date : 29.08.2022

Russia, Ukraine trade claims of nuclear plant attacks

AP ■ SLOVIANSK (UKRAINE)

Russia and Ukraine traded claims of rocket and artillery strikes at or near Europe's largest nuclear power plant on Sunday, intensifying fears that the fighting could cause a massive radiation leak. Ukraine's atomic energy agency painted an ominous picture of the threat Sunday by issuing a map forecasting where radiation could spread from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which Russian forces have controlled since soon after the war began.

Attacks were reported over the weekend not only in Russian-controlled territory adjacent to the plant along the left bank of the Dnieper River, but along the Ukraine-controlled right bank, including the cities of Nikopol and Marhanets, each about 10 kilometers (six miles) from the

facility. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said Sunday that Ukrainian forces had attacked the plant twice over the past day, and that shells fell near buildings storing reactor fuel and radioactive waste.

"One projectile fell in the area of the sixth power unit, and the other five in front of the sixth unit pumping station, which provides cooling for this reactor," Konashenkov said, adding that radiation levels were normal.

The U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency also reported Sunday that radiation levels were normal, that two of the Zaporizhzhia plant's six reactors were operating and that while no complete assessment had yet been made, recent fighting had damaged a water pipeline, since repaired.

In another apparent attack Sunday, Russian forces shot down an armed Ukrainian



drone targeting one of the Zaporizhzhia plant's spent fuel storage sites, a local official said. Vladimir Rogov, a Russian-installed regional official, said on the Telegram messaging app that the drone crashed onto a

building's roof, not causing any significant damage or injuring anyone.

Nearby, heavy firing during the night left parts of Nikopol without electricity, said Valentyn Reznichenko, the

Dnipropetrovsk region's governor. Rocket strikes damaged a dozen residences in Marhanets, according to Yevhen Yevtushenko, the administration head for the district that includes the city of about 45,000.

The city of Zaporizhzhia, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) up the Dnieper River from the nuclear plant, also came under Russian fire, damaging dozens of apartment buildings and homes and wounding two people, city council member Anatoliy Kurtev said. Russian forces struck a Zaporizhzhia repair shop for Ukrainian air force helicopters, Konashenkov said.

Neither side's claims could be independently verified.

Downriver from the nuclear plant, Ukrainian rockets hit the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant and adjacent city three times on Sunday, said Vladimir Leontyev, the head of the Russia-installed local administration.



In this handout photo taken from video released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Monday, a Russian soldier fires from a Komet at an undisclosed location in Ukraine AP/PTI

Russia identifies 2nd suspect in death of nationalist Dugina

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's top security agency Monday identified a second Ukrainian that it alleged was involved in the killing of the daughter of a Russian nationalist ideologue.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the main KGB successor agency, said that Ukrainian national Bogdan Tsyganenko helped prepare the killing of Darya Dugina, the daughter of Alexander Dugin, who was described by some in the West as "Putin's brain."

The FSB charged that Tsyganenko provided the main suspect, Natalya Vovk, with a fake ID and fake license plates, and helped her assemble an explosive device that was planted in Dugina's car.

Tsyganenko, 44, arrived in Russia via Estonia on July 30 and left the country the day before the killing, the FSB said.

Dugina, a 29-year-old commentator with a nationalist Russian TV channel, died when a remotely controlled



explosive device planted in her SUV blew up on the night of Aug. 20 as she was driving on the outskirts of Moscow, ripping the vehicle apart and killing her on the spot, authorities said.

Both she and her father, who is a philosopher, writer and political theorist, ardently supported Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to send troops into Ukraine.

The FSB said Dugina's killing was "prepared and perpetrated by the Ukrainian special services" and accused Vovk of carrying out the killing and then fleeing to Estonia.

Vovk, according to the FSB, arrived in Russia in July with her 12-year-old daughter and rented an apartment in the building where Dugina lived in order to shadow her.

The agency alleged that Vovk and her daughter were at a nationalist festival that Dugin and his daughter attended just before the killing.

The FSB said Vovk used a license plate for Ukraine's Russian-backed separatist Donetsk region to enter Russia and a Kazakhstan plate in Moscow before switching to a Ukrainian one to cross into Estonia.

The inside story of CIA vs Russia

■ EDINBURGH (UK)

(THE CONVERSATION)

In the early 1990s, Senator Patrick Moynihan campaigned for the abolition of the CIA. The brilliant campaigner thought the US Department of State should take over its intelligence functions. For him, the age of secrecy was over.

In the speech introducing his Abolition of the CIA bill in January 1995, Moynihan cited British author John le Carré's scorn for the idea that the CIA had contributed to victory in the cold war against the Soviet Union of Leonid Brezhnev and his successors. "The Soviet Empire did not fall apart because the spooks had bugged the man's room in the Kremlin or put broken glass in Brezhnev's bath," Le Carré had written.

This was one of the CIA's lowest points since its establishment in 1947 (my new book marks the agency's 75th anniversary). It was created with two key goals in mind: thwarting Soviet expansionism, and



preventing another surprise attack like that carried out by the Japanese on Pearl Harbour during the second world war. While Moynihan's campaign to shut down the CIA did not ultimately prevail, there was certainly a widespread perception that the agency was no longer fit for purpose and should be curtailed.

Throughout the cold war, many had regarded fighting communism as the CIA's raison d'être. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the agency's role was less clear, and it came under heavy criticism for having distorted intelligence and "blatantly pandered" to one ideological viewpoint: blind

anti-communism. Without the cold war, Moynihan predicted, the CIA would become "a kind of retirement programme for a cadre of cold warriors not really needed any longer."

Three decades on, however, Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine has put Russia's threat to the stability of the world back at the top of the US foreign agenda. With a formidable Kremlinologist now in charge of the CIA and Donald Trump out of the presidential picture (for the moment, at least), the agency might be expected to be an influential player in the US response to this "new cold war". But how much does Washington trust the CIA these days — and how much influence does it really have on events in Ukraine? To shed light on these questions, we need to go back to the early days of the Ronald Reagan presidency.

'Stay the f-ck out of my business' As US president from 1981 to 1989, the neoconservative Reagan unleashed the CIA from restrictions that had been imposed on it during the reforming post-Vietnam 1970s.

Like other anti-communists, Reagan saw the agency as a prime weapon in weakening the Soviet Union, which he famously denounced as the "evil empire", and preventing the worldwide spread of communism.

The new US president was convinced that in opposing an unethical foe, one could not afford to be too scrupulous. He chose as his CIA director Bill Casey, a veteran of intelligence in the second world war — a time when it had been "gloves off" for dirty tricksters.

An outright cold warrior, Casey resuscitated old CIA habits, running covert operations against the left-leaning — but democratically elected — Sandinista government in Nicaragua from December 1981 to the ceasefire of March 1988. Even the veteran conservative senator Barry Goldwater admitted he was "pissed off" when, in 1984, the CIA mined Nicaragua's harbours without informing Congress. Accosted with this oversight, the uncompromising Casey replied: "The business of Congress is to stay the fuck out of my business."

