

OPINION 6

REGULATION OF
WAQF IS A MUST

WORLD 9

US HITS RUSSIA WITH SANCTIONS
FOR ANNEXING UKRAINIAN REGIONS

MONEY 10

SEBI TIGHTENS
IPO RULES

BHOPAL, SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

INDIA TO FACE
SRI LANKA IN
ASIA CUP T20
12 SPORT

At 80, loyalist Kharge to rejuvenate Congress!

Kharge seen as safe bet for the Gandhis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Octogenarian Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, a Dalit face of the party from poll-bound Karnataka, may have to shoulder the onerous responsibility of reviving the grand old party from its present state of morass and decadence.

The Congress High Command on Friday tabled its “trump card” after it pulled out of the race its first choice Ashok Gehlot for backing the rebel MLAs in Rajasthan against the Central leadership.

Kharge will take on his Southern colleague Shashi Tharoor and former Jharkhand Minister KN Tripathi in the AICC presidential race for which nominations came to an end on Friday. But since the entire party, including the G-23 groups of dissenters, is backing Kharge, his victory seems a mere formality.

The candidature of Kharge, believed to have been backed by Congress interim chief Sonia Gandhi, has unified the party in a big way. The Leader of the Opposition in the



Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge files his nomination papers for the post of party president at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Friday. Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh, Ashok Gehlot and others are also seen

Rajya Sabha also received the support of the members of the G-23 group comprising Anand Sharma, Prithviraj Chavan, Manish Tewari, and Bhupinder Hooda who have been clamouring for a change in the organisational setup.

At eighty years of age, Kharge is seen as a safe bet for the Gandhis. A senior leader said Kharge will not have long-term ambition which can come in the way of Rahul Gandhi. At the same time, the party could use him to mobilise Dalit

votes, especially in the forthcoming Karnataka polls.

Kharge is also expected to play a major role in unifying the faction-ridden party since he shared excellent relationships with the majority of the senior leaders. Party's chief election manager Madhusudan Mistry, said none of the three — Mallikarjun Kharge, Shashi Tharoor, and KN Tripathi — are the party's official candidates and they are contesting on their own.

Bharat Jodo enters K'taka

Gundlupet: Rahul Gandhi's “Bharat Jodo Yatra” entered Karnataka on Friday. Congress leaders hoped that the Karnataka leg of the yatra which commenced here in Chamarajanagar district would enthuse the party cadres in poll-bound State. The yatra will traverse across seven districts covering a distance of about 500 km in Karnataka.

Tharoor sorry for headless map in poll manifesto

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress presidential candidate Shashi Tharoor apologised “unconditionally” for a blunder in his manifesto for the AICC elections that had a map of India without parts of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. Tharoor later shared corrected versions after social media users, including the BJP, attacked him over it.

“No one does such things on purpose,” Tharoor tweeted with links to the revised manifesto, saying his team “made a mistake.” “We rectified it immediately and I apologise unconditionally,” he added.

Social media users called the wrong map “a massive goof-up” and “a shameful act”, with some accusing him of having “a divisive agenda”.

The BJP took a dig at Tharoor saying he put a “mutilated map” not having parts of Jammu and Kashmir may be to “find favour” with the Gandhis.

19 dead in Kabul edu centre fideyeen attack



The family of a 19-year old girl who was victim of a suicide bomber mourns in Kabul on Friday. The fideyeen hit while hundreds of teenage students inside an education centre were taking practice entrance exams for university

AP

ISIS carries out repeated attacks on Shia areas

AP ■ KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

A suicide bomber struck an education centre in a Shia area of the Afghan capital on Friday, killing 19 people and wounding 27, including teenagers who were taking university practice entry exams, a Taliban spokesman said.

The morning explosion at the centre took place in Kabul's Dashti Barchi neighbourhood, an area populated mostly by ethnic Hazaras, who belong to Afghanistan's minority Shia community.

