

OPINION 6

RESEARCH ON MENTAL
HEALTH IS UNHEALTHY

WORLD 9

NEPAL MAY HAVE HUNG PARL; POLITICAL
STABILITY UNLIKELY: ANALYSTS

MONEY 10

MARKETS FALL AMID WEAK
GLOBAL EQUITIES

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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INDIA TO FACE
KIWIS IN 1ST
T20I TODAY
12 SPORTAftab's two aides
under police lensShraddha's
killer shocks
cops with new
revelations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The police probe into the gruesome killing of Shraddha Walkar on Thursday turned its focus on the accused Aftab Poonawala's two accomplices, Rahul and Badri, besides the "surprisingly high" water bill he incurred despite the provision of 20,000 litres being free in Delhi.

Aftab, meanwhile, continued to shock the interrogators with new revelations — the latest being the claim that he burnt Shraddha's face in such a manner that it could not be identified even if the chopped body parts were to be found.

A team of the Delhi Police again searched Mehrauli's forest area for over five hours on Thursday as her head, torso and the weapons used by Aftab are yet to be found.

The police are expected to subject him to a more sustained grilling as a Saket court on



A candlelight protest against brutal killing of Shraddha, in Delhi on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Thursday permitted it to question Aftab for five more days in its custody and also allowed his "narco analysis" test to be conducted to unravel the case.

In a related development, a section of lawyers on Thursday evening at a court premises shouted slogans against Aftab and demanded death penalty for him.

Sources said Aftab's statements were found to have discrepancies during interrogation so the Delhi Police is now looking for two of his accomplices for gathering more evidence.

The duo had helped Aftab and Shraddha get the rented room in Chhatrapur.

During investigation, it was revealed that they met them in Himachal Pradesh where both Aftab and Shraddha had spent many days at Badri's property before moving into their new home in Delhi.

While sources said the Delhi Police will also take Aftab to Uttarakhand and Parvati Valley in Himachal Pradesh, among other places for collecting evidence.

They pointed out that the landlord has told the police about the ₹300 water bill, considered pretty high given the fact that 20,000 litres are free for every household and Aftab had been staying alone after killing Shraddha.

The police will inquire about it from Aftab, sources said. He turned up the tap to drown out the noise from chopping body parts, to wash blood off the body and to clean the house could be the reasons, they reasoned.

Continued on Page 2

Social media being used
for terror funding: NIAPM to launch
third global
meet on terror
financing todayPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Social media platforms are being used to raise terror funds, says National Investigation Agency (NIA) Director General Dinkar Gupta.

The NIA chief's assertion came a day ahead of two-day global meet on terror financing "No Money For Terror" beginning here on Friday in which the issue will be deliberated.

Addressing a Press conference ahead of the international Ministerial conference, Gupta also said Pakistan and Afghanistan are not taking part in the conference, while China is yet to confirm.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the third "No Money for Terror" Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing" hosted by the Union Home Ministry. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others, will also be present.

Asked if Pakistan, China and Afghanistan were invited to the conference, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Sanjay Verma said, "China has been invited." He,



however, remained silent on the other two neighbouring countries.

Gupta clarified that no country-specific discussion is part of the agenda but representatives of 73 nations, including Ministers of over 20 of them, will discuss with an open heart all issues, be it the source of terror, the threat or its funding.

"Every participating country has the full right to express its views," the NIA DG asserted.

He asserted that terror activities have declined in India during the last eight years, and there is a "huge reduction" in terror activities in all "theatres of conflicts", be it Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, the Northeast or the areas affected by Naxalism.

Gupta further said terror was a battle to be fought, and the country has to strengthen its infrastructure, mechanisms, and frameworks to fight this menace of global terrorism

and its financing. To a question on the inclusion of social media platform regulation in the agenda of the terror financing conference, Gupta said social media platforms are being used to raise financing, funding or as crowd-funding platforms.

"We do have evidence of this kind of thing happening. This is an issue that needs to be discussed because such platforms are being used for raising finances which are being used in terror activities," the Director General said.

Terror financing was a critical issue and it needed to be discussed, be it the traditional modes of funding terror activities like hawala, wire transfers or cash couriers, or the new ways that are developing, he said. The conference comes "back to back" after the recently held Interpol General Assembly and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee meetings in India.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

SAUDI LIFTS POLICE NOD
FOR INDIANS FOR VISA

New Delhi: Indian nationals will no longer be required to submit a police clearance certificate for obtaining a visa for travelling to Saudi Arabia, the embassy of that country announced on Thursday.

CV ANANDA BOSE PICKED
AS BENGAL GOVERNOR

New Delhi: CV Ananda Bose was on Thursday appointed the Governor of West Bengal, a communique from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said. His appointment will take effect on the date he assumes charge of his office, it said.

ED chief SK
Mishra gets
3rd extension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has granted a third one-year extension to Sanjay Kumar Mishra, India's one of the most powerful officers who heads the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The order issued by the Personnel Ministry said the 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer has been given the extension till November 18, 2023.

Mishra has led the Centre's crusade against black money and presided over several high profile cases, including that of Gandhis, (Sonia and Rahul in the National Herald case) and a host of Opposition leaders and industrialists.

Continued on Page 2

Ban all fossil fuels: India;
Climate paper drops ideaUN 1st climate draft
paper at COP 27 gives
India's proposal a missPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India's proposal to phase down all fossil fuels found no mention in the first informal draft of the climate deal put out by the United Nation on Thursday. The UN gave a thumbs down to the Indian proposal even though it was backed by the European Union and many other countries.

The draft expresses "deep regret" that developed countries have not taken the lead in reducing their emissions even though they are financially and technologically well equipped to do so.

While India proposed complete ban on fossil fuel, the draft talked about the continued efforts to accelerate measures towards the phase down of unabated coal power and phase out and rationalise inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, in line with national circumstances and recognising the

need for support towards just transitions. Nearly the same language was used in the Glasgow Climate deal last year. News agency PTI said when it contacted the Environment Ministry, its spokespersons said the Indian negotiators do not wish to comment on it "as negotiations are going on".

The cover text also did not mention when a loss and damage finance facility will be launched and what its contours will be. Poor and developing countries have demanded that the COP27 concludes with a decision to launch a fund to address loss and damage — a term used for irreparable destruction caused by climate change-fuelled disasters.

The text "stresses the importance of exerting all efforts at all levels to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degree C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 deg C above pre-industrial levels".

Continued on Page 2

Rahul attacks Savarkar, Shinde
faction asks Govt to stop Yatra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid protests by BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday once again upped the ante against Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar and dared the Maharashtra Government to stop the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra in the State.

Talking to media persons at Wadegaon in Akola district in Vidarbha region, Rahul alleged that the incarcerated Hindutva ideologue colluded with the British rulers.

Showing documents from the 1920s and reading out a portion of a letter written by Savarkar to the British, Rahul said, "I will read the last line, which says 'I beg to remain sir, your most obedient servant' and the letter is signed by Savarkar. The letter shows he helped the British. When he signed this letter, what was the reason? It was fear. He was afraid of the British."

Congress partner and former Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray reacted to Rahul's claim, saying, "We don't agree



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Bollywood actor Riya Sen during 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Akola district on Thursday

PTI

with what Rahul Gandhi has said. We have immense respect for VD Savarkar."

Responding to a query

over a demand by Shinde-led Shiv Sena Sena faction leader Rahul Shewale for stopping the ongoing Yatra in the State,

an unperturbed Rahul said, "If the Government wants to stop the Yatra, try and stop."

Continued on Page 2

Centre challenges
SC order on release
of Rajiv's assassinsPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday moved the Supreme Court seeking a review of its November 11 order granting remission to six convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. In the review petition, the Government said it didn't get the chance to argue the case and that the apex court order was "legally flawed".

"As explained in detail Granting remission to the convicts who had assassinated the former Prime Minister of the country as passed without affording an adequate opportunity of hearing to the Union of India (which was a necessary party to the present) or being formally impleaded as a party to the petition..." said the review petition.

"... absence of any assistance by the Union of India, due to procedural lapse of convicts/petitioners, while the present matter was being finally

heard and decided has prevented this court from appreciating the crucial and important evidence in the matter... has resulted into patent and manifest errors apparent on the face of record creeping into the final judgment... has resulted into admitted and glaring breach of principles of natural justice and has, in fact, resulted into miscarriage of justice," the plea said.

On November 11, the Supreme Court had set free Nalini Sriharan and five other remaining convicts, who were serving life term for about three decades in the Rajiv assassination case, noting that its earlier order releasing another convict AG Perarivalan was equally applicable to them.

The court on November 11 released all other accused citing the release of Perarivalan.

Nalini and the other convicts walked out of the Tamil Nadu prisons. Other convicts are from Sri Lanka and now put in special camps by the Tamil Nadu Government.

No mobile for
minors, rules
Maha village

PTI ■ YAVATMAL

A village in Yavatmal in Maharashtra has banned the use of mobile phones by children below the age of 18, with a grampanchayat official claiming on Thursday the decision may be the first of its kind in the state.

The "no mobile phones for those below 18" decision in Bansri in the district's Pusad taluka was taken on November 11, village sarpanch Gajanan Tele said.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, children started using mobile phones for online education. They soon got addicted to it, spending lots of time watching various sites and playing online games," said the village sarpanch.

Continued on Page 2

Culture clash? Conservative Qatar preps for WC party

PTI ■ DOHA

On the Instagram accounts of fashion models and superstars last month, the sheikhdom of Qatar looked like one glittering party.

High-heeled designers descended on exhibition openings and fashion shows in downtown Doha. Celebrities, including a prominent gay rights campaigner, snapped selfies on a pulsing dance floor. "As-salaam alykum Doha!" Dutch model Marpessa Hennink proclaimed on Instagram, using the traditional Muslim salutation.

The backlash was swift. Qataris went online to vent their anger about what they called a dangerous and depraved revelry, saying it threatened Qatar's traditional values ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The Arabic hashtag, Stop the Destruction of Our Values, trended for days.

The episode underscores the tensions tearing at Qatar, a conservative Muslim emirate that restricts alcohol, bans drugs and suppresses free speech, as it prepares to welcome possibly rowdy crowds for the first World Cup in the West Asia.

"Our religion and customs prohibit indecent clothing and behaviour," Moheba Al Kheer, a Qatari citizen, said of the avant-garde artists and flamboyant models who mingled with Qatari socialites in late October. "It's normal for us to worry when we see these kinds of people."

World Cup organisers say everyone is welcome during the tournament. Already, foreigners outnumber citizens 10 to one in Qatar. Some Qataris are liberal and open to mixing with foreigners. Many are thrilled about the tournament. But human rights groups have raised concerns over how



Angel Di Maria, left, and Lionel Messi, second right, of Argentina's national soccer team arrive with teammates at Hamad International Airport in Doha on Thursday

AP

police will deal with foreign fans' violations of the Islamic laws criminalising public drunkenness, sex outside of marriage and homosexuality.

Qatar, a tiny Persian Gulf country that once was a dust-brown pearling port, transformed at almost warp-speed into an ultra-modern hub following its 1990s natural gas boom. Expats, including Western consultants and engineers and low-paid South Asian construction workers and cleaners, poured into the country.

Glass-and-steel skyscrapers, luxury hotels and massive malls soon sprung up in the desert. In an effort to diversify away from a carbon-based economy, Qatar's ruling family bought up stakes in things ranging from global finance and technology to the French soccer club Paris Saint-Germain and London real estate.

Continued on Page 2

Court to hear plea
seeking worship of
Gyanvapi Shivaling

PNS ■ VARANASI

Varanasi court has agreed to hear a petition seeking permission to allow prayers at the "Shivaling" found inside Varanasi's Gyanvapi mosque complex after rejecting the counter petition of the mosque committee. The court fixed December 2 for hearing the case.

Fast-track court Judge Mahendra Kumar Pandey found the petition filed by Kiran Singh maintainable, Assistant District Government Counsel Sulabh Prakash said.

The court rejected the objection filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee questioning the maintainability of Singh's plea. The mosque committee had objected to the plea citing the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

Continued on Page 2

Pandemic-battered tourism industry pins hopes on G20 presidency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AIZWAL

Covid-pandemic battered Indian tourism industry is pinning its hopes on G-20 Presidency that India assumed for a year starting from December 1, 2022.

"A lot of foreign delegations along with their families and government officials from G-20 countries are expected to visit during the prestigious meets to be held across the States. This will give us an opportunity to showcase the soft power of India's tourism sector as well as help generate employment," Union Tourism

Minister G Krishna Reddy said before the inauguration of the three days International Tourism Mart-22 which kicked off from Thursday here. This is the first ever international tourism mart being held in Aizwal, Mizoram.

The earlier editions have been held in Guwahati, Tawang, Shillong, Gangtok, Agartala, Imphal and Kohima.

The Union Tourism Minister said that a task force has been set up which has been identifying the hotspots where G-20 meets can be held. One of the meetings has been proposed to be held in Aizwal as well as in some other

tourists hotspots in other Northeastern States.

While stressing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been specially concerned about the development of hither-to neglected Northeastern region, Reddy said spelled out a string of mega construction works including rail and road connectivity that are being undertaken for the uplift and boost employment in the region.

According to an Union Tourism Ministry official, the objective of ITM 2022 is to highlight the tourism potential of the Northeast region in domestic and international markets. Chief Minister of

Mizoram Zoramthanga and State Tourism Minister Robert Romawia Royle besides Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh and State Chief Secretary Dr Renu Sharma besides many Central and State Government officials were also present at the event which was dotted with spectacular cultural programmes showcasing Mizoram tradition and culture.

"The Mart will bring together the tourism business fraternity and entrepreneurs from the eight northeastern states. According to the statement, the event has been planned and scheduled to

facilitate interaction between buyers, sellers, media, government agencies and other stakeholders to create a buzz," said the official.

The ITM event is being attended by Northeast tourism ministers, senior officials of the Northeast states, state governments and heads of the tourism and hospitality associations including tour and travel operators.

The mart will include presentations by eight northeast states on their tourism potential, cultural evenings, sight-seeing to local attractions in and around Aizwal, according to the official.



Retired IAS officer CV Bose named new Bengal Governor

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Centre has appointed former IAS officer CV Anand Bose as the new Bengal Governor.

He will replace La Ganeshan who has been jointly holding the charge of Manipur and Bengal ever since then State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was elevated to the post of Vice President.

"The President of India is pleased to appoint Dr CV Anand Bose as regular Governor of West Bengal," a



Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said.

During Dhankhar's stint as the State Governor from June 2019 to July 2022 the relationship between Rajbhavan and

Nabanna the State secretariat had been dar from cordial.

Bose a former Secretary in the Union Government became the first ever fellow of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

When asked to comment about his appointment he said he was highly grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for selecting him as the Governor of Bengal which he called a "politically active State."

He said he would act as per the Constitution and would

discharge his duty towards the development of Bengal.

He said how he was emotionally connected to Bengal adding how he hailed the views of Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore who said "where mins us without dear and"

Though the ruling Trinamool Congress said that the State should have been consulted before his appointment as the Governor, senior MP Saugato Roy said he would be welcomed in the State if he would work within the ambit of the Constitution.

Illegal 3 storey home built by drug smuggler razed in Faridabad Colony

STAFF REPORTER ■ FARIDABAD

A three-storey home built illegally in Nawlu Colony in Faridabad by suspected drug smuggler Angoori Devi was demolished on Thursday, police said.

The demolition was part of an ongoing drive against properties of criminals bought from proceeds of crime, they said, adding this was the third property belonging to a woman smuggler demolished in the last two months.

Angoori Devi (48), a resident of Subhash Colony, is out on bail after being arrested in

a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the police said. She has been active in the illegal drugs trade for the past 16 years and with eight cases of drug smuggling registered against her, they added.

Following an order by Deputy Commissioner Vikram Kumar, a joint team of police and the administration led by Deputy Commissioner of Police Kushal Singh.

Faridabad Police spokesperson Sube Singh said the three-storey house, built illegally in Nawlu colony, by Angoori Devi was demolished.



Angoori Devi's husband

works at a dhaba in Prithla village while her elder son works as a gardener. She allegedly sold packets of marijuana from the house, Singh said. She was earlier served a notice by the Municipal Corporation of

Faridabad, he added.

In October, Faridabad Police razed properties of two suspected smugglers Aasma Khan and Mammo Khan. They had built their homes and shops on illegally occupied government land.