UN agency to inspect Ukraine nuclear plant amid safety fears



AP ■ KYIV

A team from the UN nuclear watchdog on Monday started its journey to the Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant at the heart of fighting in Ukraine, a long-awaited mission to inspect crucial safety systems that the world hopes will help avoid a catastrophe.

Offsetting that rare ray of hope, Ukraine and Russia again accused each other of stoking the conflict by shelling the wider region around the plant, which had already been briefly knocked offline last week.

That incident heightened dread of a nuclear disaster in a country still haunted by the 1986 explosion at Chernobyl, and officials began handing out anti-radiation iodine tablets shortly after.

To avoid such a disaster, International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi has for months sought access to the Zaporizhzhia plant, Europe's biggest, which has been occupied by Russian forces and run by Ukrainian workers since the early days of the six-month-old war. "The day has come," Grossi tweeted, adding that the Vienna-based IAEA's "Support and Assistance Mission ... Is now on its way."

It is slated to arrive later this week. Grossi didn't provide a more precise timeline or give further details beyond posting a picture of himself with 13 other experts. His announcement came as Ukraine accused Russia of new rocket and artillery strikes at or near the plant, intensifying fears that the fighting could cause a massive radiation leak.

The facility, which has six reactors, was already temporarily knocked offline under the barrage of shelling last week.

Ukraine has alleged that Russia is essentially holding the plant hostage, storing weapons there and launching attacks

from around it, while Moscow accuses Ukraine of recklessly firing on the facility.

Ukraine reported shelling in Nikopol, the city across the Dnieper river from the nuclear power plant, and said one person was killed and five others were wounded. In Enerhodar, just a few kilometers from the plant, the city's Ukrainian mayor, Dmytro Orlov, blamed Russian shelling for injuries to at least 10 residents.

"Apparently, (the Russians) have rehearsed their scenario ahead of the arrival of the IAEA mission," Orlov said on Telegram.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said that it is "without an exaggeration, this mission will be the hardest in the history of IAEA."

"We expect from the mission a clear statement of facts, of violation of all nuclear, of nuclear safety protocols. We know that Russia is putting not only Ukraine, but also the entire world at threat at the risk of nuclear accident," Kuleba said in Stockholm.

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused Ukraine of shelling in and around the plant.

"We believe that all countries must raise pressure on the Ukrainian side to force it to stop threatening the European continent by shelling the territory of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and surrounding areas," he said. Peskov noted that Russia will ensure security of the IAEA mission "in view of the constant threats linked to the relentless shelling by the Ukrainian side." Ukraine's atomic energy agency has painted an ominous picture of the threat by issuing a map forecasting where radiation could spread from the Zaporizhzhia plant, which Russian forces have controlled since soon after the war began.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd. That Mrs. Suman Khanna is the owner of Property / I.L.E. Flat bearing No. A-20, addressing 127/48 sq. mtrs., Situated at Sector-4, Vashali, Ghaziabad, U.P. (the said property), by virtue of sale deed dated 24.08.2022, Registration No.9253, executed by Mr. Kapil Verma through attorney of Mr. Vijay Kumar Khanna. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property, to Mr. Tanuj Garg or its nominee, who is taking loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. for purchase of the said Property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner/s its sale / Mortgage/litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi - 110 014-4010257-28. suman@kumar-advocates.com@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that We, Shiv Shankar S/o Late Mishri Lal & Smt. Lali Devi W/o Sh. Shiv Shankar R/o Juggi No. A-82, Budh Nagar, J.J Colony, Inder Puri, New Delhi-110012 Have Disinherited And Disowned Our Son Sh. Mukesh, His Wife Mrs. Sonia, His Daughters Ms. Jyoti, Ms. Kajal & His Son Master Om @ Ansh All R/o Juggi No. A-60, Budh Nagar, J.J Colony, Inder Puri, New Delhi-110012. From All Our Moveable And Immovable Properties And Also Severed All Our Relationship With All Of Them Due To Their Adament And Impromptu Behavior As They All Of Them Are Disobeying Me And My Wife And Further They Are Out Of Our Control And Also They Misbeave With Me & My Other Family Members. Any Person Dealing With Them In Any Manner Shall Be Doing So At His/her Own Risk/And Responsibility.

PAWAN JAIN ADVOCATE
CH. NO. C-77, C.L. JOSEPH BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Corporate Office: Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B.Marg Worli, Mumbai 400 018 India; Tel: +91 22 66523500 Fax: +91 22 24972741
Regional Office: LDA Colony,B2/B70 Kanpur Road, Near Phoneix Mall, Lucknow.
Branch Office: First Floor, Asha Modern School Lane, Near Civil Court, Court Rd, opp. R G Place, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh 247001.

Possession Notice

(For Immovable Property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHF"), Having its registered office at **LUCKNOW** and Branch office at **SAHARANPUR** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein above and to the public in general that undersigned has taken **possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 7 day

The borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. for an amount and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(LC No: 1356891 SAHARANPUR Branch) ASHU KASHYAP (Borrower) DHARAMPAL (Co Borrower) REKHA (Co Borrower)	Hasra No. 292 Mi Village Harpali, Sheru Bans, Harpali Village Market Road, Saharanpuruttar Pradesh -247340, Plot Area 1223.117, East: Road 12 Feet, West : House Of Ismyle , South Property Of Rampal, North House Of Ismyle	30-05-2022 Rs. 13,40,565/-	25-Aug-22 Symbolic Possession
2.	(LC No: 914478 SAHARANPUR Branch) MOHD YASIN (Borrower) SARAJ BEGUM (Co Borrower)	House No. 4/1464 (old) And 4/2757 (new) Nawab Ganj, Saharanpur , Uttar Pradesh -247001, Plot Area 444.264, East: House Of Mr.nathuram , West : House Of Mr Shisram , South House Of Mr.sukhram, North Gali 6 FT Wide	31-05-2022 Rs. 6,33,310/-	26-Aug-22 Symbolic Possession
3.	(LC No: 983917 SAHARANPUR Branch) BABITA (Borrower) NARENDAR KUMAR (Co Borrower)	Plot No.12 ,khasra No.427 And 438 Dara Kot Tala Swad Baron Dar Abadi, Shiv Vihar Colony, Village Nazirpura, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh -247001, Plot Area 900, East: Other Plot , West : Rasta 18 , South : Plot No 13, North : Plot No 11	13-Aug-21 Rs. 9,57,867/-	26-Aug-22 Symbolic Possession

Place :- DELHI,SAHARANPUR Date:-30.08.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