The ISIS has carried out repeated, horrific attacks on schools, hospitals and mosques in Dashti Barchi and other Shiite areas in recent years.

Around 300 recent high school graduates, boys and girls, had come to the Kaaj Higher Educational Centre at

6.30 am to take practice exams, said one survivor, 19-year-old Shafi Akbary.

The facility helps students prepare and study for the entrance exams, among other activities. About an hour into the session, the blast went off.

“First, we heard the sounds of a few gunshots at the main gate. Everyone was worried and tried to run to a different direction,” said Akbary, speaking to *The Associated Press* over the phone. “Soon after that, a huge explosion occurred inside the centre.”

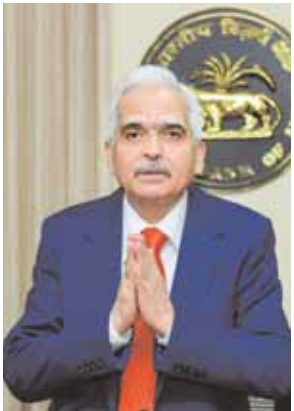
RBI hikes rates by 50bps to 3-yr high, pegs GDP at 7%

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

For the fourth time in a row, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday hiked the interest rate by 50 basis points, setting the stage for another round of increase in home, auto and other loans. The rise in repo rates would also translate into higher borrowing costs for corporates and individuals.

At the same time, the RBI cut its economic growth outlook for FY23 to 7 per cent from 7.2 per cent previously, while keeping its 6.7 per cent forecast on inflation.

The RBI is expected to continue with the rate hike cycle in the coming months as well to tame inflationary pressure on the economy. The cumulative increase in interest rate now stands at 190



basis points since the RBI ended its “accommodative” stance.

Five out of the six members of the monetary policy committee (MPC) voted in favour of the proposal to hike the key lending rate or the

Gas prices up by 40%; CNG, PNG to cost more

NEW DELHI: Prices of natural gas, which is used to generate electricity, make fertiliser and is converted into CNG to run automobiles, were on Friday hiked by a steep 40 per cent to record levels, in step with global firming up of energy rates.

PTI

repo rate to 5.90 per cent — the highest since April 2019.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the MPC also decided by a majority of 5 out of 6 members to remain focused on the withdrawal of the accommodative policy stance to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Draupadi Murmu honored Madhya Pradesh with two awards at the 68th National Film Awards ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Minister of Tourism, Culture and Religious Trust and Endowment, Usha Thakur, for the ‘Most Film Friendly State’ and Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture Sheo Shekhar Shukla, for ‘Maandal Ke Bol’ in the category of Best Ethnographic Film in Non-Feature Film, received the Rajat Kamal Award and certificates. Along with this, the director of the film ‘Mandal Ke Bol’, Rajendra Jangle was also honored with the Rajat Kamal Award. It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had announced the National Film Awards on July 22, 2022.

Thakur said that it is a moment of honor for the state to get the award of Most Film Friendly State for Madhya Pradesh. For this, along with the officials of the tourism department, there is a contribution of the people of the state, whose love for art and artists has made the state conducive for filming.

Principal Secretary Shukla said that in the film policy of the state, attractive aspects like grant to filmmakers, grant of permission in the time-limit in public service guarantee, single window system etc have been included. Madhya Pradesh attracts filmmakers spontaneously with its natural beauty and attractive location. This award will act as an inspiration for us to provide more convenience and support to filmmakers.

More than 350 films, serials, web series and other projects have been shot in Madhya Pradesh, which has received the Most Film Friendly State Award. Currently shooting of 7 film projects Pinch, Tiwari, Chanderi Handloom The Woven Motifs, Mahal, The Master Squad, Kartam Bhugatam,

Parakram is going on. Madhya Pradesh is the only state in the country, which has included the permission of projects in the Public Service Guarantee Act. The Act provides for permission to shoot a film in 15 working days. Also, it is the first state which has included web series, OTT original content, TV serials and documentaries in the grant given in the film policy. Single window clearance facility is available for all filming permissions in the state. To implement the film tourism policy at the district level, ADM level officer has been appointed as the nodal officer for filming permission in each district.