Gang of nine members arrested for extorting ₹20 cr from businessman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a gang of nine people, including its leader, for allegedly extorting around Rs 20 crore from a Mumbai-based businessman after sending him forged Enforcement Directorate summons, officials said on Thursday.

The accused apparently took inspiration from popular Bollywood movie 'Special 26', they said.

Ravindra Singh Yadav, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch), said the accused sent two such forged notices to Hardev Singh, president of Nippon India Paints Ltd, and convinced him that the federal agency had registered a case against him.

They further told Singh that he was going to be in deep trouble and claimed they could sort the whole thing out through a liaison in the ED's Delhi office, Yadav added.

Singh then received more such fake notices by speed post and grew apprehensive. He contacted the accused for help, who demanded Rs 2-3 crore at first and also asked to meet in Delhi, the Crime Branch official said.

On November 11, the victim tried to negotiate with the accused to reduce the amount but was asked to meet in person to settle the issue, he said.

The next day, Singh met two of the accused at the Mumbai airport and was told that the ED had detected



alleged illegal properties worth thousands of crores but the issue could be settled for just a few crores. They asked Singh to pay for their flights to Delhi, as well as stay, so that they could sort everything out, the official added.

Giving in to their demands, Singh booked their flights and set up a meeting at a posh hotel in the national capital but the accused suddenly upped their demand to Rs 20 crore for negotiating and settling the case, Yadav said.

After this, Singh approached the police and a case was registered, the officer said.

The police said two of the accused were arrested from the hotel itself.

"During interrogation, they disclosed that three of their associates were present in a room at the same hotel," the official said. The police arrested them and then subsequent arrests were made, he added.

The whole conspiracy was planned meticulously, and every role was precisely defined and enacted, the police said, adding that 12 mobile phones and a car have been seized.

No mobile...

From Page 1
"Therefore, we decided to ban the use of mobile phones for all those below the age of 18 in Bansri grampanchayat. We have become the first grampanchayat in Maharashtra to take such a decision," he claimed.

He said there may be initial issues while implementing the decision but both parents and children will be counselled to make the move a success.

"Even after counselling, we see children using mobile phones, then we will impose penalty. The purpose is to get children to go back to studies and not be distracted by mobile phones," sarpanch Tale said.

Social media being used...

From Page 1
The DG said all major countries and international organisations like Interpol and Europol are participating in the conference.

The conference will have four sessions - Global Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing, Use of Formal and Informal Channels of Funds for Terrorism, Emerging Technologies and Terrorist Financing, and International Co-operation to Address Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing.

The sessions will be chaired by senior Ministers, including Home Minister Shah and External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar.

"The two-day conference on 18th and 19th November will offer a unique platform for participating nations and organisations to deliberate on effectiveness of the current international regime on counter terrorism financing as well as steps required to address emerging challenges," an official statement said.

The conference will build on the previous two meetings held in Paris in April 2018 and Melbourne in November 2019, and work towards enhancing global cooperation to deny finances to terrorists and access to permissive jurisdictions to operate, it said.

Aftab's two aides...

From Page 1
Going by Aaftab's confession, sources said Aftab first disposed of Shraddha's liver and intestine, while he kept the head in the freezer for quite some time. Police have not yet traced Shraddha's skull.

Sources said Aftab had charred his live-in partner's face to hide her identity. He had first chopped her body into 35 pieces, then burnt her face in such a way that it becomes unidentifiable even if the body parts got discovered. During the interrogation, Aftab reportedly revealed that he had learnt about all this on the internet, and also about how to hide the body from everyone's reach," the sources said.

Aftab was produced before the Saket Court through video conference at 4pm. The Delhi Police had filed an application requesting the court to produce Poonawala virtually due to his security concerns.

Metropolitan magistrate Aviral Shukla said according to the application submitted by police, the accused faced

threats from "some religious organisations and miscreants. "I would request everyone to abide by the rule of law. Some may feel that justice is not done. But justice will be dispensed. I am aware of the sensitivity of the matter, media coverage...Public traction..." the judge said while allowing the application. The court passed the order while allowing police plea in the matter.

The South Delhi police have contacted East Delhi police in a bid to match the DNA sample of chopped body parts including a human head which the latter had recovered earlier in June. According to the sources, the East Delhi Police had found a chopped head and hand in the Trilokpur area of Pandav Nagar police station area of the national capital in June this year, which was nearly a month after Shraddha was murdered (on May 18). In the East Delhi case, the police were not able to ascertain whose body parts they were because of the tampered state of the recovered body parts.

Ban all fossil fuels: India; Climate...

From Page 1
The 20-page document, described as a "non-paper" by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, is 8,400 words long as compared to the Glasgow pact, which was around 4,600 words and was in itself one of the longest cover texts in the history of UN climate summits.

India had proposed on Saturday that the talks wrap up with a decision to "phase down" all fossil fuels and not just coal.

EU Vice President Frans Timmermans told the media on Tuesday that the bloc would support India's proposal "if it comes on top of what we already agreed in Glasgow".

According to media reports, US climate envoy John Kerry said the US will support the proposal as long as it focuses on "unabated oil and gas".

Citing the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Indian negotiators had told the Egyptian

Culture clash?...

From Page 1
The ruling emir's sister, Sheikha Al Mayassa Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, became one of the world's most important art buyers. His mother, Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al-Missned, became a global style icon and bought several luxury brands, including Valentino.

But even as Qatar, among the world's wealthiest countries per capita, looked to the West for inspiration, it faced pressure from within to stay true to its Islamic heritage and Bedouin roots. Qatar's most powerful clan originates from the Arabian Peninsula's landlocked interior, where the ultraconservative form of Sunni Islam known as Wahhabism was born. Qatari rulers treaded the tightrope between placating its conservative citizens and tribes and shoring up soft power as a major global player.

"Doha's religious discourse to its citizens is very different from its liberal discourse to the West," said 38-year-old Qatari

Mohammed al-Kuwari. "It cannot always succeed at both."

The glaring spotlight of the World Cup which requires Qatar to relax access to alcohol, create fun outlets for fans and comply with FIFA rules promoting tolerance and inclusion raises the stakes.

In years past, the World Cup has turned host countries into the world's biggest party, with joyous crowds drinking heavily and celebrating together. When emotions run high, fans can be euphoric — or rude and violent.

This will shake up quiet Qatar, where such behaviour is deeply taboo and virtually unheard of. Doha is not known for its nightlife. Despite its rapid development over the years, its entertainment offerings remain slim and its public spaces limited.

Some foreign fans fret about how Qatar will handle hordes of drunken hooligans in the streets, given the nation's public decency laws and strict limits on the purchase and consumption of alcohol.

two-three years. He started writing mercy petitions to the British,"the Congress leader said.

Seeking to draw comparisons between the tribal leader tribal l leader Birs Munda, Rahulk said, "While Sarvarkar wrote letters to the British seeking release from the prison and offering to work with the British during the country's Independence struggle, Munda preferred death for the sake of tribals and the country, but refused to work with the British. Munda did not forsake self-respect despite being offered land and money by the British. We the congress idolise Munda."

BJP brings out big guns for MCD polls

Union Ministers, CMs, actors to hit campaign trail

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is not taking the MCD elections lightly. Its blitzkrieg will witness nearly a dozen Union Ministers, four Chief Ministers, 11 MPs and a host of leaders drawn from States as far as Telangana hitting the campaign trail in the national Capital.

While the star campaigners will be led by BJP president JP Nadda, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had not campaigned in the 2017 MCD polls, will not canvass this time around too. The campaigners' list will be issued soon after receiving approval from the top leadership, BJP leaders said.

Union Ministers on the MCD campaign trail will include Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani, Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, as per the list of star campaigners.

Apart from this, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh, Minister of Rural Development, Giriraj Singh, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Loganathan Murugan, and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will be campaigning.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath, Haryana CM



Manohar Lal Khattar, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhami, Himachal Pradesh CM, Jai Ram Thakur, and Deputy CM of UP Keshav Prasad Maurya will also campaign. BJP's Telangana president K Annamalai Sur will also hit the campaign trail.

The party has also planned 250 meetings in the city to reach out to non-Hindi speaking people from the southern States, Odisha, West Bengal and North East among others, a senior BJP leader said.

"They have a sizeable population across the city, including RK Puram, CR Park, Satya Niketan and Munirka in South Delhi," another leader associated with the campaigning said. The campaign will begin around November 21-23, after a party meeting headed by Nadda and Shah, he said.

Several MPs including Dr Harsh Vardhan, Gautam Gambhir, Hansraj Hans, Parvesh Singh, Ramesh Bidhuri, Radha Mohan Singh, Dushyant Kumar Gautam, Sushil Modi, and Sanjiv Balian will also campaign to try and bring the BJP back in the MCD for the fourth time in a row.

Other big names in the list include Bhojpuri actor and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari, Ravi Kishan, singer Dinesh Lal Yadav (Nirahua) and actor politician Hema Malini.

State BJP president, Adesh Gupta, national vice-president Bajjayant Panda, State co-incharge Alka Gurjar, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, spokesperson Sambit Patra,



general secretary Siddharthan, former MLA, Manjeet Sira and vice-chairman Gandhi Smriti Vijay Goel are among other campaigners.

Total 1,461 candidates in fray for MCD polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After scrutiny of nominations filed by candidates contesting MCD elections, 674 men and 742 women got validation from the State Election Commission (SEC), taking the total to 1,461.

According to SEC data, 747 candidates from three major political parties – the Congress, AAP, and BJP will be going toe to toe in the municipal polls.

Out of 654 nominations, 250 candidates of the BJP got approval, while the SEC also validated 250 AAP candidates.

The Congress will not be fighting from three wards as 247 of its candidates made the cut. Out of BSP's 152 nominations

138 candidates were approved, while three candidates from CPI and six from CPM were cleared. From CPI(M-L), five candidates made cut, while NCP enrolled 35 candidates, of which 29 were validated. Four nominations were cleared for All India Forward Bloc, while 15 AIMIM candidates will contest. One candidate from Indian Union Muslim League and 23 from the JD(U) got approval.

One nomination each from LJP (Ram Vilas) and SP got nod. Out of six RLD candidates four were approved. A total of 523 Independents filed nominations out of which 439 were validated, and 84 got rejected.

AAP's first transgender candidate wants to beautify constituency

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Bobi was only 15 when her family handed her over to a 'guruji' from the transgender community under societal pressure. Now, more than 20 years later, the AAP's first transgender candidate wants to beautify her constituency and improve the lives of her neighbours. Inspired by Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement, the candidate from Sultanpur Majra Vidhan Sabha under SC-10, 43 A, wants to weed out corruption from the MCD. "I was associated with the Anna movement. At that time, I was inspired that a man in his 70s was sitting in a protest against corruption," Bobi said. She also has big plans for her constituency.

"If I am elected, the beautification of parks lying in disarray will be my priority. The area

is dirty and I will focus on cleaning and getting rid of garbage. Several people in my area still do not have access to food and clothing. So fulfilling those basic necessities will also be on my agenda," she said.

Bobi has long been associated with social work and has been helping children get admission into school. The 38-year-old has prior electoral experience. "I had contested the elections in 2017 as a candidate for the All India Forward Bloc but I lost. I want to serve people on a bigger scale if elected," she said.

Fondly called "Bobi Darling", the AAP candidate feels confident about her chances, saying people had assured her that they would vote for her. The AAP's performance in Delhi has added to that confidence.

"The party has done exemplary work in improving the con-

dition of schools, hospitals, giving free bus rides to women and taking old people on pilgrimages. Since the time I have started understanding things, I have not seen BJP or Congress raising such issues. The party is doing historic work," she said.

"I could not get educated and that is why I want children to study," Bobi said.

If elected, she plans to fund the education of 100 to 200 underprivileged children. Bobi said a win for her would be good for the transgender community as well. "Society is changing and people from our community are being accepted. I have faced a lot of difficulties and hardships but now things are changing for the better. If I win the polls, it will send a strong message and also encourage transgenders to come forward and make their mark," she added.

AAP promises to set up cow shelters

NEW DELHI: The AAP has promised to establish cow shelters, to run a campaign for adoption of street dogs and to rehabilitate monkeys in their natural habitat if voted to power in the MCD.

Talking about the roadmap for it, the party's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said Thursday that they will start a campaign "Be Indian, Adopt Indian" for adoption of Indian breeds of dogs. "We would like to urge the people of Delhi to adopt dogs of Indian breed – 'Be Indian, Adopt Indian'. This is what we would like to request dog-lovers to do.

It is not as if we have any problems with dogs of foreign breeds, the people are free to adopt and take care of them as well. But since we are Indians and we have a great variety of dogs of Indian breed, we would urge people to take care of them as well. Individuals will also be encouraged to come forward and adopt Indian breeds," he said during a press conference.

Bhardwaj said that monkey menace is another big issue. "In almost all the areas of South Delhi, people are troubled by monkeys, who enter water tanks to take bath, come in the houses, open the fridge and take away food items and even attack small children. We will ensure that they are rehabilitated to their natural habitat, if

we are voted to power in the MCD. One such natural habitat is at Asola," he said. Next, he spoke about how stray cows are often seen around dumpyards eating garbage.

"Their place is not there. They are supposed to be fed green fodder and for it, we will set up gow-shalas with modern technology so that they are taken care of," he said.

Bhardwaj was also asked about the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) questioning party MLA Akhilesh Pati Tripathi on Thursday in connection with poll ticket bribery case.

"The ACB should carry out a neutral investigation. The guilty should not be spared," he said.

On Tuesday, ACB arrested Tripathi's brother-in-law and his two associates for allegedly demanding Rs 90 lakh as bribe for giving ticket to AAP worker's wife in the civic polls.

A senior ACB official said that AAP MLA Tripathi was summoned by the department. He was asked to appear at 11 am and he has joined probe today and is being questioned.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier this month launched party's 10 guarantees for December 4 MCD polls and one of them pertained to freeing Delhi's streets of menace of stray animals. **SR**

City court rejects Jain's bail plea

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a setback to AAP leader Satyendar Jain, a city court on Thursday denied bail to him in two others in a money laundering case, saying he was "prima facie" involved in concealing the "proceeds of crime". Special judge Vikas Dhull also rejected bail to co-accused Vaibhav and Ankush Jain in the case.

The court said "prima facie" Jain was "actually involved in concealing the proceeds of crime by giving cash to the Kolkata-based entry operators and thereafter, bringing the cash into three companies... against the sale of shares to show that income of these three companies was untainted one." By this process, the proceeds of crime to the tune of 1/3rd of Rs 4.61 crore has been laundered.

Apart from that, Jain has also used the same modus operandi to convert his proceeds of crime of Rs 15 lakh by receiving accommodation entries from Kolkata-based entry operators in his company by the name of J J Ideal Estate Pvt Ltd," the court noted.

It said that Jain had knowingly done such activity to obliterate the tracing of the source of ill-gotten money and accordingly the proceeds of crime was layered through Kolkata-based entry operators in a way that its source was difficult to decipher.

Work on cleaning of Najafgarh drain progressing fast

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 2-km stretch of the Najafgarh drain from Timarpur to Mall Road Bridge in north Delhi has been completely cleaned and the work upstream is fast progressing. According to sources, the annual silt deposit in the drain is over 3 to 4 lakh tonnes and around 85 lakh tonnes of solid waste is lying in the drain at present.

The silt, accumulated in the form of two solid mounds, is equal to the 85 lakh tonnes of waste at the Ghazipur landfill site. The 57-km-long channel, which flows into the Yamuna, has as many as 121 smaller drains that discharge sewage into it.

Sources at Irrigation & Flood Control Department (I&FC) said that drain has as many as 121 smaller drains discharging sewage into it. The annual silt or sewage deposit in the drain is to the tune of over 3 to 4 lakh MT and at present approximately 85 lakh MT of solid waste is lying deposited in the drain due to neglect and apathy.

Comparing the silt if the drain to the landfill sites of the city, they said that the silt/garbage accumulated in the form of two solid mounds, is equal to the 85 lakh MT waste accumulated at the Ghazipur landfill site. "These under water mounds in the drain block the natural flow of water, especially during the



rainy season resulting into overflowing of drains falling into it and cause flooding and water logging in the City," they informed.

The two km stretch of the Najafgarh Drain from Timarpur to Mall Road Bridge has been completely cleaned by the concerned agencies, which is the main polluting source of the Yamuna River.