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

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Certificates pertaining to Shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder/ Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No.	Lost Shares
1	SRF0111136	KISHAN SARUP GUPTA PRAKASH CHAND GUPTA	90246085	3343397-404	8
			90246085	3516396-403	8
			90246085	4160804-21	18
			90246085	5643449-64	16
			90246084	2464851-75	25
			90246084	2848932-42	11
			90246084	15386371-84	14
			90246083	3344091-6	6
			90246083	5454966-83	18
			90246083	11806640-9	10
			90246083	15386365-70	6
			90246083	15621300-9	10
			90246082	15581885-9	5
			90246082	15582290-4	5
			90246082	15582695-9	5
			90246082	15621265-99	35
			90246081	11964025-54	30
2	U 0000249	UMA JAIN	90246081	15481785-804	20
			555616-23	25799952-800179	228
			406616-23	17780160-387	228
			90246080	6216608-17	10
			90246080	9085836-45	10
			90246080	10522905-19	15
			90246080	11964010-24	15
			90246079	6216588-607	20
			90246079	8851344-53	10
			90246079	10037250-69	20
			90246078	8378586-8378605	20
			90246078	8843994-8844013	20
			90246078	8851334-8851343	10
			977383	18617077-376	300
			153838	6066963-7012	50
			1128262	309358090-289	200
3	SRF0113430	LEELAVATI VASANT NADKARNI SUNANDA VIJAY PANJIKAR	99189	4189717-66	50
			90153577-8	10516070-169	100
			455259-62	23841809-2008	200
			306259-62	15822017-216	200
			977-8	1148101-200	100
			371634-5	17072338-62	25
			520633-5	25092080-154	75
			650447-9	43264667-816	150
			90073390-2	9155870-969	100
			90192451	15023870-919	50
			90160024-7	12120065-264	200
			90007633-4	5112280-301	22
			90007633	3317471-514	44
			120400	5112230-79	50
			8924	1545751-1545775	25
			8217-8	1524601-75	75
7	SRF0154514	RAJ BALA	1124070	307824690-5089	400

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for SRF LIMITED
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
VP (Corporate Compliance)
& Company Secretary

Place : Gurugram Date : 29.08.2022

Reliance to enter FMCG sec, partner 1 crore merchants

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest retailer Reliance Industries on Monday announced that it will enter the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) business this year as part of its expansion plan.

Addressing the 45th AGM of Reliance Industries on Monday, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) Director Isha Ambani said: "This year, we will launch our FMCG goods business".

The objective of this business will be to develop and deliver products and solve every Indian's daily needs, with high-quality products at affordable pricing, she said while addressing Reliance Industries' annual general meeting.

In FY22, Reliance Retail strengthened the presence of its own brands by launching several new products across the categories as staples, home, personal care and general merchandise, said Isha Ambani.

The Indian FMCG market is estimated to be over USD 100 billion and is largely dominated by big firms, such as HUL, Reckitt, P&G, Nestle and homegrown companies like Dabur, Emami and Marico. It will now compete with Adani Wilmar and other FMCG companies.

Isha Ambani further said Reliance Retail will continue expanding its reach to more customers by adding stores and merchant partners through its new commerce initiative Jio



Mar.

"Reliance Retail's strategy is to integrate with millions of small merchants and provide them with a platform to prosper. Since the launch two years ago, it has grown merchant partners base to over 20 lakh partners," she said.

Reliance Retail adds around 1.5 lakh partners a month.

"We are on course to partner with one crore merchants, as we expand our presence to cover the entire country, serving over 7,500 towns and 5 lakh villages in the next five years," Ishan Ambani added.

Besides, Reliance Retail has also launched a WhatsApp JioMart partnership, which enables a customer to browse the grocery catalogue, add products to a cart and make purchases through the popular messaging platform.

Isha Ambani, 30, also gave a presentation on placing

online grocery orders using WhatsApp and making payments.

Reliance Retail will also start marketing goods produced by Indian artisans.

"As part of our commitment to India's rich culture and heritage, we will soon start marketing quality goods produced by tribals and other marginalised communities across India," Isha Ambani said.

This will not only provide a gainful opportunity for employment and entrepreneurship but also help to preserve the talent, skill sets and knowledge base of the Indian artisans, especially women.

During the AGM address, billionaire Mukesh Ambani introduced his daughter Isha as leader of his conglomerate's retail business as he laid bare the succession plan at India's most valuable firm.

Equity investors' wealth falls by ₹2.39 L crore as markets sink

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth fell by ₹2.39 lakh crore on Monday in line with a weak trend in the global equity markets.

The BSE Sensex tanked 861.25 points or 1.46 per cent to settle at 57,972.62. During the day, it tumbled 1,466.4 points or 2.49 per cent to 57,367.47.

Tracking the weakness in global equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹2,39,781.58 crore to ₹2,74,56,330.02 crore.

"Investors had already got the wind of bearish undertone for the start of the week after the US Fed chairman's speech on Friday talked about further rate hikes going ahead to tame inflation. And as expected, Sensex crashed nearly 1,500 points in early trades before recovering some ground to close off its day's low.

"Traders are expecting more bouts of volatility in coming sessions on concerns that continuation of rate hikes in the US could pose a threat to the global economy and hurt growth prospects," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Tech Mahindra was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack, falling 4.57 per cent, followed by Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of



India.

On the other hand, Maruti, Asian Paints, Nestle, ITC, M&M and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers.

Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, and Hong Kong settled lower, while Shanghai ended marginally higher.

Stock markets in Europe were trading lower during mid-session deals. The US markets had ended significantly lower on Friday.

"Indian market kicked off the new week with a deep cut followed by a sharp sell-off in global markets on the back of hawkish commentary by the US Fed chairman Jerome Powell," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth ₹51.12 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

RBI mulls setting up of fraud registry to check banking frauds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its efforts to strengthen customer protection, Reserve Bank is considering setting up a fraud registry to create a database of fraudulent websites, phones and various modus operandi used for digital fraud.

Such a database will help prevent these fraudsters from repeating the fraud as the websites or phone numbers would be blacklisted, RBI executive director Anil Kumar Sharma said on Monday.

"There is no definite timeline for setting up of the fraud registry. At present, we are talking to different stakeholders including different departments like payments and settlement and supervision of RBI," he said.

Payment system participants will be provided access to this registry for near-real time fraud monitoring. The aggregated fraud data will be published to educate customers on emerging risks.

Sharma also said that the customers of the Core Investment Company (CIC) would come under the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), 2021.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year launched an integrated consumer grievance



redressal mechanism for addressing service deficiencies in banking, NBFCs and digital payment systems.

To make the alternate dispute redressal mechanism simpler and more responsive to the customers of regulated entities, the prime minister had launched 'One Nation One Ombudsman'.

Sharing complaints filed under the Ombudsman Scheme, he said, 4.18 lakh complaints were received during 2021-22 as against 3.82 lakh in the previous year. As many

as 97.9 per cent cases were cleared last financial year as compared to 96.5 per cent in the preceding year.

Stressing that customers should never share account details with anyone, he said, customers should immediately report any fraud related incidence to the bank to minimise his or her risks.

Do not download any unknown app on your phone or device, he said, adding, always access the official website of a bank, NBFC or e-wallet provider.

Gold declines ₹365 amid weak global trends

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital fell ₹365 to ₹ 51,385 per 10 grams on Monday reflecting a decline in international precious metal prices along with rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The yellow metal had closed at ₹51,750 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also plunged by ₹1,027 to ₹55,301 per kg from ₹56,328 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee depreciated 31 paise to an all-time low of 80.15 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, tracking the strength of the American currency and firm crude oil prices.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,721 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 18.62 per ounce.