Madhya Pradesh is known as theater hub. There is an availability of both senior and junior artists. Under the film policy, there is a provision of concession for the film crew staying in hotels and resorts of the tourism department along with additional financial grant for the local artists of the state.

Parakram is going on.

Madhya Pradesh is the only state in the country, which has included the permission of projects in the Public Service Guarantee Act. The Act provides for permission to shoot a film in 15 working days. Also, it is the first state which has included web series, OTT original content, TV serials and documentaries in the grant given in the film policy. Single window clearance facility is available for all filming permissions in the state. To implement the film tourism policy at the district level, ADM level officer has been appointed as the nodal officer for filming permission in each district.

Madhya Pradesh is known as theater hub. There is an availability of both senior and junior artists. Under the film policy, there is a provision of concession for the film crew staying in hotels and resorts of the tourism department along with additional financial grant for the local artists of the state.

Lawyer's suicide triggers advocates' violent protest

PNS ■ JABALPUR

A lawyer's suicide triggered a violent protest by advocates in the campus of the Madhya Pradesh High Court here on Friday.

Advocate Anurag Sahu committed suicide at his house after pleading a case in court in the afternoon.

Following the incident, a group of angry lawyers staged a protest in the high court compound, where they vandalised and torched the chamber of the advocate who had appeared in court against Sahu.

The police were

forced to cane charge the protestors to bring the situation under control and restore law and order. Some policemen sustained injuries during the incident, Superintendent of Police (SP) Siddharth Bahuguna said.

When asked if the deceased lawyer had left behind a suicide note, the SP said the matter will be probed.

Sources said that the protesters set fire to the chamber of the advocate who had appeared against Sahu in court at the State Bar Council of Madhya Pradesh, close to the high court building.

Cities will shape India's destiny, asserts Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi rides a metro after inaugurating the phase-1 of Ahmedabad Metro rail project in Ahmedabad on Friday

PTI

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off the Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express semi-high speed train and inaugurated the first phase of the Ahmedabad Metro rail project on the second day of his two-day visit to Gujarat,

where Assembly elections are due by the year-end.

Modi also travelled in the express train and the metro train before addressing a rally in Ahmedabad, where he said cities will shape the destiny of India and ensure that it becomes a developed nation in the next 25 years.

Soorarai Pottru bags best feature film award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President of India Droupadi Murmu on Friday gave away National Film Awards for the year 2020 under various categories at the 68th edition of the ceremony in New Delhi.

While veteran actress Asha Parekh received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Best Non-Feature Film was conferred on “The Testimony of Ana”, and the Best Feature Film on “Soorarai Pottru”.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting (I&B) Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of State for I&B Dr L. Murugan, Ministry of I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra, Chairpersons of Jury and other dignitaries were present at the event.

Suriya and Ajay Devgn jointly received the Best Actor Award, while Best Actress award was bestowed on Aparna Balamurali.

Sachidanandan KR was given the Best Director award for Malayalam movie AK

Ayyappanum Koshiyum.

Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior received the Award for Best Popular Film. Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated Dadasaheb Phalke Awardree Asha Parekh for her special contribution to the world of cinema and said that this award to her is a recognition of women empowerment.

Films have the widest impact among all the art forms, they are also a medium for an artistic expression of our value system, Murmu said, adding cinema is an effective tool for nation building as well.

The President said that as the nation celebrates Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, feature and non-feature films related to the life stories of freedom fighters, known and unknown, will be welcomed by Indian audiences. “The audience desires production of such films which bolster unity in the society, accelerate the pace of development of the nation and strengthen the efforts of environmental protection,” she said.