On the directions of the Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena a de-silting monitoring centre has also been set up near Timarpur Bridge.

In the first phase to clean the 57-km long drain, the thick silt deposit, garbage and hyacinth have been completely removed from 2-km stretch of the 12-km stretch from Timarpur to Basai Darapur, said sources adding, "Starting October 15, nearly 17,000 MT of silt has been removed from this stretch in less than a month's time."

Kejriwal Govt failed to fulfill its promises, accuses LoP Bidhuri



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the run up to the MCD polls, the Delhi BJP on Thursday brought out a "chargesheet" against the AAP Government accusing it of failing to fulfill its promises.

Reading out the "chargesheet" at a press conference, senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri claimed the issues raised in it were verified, and challenged AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal to have a debate on it with him.

Former Delhi Mayor Arti Mehra and Harish Khurana were also present in the press conference.

"In eight years of its rule, the Kejriwal Government turned Delhi into the most polluted national Capital in the world, and also a capital of addiction by allowing liquor shops in every street of the city," Bidhuri charged.

Enumerating the allegations in the chargesheet, Bidhuri said that Kejriwal had

promised the people of Delhi that water would be made available 24 hours, but in the last eight years there has not been an increase of even one MGD in water supply.

"The supply of water in Delhi is 900 MGD while the demand has crossed 1300 MGD and 40 per cent of Delhi's population does not get water from the DJB," he alleged.

"Wherever water comes, it is so dirty that people are suffering from cancer, liver and kidney diseases. Similarly, the sewer line also could not be expanded," he added.

Bidhuri said that sewer lines were not laid in villages and 83 per cent unauthorised colonies. Kejriwal had promised to buy 15,000 buses but the number of DTC buses has decreased from 6,500 to 3,760 in eight years and all these buses are also overage which are catching fire everyday. Due to non-availability of public transport, people are forced to take private vehicles on the road, due to which con-

gestion, jam, pollution and

accidents are increasing.

Bidhuri said that even in the name of halving the electricity bills, the public has been cheated. Due to fixed charge, pension charge and electricity tax, electricity in Delhi is the costliest in the country. On an average, domestic electricity is available at Rs 8.50 per unit and commercial electricity at Rs 18 per unit.

Despite Rs 2,500 crore provided by the Centre for cleaning the Yamuna, the river is still a drain of dirty water under Aam Aadmi Party government, he said.

"Kejriwal does not believe in the Constitution," Bidhuri attacked the Delhi chief minister, alleging he did not conduct any audit of Delhi Jal Board (DJB) which was running into losses, and avoided placing CAG audit of departments in the Assembly. The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly also cited "failure" of Kejriwal government in various field including health, education, water and power supply, public transport.

Dog horror continues in Delhi-NCR, FIR filed against owner

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

An FIR has been lodged against a high-rise La Residencia Society resident after his pet dog bit a six-year-old child inside their building's lift in Greater Noida (West).

The Greater Noida Authority (GNDA) also slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on the pet owner and asked him to bear the medical expenses of the child. This is for the first time that GNDA has imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on a dog owner for carelessness in keeping the pet dog. According to the complaint lodged by the police, the child was returning



to his 16th-floor home in La Residencia society after school on Tuesday and he was with his mother inside their building's lift. The CCTV footage of the episode also made its way to social media, purportedly showing the dog lunging at the child and biting on his arm. There were only three people—the child in the school uniform, his mother and the pet owner

-- besides the dog in the lift at the time, the footage showed. "The mother and the child were in the lift, which went to the basement of the building before going up.

In the basement, another building resident entered the lift along with his pet dog," the complaint stated. "Within moments of entering the lift, the dog bit the child even as his owner tried to control him," it said.

The FIR was lodged Wednesday evening under section 289 (negligent behaviour with respect to an animal) of the Indian Penal Code, a police officer said, adding further

probe was underway in the case. Meanwhile, the Greater Noida Authority also issued a notice to the pet owner over the incident, according to an official. In addition to the Rs 10,000 fine, the GNDA also asked the dog owner Kartik Gandhi, a resident of the society, to pay the entire amount for the treatment of the dog bite victim.

In a notice sent on Wednesday to the dog owner, GNDA medical officer Dr Prem Chand directed him to deposit Rs. 10,000 fine with GNDA within seven working days. If the fine is not deposited within seven days in

GNDA's account and treatment money is not paid, further action will be taken against the dog owner for which he himself will be responsible, the notice added.

The dog bite incident occurred due to carelessness in keeping the pet dog, the notice added. This was the second incident in about two months of a dog biting a child in the lift in Uttar Pradesh's national capital region. A schoolboy was bitten by a dog inside a housing society elevator in Ghaziabad in September. Earlier in Ghaziabad in September, a schoolboy was bitten by a dog inside a hous-

ing society elevator even as the animal's owner appeared to be a mute spectator, following which the Ghaziabad police registered a case.

The incident had happened in Rajnagar Extension's Charms Castle when the boy, with a schoolbag on his shoulder, was bitten by the dog inside the lift of the high-rise residential building.

The video of the incident went viral on social media. The boy's parents had approached Nandigram Police Station where a complaint under IPC section 289 (negligent conduct with respect to animals) of IPC was registered.

11 foreign breeds of dogs banned in G'gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

Amid an increase in the number of attacks on humans by pet dogs, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Gurugram has directed the Municipal Corporation to ban 11 "foreign breeds". The 11 dog breeds that have been banned are: American Bulldog,

American Pit bull terriers, Dogo Argentino, Rottweiler, Boerboel, Presa Canario, Neapolitan Mastiff, Wolfdog, Cane Corso, Bandog and Fila Brasileiro. All these are categorised as "dangerous foreign breeds". The court has also asked the Corporation to cancel the registration granted to such banned dog breeds and take them into its custody.

Modi, BJP brass to give big push to Guj campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As against the Congress' silent campaign, the BJP has stepped-up the decibel of its Gujarat 'mission 150-plus seats' with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to give it a big push by reaching the state on Saturday for a road-show and senior BJP leaders, including its president J P Nadda besides Union ministers and chief ministers, to address a slew of public meetings on Friday in the constituencies falling in the first-phase of polling.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who did not campaign in Himachal Pradesh and is focusing on his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', is expected to take a break and join the campaign in Gujarat around November 22 to give voice to his party's low-key, door-to-door campaign.

The 89 Gujarat Assembly constituencies in Gujarat are going to polls in the first phase of elections on December 1. Saurashtra, Kutch and south Gujarat are the regions going to polls in the first phase while 93 seats in north and central parts of the state will have polls on December 5.

The main face of the BJP campaign in Gujarat, Prime Minister Modi, would be reaching Gujarat on Saturday after inaugurating Arunachal



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel files his nomination from Ghatloda constituency for the forthcoming Assembly elections in the presence of Union Minister Amit Shah, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday PTI Photo

Pradesh's first greenfield airport Donyi Polo, developed over an area of 690 acres and built at a cost of more than ₹ 640 crore, in a boost to connectivity, trade and tourism in the scenic region.

The Prime Minister's Office said the PM will also inaugurate the 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam', a month-long programme being organised in his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, on Saturday before flying to Gujarat.

Modi would be leading a road-show for the BJP and address a number of public rallies in his home state. One of his earlier road-shows was cancelled due to the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy. Nadda will

hold rallies in three places — Navsari, Ankleshwar and Rajkot East -- while Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Narendra Singh Tomar and Anurag Singh Thakur will address public at three, four and four meetings, respectively.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Madhya Pradesh counterpart Shivraj Singh Chouhan will address three and four rallies respectively.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Union ministers V K Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste are among other party leaders who will be addressing rallies, they said. Since 1995, the BJP would

be seeking mandate for the seventh time in Gujarat on the 'Hindutva', 'double-engine government' and the 'continuity of development' planks. The Congress is heavily banking on the perceived 'anti-incumbency' factor against the BJP and wooing of the rainbow of OBC, Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim votes.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), under Arvind Kejriwal, has entered the poll fray for the second-time in Gujarat. An unpredictable player, it may cut into the votes of the Congress or the BJP.

AAP is not choosing to speak on the issues relating to Minorities including on the controversial Bilkis Bano case where life convicts of the 2002 gang-rape case have been given remission and let off. The AAP, which is contesting a majority of seats, has promised free electricity, access to water and government schools to the voters.

Besides, AAP has promised ₹1000 monthly allowance to all women above the age of 18 if it is elected to power. The All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) too is in the fray exclusively targeting the Muslim community and expected to cut into the Congress vote base. The AIMIM and the AAP both are described by the Congress as the B-team of the BJP.

UN OK's extension of deal to export fertilizers, grain from Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

As the war in Ukraine is having an adverse impact on fuel, food and fertilizers supply chains, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has announced an extension of a four-month old deal to ensure the export of grain and fertilizers from Ukraine through the Black Sea.

The announcement late Wednesday came days before the deal was set to expire on November 19. The same day India also called for extending the period of the deal.

Guterres said in a statement the United Nations is also "fully committed" to removing obstacles that have impeded the export of food and fertiliser from Russia, which is one of two agreements struck between the two countries and Turkey in July.

The deals signed in Istanbul are aimed to help bring down prices of food and fertiliser and avoid a global food crisis.

There was no immediate confirmation of the agreement from Russia. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the extension of the grain deal a "key decision in the global fight against the food crisis."

India expressed hope that the UN-facilitated Black Sea grain and fertilizer package



deal will be renewed in the coming days and will be fully implemented by all parties earnestly. The agreement on July 22 allowed grain shipments to resume from certain Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea, leading to some 10 million tonnes in shipments and helping to reduce international prices.

"In so far as specific initiatives pertaining to issues like food grains and fertilizer shipments are concerned, we hope that the UN-facilitated Black Sea grain and fertilizer package deal will be renewed in the coming days and will be implemented by all parties earnestly in all its aspects," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said at the UN Security Council briefing on Ukraine.

Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo told the Security Council that the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative remains "vital" to help avert a food crisis for millions of people. More than

10 million metric tonnes of foodstuffs have now been moved under the Initiative, reaching, or on the way to, some 40 countries.

Kamboj reiterated that India continues to remain concerned about the situation in Ukraine including the targeting of civilian infrastructure and the deaths of civilians.

Since the beginning of the conflict, India has consistently called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to the violence, she said.

She also said India hopes the international community will continue to respond positively to the call for humanitarian assistance.

India has so far dispatched 12 consignments of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and stands ready to do more. Underlining that India's approach to the Ukraine conflict will continue to be people-centric, Kamboj said India is providing both humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic support to some of its neighbours in the Global South under economic distress.

IN SHORTS

SC: APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES PIL LISTED FOR URGENT HEARING
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to consider listing a petition against the collegium system of appointment of judges to the apex court and high courts, days after Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju said people were not happy with the practice of judges appointing judges. The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

DHANKHAR INTERACTS WITH HEADS OF PARL PANELS
New Delhi: Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday interacted with chairpersons of various department-related parliamentary standing committees at his Parliament House complex.

SAUDI TO EXEMPT INDIANS FROM SUBMITTING PCC
New Delhi: "In view of the strong relations and strategic partnership between Saudi Arabia and India, the Kingdom has decided to exempt Indian nationals from submitting a Police Clearance Certificate (PCC)," its Embassy in Delhi tweeted on Thursday.

ARMY CHIEF INTERACTS WITH FRENCH COUNTERPART
New Delhi: Army Chief General Manoj Pande has interacted with his French counterpart General Pierre Schill and discussed issues of mutual interest during his ongoing visit to France, the army said on Thursday.

Direct-to-mobile broadcasting pilot study in NCR soon, says I&B Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A pilot study on direct-to-mobile broadcasting, that has the potential to enhance the reach of television manifold, will be carried out in the national capital region soon, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said on Thursday.

Addressing the Big Picture Summit organised by Confederation of Indian Industry here, Chandra said direct to mobile broadcasting was the "next big thing" for television media as it has the potential to increase viewership manifold.

"Currently, there are about 20 crore television households in the country. India has over 60 crore smartphone users and 80 crore broadband users. Reach of television media is set to be much higher," he said.

He said IIT-Kanpur and Sankhya Labs have carried out a pilot study on direct to mobile broadcasting in Bengaluru and were now launching another study in either Noida or some



place near Delhi. Chandra said the government was also working on the issue of TRP ratings.

The pilot project on reverse path data (RPD) has been successful and a report on that will be available soon, he said.

"We will now integrate more and more reverse path data as the number of households involved in BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) ratings was quite low. With RPD, the TRP will become much larger," Chandra said.

RPD capable set-top boxes can store data of the channels that were viewed and return the information to the cable operator, which may in-turn be assessed by BARC to ascertain the TRP data. Earlier, Chandra said the shift towards new

media for consuming information from traditional sources such as newspapers has presented a challenge of credibility before the government.

Chandra said India has over 1.2 billion mobile phone users and 600 million smartphone users who are consuming a high amount of information and entertainment via mobile devices.

He said that recently there has been a shift from the traditional media as youngsters were consuming information from new media sources.

This has presented a challenge of credibility and that presented a challenge to the government, Chandra said. Direct-to-mobile technology works similarly to FM radio in that a receiver built into the gadget can access radio frequencies.

Broadband and broadcast technologies are combined to enable mobile phones to receive local digital TV feeds, thereby enabling multimedia content to be broadcast directly to smart phones.



The Indian Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar on Thursday repatriated 38 Indians who were victims of job offers of transnational crime syndicates. They left Yangon for Kolkata from where they would go to their respective States, the embassy said. PNS

'Sea Vigil' to test operational readiness of coastal defence: Navy

New Delhi: The two-day exercise 'Sea Vigil' to test the operational readiness of coastal defence all along the 7,516 km long coastline of India focused on all aspects of maritime security and contingencies ranging from peace to wartime, the Navy said here Thursday. The extensive drill with largest participation of all stakehold-

ers ended on Wednesday.

Giving details of the outcome of the exercise in the backdrop steps taken to shore up security after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks through sea in 2008, Navy officials said the conceptual and geographical expanse of 'Sea Vigil' included contingencies ranging from Peace to War-time across

the entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country. In addition, mitigation measures, on shore, in case of any breach in Coastal Security mechanism were also validated. The exercise involved participation of more than 17 Government agencies from nine coastal states and four Union

Territories (UT) involved in the Coastal Defence Mechanism and Coastal Security construct. This edition of exercise 'Sea Vigil' saw the largest participation from all maritime security agencies.

More than 500 surface assets from the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, States Marine/Coastal Police, Customs, Forest

Department, Port Authorities and private operators participated in the exercise. The entire coastline was kept under surveillance by the Navy and Coast Guard ships and aircraft. Helicopters were also pressed into service to reinforce Special Operations personnel operating onboard offshore platforms. PNS

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Nipun Karnatic/ Nisha Karnatic LBDEL000023450270 / LBDEL000005024579	Dda Build Lig Flat Bearing No. 426, Fourth Floor, In Block A, Kundli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi 110096 November 15, 2022	June 30, 2017 Rs. 20,54,044.00/-	Delhi

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

Date : November 18, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SHWETA VATTA, CS Comm No. 1338/21	Vehicle No. DL10CM9837, Make and Model- TATA MOTORS LTDNEXON, Manu Year- 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS SANCHIT., CS(Comm)-785/2019	Vehicle No. UP14GT1840, Make and Model- CELERIO, Manu Year- 2017

Auction Date: November 25, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Auction Portal Name & URL Link: Car Dekho
https://auctions.cardekho.com
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

ICICI BANK LTD VS BHARAT SOMASTAMB, RC/312/2014 IN OA/308/2013	Vehicle No. HR51Y0945, Make and Model- DIAMLER CHRYSLER INDIA PVT LTDBENZ, Manu Year -2006. Reserve Price: Rs.1,80,000/-, EMD Amount: Rs.18,000/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS RAJNI., CS (COMM) No. 1992/2021	Vehicle No. DL8CAR9164, Make and Model- BMW, Manu Year -2017. Reserve Price: Rs.24,50,000/-, EMD Amount: Rs.2,45,000/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS Somesh Tiwari, CS SCJ 2172/18	Vehicle No. UP16BP5309, Make and Model- Honda Activa/4G, Manu Year- 2017

Date and Time of Online Auction: Dec 05, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Auction Portal Name & URL Link: Car Dekho
https://auctions.cardekho.com
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself/ themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://auctions.cardekho.com>) of our auction agency Car Dekho. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the DD/PO of EMD Amount (wherein applicable), self attested PAN card and self attested copy of address proof alongwith mobile no and email id at ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005 on or before 03-Dec-22. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the payment of remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount (wherein applicable) will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number) (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pankaj Goyal/ Mahavir Prasad (13000002270 & QZGUR00005024579)	H No 1526 Gali No 1A Khatoni No 74 Kh No 1385 (0-8) New Baselwa Colony Haryana Faridabad/ November 15, 2022.	September 27, 2021/ Rs.21,20,106/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Kalpna Jaiswal/ Jitendra Kumar (19900041852 & QZFDB00005035470)	H.No- 483, Plot No-33, Kh No.30/11, 12/2, GaliNo- 23, Sanjay Colony, Sector-23, Faridabad, Haryana/ November 16, 2022	August 20, 2020/ Rs.18,52,419/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : November 18, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

India asks Kabul Govt to eradicate terrorism from Afghan soil, ensure regional security

India along with some other countries have called for having a "truly inclusive" government in Kabul and eradicating terrorism from Afghan soil and ensuring regional security.