"Gold prices extended fall pressured by stronger dollar and hawkish Fed," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.



Rupee falls 10 paise to close at 79.94 against dollar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After hitting all-time low, the rupee recovered some of its losses to settle 10 paise down at 79.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking the strength of the American currency and firm crude oil prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 80.10 and fell to its all-time low of 80.15 against the US dollar in intra-day trade. The local unit finally settled at 79.94 a dollar, down 10 paise over its previous close of 79.84. On July 20, the rupee for the first time closed below the 80-mark at 80.05 against the American currency.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.28 per cent higher at 109.10,



after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell adopted a hawkish tone to battle inflation.

According to Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the rupee depreciated and touched an all-time low on a strong dollar and deteriorating global risk sentiments.

Global markets fell sharply by more than 2 per cent amid a hawkish speech by US Fed Chair Jerome Powell.

"We expect the Rupee to trade on a negative note on the strong Dollar and weak global market," Choudhary said.

Jio 5G in key cities by Diwali, to invest ₹2 lakh crore for pan-India 5G network

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio will invest Rs 2 lakh crore for the 5G services rollout, beginning with metro cities in October as it looks to take lead in the launch of ultra-high-speed internet services. Jio's superfast 5G services will be launched in key cities — including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata — by Diwali, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Monday as he underlined the company's commitment to make India the largest data-powered economy in the world, beating China and the United States. India deserves nothing less than "True 5G", Ambani said at Reliance Industries' 45th AGM and emphasised that 5G cannot remain an exclusive service available only to the privileged few or only to those in the largest cities.

Digital freedom is the birthright of every Indian, he asserted.

The company showcased the potential of JioAirFiber (its high-speed fixed-broadband offering) and Jio Cloud PC (virtual computer hosted in the cloud) and said combined might of the two along with Jio 5G would be a 'gamechanger'. Jio would deploy the latest version of the fifth generation offering 'standalone 5G', which has zero dependency on the 4G network.



With this, Jio can deliver new and powerful services, such as low latency connectivity, massive machine-to-machine communication, 5G voice, Edge computing and network slicing, and metaverse, Ambani said.

"We are also working very closely with all leading global smartphone OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), and we have their commitment that they will support Jio's True 5G," he informed. To build a pan-India "True 5G network", the company has committed a total investment of ₹2 lakh crore, Ambani said as he unveiled "an ambitious and fastest ever 5G rollout plan". "Within the next two months, that is by Diwali of 2022, we will launch Jio 5G across multiple key cities, including the metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai," he added.

Mahindra launches new cargo electric three-wheeler

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bengaluru, Aug 29 (PTI) - Mahindra Electric Mobility Limited (MEML), part of the Mahindra Group, has launched its all-new cargo electric three-wheeler - Zor Grand.

The vehicle is priced starting at Rs 3.60 lakh, ex-showroom Bengaluru.

Mahindra has 12,000-plus bookings of the Zor Grand through Memoranda of Understanding with logistics companies like Mahindra Logistics, Magenta EV Solutions, MoEVing, EVnow, Yelo EV, and Zyngo, a company statement said.

NPA rate under ECLGS at 4.8 per cent in March 2022: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rate of loan default or NPA under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) introduced after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic was 4.8 per cent as of March 2022, according to a report.

The Non Performing Assets (NPAs) are higher in the services and infrastructure sectors, which are largely driven by Covid like their contact intensiveness and reliance on movement of people, the report by credit information company Transunion Cibil said.

The government had introduced the scheme to help borrowers tide over the chal-



lenges posed by the pandemic by providing a 100 per cent guarantee to lenders with the aim that they extend credit facilities to businesses. It has been expanded and extended till March 2023, and now has an outlay of ₹5 lakh crore.

The report said the scheme has been successful in helping Indian businesses navigate through the economic crisis caused by Covid-19 at a time when the entire country was put under lockdown.

"At an overall level, NPA rate of the borrowers who availed ECLGS is 4.8 per cent as of March 2022," the report, which is based on ECLGS data provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, said. "The timely infusion provided through ECLGS has significantly helped in resurgence of businesses across geographies and at the same time helped in controlling NPAs in MSME lending. The NPA rate of 4.8 per cent for borrowers who availed ECLGS facility is lower than that of the borrowers who were eligible but did not avail the facility (6.1 per cent)," the company's managing director and chief executive Rajesh Kumar said.

Manoj Sharma PFC's new director (comm)

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Ltd, a Maharatna CPSE company and India's leading power sector focussed non-banking financial firm, on Monday announced the appointment of Manoj Sharma as Director (Commercial).

Manoj Sharma is a chartered accountant with a degree in law (LLB). He joined PFC in 1990 and was working as Executive Director (In charge) of Commercial Division before assuming charge as Director (Commercial), PFC. He has more than 30 years of experience in power sector. In PFC, he has handled multiple areas & domains including institutional appraisal & development, entity appraisal, legal &



documentation, taxation, budget, audit, preparation of financial statements, financial analysis, resource mobilization, debt syndication and consultancy assignments on financial/commercial aspects in power sector.

Asked Chinese cos to raise exports from India: MoS IT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has asked Chinese mobile companies to increase their exports from India and there is no proposal to ban the sale of handsets below ₹12,000 made by such firms, Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Monday. The Minister of State for Electronics and IT also said that Indian companies

also have a role to play in the country's electronic ecosystem but it does not mean exclusion of foreign brands.

"Only issue that we have raised and done very transparently with some of the Chinese brands is that we have said that our expectation is that they will do more exports.

"Their supply chain, specially components supply chain, need to be more trans-

parent and much more open... (On) the other narrative about crowding them out from a particular segment (sub-Rs 12,000) of the market, we don't have any proposal and I am not sure where it came from," Chandrasekhar said.

He was responding to a question on a reported plan of the government to bar Chinese companies from selling sub-Rs 12,000 mobile phones.

RRPRH seeks clarity from Sebi on conversion of warrants issued to Adani firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Battling a hostile takeover bid, NDTV's promoter entity RRPR Holding Ltd has sought clarity from Sebi on whether its earlier order bars the conversion of warrants issued to VCPL, now owned by the Adani group.

Passing an order on November 27, 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has restrained NDTV founders Radhika and Prannoy Roy to access the securities market for a period of 2 years.

As restrictions are still in force, hence a prior written approval from Sebi was required for Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited (VCPL) for the exercise of the conversion option on the warrants, NDTV founders had said.

Now in the latest filing, NDTV said its founders have informed that "RRPR Holding has written a letter dated 28 August 2022 to SEBI, asking it to determine whether the SEBI order dated 27 November 2020 restricts the conversion of warrants issued to VVCPL into



equity shares of the promoter group vehicle RRPRH".

The restrictions over NDTV founders end on November 26, 2022.

Adani group has already rejected NDTV's assertion on

August 26, saying the promoter entity RRPR Holding is not a part of the regulator's order that restrained Prannoy and Radhika Roy from accessing the securities market.