President Droupadi Murmu presents Dadasaheb Phalke Award to film actor Asha Parekh during the 68th National Film Awards presentation ceremony, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, on Thursday. Union Minister Anurag Thakur is also seen

PTI

Incentive of Rs 25,000 each for laptops to 91,498 students

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the state government have made arrangements to help the students of the state to pursue doctoral, engineering studies and to hone their entrepreneurship skills for getting them into business. Youths are being encouraged to towards innovation and startups. Students should set their own goals, do not get confused, make a path for achieving the goal by working hard in a disciplined way, success will surely come, the state government is with you. Chouhan was addressing the meritorious student award ceremony at Lal Parade Ground to encourage the talented students of the state. Chouhan transferred Rs 25,000 each for laptops in the accounts of

91,498 students who scored 75 percent and above in the first attempt in class 12. Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Ujjain on October 11 to dedicate "Shri Mahakal Lok". Chief Minister exhorted the students to join the programme along with their families and celebrate the occasion in their villages and towns. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for School Education Inder Singh Parmar, Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai, District Panchayat President Bhopal Ramkunwar Gurjar and Principal Secretary School Education Arun Shami were present. After lighting the lamp, Chouhan inaugurated the programme by performing Kanya Pujan. A motivational song was also presented for the students. CM Chouhan symbolically handed

over cheques to two students each who got the highest marks in the merit list from each division. Congratulating the students, their parents and teachers for securing more marks, the Chief Minister said that it is my wish that you keep on moving ahead on the path of progress and make your best contribution in building a great India. Students studying in government schools have made remarkable achievements. Students have to keep this feeling in mind that this is just a step, the destination is ahead, and we have to work hard continuously with firm determination to reach the destination. Chouhan assured that the provision of funds for laptops will never stop. Referring to the lines of Swami Vivekananda, Chouhan said that the person who sets a goal and puts in the

effort will always achieve the goal. Students should decide about their career and start studies accordingly. Chief Minister Chouhan administered a pledge the students to respect parents and teachers, to have respect for sisters and daughters, to never take drugs and to plant a sapling on their birthdays. CM Chouhan said that along with studies, sports and activism towards social concerns are also necessary for personality development. Chouhan said that the State Government is making efforts through various schemes that adequate guidance is available to the students regarding their career in future. For this purpose Aspire Portal is being run in collaboration with UNICEF. Students and parents are being helped in collaboration with leading institutions of the coun-

try. Along with this, efforts are being made through Ladli Laxmi Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Jan Kalyan Yojana, CM Rise School, Mukhya Mantri Medhavi Vidyarthi Yojana etc. to ensure that no meritorious student should face any problem in continuing his studies. The Chief Minister symbolically gave incentive cheques for laptops to Anand Hirmath and Utsav Soni of Bhopal, Pragati Mittal, Lakshdeep Dhakad of Gwalior, Isha Nigam and Harshita Santosh Pandey of Indore, Anushka Faujdar and Vedanshi Dubey of Jabalpur, Sonam Patel and Saurabh Kumar of Narmadapuram, Aastha Singh and Roshita Singh of Rewa, Inshita Dubey and Anshika Tiwari of Sagar, Chandra Prakash Prajapati of Shahdol, Divyata Patel and Itisha Chaudhary of Ujjain.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan giving away cheques to the students to purchase laptops during meritorious students felicitation programme at Lal parade ground in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Five get 7 years RI for irregularities in 2013 cops recruitment case related to Vyapam

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A special CBI court in Bhopal has sentenced five persons to seven years rigorous imprisonment in connection with the Vyapam scam. Special court judge Nitiraj Singh Sisodia on Thursday convicted Kamal Kishore, Amar Singh, Nagendra Singh and Suresh Singh and Ravi Kumar Rajput for their involvement in rigging a 2013 police recruitment test conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Vyavsayik Pareeksha Mandal, known popularly by its acronym 'Vyapam'. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 each, public prosecutor Manuji Upadhyay said in a statement, adding that 32 witnesses were examined