This was the main take away from the talks under the Moscow format of consultations held there on Wednesday. The participants also called for "complete unfreezing" of Afghanistan assets by the USA and compensate the Afghans.

Special envoys from India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting.

The Russian foreign ministry said the participants affirmed their readiness to assist Afghanistan in this regard. "In this context, participants strongly condemned the terror attacks targeting innocent Afghan civilians at public places, including educational institutes and the recent attack at the Russian embassy in Kabul," it said.

The joint statement said the participants expressed support for the Afghan authorities in developing crop substitution programmes and cracking down on narcotics production and trafficking.

It also said the participants emphasised on the importance of forming a truly inclusive government in

ministry said the meeting asked Kabul to take more visible steps against all terrorist organisations, and to "firmly fight, dismantle and eliminate them, so as to ensure that Afghanistan would never again serve as a "breeding ground, safe haven or source of proliferation for terrorism".

Afghanistan, reflecting the interests of all major ethno-political groups of that country. "Underscoring that an economic meltdown in Afghanistan would lead to a mass exodus of refugees, promote extremism, terrorism and instability, concern was expressed about the aggravation of the migration situation around Afghanistan, which could pose a threat to the peace and stability in neighboring countries," the joint statement said.

The Russian foreign ministry said it presented its 'White Book' on the civilian losses in Afghanistan due to the "illegal actions of the US and its allies" during the meeting.

The ministry of external affairs here said on Wednesday the participants discussed issues related to Afghanistan, including the current humanitarian situation and the ongoing efforts of various stakeholders to provide assistance, intra-Afghan talks, formation of an inclusive and representative government, efforts to counter threats of terrorism and ensuring regional security. On the sidelines of the Moscow Format Meeting, Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran), Ministry of External Affairs also held discussions with Special Envoys of the participating countries.

ED arrests Mamata's aide Mondal for cow smuggling

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There was more trouble for Trinamool Congress and its strongman and national executive member, Anubrata Mondal. The Enforcement Directorate on Friday formally arrested Mondal a blue-eyed boy of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in multi-crore cow smuggling case.

Mondal who was already in judicial custody after the Central Bureau of Investigation arrested him three months ago was on Thursday "shown arrested" by the ED after a team of three senior officials flew down from Delhi to Asansol -- where he is presently lodged



--- and interrogated him for more than five hours.

Though it was not clear whether his further interrogation would be

conducted in Asansol or Delhi as the main case being dealt with by the ED falls in the jurisdiction of Delhi's Rouse Avenue court, sources said the Agency would petition the court for his production in Delhi.

"There are chances that the ED may seek an order from Rouse Avenue court for taking Mondal to Tihar Jail ... in that case they will have to take a transit remand from Asansol court," a central government's paneled advocate said in Kolkata, adding, Mondal had always the option of filing an appeal with the High Court should the Rouse Avenue court order him to be taken to Tihar. "If transported to Delhi life

will be difficult for him because he will not only be away from his own men but also far from Mamata Banerjee who has accorded moral support to him ... and that may help ED not only to extract information on the source of his vast ill-gotten wealth worth several thousand crore but also on whether a bigger or smaller part of that wealth has been routed to his higher leaders in Kolkata," said BJP leaders in Kolkata.

The ED officials arrested Mondal a senior TMC leader who has allegedly introduced the "Mondal model" --- of winning elections with the help of bullets and bombs --- in Bengal was arrested for not cooperating in interrogation.

Third setback for Kerala Govt: HC quashes appointment of leader's spouse at university

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday quashed the appointment of high-profile Priya Varghese as associate professor of the Malayalam department of Kannur University. Justice Devan Ramachandran who pronounced the verdict said that Priya Varghese did not have the academic or professional qualifications mandated by the University Grants Commission. "The rules demand that the person to be appointed as associate professor should have minimum eight years teaching experience. But Priya Varghese does not have teaching experience of eight years," said Justice Devan Ramachandran in his judgment.



Priya Varghese is the spouse of K K Ragesh, private secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and world renowned Marxist leader from Kannur. One of the applicants who was disqualified by the selection committee, had challenged the appointment of Priya Varghese in the Kerala High Court and Thursday's verdict was the fall out of the petition.

Gopinath Raveendran, a sworn Leftist and close associate of Pinarayi Vijayan is the vice chancellor of Kannur

University. Raveendran is in the eye of a storm following a directive issued by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan asking him to show cause why his services should not be terminated in the backdrop of the October 21 Supreme Court verdict declaring the appointment of the vice chancellor of Kerala Technical University as null and void.

The Kerala High Court has last week declared as null and void the appointment of the vice chancellor of KUOS

for violating the UGC guidelines. "This the third set back in as many weeks for the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government. A person like Priya Varghese should not have applied for this job," said K Sudhakaran, MP and president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee. Speaking to The Pioneer from Kannur, Sudhakaran said that the High Court judgment was an ideal punishment for the LDF Government's nepotism and blatant violation of the law of the land. "I extend my congratulations to the High Court. The CPI(M) should make an introspection in the backdrop of these verdicts and try to correct itself instead of blaming the Indian National Congress which exposes their failures and high handedness," said Sudhakaran.

K'taka Cong cries foul over pvt entity in voter survey

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A controversy erupted in Karnataka on Thursday over a voters' survey in the city with Opposition Congress alleging corrupt electoral practice in it and demanded the Chief Minister's resignation, while the city's civic body announced terminating the permission given to the private entity involved in the exercise.

The Congress demanded the resignation of CM Basavaraj Bommai, alleging he is directly responsible for the corrupt electoral practice by assigning the private entity to collect door-to-door voter information.

As a row erupted over the issue, the BBMP said Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust had violated the conditions and announced terminating the permission given to it to conduct door-to-door visit to "cre-



ate awareness" among the public on online application via Voter Helpline Mobile App pertaining to Voter ID.

Congress general secretary and the party's Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala alleged at a press conference here that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorised the private firm in August to carry out a door-to-door survey of voters 'free of cost' and that it gathered information on people's gender, mother tongue and

collected voter ID and Aadhar details.

"Chilume Educational and Rural Development Institute applied for permission to conduct voter awareness drive of the Election Commission. Firstly, the permission was given for Mahadevapura Assembly constituency and it was then extended to all 28 assembly constituencies of Bengaluru vide a government order dated August 20, 2022," the AICC general secretary claimed.

Akhilesh, Dimple meet Shivpal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a visible thaw in the Yadav family, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his wife and party's Mainpuri candidate Dimple Yadav on Thursday met Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) president Shivpal Singh Yadav ahead of the Mainpuri bypoll.

The couple met Shivpal Yadav, who is the younger brother of Samajwadi Party founder late Mulayam Singh Yadav and uncle of Akhilesh Yadav, in Saifai to discuss the by-election. Sources claim that the meeting continued for over an hour and it was later joined by Shivpal Yadav's son Aditya Yadav.

The Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat fell vacant on October 10 after the demise of Mulayam Singh Yadav and Dimple Yadav was named SP candidate and she is expected to carry the



legacy of her father-in-law in the constituency.

Taking to Twitter, Akhilesh tweeted, "Along with the leader and the elders of the house, the blessings of the people of Mainpuri are also with you!"

Akhilesh Yadav also tweeted his picture with Dimple, Shivpal and his son Aditya Yadav. Uncle Shivpal Yadav also wrote in his twitter account: "Jis bagh ko khud sincha hai Netaji ne, us bagh ko hum sinchege apne khooon se."

BJP leader Sidharth Nath Singh said that Akhilesh remembered his uncle due to the fear of defeat.

PGC hosts interactive session of children with parliamentarians

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Parliamentarians' Group for Children (PGC) has hosted an interactive session of children with parliamentarians representing different political parties as part of the World Children's Day 2022 being celebrated by UNICEF.

"In marking the Child Rights Week, thirty-five Members of Parliament listened to children sharing their experiences in countering discrimination through sports -- calling for inclusion and equality for all children," the UNICEF said in a statement. The focus of World Children's Day this year is on sports as a powerful means to promote inclusion, equality, and non-discrimination. Opening the session, MP and Chair of PGC, Gaurav Gogoi reiterated the commitment and said, "Our country is only stronger when every child gets the life that they deserve. Race, caste, religion, sexual orientation, and income level

do not impact their hopes and all dreams of children are realized."

The UN Resident Coordinator for India, Shombi Sharp thanked the MPs for championing child rights both inside and outside the Parliament.

Five children from different states shared compelling stories of determination, hope and resilience. Seventeen-year-old Jolina Marak from Meghalaya, Gold medalist in Deaflympics 15-year-old Guranshi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh, 15-year-old footballer Nisha from Rajasthan, 16-year-old Maksud from Mumbai and 14-year-old athlete Balvinder Sing from Telangana appealed to the MPs for better sports infrastructure and opportunities to participate in competitive sports.

Responding to demands from the children, the MPs spoke about their commitment toward facilitating greater access to sports at the panchayat, state, and national levels.

Three detained in connection with blast on Udaipur track



PTI ■ JAIPUR

Three people, including a juvenile, have been detained in connection with the blast on the Udaipur-Ahmedabad railway track, a police official said on Thursday.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were upset as they were not given compensation or a job after their land was acquired by Indian Railways and Hindustan Zinc Limited.

Three people, including a juvenile, have been detained. Another person from whom they purchased the explosive has also been detained. "Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and Special Operation Group (SOG) ADG Ashok Rathore told reporters.

International Gita Mahotsav

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Virat Swaroop, Jyotisar

“श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, भारत का दुनिया को सबसे प्रेरक उपहार है। कुरुक्षेत्र के मैदान पर कही गई ये अमरवाणी हजारों साल से प्रासंगिक है। गीता धर्मग्रंथ के साथ जीवन ग्रंथ भी है, जो हमें सेवा और समर्पण के रास्ते विभिन्न समस्याओं के हल दिखाती है।”

- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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FIRST COLUMN

INDO-PACIFIC WILL BE KEY US POLICY THEME

G20 Presidency for India is an opportunity, a challenge



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

There have been several photo ops from the G20 leaders' meet in Bali, Indonesia, which will stay relevant for any follower of international geopolitical order for some time to come. The first face-to-face, three hours long bilateral meeting between US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, has already sent ripples in the diplomatic stretch from the US, Europe, Eurasia, Russia to the most significant Indo Pacific. This was the first time both leaders were meeting in person since President Biden took over in 2020.

The geopolitical equations have been recalibrated since 2020, with the Covid-19 pandemic throwing normal trade and bilateral meetings in disarray, exacerbated now by Russia's ill timed "special military operations in Ukraine", threatening to push several millions in developing countries on the brink of food scarcity in the 21st century, and reducing the purchasing power of those in developed economies stoked by historic record high inflation.

This is also the time when China and Russia got into their tightest embrace in modern history, vouching for a "no limits, no barriers friendship". The US-China relations have suffered a huge tailspin, and most of the US foreign policy in the past two years has been about controlling the growing heft of a non-transparent China in the world order.

Key themes emerging from the US-China bilateral suggest both leaders, Joe Biden (after a better than expected performance of the Democrats in the US midterms) and Xi Jinping, after robustly securing presidency for the third time, are now in a better place to politically sell to their domestic audiences, a couple of steps backward (if need be), relented to each other. This was apparent in the no cold war, no military conflict with each other, discourse reflected in their respective statements after the meeting. China made it clear to the US that the red line in the relationship was Taiwan, on which China had made several aggressive statements in the recently concluded National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

The gnawing war in Ukraine has pushed energy and food prices to all-time highs around the globe and the US and western allies are staring at high inflationary pressures.

China, meanwhile, is facing one of the worst slowdowns (mainly due to a sluggish real estate sector) in nearly two decades, and post Brexit the UK has already lost its position to India as the world's fifth largest economy. The meeting between the top leadership of the US and China took place in Bali in the backdrop of the G20 summit, which makes it even more significant.

Through photo op the US made it clear that the Indo Pacific region will remain as key theme of its foreign policy. Towards this the National security Strategy released by the US last month has underscored the centrality of the Indo Pacific and called for closer cooperation with its European allies as well.

India takes on the presidency immediately after the Bali summit and will host the leadership summit in September next year. This presidency for India is both an opportunity and a challenge to manage a splintered world almost staring at a second Cold War. It also comes at a time when India hopes to tackle complicated global finance architecture and digital transformation standards and issues through the most relevant platform G20. To move ahead with its stated goals, India has to bring the bickering partners together and persuade them to agree to some common basic frameworks for world prosperity

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

Agar tree is goldmine, needs a policy push



VK BAHUGUNA

The synergy between forestry trees and agriculture has increased during last 40 years. Incentive to farmers for growing Agar trees can be immensely beneficial

Resource management is a fine art which India's policy makers need to consolidate to solve the problems of increasing the income of farmers from our rich biodiversity. Forest management for more than 150 years has been timber oriented to meet primarily the needs of colonial interests as well as promotion of Railways in India, besides serving the needs of agriculture and water security, while setting up of forest administration in India.

Today one of the problems farmers are facing is regular disruptions in agriculture productivity due to climatic factors and irregular rains, which further create low yields due to year after year fragmentation of agriculture land holding. More than 86 per cent farmers are small and marginal, owning only less than 1 ha of land according to Agriculture census 2015-16 with 70 per cent households depending on agriculture.

Under such conditions, diversification is the only way to increase the farmers' income. The government of India has been promoting through several steps to increase the income but some of the good steps taken like three Farm Acts enacted during 2020 were embroiled in big controversy and had to be repealed by the government when the farmers' agitation turned ugly and anti-national elements entered it.

Under these conditions, the role of agroforestry assumes importance so that tree growing complements the agriculture for enhancing the income from farming. The synergy between forestry trees and agriculture has received a big boost during the past 40 years as major supply (of more than 85 per cent) of wood both industrial as well as domestic is met in the country from private agricultural fields and also from imports.

Two most valuable trees growing in India are Agar wood and Red sanders. These trees are a few species of trees which need to be specially taken care of like tea, coffee, rubber and other cash crops in the country. Agar wood trees are nothing less than a gold mine, considering its oil and chip's value in the international market. It is also known as 'the wood of Gods'. This author visited farmers' fields in Tripura recently and saw Agar Tree for ground assessment of the potential, which could help in formulating a policy framework that may be adopted at the national level. Red sanders need to be discussed separately.

The capital of Tripura, Agartala, is named after the Agarwood tree as it used to be present profusely in and around the Agartala city and all over Tripura's forests. But detrimental exploitation made it a rare species and is now listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Agar wood tree is an ever-



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THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PROMOTE SPECIES LIKE AGAR WOOD BY LAUNCHING SPECIAL SCHEMES TO HELP FARMERS PLANT AGARWOOD WHEREVER FEASIBLE CLIMATICALLY

(The author is former Director-General in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

green species scientifically known as *Aquilaria malaccensis* previously known as *Aquilafila agalocha*. It is grown naturally in India and other South Asian and South-East Asian countries.

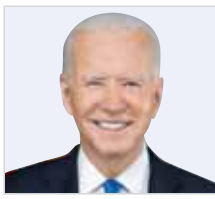

In India, it is found growing up to an elevation of 3000 feet to 3500 feet in West-Bengal and all the North-Eastern states and Sikkim. It is most valuable and easy growing tree and can be cultivated on farmers' fields in tropical humid climatic conditions. Agar tree becomes valuable only after it is naturally infected by the fungus after it is attacked by the insects. It has also already been planted by the farmers in Orissa, Kerala and Karnataka. The Agar oil and agarwood chips are in high demand in Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, etc., for preparations of perfumes, medicines and other valuable products; in Korea, it is used to prepare wine and in China for ornamental functions.