Terming the contentions raised by RRPR Holdings as "baseless, legally untenable and devoid of merit", VCPL had said the holding firm is "bound to immediately perform its obligation and allot the equity shares" as specified in the Warrant Exercise Notice.

VCPL said RRPR is not a party to the Sebi Order dated November 27, 2020, and the

restraints do not apply to it.

The Warrant Exercise Notice was issued by its subsidiary VCPL under a contract, which is binding on RRPR, it added.

"RRPR is therefore obligated to comply with its contractual obligations," Adani Enterprises had earlier said.

Last week, NDTV informed that it has deferred its annual general meeting by a week to September 27 in view of the open offer from the Adani group to acquire a 26 per cent stake in the media company.

BUSINESS BRIEF

HELP CLEAR PENDING BILLS OF MSMEs: PHDCCI TO GOVT New Delhi: Industry body PHDCCI has asked the government to direct central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to clear all pending payments of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to help the sector tide over financial woes. In a representation to MSME minister Narayan Rane, the chamber said the sector is facing the problem of delayed realisation of their bills and receivables, particularly from their large corporate buyers and government organisations, for a long time. As a result of these delays, MSMEs face financial hardships and liquidity constraints which lead to severe pressure on their working capital management, and many of them turn into 'Non Performing Assets' (NPAs).

SANTOSH IYER MERCEDES-BENZ'S NEW MD, CEO New Delhi: German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz on Monday named Santosh Iyer as the Managing Director & CEO of the Indian operations with effect from January 1, 2023. Iyer, 46, is currently working as Vice President, Sales & Marketing and would be the first Indian to lead Mercedes-Benz India operations. Iyer replaces Martin Schwenk who will assume the responsibility as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mercedes-Benz Thailand.

ICICI BANK TO OFFER RUPAY CARDS New Delhi: ICICI Bank on Monday entered into a partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch RuPay credit cards. The ICICI Bank RuPay credit card is available in the Coral variant of the bank's Gemstone series, which will be followed by Rubyx and Sapphiro variants soon, the private lender said in a release.

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR EXPERIENCE

Lewandowski bags double for ‘blessed’ Barca, Benzema strikes late for Real Madrid

AP ■ BARCELONA

Veteran star strikers Robert Lewandowski and Karim Benzema both hit doubles on Sunday in contrasting victories for Barcelona and La Liga leaders Real Madrid.

Lewandowski scored twice for the second game in a row as Jules Kounde made his debut as Barcelona cruised past Valladolid 4-0.

In the late game on Sunday, Real Madrid struggled for 88 minutes at Espanyol. With the scores tied and time running out, Benzema put Real ahead before sealing a 3-1 victory after 10 eventful added minutes.

Real saved their perfect start to the season and climbed back to the top of the table on nine points after three games, ahead of Real Betis on goal difference.

Barcelona rose to third, two points further back.

"To have Lewandowski in your team is a blessing," said Barca coach Xavi Hernandez.

"He's an extraordinary player. Spectacular. A natural leader. It's a

blessing to have him with us, it's marvellous.

"He's a model, a born worker. He's humble, he works for the team, he helps the coaching staff, he makes the difference."

At the Camp Nou, Xavi handed Kounde his first start after the club was finally able to register the France defender they signed from Sevilla last month for a reported 50 million euros (\$49.8 mn).

Lewandowski hit the post with an early header.

Pedri then spotted the run of Raphinha in behind but the Brazilian was thwarted by goalkeeper Jordi Masip, who was well beaten moments later when Ousmane Dembele's venomous shot clipped the crossbar.

Barca's pressure told after 24 minutes as Raphinha whipped in a teasing cross which a gambling Lewandowski stabbed home.

A marauding Dembele tested Masip from range, and then created the second for Pedri by rolling a perfectly-weighted ball for the midfielder to bury on the stroke of half time.



Lewandowski all but put the game beyond reach on 64 minutes, running onto a pass from Dembele and cleverly backheeling past Masip with the help of a deflection off Joaquin Fernandez.

Valladolid nearly pulled one back but Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved well from Oscar Plano and Kounde stuck out a leg on the line to keep out the follow-up effort from Roque Mesa.

Barca grabbed a fourth in stoppage time as Roberto volleyed home

after Lewandowski was denied a hat-trick after Masip, a former Barcelona player, tipped his shot onto the bar.

‘WE WERE QUITE SLOW’

In the late game, Vinicius Junior ran on to a sharp diagonal pass in the 12th minute to slide the ball into the far corner and give Real the lead.

Espanyol fought back. Joselu levelled after 43 minutes. He burst through and when Thibaut Courtois saved his first thump at goal and the ball bounced off Eder Militao, the Espanyol striker beat both Real players to the ball and scuffed it in.

Both teams had chances in the second half before Benzema, as so often in the last year, decided the game. After a quiet game, he found space at the far post with two minutes left, met Rodrygo's cross and volleyed home from close range.

Deep into frantic added time, Espanyol goalkeeper Benjamin Lecomte, charged out of his box to stop a Real attack received a red card for a foul on Dani Ceballos.

Benzema fired home the free kick.

PSG perfect win record ended by AS Monaco



AP ■ PARIS

Neymar scored from the penalty spot but Paris Saint-Germain's perfect start to the French campaign was ended in a 1-1 draw with Monaco on Sunday.

Neymar rolled in his eighth goal in five matches this season from a penalty awarded when the VAR alerted the on-pitch referee to a foul on the Brazilian by Monaco defender Guillermo Maripan midway through the second half.

Monaco had taken the lead when Kevin Volland burst forward, holding off Presnel Kimpembe, before firing past Gianluigi Donnarumma 20 minutes in at the Parc des Princes.

The principality side played well, yet PSG deserved at least the draw from a game in which they hit the woodwork three times.

Nevertheless, the result does slightly puncture their momentum after a start to the season in which they had won their opening three league games, scoring 17 goals in the process.

They also beat Nantes 4-0 in the season-opening Champions Trophy but Monaco were easily the most accomplished side they had faced yet.

"We had difficulties in the first half against a European-level opponent but we deserved to win the game based on our second-half showing," PSG

coach Christophe Galtier told broadcaster Amazon Prime.

PSG have 10 points from four games and are top of Ligue 1, but only on goal difference from Lens and Marseille.

Volland silenced the home crowd when he ran through to fire Monaco in front, although that was to be his last involvement as he hurt himself while shooting.

PSG were denied an equaliser right on the stroke of half-time in remarkable fashion, as Lionel Messi smashed a long-range shot off the left-hand post, before Kylian Mbappe hit the opposite upright from the rebound.

Monaco were also grateful to goalkeeper Alexander Nuebel for saving from Neymar from point-blank range after the restart, but PSG got their equaliser with 20 minutes to go, as Mbappe left the penalty duties to his Brazilian team-mate.

"The order was Kylian number one and Neymar number two but I saw they had an exchange and Neymar spoke to Kylian before taking the penalty," said Galtier.

PSG then had chances to win all three points, with Achraf Hakimi's fierce shot hitting the post in the 74th minute, before Nuebel denied Mbappe late on.