The Vyapam scam hit the headlines in 2013 after it was revealed several exams conducted by it were rigged in exchange for money along with 220 documents and items. As per the prosecution, Kamal, Amar, Nagendra and Suresh had hired people to write the MP police constable recruitment test in their place on April 7, 2013. Ravi Rajput wrote the recruitment test for Nagendra, said Upadhyay. They were convicted under

Indian Penal Code sections 419 (impersonation) 420 (cheating), 467 (transfer of valuable security) 468 (forged documents) and 471 (use of forged documents as genuine) as well as provisions of Madhya Pradesh Examination Recognition Act, CBI special prosecutor Satish Dinkar said. The Vyapam scam hit the headlines in 2013 after it was revealed several exams conducted by it were rigged in exchange for money. In 2015, the Supreme Court transferred the probe to the CBI. The name of Vyapam was first changed to MP Professional Examination Board and then, in February this year, to MP Karmachari Chayan Aayog (Staff Selection Board).

Madhya Pradesh Shooting Academy's Olympian shooter wins bronze medal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Shooting Academy's Olympian shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won bronze at 36th National Games 2022 in the 10-meter air rifle men event (individual). While talking to the free press reporter, Olympian Tomar said, I am done for the day, but I have two more events to perform in, and hopefully, I'll do better in them. It is my first time participating in the National Games, and I have won a bronze medal; I am feeling happy and proud." MP State Shooting Academy In charge, Sanjeev Gupta told the F.P., "We expected gold as Aishwary is our Olympian athlete, but I still have hope as his main event is still pending. We are hopeful that we will get many more medals in those



events." Shooter Aishwary will participate in two more shooting events, AIR mixed and 3P (three positions) rifle. Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar is an Olympian who has been training at the M.P. shooting academy since 2015. He competes in 10m air rifle and 50m rifle three positions. < He clinched a gold medal at the 2021 ISSF World Cup 2021 in 50m rifle three positions, bagged silver in 10m air rifle men's team event and bronze in 50 m 3 position mixed team.

PFI leaders produced in court, sent to jail

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh ATS produced four leaders of the banned organization Popular Front of India (PFI) arrested from Indore and Ujjain in NIA Court Bhopal on Friday and the court sent the four accused to judicial custody for 14 days. As soon as they entered the court premises, the state president of PFI showed the victory sign and was stopped by security personnel. On the night of September 22 on the input of NIA, ATS had arrested four members of PFI from Ujjain and Bhopal. Electronic devices, anti-national documents were recovered from them. The NIA court had handed him over to the ATS September 30. The ATS had claimed that the motive of the accused was to create fanaticism in the

As soon as they entered the court premises, the state president of PFI showed the victory sign and was stopped by security personnel

country by instigating the youth of a particular community. They were involved in the campaign as part of the agenda of establishing Islamic Sharia law in India. The arrested who were produced in the court were Abdul Karim Bakeriwal, State President, Indore, Abdul Khalid General Secretary, Indore, Mohammad Javed

State Treasurer, Indore and Jameel Sheikh State Secretary Ujjain. Earlier when the four accused were produced in the court on September 23, then advocate Athar Ali, appearing for the accused, had raised concern over security of the four and Judge Raghuvver Prasad Patel told he should not be worried. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and ED had raided several locations of PFI. A total of 106 members of PFI have been arrested from 15 states. Organization chief Oma Salam is also included in these. This action was taken by the investigating agencies in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan.



All India Democratic Student Organisation activists stage a protest against the State Government's new education policy in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Meeting organised to remember late Madhavrao Scindia at Chhattri, blood donation camp held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A special remembrance meeting was held at the Chhattri, located at Katoratal, Gwalior on Friday, the death anniversary of late Madhav Rao Scindia. People from various walks of life paid homage to the late leader. Apart from this, a blood donation camp was also organized at Madhav Engineering College (MITS). Speaking during the prayer meeting, senior journalist and noted social activist Keshav Pandey said that people still have the highest regard and respect for the late Madhav Rao



Scindia as he had been a source of immense affection and inspiration for everyone. Pandey added that the late Maharaj was the architect of almost all developmental works in the region. His contributions include the city's thirst quencher Tighara Dam,

Madhav Engineering College, Madhav Mahavidyalaya, Madhav Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Science College, Jayarogya Hospital and Kamalaraja Hospital among others. Pandey further said that the son of Madhav Rao, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia is continuing the noble works initiated by his father because he believes that the true tribute to his father is the development of Gwalior. Pandey also said that he had the privilege to receive immense love and true companionship from Madhav Rao Scindia and added that he will always cherish those memories.