The cost of one kg Agar oil is around Rs 25 lakh and of one kg Agar chips is Rs one lakh. In natural conditions, it is infected by fungi which is the cause of production of resin in Agar in the tree. The chips are burnt for incense and oil is used in perfume making. In India, Assam and Tripura are the centre of international trade in agar wood.

Though some rough estimates

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I AM READY...I AM TONIGHT ANNOUNCING MY CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
— FORMER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP




DONALD TRUMP FAILED AMERICA.
— US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Use carrot-and-stick policy to curb stubble burning

Punjab needs to replicate the Haryana success in mitigating stubble burning for fighting pollution menace

Although the air of Delhi and neighboring areas of Haryana and Punjab continues to remain toxic due to stubble burning by the farmers of Punjab and Haryana, there is good news that this time stubble burning has come down by 26 per cent in Haryana, whereas in Punjab it continues unabated. The pictures taken by the satellites and the scientific information collected, otherwise, are all pointing to the fact that Haryana is inching towards the solution of stubble burning.

In the month of November 2019, the Supreme Court had lambasted the government of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, as to why they were not taking



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

(The author is Professor, Department of Economics, PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

adequate measures to stop stubble burning. The court had also asked these state governments to give an incentive of Rs 100 per quintal of crop to encourage farmers, not to burn stubble.

How much the Supreme Court's advice was heeded to can be a matter of enquiry, but it is certain that this year, according to the American Space Agency NASA between October 23 and October 30, incidents of stubble burning in the state of Haryana were much less as compared to Punjab.

According to the data of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), between October 1 and November 3, there were 29,780 incidents of stubble burning in Punjab, while this

number was only 4,414 in Haryana. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has also informed the Supreme Court that while Haryana has largely controlled stubble burning incidents, Punjab's situation in this regard is very poor.

The Haryana government, this year distributed machines named 'Super sms', 'Rotavator', 'Happy Seeder', and 'Zero Till Seed Drill', in large numbers, so that farmers avoid the practice of stubble burning. The farmers who used these machines last year benefited significantly from this and their yields also increased. Due to this experience, now more farmers have started using these machines, although some

farmers believe that they are not able to use these machines due to the high rent (Rs 2,000 per acre).

The Haryana government has already been giving an incentive of Rs 1,000 per hectare to the farmers for collecting the stubble after harvesting and baling, now the amount of Rs 1,000 per hectare has been started from this year for in-situ stubble management on the farm itself. The state government is also giving Rs 10 lakh as incentive to the panchayats of red zone, for not burning stubble.

Not only incentive, but also the provision of punishment has been made by Haryana. Till the last week of October this year, 1041 challans were issued against stub-

ble burning and a fine of Rs 26 lakh was slapped. In 2021 till October 26, there were 2010 cases of stubble burning, this year till that time only 1495 cases were registered (a decline of 26 per cent).

It is true that the policy of 'stick and carrot' of the Haryana government seems to be successful now, but the solution to the problem of stubble in Haryana was not so effective previously. If we look at the figures, it is known that before 2021, there was a continuous increase in these incidents in Haryana. But only after 2021, there is a decline in these incidents. This may mean that the Haryana government is now taking this problem seriously. But on

the other hand, the Punjab government, which was earlier doing a better job than Haryana regarding the problem of stubble burning, is now lagging behind. According to the press release issued by the Central Government on April 7, 2022, 82533 cases of stubble burning were registered in 2021 in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, which was 7.7 per cent less than in 2020. The best performance in this was from Punjab, where only 71304 cases were reported in 2021 as compared to 83002 cases in 2020.

Farmers of Haryana are experiencing increase in production amidst reduction in incidents of stubble burning through better

management. With the increase in production by the use of suitable machines, the income of the farmers is also increasing. Earlier it was thought by the farmers that there is no solution except burning the stubble, as its management is expensive, but now they are realizing that by managing the stubble in the field, their cost of fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides can be reduced. Sugar and ethanol can also be produced from the stubble. According to a study conducted by the Punjab government, the government's cooperation for stubble management can be beneficial for the farmers and the society both. This calls for support of the farmers and their training.

IST LIMITED Regd. Office: Dharuhera Industrial Complex, Delhi- Jaipur Highway No.8, Kapriwas, Dharuhera,Rewari (Haryana)-123106 Head Office: A-23, New Office Complex, 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 CIN: L33301HR1976PLC008316, Phone No.: 011-41044511-14; Fax: 011-24625694; Email:istgroup.ho@gmail.com; Website: www.istindia.com EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2022 (Fig. in Lacs unless otherwise stated)									
Sl No	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter Ended		Year ended		Quarter Ended		Year ended	
		30.09.2022 Unaudited	31.06.2022 Audited	30.09.2021 Unaudited	31.03.2022 Audited	30.09.2022 Unaudited	31.06.2022 Audited	30.09.2021 Unaudited	31.03.2022 Audited
1	Total Income	772.71	965.04	1457.73	4388.52	4229.64	3776.93	4913.29	18363.19
2	Net Profit before exceptional items and tax	338.27	(135.54)	433.08	1202.04	3453.02	1827.55	3623.76	12771.24
3	Net Profit after exceptional items before tax	338.27	(135.54)	433.08	1202.04	3452.02	1827.55	3623.76	12771.24
4	Net Profit after tax	276.93	(90.31)	352.67	932.79	2567.58	1627.24	2726.08	9597.07
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Net of Tax)	277.97	(89.28)	354.62	936.92	3352.52	355.24	3406.15	10896.28
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share)	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68
7	Other Equity	-	-	-	20121.37	-	-	-	102670.86
8	Earnings Per Share (Face Value Rs. 5/- per share)								
	- Basic (Rs.)	2.37	(0.77)	3.02	8.00	22.22	14.02	23.85	82.79
	- Diluted (Rs.)	2.37	(0.77)	3.02	8.00	22.22	14.02	23.85	82.79

Pelosi to announce ‘future plans’ after GOP wins House

AP ■ WASHINGTON

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is expected to address her plans with colleagues on Thursday in the wake of Democrats narrowly losing control of the House to Republicans in the midterm elections.

Pelosi's decision to either seek another term as the Democratic leader or to step aside has been widely anticipated. It would come after the party was able to halt an expected Republican wave in the House and Senate but also in the aftermath of a brutal attack on her husband, Paul, late last month in their San Francisco home.

"The Speaker plans to address her future plans tomorrow to her colleagues. Stay tuned," Pelosi's spokesman Drew Hammill tweeted late Wednesday.

He did not provide additional information about the time or location of the announcement.

The speaker "has been over-



whelmed by calls from colleagues, friends and supporters," Hammill said, and noted that she had spent Wednesday evening monitoring election returns in the final states where ballots were still being counted.

The California Democrat, who rose to become the nation's first woman to wield the speaker's gavel, is a pivotal figure in US

politics.

By announcing her decision, Pelosi could launch a domino effect in House Democratic leadership ahead of internal party elections next month as Democrats reorganise for their new role as the minority party in the new Congress.

Pelosi's leadership team, with Majority Leader Steny

Hoyer of Maryland and Democratic Whip James Clyburn of South Carolina, has long moved as a triumvirate. Hoyer and Clyburn are also making decisions about their futures.

All now in their 80s, the three House Democratic leaders have faced restless colleagues eager for them to step aside and allow a new generation to take charge.

Democrats Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, Rep. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts and Rep. Pete Aguilar of California have similarly moved as a trio at times, all working toward leadership roles themselves.

First elected to the House in 1987, Pelosi has long been ridiculed by Republicans as a San Francisco liberal while steadily rising as a skilled legislator and fundraising powerhouse. Her own Democratic colleagues have intermittently appreciated but also feared Pelosi's powerful brand of leadership.

LA elects US Rep Karen Bass mayor, first Black woman in post

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

US representative Karen Bass defeated developer Rick Caruso on Wednesday to become the next mayor of Los Angeles, as voters elevated the first Black woman to hold the post as City Hall contends with multiple scandals that have shaken trust in government, an out-of-control homeless crisis and rising crime rates.

With 70 per cent of the vote tallied, Bass had amassed an insurmountable lead of nearly 47,000 votes.

Bass — a Democrat who was on President-elect Joe Biden's short list for vice president — overcame more than USD 100 million in spending by the billionaire Caruso's campaign while arguing that she would be a coalition builder who could heal a troubled city of nearly 4 million.

The election tested whether voters in the heavily Democratic city were willing to turn away from their liberal tendencies and embrace an approach that would place a strong emphasis on public safety. Caruso, a former Republican who became a Democrat shortly before entering the race, had represented a turn to the political right.

Lanka urged to drop charges and free 2 protest leaders

AP ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan government is being urged to drop charges against two protest leaders detained for more than three months following the anti-government demonstrations that engulfed the island nation earlier this year.

Amnesty International also renewed its call for Sri Lanka to repeal the harsh, civil war-era Prevention of Terrorism Act under which the two protest leaders are being held.

Wasantha Mudalige and Galwewa Siridhamma, both university student leaders, were arrested in August and have been detained for more than 90 days under the PTA.

Thyagi Ruwanpathirana, Amnesty International's South Asia regional researcher, urged the government to drop the "baseless terror charges" against the two leaders and also not to extend their detention.

Mudalige and Siridhamma, who is also a Buddhist monk, were actively involved in this year's anti-government protests and their arrests drew wide condemnation from opposition lawmakers and rights groups who say the duo have been detained without legal basis.

In recent weeks, opposition groups and rights activists have been staging frequent protests to demand the release



of two leaders and end to a government crackdown on anti-government demonstrations over economic hardships.

"The continued targeted persecution of student leaders in Sri Lanka has a chilling effect on civil society and the right to protest," Ruwanpathirana said in a statement released late Wednesday.

There was no immediate comment from the government to the Amensy's statement.

For years, opposition lawmakers and trade union and civil rights activists have been urging the government to abolish the PTA.

It was amended in March, but opponents called the reforms cosmetic and said the law still allows the detention of suspects without warrants and the use of confessions obtained through torture. They say the law, introduced during Sri Lanka's civil

war in 1979, has been widely abused, causing a large number of innocent people to spend years in prison without trial.

Sri Lankans protested for months earlier this year over the economic crisis, which has led to severe shortages of many essential imported items such as medicines, fuel and cooking gas. Thousands stormed the president's residence in July, forcing then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee and later resign.

The protesters also occupied other key government buildings, including the offices of the president and prime minister.

The country's new president, Ranil Wickremesinghe, cracked down on opposition, ousting the protesters from the government buildings.

Dozens of protest leaders and activists have been arrested, with some later released.

Nepal may have hung parliament; political stability unlikely after elections: Analysts

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Ahead of Nepal's parliamentary and provincial assembly elections, political analysts here are predicting a hung parliament and a government that is unlikely to provide much-needed political stability in the Himalayan nation, sandwiched between India and China.

There are two major political alliances fighting it out for the November 20 general elections — the Nepali Congress-led democratic and leftist alliance and the CPN-UML-led leftist and pro-Hindu-pro-monarchy alliance.

The Nepali Congress-led ruling alliance includes CPN-Maoist Centre, CPN-Unified Socialist, and Madhes-based Loktantrik Samajwadi Party while the CPN-UML-led alliance includes pro-Hindu Rastriya Prajatantra Party and Madhes-based Janata Samajwadi Party.

Political observers closely watching the November 20 elections have predicted that the ruling alliance led by Prime



Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will become victorious in the parliamentary elections with the Nepali Congress emerging as the single largest party.

K P Sharma Oli-led CPN-UML (the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)) will emerge as the second largest party though the alliance he is leading is unlikely to get a major share in the new Parliament, they argue.

Several new political parties and many independent candidates are in the fray this time, posing a tough challenge to some of

the heavyweights from established political parties that have failed to deliver.

"As things start moving now, one of the two pre-poll alliances is likely to emerge as the largest group after the election. However, the government to be formed by these groups is unlikely to provide the political stability that Nepal badly needs," senior journalist and political analyst Dhruva Adhikay said.

There is less enthusiasm in people regarding the election this time, said Rajesh Ahiraj, a political analyst closely watching the Madhes politics in Nepal.

"Intellectuals opine that the elections may produce a strong government but it will make the country weaker," he pointed out.

"The much-needed peace and political stability are far away even after the election."

Madhes-based political parties such as Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP) led by Upendra Yadav and Loktantrik Samajwadi Party led by Mahantha Thakur both are unlikely to gain much in the upcoming election, he said.

North Korea fires missile after threatening ‘fiercer’ step

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea launched a short-range ballistic missile toward its eastern waters Thursday, hours after the North threatened to launch "fiercer" military responses to the US bolstering its security commitment to its allies South Korea and Japan.

The missile fired from the North's eastern coastal Wonsan area at 10:48 am landed in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, according to its neighbours. After detecting the launch, South Korea, US and Japanese militaries quickly condemned the launch that they say threatens stability in the region.



It was North Korea's first ballistic missile firing in eight days and the latest in its barrage of tests in recent months. North Korea previously said some of the tests were simulations of nuclear attacks on South Korea and US targets. Many experts say North Korea would eventually want to enhance its nuclear capability to wrest bigger concessions from its rivals.

Earlier Thursday, North

Myanmar releasing 4 foreigners in broad prisoner amnesty



AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military-controlled government announced on Thursday it was releasing and deporting an Australian academic, a Japanese filmmaker, an ex-British diplomat and an American as part of a broad prisoner amnesty to mark the country's National Victory Day.

Australian Sean Turnell, Japan's Toru Kubota, Briton Vicky Bowman, and American Kyaw Htay Oo, as well as 11 local Myanmar celebrities, were among a total of 5,774 prisoners who were being released, Myanmar's state-run MRTV reported.

The imprisonment of the foreign nationals had been a source of friction between Myanmar's leaders and their home governments, which had been lobbying for their release.

Japan's Foreign Ministry confirmed they had been informed of Myanmar's plans to release Kubota, but had no further details, other than that the 26-year-old Tokyo-based documentary filmmaker was reportedly in good health.

Britain's embassy in Yangon said Bowman had not yet been released from prison. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade had no immediate comment, and the US Embassy in Yangon did not immediately respond to a request for information.

2nd fire breaks out in Baghdad airport, prompting probe

AP ■ BAGHDAD

A fire broke out in Baghdad's international airport Thursday for a second time in 48 hours, prompting Iraqi authorities to open an investigation.Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani dismissed the head of the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority over the incidents, according to a statement from his office.

The fire broke out at dawn on the ground floor of the airport's VIP hall and caused some material damage but no human losses, according to an Iraqi military statement. The fire was put

out by 16 civil defence brigades, according to the statement. Flights continued as scheduled.

The civil defence requested that an investigation be launched to determine the cause of the fire. Al-Sudani, who assumed the premiership on Oct. 28, went to the scene of the blaze and then held meetings with top officials and ordered a review into the airport's security measures.

He also ordered a legal committee to identify individuals responsible for the airport's fire suppression system which has not been functioning since 2013, the statement from his office said.

Chinese city plans 250,000 quarantine beds to fight Covid

AP ■ BEIJING

China's southern metropolis of Guangzhou announced plans on Thursday to build quarantine facilities for nearly 250,000 people to fight surging coronavirus outbreaks even as the national government tries to reduce the impact of anti-disease controls that have confined millions of people to their homes.

Guangzhou, a city of 13 million people and the biggest of a series of hot spots across China with outbreaks since early October, reported 9,680 new cases in the past 24 hours. That was about 40 per cent of the 23,276 cases reported nationwide.

China's infection numbers



are low compared with the United States and other major countries, but the ruling Communist Party is trying to isolate every case. Repeated closures of neighbourhoods, schools and businesses are fuelling public frustration and clashes with health workers.

"The epidemic situation in Guangzhou still is very serious," said a city official, Wang Baosen, according to the South Metropolis Daily newspaper.

Authorities in Guangzhou sent 95,300 people from the city's Haizhu district to quarantine centers or for hospital treatment, the government announced.

Access to the district of 1.8 million people was suspended last week following outbreaks, but some controls were lifted Monday.

Videos on social media that said they were shot in Guangzhou showed angry residents knocking over barriers set up by white-garbed health workers.