Napoli held to goalless draw at Fiorentina

AP ■ FLORENCE

Napoli held on to their early lead of Serie A after Sunday's goalless draw at Fiorentina, while Atalanta's 1-0 win at Verona ensured they moved level with the early pacesetters.

Luciano Spalletti's Napoli were less flamboyant than in their opening two victories but had marginally the better of the opportunities in a lively encounter at the Stadio Artemio Franchi.

Not even the introduction in the second half of lively new signings Giacomo Raspadori, Giovanni Simone and Tanguy Ndombele could push the away

side to the win.

The stalemate puts Napoli on seven points from their opening three matches, level with several teams, including champions AC Milan and Atalanta.

Fiorentina, who are also unbeaten, sit ninth on five points.

An intense contest in Florence began with the hosts on the front foot and they went closest to taking the lead midway through the first half when after Alex Meret spilled Riccardo Sottil's shot, Giacomo Bonaventura flashed a low drive just wide.

Victor Osimhen had a tap-in ruled out for offside just



before the break as Napoli grew into the game. The away side should have been ahead not long after the restart.

Amir Rrahmani headed Piotr Zielinski's cross narrowly over in the 48th minute. Then, just after the hour mark,

Hirving Lozano wasted a golden chance to put Napoli ahead.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, in less eye-catching form than in his first two games, dangled the most inviting of crosses from the right which Mexico attacker Lozano somehow headed wide close range.

Raspadori came on after an hour and was denied the winner with eight minutes of his debut remaining, Pierluigi Gollini getting down well to push the Italy international's low shot wide.

Earlier Teun Koopmeiners drilled home a powerful winner four minutes after half-time at the Stadio Bentegodi to keep Atalanta unbeaten.

AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham Forest made their 18th signing of the transfer window on Monday as Brazil left-back Renan Lodi joined on a season-long loan from Atletico Madrid, the two clubs announced.

The 24-year-old has also signed a new contract with Atletico which will run until 2026.

Lodi has made the move to the newly-promoted Premier League club in search of more game time, with an eye on a place in Brazil's squad for the upcoming World Cup in Qatar.

"I'd like to write my name

Brazil's Lodi joins Nottingham Forest on loan from Atletico



into the club's history," he told the Forest website.

"I want Nottingham to stay in the top division, the Premier League. It's a massive, ambitious club.

"My main objective is also to go to the World Cup, representing Nottingham Forest with the Brazilian national team and on the world stage. This club showed total faith in me and I want to give something back to them too."

Lodi, who has made 15 international appearances, is yet to feature for Atletico this season.

He won the 2020-21 La Liga title with Diego Simeone's men and scored the winning goal against Manchester United in the Champions League last 16 earlier this year.

Forest sit 14th in the early Premier League table with four points from their opening four matches.

AIFF fined \$18K by AFC for fan invasion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All India Football Federation (AIFF) was on Monday fined \$18,000 by the continental governing body for spectator invasion during its national team's Asian Cup qualifying round matches against Afghanistan and Hong Kong in Kolkata in June.

But, the bulk of the amount — \$13,500 — is a suspended fine to be paid in case of repeat offence within two years.

The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee of the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) imposed \$8,000 fine on the AIFF after one home spectator invaded India team's technical bench — a restricted area — during the match against Afghanistan.

India beat Afghanistan 2-1 in the match played at Salt Lake Stadium on June 11.

The AFC's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee considered the fan invasion as "an act of improper conduct" on the part of the AIFF.

It said India failed to fulfil its obligations on two counts — "take every safety precaution demanded by the circumstances during the match" and "ensure that law and order was maintained in the stadium and its immediate surroundings".

‘Race to Paris Olympics’ badminton qualification to begin in China

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Qualifying for the Paris 2024 Olympics will start in May next year in China, badminton officials said on Monday as they unveiled a beefed-up calendar for the sport's re-emergence after Covid.

The 2023 season will start at the Malaysia Open in Kuala Lumpur in January.

The year-long "Race to Paris" Olympic qualification will begin on May 1 with the Sudirman Cup in Suzhou, China, from May 14-21 the first eligible ranking tournament, the Badminton World



Federation said.

The Race to Paris rankings on April 30, 2024, will be used to determine the initial list of Olympic qualifiers.

Most international sport in

China has been cancelled since the pandemic but at least three tournaments are scheduled there in 2023, the BWF said.

And China is still pencilled in to host three tournaments later this year, including the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals, but they remain in doubt because of the country's strict "zero-Covid" measures.

BWF secretary general Thomas Lund believes the sport can look forward to a return to normality over the next few years.

"As we emerge out of Covid-19, we are now able to structure a full week-by-week

tournament calendar with an emphasis on expanding our global footprint," Lund said.

He also hailed "higher prize money, increased player opportunities, greater coverage on television and online, and spectacular presentation".

Next year's world championships will take place in August in Copenhagen — this year's ended on Sunday in Tokyo — though a host for the 2023 Tour Championship is yet to be announced.

The 2024 season will also start at the Malaysia Open and, like 2023, will be followed by the India Open in Delhi.

Conte backs Son to end goal drought

AP ■ LONDON

Tottenham Hotspur manager boss Antonio Conte has said he would be happy for Son Heung-min to marry his daughter as he defended the struggling South Korea forward.

Son has failed to hit the heights he established last term as his goalless start to the season continued during Spurs' 2-0 win away to Nottingham Forest on Sunday.

His form so far this term has been far removed from the run of 10 goals in the final nine games of last season that helped Son win the Premier League Golden Boot award.

Nevertheless, Conte said:



"I understood Sonny is a really sensible player. He's really sensible and a top man, a real-

ly good guy. If I am to make an example, if I have to find a husband for my daughter I'd like it to be a person like him.

"In this moment maybe he's suffering a lot that he's not scoring. But he has to continue in this way and trust himself because in every game he has the opportunity, the chance to score and then he has to be calm."

The Italian added: "We trust him and the team-mates. You know very well the importance of this player with Harry Kane and for sure he's a bit disappointed that he's not scoring but no problem."

"For me, Sonny will always be a nut in my team, in my ambition of football."

Horner says Verstappen has taken ‘another step’ since title win



AP ■ SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Red Bull team chief Christian Horner on Monday said Max Verstappen has taken "another step" since winning last season's world title following his remarkable triumph in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Dutchman's outstanding drive from 14th on the grid, having taken a penalty for a new power-unit, to a sumptuous victory ahead of team-mate Sergio Perez, who started second, was hailed by all corners of the paddock.

Horner was effusive in his praise for Verstappen who has taken a run-away 93-point lead ahead of Perez in the drivers' championship, with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc third, a fur-

Leclerc laments lack of Ferrari speed

AP ■ SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Charles Leclerc admitted Red Bull Chad performed at another level to Ferrari in Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix after finishing a distant sixth behind race-winning world champion Max Verstappen.

Leclerc, a 24-year-old Monegasque dropped to third behind Verstappen and his Red Bull team-mate Sergio 'Checo' Perez in the world championship after picking up a late five-second penalty for speeding in the pitlane.

He said that was the least of his worries as he reflected on a race in

which Red Bull had given a master-class, recording consistently faster lap times on their way to a dominant one-two finish.