Yadav for road restoration campaign from October 1

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company's Managing Director cum Commissioner Urban Development and Housing Bharat Yadav has given instructions to run a road restoration campaign from October 1 to November 30. Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company in collaboration with Asian Development Bank and World Bank is working on water supply in 134 bodies and sewerage project in 28 bodies with ADB, World Bank, KFW and special funds. Commissioner Yadav has given detailed instructions to all the project managers to ensure that the remaining hydro testing, house service connection and road restoration works should be completed by November 30, in the event of October 1 after the rains in the road restoration campaign.

NHDC organises several competitions under Hindi fortnight celebrations

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Hindi fortnight was organized in NHDC Limited from September 14 to September 29, 2022 in a very well-planned manner. During this various competitions like Hindi Poetry, Hindi Quiz, Hindi Noting/Drafting, Hindi Vocabulary and Translation were organized. Hindi dictation competition was organized for Hindi fortnight concluding and prize distribution was organized on September 29 in which all the winners of Hindi competitions were presented by Managing Director Vijay Kumar Sinha. Chief General Manager (H.R.) Ashok Kumar gave brief information about the competitions organized during Hindi fortnight and told that the NHDC employees participated with great enthusiasm and he congratulated all the winning participants. He said that our state comes in the "A" region from the point of view of official language implementation, it is the

duty of all of us that we should not only work in Hindi but also answer English letters in Hindi. Giving information about Hindi promotion schemes in the corporation, he said that we also have an incentive scheme for reading Hindi books. Sinha urged all the employees to work in Hindi and congratulated all the award winners and those participants who could not get the prizes, encouraged them to participate more enthusiastically in the competitions to be organized in the future. He informed that this time NHPC has got second prize in Official Language Implementation and this report is consolidated in which we have also contributed. For this he congratulated all the personnel of NHDC. The program ended with simplicity. The Hindi fortnight was coordinated by Deputy General Manager Alok Kumar and the program was conducted by Manager (Rajbhasha) Lalmani Shukla and Special Hindi Translator, Swati Jain.

Noted Youtuber dies in road accident in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A noted YouTuber from Madhya Pradesh died in a road accident during a biking tour on Monday. Abhyuday Mishra, who ran a YouTube channel named 'Skylord', died after being severely injured in a road accident. Mishra's channel had millions of subscribers. Mishra had gone on a bike tour when he was hit by a truck near Sohagpur on Narmadapuram-Pipariya State Highway at around 2pm on Sunday. He succumbed to his injuries the next day. Mishra, popularly known as 'Skylord', was also popular on Instagram where he had around 3.5 lakh followers. Skylord was known for creating gaming videos on his YouTube channel. He had gone on a tour of Madhya Pradesh, which was reportedly sponsored by the state's tourism department. Following the accident, he was rushed to Bansal Hospital in Bhopal. An official of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board confirmed that the YouTuber had met with an accident in Sohagpur, according to Live Hindustan. A case has been registered against the truck driver who hit 'Skylord'.