Guangzhou will add 246,407 beds, including 132,015 in hospital isolation wards and 114,392 for people who are infected but have no symptoms, the city government said. A series of rapid construction initiatives in China since the 2020 start of the pandemic have built hospitals with thousands of beds in as little as a week.

A spike in infections has led officials in areas across China to confine families to cramped apartments or order people into quarantine if a single case is found in their workplace or neighbourhood.

Guangzhou is one of a number of populous cities that have been trying to respond to outbreaks with more flexible tactics.

Asia-Pacific leaders tackle trade, sustainability in Bangkok

AP ■ BANGKOK

The war in Ukraine, great power rivalries, inflation, climate change and fending off the pandemic are among the issues Pacific Rim leaders are tackling in their third back-to-back meeting in a week, this time at a heavily guarded venue in Thailand's capital, Bangkok.

The meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum comes on the heels of summits of the Group of 20 major economies on the Indonesian island resort of Bali and the Association of



Southeast Asian Nations in Cambodia. It brings together leaders who have had little opportunity to meet face-to-face since the pandemic began in 2020.

"It is such a relief for us to be able to go back to the conduct of business in the way that we know is most efficient and most productive," Philippine President

Ferdinand Marcos Jr, told a business conference held ahead of the APEC summit meetings. But he noted, "Dark clouds loom large if we are not to be prepared."

The war in Ukraine has pushed food and energy prices sharply higher, disrupting supply chains and hindering the world's recovery from the pandemic. It's also a challenge for APEC's consensus-oriented efforts. None of the earlier APEC preparatory meetings this year issued statements due to disagreements over whether to mention the conflict.

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ERO No. 840 Dt. 16.11.2022

E-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer PCMC Dhalipur, Dehradun invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:
Tender No-NCB-23/EE/PCMC/Dhalipur/ 2022-23
Name of work-Refurbishment of left bank inspection road of Asan Barrage reservior.
Estimated value of Tender: Rs. 2,19,08,299.00 (excluding GST)
Date & Time of availability of bid document on website - From 17:00 Hrs of 17.11.2022
Last Date & Time for submission of tender Up to 15:00 Hrs 22.12.2022
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"
Executive Engineer (PCM)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
KURUKSHETRA-136119 (HARYANA)

CONVOCATION - 2022
Advt. No.: 13/2022

The 18th Convocation of the Institute i.e. "Diamond Jubilee Year Convocation" will be held on **Tuesday, 29th November, 2022**. Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will be the Chief Guest of the convocation.

All eligible degree recipients are invited to attend the convocation. The tentative list of the degree recipients is uploaded on the Institute website. For registration schedule and other details related to the convocation, please visit the Institute website **www.nitkkr.ac.in** regularly.

Registrar I/c

SALE NOTICE

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

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS DEENA, Suite No.3882/17	Vehicle No. DL6CP5450, Make and Model- MARUTIWAGON R, Manu Year-2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS GULJAR, CS Comm No.2439/2019	Vehicle No. DL5CQ2814, Make and Model- MARUTICELERIO, Manu Year- 2018
ICICI BANK LTD VS MOHD NAYEEM AKHTER, CS(Comm) No. 89/19	Vehicle No. DL1RTB9704, Make and Model- HONDA AMAZE, Manu Year- 2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS VIJAY KUMAR WALIA, CS(Comm) 178/21	Vehicle No. UP16CC5461, Make and Model- FCA INDIA AUTOMOBILES PVT LTD JEEP, Manu Year- 2018
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs SANDIP SINGH and Anr, CS (Comm) No -4703/21	Vehicle No- HR55AH6296, Make and Model- Swift Dzire, Manu Yr- 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS ISHAR KHAN , CS (COMM) NO. 2441/21	Vehicle No. DL8CAF8216, Make and Model- RENAULT Duster, Manu Year- 2014

Auction Date: November 25, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS ASLAM KHA, CS(Comm) No.3444 of 2021	Vehicle No. UP14HT7751, Make and Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTDPARTNER, Manu Year- 2019

Auction Date: Nov 25, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking yard, Kharsa No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP, 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS AKSHAY GIRI, OA 494/2019, IA 2204/2019	Vehicle No. UP14GT8288, Make and Model- SWARAJ MAZDA LTD SAMRAT, Manu Year- 2017

Auction Date: December 05, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No.166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself/ themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and EMD(wherain applicable) to participate in the auction. DD/PO of EMD amount is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi.

Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the payment of remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount(wherain applicable) will be forfeited.

The intending bidders may visit **ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005** for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR ELECTRICAL WORK

Tender Notice No.: TRD-BSP-156-22-23, Date: 07.11.2022.
Work: (1) Bilaspur Division: Elimination of Level crossing No.BK-94 in Chandia Yard by provision of Limited width ROB, (2) Bilaspur Division: Construction of NHS under bypass line & up lead line to BCN Depot on extension of sanctioned NHS under construction at Tarbahar LC No.366B at Bilaspur, (3) Bilaspur Division - Elimination of Level crossing No.AB-20 at Km. 918/6-8 between Bijuri - Boridand on Anuppur - Ambikapur section by provision of Light ROB, (4) Bilaspur Division- Elimination of LC No.BC-2 and existing FOB at Manendragarh Yard by providing Light ROB, (5) Bilaspur Division - Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 261 at Km.516/19-21 between JSG - IB(BY BOX PUSHING METHOD), (6) Bilaspur Division: Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No.311 at Km.617/5-7 between ROB-KHS (BY BOX PUSHING METHOD), (7) Bilaspur Division - Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 274 at Km.547/21-23 in HGR YARD E/E(BY BOX PUSHING METHOD), (8) Bilaspur Division - Construction of ROB & LHS in lieu of LC No. 316 at Km.624/09-11 JDI Yard, (9) Bilaspur Division - Construction of RUB/LHS in lieu of LC No. 348 at Km.683/27-29 and LC No. 351 at Km.688/25-27 between NIA-AKT, (10) Bilaspur Division:Elimination of Level crossing No.BK-69 in Burhar - Chhada section by provision of Light ROB, (11) Bilaspur Division-Elimination of Level crossing No.AB-58 at Km.993/3-4 between Katora - Surajpur Road by RUB and AB-26 at Km.936/12-13 between Boridand-Udakachar by RUB on Boridand - Ambikapur section, (12) Bilaspur Division-Elimination of Level crossing No.AB-71 at Km.1023/4-5 between Boridand - Ambikapur section by provision of LROB. **Tender Value: ₹ 70,96,754.50. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 1,41,900/-.**
Submission of Tender: Up to 15.00 hours on 06.12.2022.

For further details/purchase of Tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above works, please contact office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, South East Central Railway,Bilaspur (C.G.) or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engg. CPRI/101313 (TRD)/Bilaspur
f South East Central Railway @secentral

MARKETS FALL AMID WEAK GLOBAL EQUITIES

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices ended lower on Thursday in line with weak global market trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 230.12 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 61,750.60. During the day, it fell 337.45 points or 0.54 per cent to 61,643.27.

The broader NSE Nifty dipped 65.75 points or 0.36 per cent to end at 18,343.90.

From the Sensex pack, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, HDFC, Dr Reddy's, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.

Larsen & Toubro, Power Grid, ICICI Bank and Bharti Airtel were among the winners. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading mostly lower in the afternoon session. Wall Street had ended in the negative territory on Wednesday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.46 per cent lower at USD 92.43 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 386.06 crore on Wednesday, as per exchange data.

"Domestic equities had a lackluster session for



second consecutive day amid volatility and weakness in global markets. Nifty opened lower and witnessed minor selling pressure to close with loss of 66 points at 18,344 levels," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.33 per cent and smallcap index went lower by 0.27 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, consumer durables fell 1.65 per cent, utilities went lower by 1.50 per cent. Auto index declined 1.35 per cent, while power fell 1.34 per cent and consumer discretionary 0.92 per cent.

On the other hand, industrials, telecommunications and capital goods ended in the positive territory.

NSE likely to introduce electronic gold receipt shortly: SEBI's Sundaresan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange is likely to introduce trading of electronic gold receipts on its platform and market regulator Sebi is ironing out some taxation issues related to the product with the government, an official said on Thursday.

Referring to the Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR), V S Sundaresan, Executive Director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), said, this product has been introduced by Sebi and BSE has launched it about a month back and "we hope that this product will definitely gain traction over a period of time".

"Under this product, what is proposed is that the physical gold is to be deposited in a vault, that vault manager will issue an electronic receipt and this will be credited to the demat account of



the investor, that receipt can be traded on the stock exchange," he explained. So the gold will remain in a vault but it will generate some sort of income and the unutilised gold can be put to productive use, Sundaresan added. The Bombay Stock Exchange launched EGR trading on its platform.

It introduced two new products of 995 and 999 purity during the Muhurat trading on Diwali. Trading can be done in multiples of 1 gram and deliveries in multiples of 10 gram and 100 gram, the exchange had said in a statement.

FM asks NIIF to explore investment opportunities in NIP, PM GatiShakti

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has asked National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to explore opportunities under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), PM GatiShakti and National Infrastructure Corridor, which include a big pool of investible greenfield and brownfield investment projects.

The NIIF's investment should try and crowd in commercial capital into those opportunities, the finance ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

Sitharaman while chairing the 5th meeting of the Governing Council (GC) said, the two infrastructure non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), where NIIF has majority stakes, have increased their combined loan book from Rs 4,200 crore to Rs 26,000 crore in three years without experiencing any non-performing loans (NPLs) till date.



NIIF, India's quasi-sovereign wealth fund, has developed into an internationally credible and commercially viable investment platform, backed by several highly respected global and domestic investors who have invested alongside the Government of India in NIIF Funds, it said.

NIIF's first bilateral fund - an 'India Japan Fund' with contribution from the government has been proposed through an MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) and Japan Bank for International Development

(JBIC). The MoU was signed recently on November 9, and this key update regarding bilateral engagements of NIIF was endorsed by the GC, it said.

The GC also guided NIIF to undertake advisory activities pro-actively to support central and state governments to create a pipeline of investible PPP projects, it said.

During the meeting an update on the progress made by NIIF over the last few years and key learnings from its investment operations were presented to the Governing Council, it said.

Paytm shares tank nearly 11%



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of One97 Communications, Paytm's parent firm, on Thursday tumbled nearly 11 per cent following reports that Japan-based SoftBank has started the process to sell a 4.5 per cent stake in the company in a block deal.

The stock tanked 10.31 per cent to settle at Rs 539.55 on the BSE. During the day, it went lower by 11 per cent to Rs 535.20.

At the NSE, it fell 10.78 per cent to settle at Rs 536.60.

The company's market val-

uation eroded by Rs 4,021.85 crore to Rs 35,013.52 crore on the BSE.

On traded volume terms, 43.24 lakh shares were traded at the BSE and over 5.72 crore shares at the NSE during the day.

SoftBank has started the process to sell a 4.5 per cent stake in One97 Communications for about USD 200 million (around Rs 1,627 crore) in a block deal, according to sources.

The development comes immediately after the lock-in period for Paytm's investors to trade shares ended.

SoftBank is the second largest shareholder with a 17.5 per cent stake in the company.

According to two sources aware of the development, SoftBank has offered to sell shares in the price band of Rs 555 to Rs 601.55 apiece that are held through its subsidiary SVF India Holdings.

Bengal Govt allows minor mineral mining on private land

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The West Bengal government has come out with a new policy that allows private land owners to get licence to harness natural resources.

The new policy aims to overcome land acquisition hurdles for mining 'minor minerals' and curbing illegal excavation in the state.

The policy will also help enrich government coffers with license fees and royalty, state Industry Minister Shashi Panja said addressing the CII organised Global Mining Summit 2022.

The government, she said, will offer private mining license to those holding land.

"The state cabinet has approved a policy for providing mining licences on private land. The licences will be handed over to the land owners and



the onus for clearances and responsible mining will be on them. The policy will be applicable only for minor minerals. The regulations will be ready by December," a senior state government official said.

The minimum area of private land required will be one hectare and Individuals can pool their land holdings to

carry out such mining activity, the official said.

The policy will be applicable for the mining of black stone, which is available in large quantities the state, besides other minor minerals like limestone, china clay and quartz, the official said.

Asked the reason for allowing mining on private land

instead of resorting to auctioning of land, the official said, "The state government is against forced land acquisition. This policy overcomes this hurdle very efficiently."

The sand mining policy of the state introduced earlier has helped the government to rake in healthy revenue.

The government has started detailing the policy to the district magistrates and will soon update the land officials for a smooth rollout, he said.

Birbhum, Paschim Bardhaman, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur and Bankura are among the districts where mining of minor minerals holds a lot of potential as illegal mining activity is rampant, the official said.

Panja highlighted the mining opportunity before the investors and called for investment.

Chemicals & petrochemicals industry must adopt safety measures: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chemicals and Petrochemicals Secretary Arun Baroka on Thursday asked the industry to take adequate safety measures for sustainable development.

He inaugurated the 4th edition of Indian Chemicals Council (ICC) Sustainability Conclave on the theme of 'boardrooms to Community-ESG, Carbon Neutrality, Operational Safety, Greener Solutions' here, according to an official statement.

At the event, Baroka said India has already discussed the issues of climate and sustainability and urged everyone to work for achieving the goals without waiting for any assistance from outside. The secretary also touched upon the initiatives such as PLI schemes, the government's working with industries and creating 'Ease of doing business' environment.

He said the government is trying to do whatever is possible and feedback is always wel-



come. Talking about safety and standards, Baroka said that small steps of safety are important for sustainable development.

He pointed out that one accident can create a problem for humans, industry and the environment. So, steps for safety should be taken, as per the statement. The two-day event promotes sustainability in the management of the entire life cycle of chemicals. It is being organised jointly with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) with the support of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

Creditors realise ₹2.43 lakh crore through insolvency resolution process till Sept 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Banks, financial institutions and other creditors of stressed companies have realised Rs 2.43 lakh crore through NCLT-supervised insolvency resolution processes against total claims of Rs 7.91 lakh crore till September 30, 2022.

So far 532 CIRPs (Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process) yielded resolution plans, said the quarterly report of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Till September 30, 2022, the creditors have realised Rs 2.43 lakh crore under the resolution plans.

"The fair value of the assets available with these CDs, when they entered the CIRP was estimated at Rs 2.14 lakh crore and liquidation value of Rs 1.37 lakh crore against the total

claims of the creditors' worth Rs 7.91 lakh crore," it said.

The creditors have realised 177.55 per cent of the liquidation value and 84 per cent of the fair value (based on 456 cases where fair value has been estimated), the newsletter said.

"The haircut for creditors relative to the fair value of assets was less than 16 per cent, while relative to their admitted claims is of around 69 per cent," it added.

The report also added till September 2022, 740 CIRPs have been withdrawn under the provisions of section 12A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Moreover, the report also highlighted that 64 per cent of the ongoing CIRP has taken more than 270 days, beyond the permissible time frame under the IBC.



Delay in CIRP, which is a time-bound process, has become an issue. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) mandates a CIRP to be completed within a time frame of 180 days from the date of admission of the application.

Under the request of the resolution professional of the company, NCLT has the power to extend the duration for another 90 days.

However, it also mandates CIRP has to be completed with

a time frame for resolution is 330 days, inclusive of time taken for litigation.

The delay is on account of litigations, shortage of manpower at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) benches, infrastructure woes and the pandemic-induced disruptions that have adversely impacted the envisaged time-bound resolution process.

Earlier, this month the government appointed a total of 15 judicial and technical members to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which is grappling with a shortage of judges.

The NCLT has a total of 28 benches, with a sanctioned strength of 63 members. This includes 31 each from the judicial and administrative sides along with its president, who heads the principal bench in New Delhi.

Centre to examine request for bearing 50% arbitral award to DAMEPL: DMRC to HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Thursday submitted before the Delhi High Court that its request to the Centre to bear 50 per cent of the arbitral award, passed in favour of Reliance Infrastructure-owned Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited, will be examined by the government in entirety for taking an informed decision.

The DMRC also informed the court that the Delhi government, being an equity holder, has asked the corporation to submit updated and complete details for considering its request to bear another 50 per cent of the arbitral award and take an appropriate decision. The submission was made by the DMRC in an additional affidavit filed in a pending application of the Delhi Airport Metro Express



Private Limited (DAMEPL) which said DMRC paid it only Rs 166.44 crore on March 14 and sought a direction for payment of Rs 4427.41 crore.