"At the end, it's more frustrating to see the delta of pace there was between Red Bull and us, which is the thing we need to work on," he said.

"If you look at Red Bull, they were on another level, and they found something this weekend that is a bit worrying for us."

He added that his title hopes were remote but refused to give up hope.

"It's definitely looking extremely difficult now, and we don't exactly understand it. They are extremely

quick on the straights. It looks like they have no downforce, but then they get into a corner and they are as quick, or quicker, than us."

Team-mate Carlos Sainz, who finished third behind the two Red Bulls after starting from pole position, said that tyre wear was the main issue for Ferrari.

"Unfortunately, it was harder than expected," he said. "We got a good start. I got a good restart after the safety car, but the pace was just not there."

"We had a lot of overheating on the tyres, we were sliding around a lot."

ther five points adrift.

"You're witnessing a driver that is completely at one with the car and is in an absolute purple patch of his career," he said.

"Since winning that championship last year, Max has taken another step. It's in many ways released him and he's driving now at an incredible level."

"Max was quite simply in a league of his own and not just in the race, but all weekend."

Horner said Verstappen's win was one of Red Bull's "best-ever" performances, while special advisor Helmut Marko said they needed only "two or three" more wins to secure the title. "The goal for us now is clear because we want to finish first and second in the championship for the first time in our history," said Marko.

Will Virat play T20Is for India post WC?

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Who will blink first? Will it be BCCI or will it be Virat Kohli? Kohli the T20 batter is playing from his memory but it is now quite evident that his methods are not working quite well enough for him in this short-duration-high impact game. Nor is it allowing the Indian team to make optimal use of its resources.

The 20's or 35's are coming but not at a strike-rate of 150 (it was 102 plus against Pakistan on Sunday).

So can Kohli be dropped from the T20 World Cup squad? Not even in your wildest of imagination even if he isn't scoring runs at a breakneck pace.

But can Kohli continue playing for India in this format post the T20 World Cup in Australia? Well, even if the people, who are in decision making positions know the answer, they won't spell it out.

That is a question that has been doing rounds of the corridors of Indian cricket since the 'Desert Debadle' last year when India made a pre-mature exit from the T20 World Cup.

That was Kohli's last tournament as India's T20 captain and he had then relinquished captaincy of one format thinking that it would help him ease his workload and free him from burdens of leading the side across all formats.

One year down the line, even if Kohli doesn't have any regrets, the move didn't work out as it he would have envisaged and subsequently was removed from ODI leadership and the intelligent man read the signs and surrendered his 'virtual arm-band' in a format where his numbers were phenomenal.

While Kohli recently opened up about his recent struggles with mental health issues in a refreshingly candid interview with 'Star Sports', a case of burn-out can't be ruled out.

464 international matches by the age of 33 is huge and add 15 seasons of high pressure Indian Premier League seasons, where he has not only been his franchise's (IPL) batting mainstay but also its biggest brand.

He only has that much band-width and he only admitted that there was a



phase when he wasn't enjoying the game.

In five T20Is in 2022, his scores are 17, 52, 1, 11 and 35.

If we leave aside the scores low scores, his 17 came off 13 balls, he took 41 deliveries for his 52 and 34 for his 35.

What India requires is not half-centuries in every game but may be the 35 off 20-22 balls or even a 20 off 10 balls, which is high on impact quotient even if not in terms volume of runs.

Between overs 6 to 14 when slow bowlers are in operation, he is barely managing to keep a strike-rate of even 100 and these are cold hard statistical facts.

The discussion about Kohli's position as No. 3 batter in T20 cricket is the proverbial elephant in the room but

KOHLI GIFTS SIGNED JERSEY TO HARIS RAUF

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star Indian cricketer Virat Kohli gifted his signed jersey to Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf after his team's five-wicket win over the arch-rivals in Asia Cup here.

The BCCI posted a video in which Kohli was seen gifting his jersey to Rauf. The two players shook

hands after Kohli's fine gesture on Sunday night.

Ahead of the much awaited contest, players from both countries were seen exchanging pleasantries on the sidelines of their training sessions.

Kohli had a brief chat with Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and injured pacer Shaheen Afridi ahead of the game.

it is understood that BCCI may not address the issue till the end of the T20 World Cup.

Perhaps, the easiest route will be

if Kohli decides to take an indefinite break from the T20s while concentrating on the 50-over format where India have a World Cup to play at

Hardik felt a sense of achievement after life came full circle for him

PTI ■ DUBAI

Stretched off the field due to a career-threatening back injury against the same opponents at the same venue four years back, Hardik Pandya feels a "sense of achievement" after guiding India to a five-wicket win over Pakistan in their Asia Cup opener here.

Hardik dished out an all-round effort, first returning with figures of 3 for 25 and then playing a 17-ball unbeaten 33-run knock to guide India home on Sunday, four years after suffering a back injury, which kept him out of the game for almost three years. "Happy to get this win because it was very important for us. Our nerves were checked, as a team we were challenged as well. Loved the way he (Ravindra Jadeja) came out and played as well," Hardik said in video posted by BCCI.

"I was recollecting everything from being carried on the stretcher and the same dressing room. You feel a sense of achievement after all the things happened and again getting an opportunity today."

Hardik credited former Indian team physio Nitin Patel, who is currently the head of BCCI Sports Science, and current strength and conditioning coach Soham Desai for his successful comeback. "That journey was very beautiful, we get the fruits of the journey but behind the scenes whoever has worked with me never get credit. So, I always believe in giving credit to the person who deserves. Nitin



Patel, Soham Desai, I will give credit to them for whatever comeback I have made," the all-rounder said.

Hardik said he was planning one over at a time and would have "fancied" his chances even if India needed 15 runs rather than the seven that they scored in the final over to win the game.

"In a chase like this, you always plan over-by-over. I always knew that there is one young bowler (Naseem Shah or Shah Nawaz Dahani) and also one left-arm spinner (Mohammad Nawaz)." "We only needed 7 off the last over but even if we needed 15, I'd have fancied myself. I know the bowler is under more pressure than me in the 20th

over. I try to keep things simple," said India's No. 1 all-rounder.

"Seven runs didn't look very big to me. I was least bothered about the left-arm spinner (Mohammad Nawaz) and five fielders outside the circle because whatever the situation was, I had to hit. But in the entire innings the only time I showed some emotions when you (Ravindra Jadeja) got out," he said in free-flowing chat with Jadeja posted on bcci.tv.

"There was no pressure in my mind. According to me, he (Nawaz) had more pressure. I was just counting on a mistake from him. The better you handle pressure then only you can execute properly."

Bangladesh open campaign against Afghanistan

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Bangladesh will be aiming to improve their ordinary T20 record against a confident Afghanistan in the Asia Cup here on Tuesday.

Afghanistan pacers blew away the Sri Lankan batting in the opening game.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, will be playing their tournament opener. The Shakib Al Hasan-led side will be aiming to improve their recent record in the shortest format, having won just two games out of 13 since the World Cup last year.