शिविदाम्री का महिमा गान

॥ शक्ति पर्व ॥

1 अक्टूबर, 2022 • सायं 7.00 बजे से

मध्यप्रदेश जनजातीय संग्रहालय, भोपाल	रमघाट, उज्जैन	
दुर्गा चालीसा गायन विजय राव एवं साथी- भोपाल	भक्ति गायन कपिल खाटे एवं साथी- उज्जैन	
भक्ति गायन पवन तिवारी एवं साथी- टीकमगढ़	आद्या शक्ति कवक समूह नृत्य सुविधा हरमलकर एवं साथी- इंदौर	
मंदिर प्रांगण, सतकनपुर लोकनृत्य देवी केन्द्रित कृष्णा वर्मा एवं साथी- उज्जैन	माँ शारदा देवी मंदिर प्रांगण, मेहर गायन देवी केन्द्रित शशि कुमार पाण्डेय एवं साथी- रीवा	शा. उत्कृष्ट उ. मा. विद्यालय प्रांगण, गुना आदिशक्ति देवी केन्द्रित नृत्य प्रीति तिवारी एवं साथी- भोपाल
शबरी नृत्य-नारिका निर्देशक- रचना मिश्रा- भोपाल	गायन देवी केन्द्रित लीला बिहारी एवं साथी- भोपाल	गायन देवी केन्द्रित दशरथ लाल पारोवी एवं साथी- गुना
देवी भजन संजो मथेल एवं साथी, जबलपुर	देवी भजन ओमप्रकाश शौकरल एवं साथी, मुंबई	देवी भजन करणजीत सिंह लोधी एवं साथी, मुंबई

आप सभी सादर आमंत्रित हैं
प्रवेश निशुल्क

D-11105/22

मध्यप्रदेश शासन, संस्कृति विभाग द्वारा जिला प्रशासन, भोपाल, उज्जैन, सीहोर, गुना एवं सतना के सहयोग से आयोजित

@MP Tribal Museum
@culturempbpl @mpculturebpl @minculturem

EPCs should be constituted in the districts: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that agricultural products should be included in the list of materials to be exported from the state. A long-term plan should be made for the export of agricultural related materials.

This will enable the farmers to get the right price for their products. Export promotion committees (EPCs) should be set up in the districts to encourage exports from the districts. These committee should provide necessary training and guidance on the overall trade along with exports. Special efforts should be made to establish international recognition of the state's products like orange, rice etc. Chouhan was addressing the first meeting of Madhya Pradesh Trade Promotion Council at Mantralaya.

Chouhan said that Madhya



Pradesh Trade Promotion Policy should be implemented expeditiously.

Chouhan gave his acquiescence to organise Madhya Pradesh Export Fair. Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Minister Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon, Revenue Minister Govind Singh Rajput, Horticulture and Food Processing Minister Bharat Singh Kushwaha, Vice President of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Analysis Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Principal Secretary Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Sanjay Shukla along with concerned

officers were present. Minister Omprakash Sakhlecha virtually attended the meeting.

The Chief Minister said that an effective strategy should be made to encourage the state's exports. Exports from the state should be increased 4 times in the next 5 years. Ensure that the state is among the 10 leading states of the country in exports. In the meeting, consent was given to the proposal to set up an Export Directorate in the state. Along with this, a proposal was also agreed to nominate an agency for geo-tagging of the products of the state.

It was informed that a record export of Rs 58,407 crore has taken place in the financial year 2021-22 in the state. The export from IT companies was Rs 258 crore in the year 2017-18, which has increased to Rs 1761 crore in the year 2021-22. The maximum export in the state is of pharma, cotton and cotton products.

License fee collection from traders stopped

Bhopal: About two lakh traders of the capital Bhopal have got a big relief regarding the license fee. On the orders of the Municipal Corporation Commissioner, in-charge Minister Bhupendra Singh has stopped collection of the fee. At present, the license fee will not be charged from the traders according to the width of the road. In-charge Minister Singh issued orders in the evening. The traders had met the minister in charge a few hours before the order was issued.

About 50 business organisations including BCCI (Bhopal Chamber of Commerce and Industries) had made this demand. On Friday, they also met the in-charge minister Bhupendra Singh regarding this. He had said that when paying property tax to the Municipal Corporation, then why pay this license fee?