Justice V Kameswar Rao is scheduled to hear the matter on Friday. The DMRC said a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the secretary of Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on November 10 to discuss the matter pending before the high court. It was attended by the Delhi Chief Secretary, Managing Director of the DMRC and representatives of leading banks. It said after detailed discussions and keeping in view the desirability of expe-

ditioning the matter and having due regard to the indulgence of this court, it was decided that early decisions be pursued.

"Delhi government thus requested DMRC to submit updated and complete details for considering the request of DMRC and to take appropriate decision to bear 50 per cent of total arbitration award, being an equity holder. Delhi government further informed that after considering the proposal, the same shall require approval of the Cabinet," the affidavit, filed by DMRC General Manager (Legal) said. It further said, "Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs submitted that the request of DMRC to bear 50 per cent of the total arbitration award will be examined by Government of India in entirety for taking an informed decision, being an equity shareholder of DMRC."



UK unveils emergency budget amid big demands but little cash

AP ■ LONDON

So many demands. So little money. Just three weeks after taking office, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak faces the challenge of balancing the nation's budget while helping millions of people slammed by a cost-of-living crisis as Russia's war in Ukraine pushes up energy prices and slows economic growth.

Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt will deliver the government's plan for tackling a sputtering economy in a speech to the House of Commons on Thursday.

The emergency budget statement aims to restore the government's financial and political credibility after former Prime Minister Liz Truss announced 45 billion pounds (\$53 billion) in unfunded tax cuts that torpedoed investor confidence, sent the pound to record lows against the U.S. Dollar and sparked emergency central bank intervention. Truss was forced to resign six weeks after taking office.

Hunt is expected to announce 30 billion pounds in spending cuts and 24 billion in tax increases, the BBC and other British media reported.

The government will struggle to meet all of the competing demands, said Torsten Bell, chief executive of the Resolution Foundation, a think tank that seeks to improve the living standards of low- and middle-income people.

"The uncomfortable reality is that unless global energy price rises reverse, we will remain poorer as a country than we'd hoped to be," Bell wrote this week. "The world is as it is, not as we would like it to be, but the question is how well we wrestle with that reality."

'Domestic jewellery industry to witness 12% growth in FY23'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The domestic jewellery industry, which recorded healthy sales during the festival period, is expected to witness 12 per cent growth during this financial year compared to the previous fiscal, according to a report.

The domestic jewellery industry is estimated to have registered a healthy growth of 60 per cent in the second quarter of FY23 as against pre-Covid levels (Q2 FY20), which exceeded Icara's expectations of an 8 per cent YoY contraction and was driven by urban demand recovery following range-bound prices.

However, on a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the demand recorded a contraction of 2 per cent in the quarter owing to a high base in the second quarter of FY22, which had grown by 70 per cent YoY, due to pent-up demand after the lifting of the pandemic-induced restrictions last year, the Icara report said.

Going forward, it said while some contraction is expected in the current quarter, the indus-



try growth in FY23 is likely to be 12 per cent YoY, driven by robust growth in the first quarter of FY23 and steady wedding and festive demand.

"While the jewellery sector has recorded healthy sales in the Dussehra and Diwali season, factors like high domestic inflation, cautious consumer sentiments towards discretionary spending, and weak rural economic recovery due to erratic monsoons are likely to continue to constrain demand growth in the near term. Nevertheless, the demand outlook for the sector in the medium to long term remains favourable," Icara President and Co-Group Head Kaushik Das said.

PE/VC investments plunge 75% to just USD 3.3 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Deepening the funding crisis that startups have been witnessing for some time, the October inflows plunged 75 per cent on-year to USD 3.3 billion across 75 deals, including six large deals worth USD 2.2 billion, according to an industry report.

Exits touched half of the inflows at USD 1.6 billion across 15 deals in the reporting months, a significant improvement over the previous month which saw just USD 653 million worth of exits across 24 deals, but 69 per cent lower on-year basis, according to the numbers collated by EY for the Indian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association, the umbrella body the PEs and VCs.

However, the report said, on a month-on-month basis, the inflows continued to grow, dipping at 60 per cent over the September numbers. According to Vivek Soni, a partner at EY said, PE/VC inflows fell 75 per cent to USD 3.3 billion in October on an annualised basis.

However, on a monthly basis October was a record as after being on a declining trend for the past five months, inflows recorded a sequential uptick to the tune of 60 per cent. In volume terms, the month saw 75 deals, a 43 per cent decline from 132 deals in October 2021.

He attributed the funding crisis to inflation woes, global recession fears, rising cost of capital and elevated levels of uncertainty driven by geopolitical tension.

The month had six USD 100 million-plus



deals aggregating to USD 2.2 billion, a sharp drop from 24 large deals worth USD 11.3 billion in October 2021. By deal type, growth investments were the highest in terms of value at USD 2 billion across 13 deals, which includes the USD 1 billion investment in Citistech by Bain Capital for a 40 per cent stake, the report said.

The month saw 15 exits worth USD 1.6 billion compared to USD 5.2 billion in October 2021 across 25 deals and USD 653 million across 24 deals in September 2022. October 2021 recorded two large secondary exits worth USD5 billion—the USD3 billion Hexaware deal between Carlyle and Baring Asia and USD 1.9 billion VFS Global deal between EQT and Blackstone.

Exits via secondary sale were the highest with four exits worth USD 1.4 billion, propped up by the large secondary deal which saw Bain Capital purchase a 40 per cent stake in Citistech for USD 960 million from BPEA EQT, making it the largest exit in this month and the fourth largest this year.



Reliance Jio tops 4G network speed chart in October: TRAI Data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom major Jio topped the 4G network speed chart in terms of both average download and upload, according to data published by sector regulator Trai.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has dropped BSNL from the 4G speed chart in October as it is yet to roll out 4G services.

In October, the telecom major maintained its leadership in download segment by recording an average speed of 20.3 megabits per second (mbps). It was followed by Airtel, which recorded a download speed of 15 mbps and

Vodafone Idea (Vi) with 14.5 mbps speed.

Jio's 4G upload speed declined marginally to 6.2 mbps in October from 6.4 mbps in September. However, it continued to maintain its lead in the segment.

In September, Jio had pipped Vi to top the upload speed segment.

Jio was followed by Vi which recorded an average upload speed of 4.5 mbps in October and Airtel with an average upload of 2.7 mbps. The average speed is computed by Trai based on the data it collects across India with the help of its MySpeed application on a real-time basis.

AUSTRALIA CONFIRMS AUS OPEN VISA FOR NOVAK DJOKOVIC

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Australia's immigration minister on Thursday said that he "personally" intervened in a visa decision that opens the door for Novak Djokovic to play in the country's upcoming Grand Slam tennis tournament.

The former world number one was kicked out of the country in the lead-up to the Australian Open earlier this year after refusing to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

But with a significant easing in pandemic restrictions since, Immigration Minister Andrew Giles said the unvaccinated Serb was now welcome to return.

"Since the cancellation of Mr Djokovic's visa in January 2022, all COVID-19-related Australian border restrictions... have been removed, including the requirement to provide evidence of COVID-19 vaccination status to enter Australia," he said in a statement.

"Mr Djokovic has subsequently been granted a temporary visa to enter Australia."

Australia's previous conservative government barred Djokovic — one of the top men's tennis players of his generation — from returning to Australia until 2025.

Giles said that, as the country's immigration minister, he was the only person with the power to overturn that ban.

"The power... may only be exercised by the minister personally," he said.

Djokovic, who has won the Australian Open nine times, first confirmed the visa decision after



beating Andrey Rublev in the ATP Finals in Turin on Wednesday.

"I was very happy to receive the news yesterday. It was a relief," he told reporters.

"It was a relief obviously knowing what I and the people closest to me in my life have been through this year with what happened in Australia and post-Australia, obviously."

Djokovic arrived in Melbourne in January for the first Grand Slam of the year, claiming he had obtained a medical exemption to enter the country without

being vaccinated as he had recently recovered from Covid-19.

But Australian border officials said he did not meet the requirements to be exempted from strict vaccination rules, and his visa was cancelled after the collapse of a protracted legal appeal.

Former conservative Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said at the time that Djokovic was "perceived by some as a talisman" of anti-vaccination sentiment, and his presence in the country could ignite "civil unrest".

The Djokovic legal saga

played out against a background of rolling anti-vaccination protests in major cities across Australia.

Australia has since lifted its requirement for visitors to show proof of vaccination against Covid.

FLAWLESS DJOKER

Novak Djokovic secured a spot in the last four of the season-ending Finals with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Rublev, his second straight sets victory in as many matches.

He shattered Rublev's resistance in just a few games after tak-

ing the only break point either player had in the first set at 4-4.

Djokovic served out the set and then exploited Rublev's frustration to break again early in the second as he went 3-0 ahead and cruised to victory.

"One of the best matches I played this year, particularly in the second set. Just a flawless set really."

Having beaten Stefanos Tsitsipas in his first Red Group match on Monday, the Serb is guaranteed a spot in the last four regardless of his result on Friday

against Daniil Medvedev.

"I'm really glad to be through to the semis," he said. "At the same time, I want to win that match, win every match that I play here."

Djokovic is ranked just eighth in the world in part because he missed tournaments, including the Australian Open and US Open, over his vaccination status.

"The upside of not playing many tournaments is that you're going to be fresher than when you're playing a lot more," he said. "I had more time to train, to practice."

"Sometimes I do wish, in the pro men's tennis season, we have a bit more time to really have those training blocks to be a bit longer, so you can really work on your game and your body."

"I'm also at the position I think now in my career where I'm able to choose which tournaments I play and where I want to peak, at what time of the season."

"Obviously I missed a lot of big tournaments," he said. "But I can say I learned a lot this year about myself, about the world that I live in, and about some people as well who have behaved in a certain way to me in this whole process."

Stefanos Tsitsipas beat Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-7 (11/13), 7-6 (7/1) in the late match, eliminating the Russian.

The Greek player who was champion in 2019 will now play for a place in the semi finals on Friday against Andrey Rublev.

Medvedev served for the match at 5-4 in the third set but blew his chance and then wilted to 7-1 in the eventual tie break.

Nadal signs off ATP Finals with consolation win over Casper Ruud

AP ■ TURIN

Rafael Nadal saved some honour on Thursday, beating Casper Ruud 7-5, 7-5, as he bowed out of the ATP Finals in Turin at the pool stage.

Nadal, the top seed in the event in the absence of injured world number one Carlos Alcaraz, had opened by losing his first two matches in the Green Group. He was already eliminated when he faced Ruud, who won his first two matches to book a semi-final spot.

"I have been practising well," said Nadal, who was struggled with injury since scratching from the Wimbledon semi-final in July.

"Just probably not enough matches to be at the level that I needed to be. Not enough confidence, probably, after six tough months. That's how it is. I accept that the season didn't end the way that I wanted. At least I finished with a positive victory."

Nadal, who sits second in the rankings, said he was happy with a season in which he won the first two Grand Slam titles, in Australia and at Roland Garros.

"I can't ask for more," said Nadal. "2022 has had a tough six months, two Grand Slams, and finishing the year in a high spot in the rankings."

"At my age, to be able to achieve and be competitive means a lot for me."

Nadal already has the 2023 season, which begins in January, in his sights.

"For 2023, just let's try to have the right preparation, work the proper way and start the season with the right energy, the right attitude, to reach the level that I need to be competitive from the beginning. Let's try it, I am excited about it."

Norwegian Ruud was not able to break his losing streak against players at the top of rankings and suffered an eighth straight defeat to a player in the top three. He has not won a set in any of those losses.

Nadal crushed Ruud 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 in the final at Roland-Garros in the spring.

On Thursday, on the very fast court of the Pala Alpitour, Nadal was particularly aggressive. His service was particularly effective, with 16 aces and just one double fault and allowed him to go to the net.

The other qualifier from the Green Group will be decided when Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime meets American Taylor Fritz in the evening match. The winner will advance.

India are strong podium contenders in men's hockey World Cup title: Raghunath



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hosts India are strong contenders for a podium finish at the upcoming FIH men's hockey World Cup to be played in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29, feels former Asian Games gold medalist VR Raghunath.

"We are definitely the medal contenders for the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela. We'll have the advantage of the home ground and the home fans and we should cash in on that for sure," Raghunath was quoted as saying by Hockey India.

India won a historic bronze medal at last year's Tokyo Olympics after a hiatus of 41 years and the former drag-flicker said a podium finish in the upcoming showpiece will be a memorable moment for

the game in the country.

India won three medals in the World Cup so far -- a third place finish in the inaugural edition in 1971, followed by a silver in 1973 and gold in 1975 at Kuala Lumpur.

"Recently, we got a medal in Tokyo Olympics as well and it would be fantastic to finish this tournament (World Cup) with a medal also. And if they can do that it will be a really memorable moment for the players," Raghunath said.

Besides India, Raghunath backs Australia and reigning champions Belgium are also contenders for the world title.

"I feel Belgium and Australia will be two teams who are very difficult to defeat."

"I wish the Indian men's hockey team all the best for the World Cup and hopefully we can all celebrate a podium finish at the end," he said.

Manika upsets World No. 7 Chinese, Sathian exits

AP ■ DOHA

Ace Indian paddler Manika Batra shocked World No. 7 Chen Xingtong in a round of 16 cliffhanger but compatriot G Sathian lost his men's single pre-quarterfinals at the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup here on Thursday.

In the round of 16 matchups on the opening day, World No.44 Manika, who is unseeded in the event, came up with a fantastic showing to beat the third seeded Chinese 4-3. The final scoreline in the edge-of-the-seat thriller was 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-9 in the Indian's favour with the Thai crowd extending its full-throated support.

She thanked the spectators for supporting her.

"The win gave me immense happiness when I beat the World No. 7. I will continue playing my best as I have tried all the time, and will keep the



same intensity and focus for the next rounds," said Manika.

The match went down to the wire because of the exemplary courage that Manika displayed when the Chinese pad-

dlar gained the upper hand after levelling the score at 3-3.

Shedding her cautious approach, Manika went for the kill in the decider and led 5-2, 8-3, 8-7 and 9-7 before the

third seed managed to hold her serve to level 9-9. Nevertheless, Manika seized the moment to serve out her opponent, taking the last two crucial points to beat the third Chinese in her

career.

Manika led the first game 7-4 before letting the Chinese claw her way back to take it. But she picked up momentum, mixing the up-and-down pace cleverly to confuse her opponent. It paid off as she led 3-1.

But the Chinese closed in on, taking the next two games when Manika attacked. But everything changed in the last game when the Indian got her rhythm back to nail it.

Manika will clash with world No. 23 Chen Szu Yu from Taipei in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Earlier, G. Sathian, the top-ranked Indian in the world at No. 39, did everything right before going down 3-4 to the fifth-seed Japanese Yukiya Uda in the pre-quarterfinals.

Although the Japanese won 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 9-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-6, Sathian showed great character when down 0-2 to strike back against world

No. 26 and level the score at 2-2.

But the Japanese left-hander, playing well away from the table and exploiting the angles, led 3-2. In the fifth game, Uda should have sealed the match in his favour, but Sathian fought back well to reduce the margin.

He narrowed the two-point gap to restore parity at 9-9, and at deuce, the Japanese squandered the advantage when his service took the edge of the table and went down.

With momentum shifting his way, Sathian served at 11-10 to claim the crucial point to take the issue to the decider.

In the last game, Uda held the upper hand and stopped Sathian well short, advancing to the quarterfinals with a 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 9-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-6 win.

Sathian's first-round exit, however, fetched him USD 2,250.

‘SA T20 league will help national team achieve required depth’

AP ■ LONDON

The legendary Jacques Kallis feels South Africa's T20 side, in future, will have greater depth as upcoming talent will get a great platform to express themselves in the upcoming SA T20 league, where all teams are owned by IPL franchise owners.

Kallis will be an assistant coach to Graham Ford at the Pretoria Capitals, a team owned by Delhi Capitals co-owner JSW group.

"I think South African cricket has been crying out for this for

a long time. I think we've seen the wonderful job it's (franchise league cricket) done around the world in terms of how the local competition has improved cricket," Kallis said at the launch of SA T20 league.

"I have no doubt it's going to be the same here and everyone is looking forward to it. The standard will be very high," Kallis said.

For Kallis, a veteran of 166 Tests, 328 ODIs and 25 T20Is, the exposure for young local talent will be mind boggling.