Afghanistan pacers Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naveen-ul-Haq had broken the backbone of Sri Lanka batting and their batters had chased down the 105-run target in 10.1 overs.

Speaking ahead of the game, Bangladesh all-rounder



Mehedy Hasan said his team would like to respond to Dasun Shanaka's claim on the field. Shanaka had rated Afghanistan higher than Bangladesh's.

"I don't want to make a comment that this team is good and this team is bad. I think

good and bad are proved in the field. A good team can lose if they play badly on that specific day and similarly a bad team can win if they play a good game of cricket. "We will meet in the field and at that end of the day the good team will win the

match and what I feel is that we have to prove it in the field because if we play well certainly everyone will know who is a good team and who is a bad team so instead of predicting before I think it is important to play well on the field," said Hasan.

He said the first game against Afghanistan holds a lot of importance.

"Look the first match is very important for any tournament because it will dictate how far we will go and what cricket we are going to play because it will set the tone of the team," he said.

"If it is a spinning wicket it will be good considering both teams have quality spinners but what I feel that is the side that will perform well with the bat will have a better chance to win the game," he said.

Uttarakhand signs Aditya Tare, Jiwanjot as outstation players

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cricket Association of Uttarakhand (CAU) has signed former Mumbai captain Aditya Tare and Jiwanjot Singh as their new outstation players for the upcoming domestic season.

CAU secretary Mahim Verma said that Swapnil Singh has been retained as an outstation player. A team can sign a maximum of three players from outside the state.

"Tare will bring a lot of experience into the squad. We have signed Jiwanjot as well while Swapnil has been retained," Verma said, adding that Manish Jha will remain as head coach.

Uttarakhand had done well to reach the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals in the previous season. They lost to the mighty Mumbai in the last eight stage.

Jiwanjot, who has played most of his cricket for Punjab, had played for Chhattisgarh in the 2021 season.

Thinking about the game while bowling as important as skills: Bhuvi

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, one of the architects of India's famous win over Pakistan in Asia Cup, feels having a solid game plan against each of the opposition player is as important as executing "your skills on the field".

Bhuvneshwar played a vital role in India's five-wicket win over Pakistan in their Asia Cup opener. He returned with a four-wicket haul that included the prized scalp of Babar Azam.

The 32-year-old surprised the Pakistan skipper with a bouncer in his second over as he went for the pull only to top edge to Arshdeep Singh at short fine leg.

"It is important for a player to be proactive be it while batting or bowling because T20 is such a fast format, to assume things," Bhuvneshwar said at the post-match press conference.

"Wicket didn't support swing and bounce was more so we plan and we know what the batter's strength and when we bowl a couple of balls more we get a better idea.

"I believe, thinking about the game is as important a factor as skills," he added.

The Indian team kept rattling the Pakistan batters with short ball, eventually bundling them out for 147.

Bhuvneshwar felt Babar's wicket disrupted Pakistan's plan as the team relies on him to anchor the innings.

"Once Babar was dismissed, we did not think that half of the Pakistan team has been dismissed. He is a good player but technically there were nine other batters still left.

"As a team, we do not think that if the best batter is out, then half of the team is dismissed.

"But yes, once he was out, we knew their plans will be disturbed as the batter who plays the role of the anchor was gone," Bhuvneshwar said.

Bhuvneshwar was delighted by the bowling performance on Sunday.

"I am very happy with the performance,



Hardik understands his game better since his comeback: Rohit

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma feels Hardik Pandya has returned with a better understanding of his game and is more confident about what he wants to do with both bat and ball.

"Since the time he (Hardik) has made his comeback, he's been brilliant. When he was not part of the team, he figured what he needs to do to his body and his fitness regime, and now he is clocking 140+ easily," Rohit said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

not just with the wickets. Yes, when you get wickets, you feel happy to contribute but sometimes bowling economically is also a contribution to the team's cause.

"His batting quality we all know and it's been brilliant since his comeback. He is a lot calmer now and more confident about what he wants to do, whether it's with the bat or with the ball," he added.

The fact that Hardik can bowl quick was on display on Sunday.

"He can bowl really quickly, we saw that today with those short balls. It was always about just understanding his game and he's doing that well now. In a high-pressure with 10 runs per over needed, you can panic but he never showed any of that."

"The way the others bowled as well. I think it was a complete team performance."

Hardik Pandya dazzled with the ball before taking India across the line with a six.

Liam Livingstone adds to England's injury concerns

AP ■ LONDON

Liam Livingstone has joined an already significant list of England fitness worries ahead of October's T20 World Cup in Australia after being ruled out of the remainder of the Hundred with an ankle injury.

Birmingham Phoenix announced that hard-hitting batsman and spin bowler Livingstone, the top run scorer and most valuable player in last year's inaugural edition, will miss their final two group games of the season plus any knockout ties.

The 29-year-old said on Twitter: "Gutted to have been ruled out of @thehundred... a tournament I have loved playing in! I'll be doing everything I can to be back out there ASAP! But for now I'll be sup-

porting Birmingham Phoenix from the side!"

The extent of his injury is still unclear, but there are now just three-and-a-half weeks before England begin a T20 series against Pakistan in Karachi.

England white-ball captain Jos Buttler is unlikely to feature in all seven fixtures because he has a calf injury which led to him to withdraw from the Hundred.

England opening batsman Jason Roy withdrew from Oval Invincibles' win over London Spirit on Saturday with back spasm.

Fast bowlers Chris Jordan and Tymal Mills have recently suffered finger and toe problems, respectively, while their fellow quicks Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes and Saqib Mahmood are long-term absentees through injury.

AP ■ LONDON

England paceman Ollie Robinson has become a "gym freak" in a bid to ensure he is more than just a one-year wonder at international level.

The 6ft 5in Sussex seamer marked his first Test appearance in seven months by helping England to an innings and 85-run win over South Africa at Old Trafford on Saturday with match figures of 5-91 as the hosts levelled the three-match series at 1-1.

Robinson has an impressive haul of 44 wickets in 10

Tests at a low average of 20.93 since his debut at Lord's last year.

His fitness, however, was publicly questioned by England bowling coach Jon Lewis during the fifth Ashes Test in Hobart in January before back spasms meant the 28-year-old Robinson missed all three Tests against the West Indies.

A bout of Covid-19, among other ailments, interrupted Robinson's return to county duty at south-coast club Sussex, with the bowler in danger of gaining a reputation



for lacking stamina that, once established, is hard to shake.

Robinson, however, heeded Lewis's warning and, following a frank discussion with new England captain Ben Stokes, took steps to make sure he was fully fit for the rigours of Test cricket.

"It's not been easy but we're an honest group. I took that stuff on the chin and took it as a wake-up call as well," he said.

"I've used that to drive me forward in the last six months and, when times have got tough, I've just

used it as a drive to try and keep positive.

"My mindset shifted from trying to be fit for fitness testing to trying to be fit for five days of Test cricket at a high level. I lifted more weights, I ran further, everything I was doing before but to the extreme."

Robinson added: "I spoke to Ben quite a lot in depth. When he first started international cricket he wasn't in the shape he is now and I talked to him about how he got there -- mentally, physically, the lot.