"Having international players and coaches is also certainly



going to provide a good product. It is going to improve the young guys coming through."

"With everything being televised, it's a great opportunity for the guys to put their name out there, whether it be for international cricket, or other leagues around the world. What better stage for these young guys to put their hand up in this competition?" Kallis added.

The league will start with Reliance-owned MI Cape Town and neighbours Paarl Royals (a Rajasthan Royals unit) taking on each other at Newlands on

January 10.

The opening game will be followed by Durban's Super Giants (Lucknow IPL owners) hosting the Joburg Super Kings (CSK's sister franchise) at Kingsmead on January 11 before Kallis' Capitals travel to Gqeberha on January 12, to face the Sunrisers Eastern Cape at St George's Park.

"The good thing about all these games is that they are like derbies. And when you look at the teams on paper they are of equal strength and that bodes well for the competition because any one team can beat another," Kallis said.

Max says rift resolved after F1 incident with Perez

AP ■ ABU DHABI

Formula One champion Max Verstappen says he has resolved a conflict involving Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez and is prepared to help him at the last race of the season in Abu Dhabi.

Verstappen refused a team order to let Perez through for sixth place at the Brazilian Grand Prix last Sunday and said on Thursday his reasons will "stay between myself and the team."

"It was about something that happened earlier in the season and I already explained that (at the previous race in) Mexico and the team understood and agreed," he said.

"Nothing had been said to me about a potential swap" of the positions in advance in Brazil, he said.

"I think they should have known my response already from what had been said the week before."

Since then, Red Bull has held

talks to clear the air between the drivers, Verstappen said.

He has long since wrapped up his second world championship and Red Bull has sealed the constructors' title. The team wants to earn second place in the standings for Perez ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc. Verstappen indicated he would be willing to help in Sunday's season finale in Abu Dhabi.

"As a team we have never finished first and second. So if we could achieve that, that would be amazing," Verstappen said. "And, for sure, if the opportunity is there to help, as a team, you know, we're going to do that."

Red Bull defended Verstappen as "an open and fair team player."

"As a team we made some mistakes in Brazil," Red Bull said in a statement.

"We had not envisaged the situation that unfolded on the last lap and we had not agreed a strategy for such a scenario before the race."



"Regrettably, Max was only informed at the final corner of the request to give up position without all the necessary information being relayed. This put Max, who has always been an open and fair team player, in a compromising situation with little time to react which was not our intention."

Red Bull said it accepts "Max's reasoning" about the incident and condemned abusive comments on social media aimed at both drivers, their family members and the team.

"Death threats, hate mail, vitriol towards extended family members is deplorable," Red Bull added.

"We value inclusion and want a safe space for everyone to work in and enjoy our sport. The abuse needs to stop."

Asked if abuse ever led him to question his future in F1, Verstappen said: "It's not only related to that, to be honest, but I won't be here when I'm 40, that's for sure."

Infantino unopposed to get 4 more years as FIFA president

AP ■ ZURICH

FIFA president Gianni Infantino is getting four more years in charge of football's governing body after no candidate stepped up to challenge him.

FIFA said on Thursday the 52-year-old Swiss lawyer was the only person to enter the race by the time the deadline passed overnight — exactly four months before election day on March 16 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Infantino won a five-candidate race in 2016 to replace Sepp Blatter, and was re-elected unopposed in 2019. He's now set to stay in the job beyond the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Infantino's upcoming re-election to the \$3 million-per-year job may not be his final term in office. FIFA rules allow him to run again to stay in power for another World

Cup cycle until 2031.

Infantino's current term in office, which started in June 2019, saw FIFA dip into its USD 2 billion-plus reserves and oversee emergency legal measures to help stabilize soccer through the COVID-19 pandemic. The global health crisis almost entirely shut down World Cup qualifying games in 2020. The final tournament in Qatar starts on Sunday.

Infantino did not get approval for the biggest idea in the current presidential term — doubling the number of men's World Cups to every two years in a planned overhaul of the calendar for national teams. That plan was blocked last year by the continental soccer bodies of Europe and South America, UEFA and CONMEBOL, who teamed up to threaten a boycott of a biennial World Cup.

HARDIK-LED INDIA READY FOR KIWI CHALLENGE

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Having not learned from their mistakes, India will aim to shed their archaic playing style for good with the help of a "young and fearless" bunch in the three-match T20i series against New Zealand, beginning here on Friday.

After the World Cup debacle in the UAE last year, India did adopt an aggressive batting approach but by the time the next edition came knocking, the top-order was found wanting and failed to take the attack to the opposition.

India found themselves running in circles as the wait for their first ICC trophy in nine years got longer.

With the next T20 global event two years away, India have enough time to identify and groom the players for an attack-at-all costs approach displayed by England.

Hardik Pandya, who could lead the team in the next T20 showpiece, will be captaining the side in Rohit Sharma's absence.

Stand-in head coach VVS Laxman has indicated that the management will be keen to add only T20 specialists to meet the requirement of the modern game. Though the focus has shifted to ODIs ahead of the World Cup next year, India would like to make most of the T20 games here and the nine more they play before the 50-over mega event.

Though Virat Kohli was in sublime touch Down Under, the lack of "intent" from Rohit and K.L. Rahul in the powerplay was criticised heavily. There is a strong possibility that all three will not play the shortest format



till the 2024 edition, and therefore, India need to plan for the future.

Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill will be the likely openers for the first game here but the management can also give Rishabh Pant another opportunity at the top of the order.

Though India are fielding a second-string team in New Zealand, the

squad members still have a decent amount of international experience.

The highly rated Gill, who rose to prominence with his exploits in the U-19 World Cup in New Zealand four years ago, will be hoping to make his T20 debut here.

Kishan has already been tried at the top regularly over the past 12

months and the series presents him a good opportunity to make a strong case for the team's preferred opener.

Sanju Samson has been handed another chance and he would be desperate to make it count. The series also marks the return of Washington Sundar after his injury issues and he would be expected to deliver both

with bat and ball.

One major reason for India's T20 troubles has been their inability to take wickets in the middle overs through finger spinners. The New Zealand games could reunite the wrist spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, whose exclusion from the World Cup XI baffled

many.

India also need an express pace bowler alongside Jasprit Bumrah and on that front Umran Malik seems to be their best bet. He did not have the best of times on his maiden tour of Ireland and England and will be eyeing more accuracy, without compromising on raw pace.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Arshdeep Singh are expected to share the new ball, like they did in Australia. Harshal Patel, who warmed the bench in the World Cup, and Mohammad Siraj, could also get a game over the course of the series.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will field a near full-strength side under Kane Williamson's leadership. Like India, they too would be smarting from another loss in a World Cup knockout game, and would look to bounce back strongly.

The Black Caps will also be trying out fast bowlers in the absence of Trent Boult, who is unlikely to play all games after opting out of a central contract. Opener Martin Guptill, too, has missed out with Finn Allen joining Devon Conway at the top.

Williamson's strike rate was also questioned during the ICC event and he would be aiming to get back to his free flowing best.

SQUADS

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (c), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway (wk), Lockie Ferguson, Daryl Mitchell, Adam Milne, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Tim Southee, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tuckner

India: Hardik Pandya (c), Rishabh Pant, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshal Patel, Mohammed Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik.



Australia beat England by 6 wickets in 1st ODI

AP ■ ADELAIDE

Pat Cummins' first match as Australia One-Day International captain was successful as they beat England by six wickets on Thursday at Adelaide Oval.

Adding the ODI captaincy to his test duties following Aaron Finch's 50-over retirement last month, Cummins and Australia were impressive in going 1-0 up in the three-match series.

After choosing to field first, Australia kept England to 287-9 despite a century from Dawid Malan. England's total always appeared below par.

Australia pair David Warner (86) and Travis Head (69) came out strongly with a 147-run opening stand and Steve Smith (80 not out) fin-

ished the cruise home to 291-4 with 19 balls to spare.

"We came in here really fresh after a week (off after the exit at the T20 World Cup) and keen to come back into it," Cummins said.

"Classic Smithy has been working the house down in the nets so to be fluent from ball one was awesome. We know his class."

Smith was left out for all but one game of the recent Twenty20 World Cup.

Warner appeared set to score his first international century since January 2020 but was caught in the deep.

Earlier, Malan responded to missing England's T20 World Cup triumph over Pakistan in the final on Sunday by smashing a career-best 134. His second ODI century helped

England to a respectable total after the visitors were in early trouble at 66-4.

England opted not to risk Malan for the T20 final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground as the left-hander recovered from a groin injury. But the No. 3 played a lone hand for the tourists against an Australia attack determined to bounce back from a disappointing early World Cup exit.

Cummins (3-62) removed opener Phil Salt and No. 4 James Vince in quick succession to have England reeling, while Mitchell Starc bowled Jason Roy with an in-swinging. Malan was able to drum up enough support to rebuild England's innings.

The teams play again on Saturday in Sydney and next Tuesday in Melbourne.

IN T20 CRICKET, YOU WILL SEE LOT MORE SPECIALISTS GOING FORWARD: LAXMAN

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Stand-in head coach VVS Laxman on Thursday said India will be looking to pack the side with T20 specialists as it seeks course correction after yet another World Cup failure.

England, who won their second T20 World Cup title in Australia on Sunday, have set the benchmark with their fearless brand of cricket.

They bat till number 11 and in the final against Pakistan, they had as many as seven bowling options even in the absence of lead pacer Mark Wood.

Speaking to media ahead of the New Zealand limited overs tour, Laxman said multi-dimensional players are the need of the hour in T20 cricket.

"In white ball cricket, you need specialist players and going forward, in T20 cricket, you will see a lot more T20 specialists. T20 cricket has shown us over the years that you need

multi-dimensional cricketers," said the current NCA chief ahead of the opening T20i on Friday.

"We have bowlers who can bat and batters who can bowl. More number of bowlers who can bat allows the team to have depth and batters to have freedom to go out and express themselves.

"I think that's the need of hour and more and more teams will get that into their selection process and identify multi-dimensional players."

The next T20 World Cup is two years away but India will hit the reset button with the three games against New Zealand, followed by as many ODIs.

In the absence of Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya will lead the side and he is seen as the future captain of the T20 unit. Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul are the other top-order batters who have been rested for the series.

"T20 cricket requires to play with a lot of freedom and



clarity of thought and whatever time I have spent with these players and watch them grow in international cricket, that is their strength.

"It is important to play with that freedom but also you need to assess conditions and fulfill the needs of the team," said Laxman.

Laxman was all praise for Hardik the leader.

"He is a fabulous leader you know. Obviously, what he has done for Gujarat Titans in his first year of captaincy, winning the IPL isn't a mean achievement and I have spent time with him from Ireland series and not only is he tactically good, but also very calm and that is something very important when you play at the highest level.

No harm in having new T20 captain, and if his name is Hardik Pandya, so be it: Shastri

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri on Thursday said there is "no harm" in appointing a separate T20 captain and identified premier all-rounder Hardik Pandya as the ideal candidate.

In the absence of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, Hardik will lead India in the three-match T20is series in New Zealand, starting Friday.

"For T20 cricket, there is no harm in having a new captain," Shastri told reporters ahead of the first T20i here.

"Because the volume of cricket is such, that for one player to play all three formats of the



game is never going to be easy.

"If Rohit is already leading in Tests and ODIs, there is no harm in identifying a new T20i captain, and if his name is

Hardik Pandya, so be it."

Stand-in head coach VVS Laxman on Thursday said India will be looking to identify T20 specialists as it seeks course

correction after yet another World Cup failure, and Shastri agreed with the NCA head.

"That's the way forward, VVS is right. They'll identify specialists, especially among the youngsters.

"That should be the mantra, two years from now identify and make that team into a terrific fielding side and identify roles for these youngsters who could be fearless and play that kind of cricket without any baggage."

For the T20is against New Zealand the likes of Shubman Gill, Umran Malik, Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson have been given a chance as senior players have been rested.

The 60-year-old feels that

the Indian team management should groom the youngsters and emulate England's white-ball template that has resulted in them being holders of the ODI as well as the T20 World Cup.

"There's an opportunity with this team in the future to identify roles for players, identify match-winners, and go pretty much on the template of England.

"They are one team that really caught the bull by the horns after the 2015 World Cup. They sat down and said they are going to identify the best players for that format of the game - whether it's T20 or 50-over cricket.

DELHI PAY PRICE FOR POOR BATTING AS KARNATAKA WIN BY 4 WKTS

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Depleted Delhi, without the services of seasoned pros Shikhar Dhawan and Ishant Sharma, slumped to their second successive defeat, losing to Karnataka by four wickets in a low-scoring Group B match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Thursday.

Batting first at the JU (Salt Lake) ground, Delhi were bundled out for 159 in 45.4 overs on a sluggish surface. Seamer Vasuki Koushik took 3 for 23 in 10 overs while leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal polished off the tail, finishing with figures of 3/25.

In reply, opener Ravikumar Samarth anchored the chase with 59 off 73 balls while veteran Manish Pandey chipped in with four sixes in his 37-ball 48 as Karnataka scored the runs

inside 30 overs.

Delhi have now lost two out of their last four games having come out second best against Rajasthan in the previous game.

While Dhawan, who warmed up nicely for the New Zealand away ODI series with scores of 47 and 54 in the first two games, had to leave for national duty, Ishant was rested as a part of workload management.

Ishant is not playing back-to-back games as his body won't be able to recover from rigours of 50-over games with a gap of a day.

SAURASHTRA WIN BIG

Arpit Vasavada hit a career-best unbeaten century before Parth Bhut shone with the ball as Saurashtra outclassed Gujarat by 107 runs in a Group

A Vijay Hazare Trophy match in New Delhi.

Saurashtra rode on Vasavada's 86-ball unbeaten 100, which was studded with nine boundaries and two sixes, and Cheteshwar Pujara's 90-ball 56 to post 285 for eight after being sent into bat.

Right-arm pacer Chintan Gaja (3/51), Shen Patel (2/50) and Arzan Nagwaswalla (2/58) shone bright with the ball for Gujarat.

Defending, left-arm orthodox bowler Bhut picked up career-best figures of 4 for 57, while Jaydev Unadkat (2/16) and Dharmendrasinh Jadeja (2/30) shared four wickets between them to bundle out Gujarat for 178 in 41.4 overs.

Bhargav Merai (34) top-scored for Gujarat while wicket-keeper Het Patel (27), Chirag Gandhi (26) and Piyush



Chawla (20) all got starts before throwing away their wickets.

Saurashtra are leading Group A with two wins from three matches, followed by Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Gujarat, Tripura and Manipur.

In another Group A match, Uttar Pradesh defeated Hyderabad by seven wickets, while Tripura beat Himachal Pradesh by 39 runs.

Elsewhere in the group, Chandigarh beat Manipur by six wickets.

TN BEAT GOA

Tamil Nadu defeated Goa by 57 runs in a Group C match.

Batting first, Tamil Nadu amassed 373 for 4 thanks to a blistering 168 by opener N Jagadeesan and a ton by B Sai Sudharsan (117). They restrict-

ed the opposition to 316 for 6 in 50 overs.

Jagadeesan, who brought up his third straight century in the tournament, looked on course for a double ton before falling to Suyash S Prabhudessai (2/87). He was involved in a massive 276-run partnership for the opening wicket with B Sai Sudharsan (117, 112 balls, 13 fours).

Jagadeesan smashed 15 fours and six sixes in his knock which put Tamil Nadu on track for a mammoth score.

Goa put up a brave response through half centuries by Snehal Kauthankar (67), Siddhesh Lad (62 not out), Ishaan Gadekar (51) and Eknath (50).

Lad, who previously played for Mumbai, gave it his all. However, the huge target proved beyond Goa.

In other matches, Kerala beat Chhattisgarh by eight wickets and Andhra crushed Bihar by 132 runs riding on a superb 154 by Ashwin Hebbar and half-centuries from Hanuma Vihari and Ricky Bhui.

Meanwhile, Haryana routed Arunachal Pradesh by 306 runs with C K Bishnoi and Yuvraj Singh hammering tons.

MUMBAI LOSE

Anustup Majumdar hit an unbeaten ton as Bengal romped to an eight-wicket win over Pondicherry in a Group E match. Maharashtra, on the other hand, defeated Mumbai by 21 runs despite a fine knock of 142 by the highly rated Yashasvi Jaiswal. It was Maharashtra's third straight win in the competition and takes the team to 12 points.