In the application submitted to the minister in charge, the traders stated that the Municipal Corporation imposed a new tax fee on the traders in the year 2021. This fee has been calculated at the rate of per square feet and not from the turnover of the business. It is objectionable and impractical to levy such a fee, as the property tax and solid waste tax is already being paid by the building owner to the corporation.

As per the commissioner's order, the license fee is required to be collected along with the property tax, which is wrong. BCCI President Tej Kulpal Singh Pali had demanded immediate removal of the license fee from the minister-in-charge.

In the afternoon, the traders met the minister in charge. A few hours later, Minister Singh issued the orders. He has given orders to the Principal Secretary, Urban Development and Housing Department. Referring to the problems of the traders, it was asked to immediately postpone the order of imposition of increased rates of trade license fee along with property tax.

BCCI President Pali told that earlier this fee was charged from Rs 200 to Rs 18 thousand, but the corporation increased the amount of fee according to the width of the road.



Security personnel catch hold an NSUI activists in front of the Professional Examination Board office demanding to conduct examinations to fill lying vacant posts for jobs for the unemployed, in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo



Noted Bhojpuri singer Padma Shri Malini Awasthi being felicitated during Vishwa Rang Pustak Yatra-2022, organised by Rabindranath Tagore University at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

Folk singer Malini Awasthi honoured with 'Sharda Chaubey award'

Bhopal: The renowned folk singer Malini Awasthi left the Bhopalites mesmerised after her soulful performance on Friday at Ravindra Bhavan.

Her tuneful performance marked the conclusion of Vishwarang Pustak Yatra at Lokrang. It was organised by Rabindranath Tagore University and Tagore World Centee for Art and Culture.

On this occasion Malini Awasthi was honored with 'Sharda Chaubey Lok Samman'.

Also Vinita Choubey's books "Sanskar Geet" and "Chaturvedi Chandrika", 125 years of social change' were inaugurated with a ceremony.

On this occasion, Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University and Director of Vishwarang, Santosh Choubey said that this time the fourth edition of Vishwarang is being organized, in which Pustak Yatra is being concluded as the first stop. In its next phase, the main festival of

Vishwarang will be celebrated from November 14 to 20. At the same time, Aditi Chaturvedi Vats, co-director of Vishwarang said that the attraction of this time is children as well as youth centric subjects.

To begin with the melodious tunes of folk songs, Malini Awasthi started with the song 'Udi Jaao Re Sugna Ganga Paar...' on the occasion of Navratri. After this she performed the song 'Nimiya Ke Dar Maiya...'.

Madhya Pradesh gets 14 lakh lumpy vaccines

Bhopal: As many as 14 lakh goat pox vaccines have been provided to Madhya Pradesh by the central government to keep animals safe from lumpy skin disease. Four focal points, Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior and Ujjain have been earmarked for vaccination.

Indore focal point has been provided 5 lakh 34 thousand 762 vaccines Bhopal 3 lakh 45 thousand 690, Gwalior 2 lakh 87 thousand 68 in and Ujjain 2 lakh 32 thousand 480. Vaccines have been given directly to the districts. Veterinarians of the respective districts have been given training through video confer-

encing, Director Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr RK Mehia has given instructions to vaccinate the cows on a war footing.

Dr. Mehia has said that ring vaccination should be done on priority in and around the affected village. Efforts must be made to eliminate this challenge as soon as possible by following the guide line issued by the central government and vaccination with constant monitoring.Dr Mehia said that it is a matter of great relief that till now no buffalo-breed animal has found symptoms of lumpy disease in the

state.

Indore district of Indore focal point has been sent 39,579 vaccines, Alirajpur 59,732, Dhar one lakh 9 thousand 484, Khandwa 61,681, Jhabua 71,089, Khargone one lakh one thousand 132, Barwani 69,322 and Burhanpur district 22,743 vaccines.

In Bhopal focal point 94 thousand 579 vaccines have been sent to Betul district, Sehore 60 thousand 809, Narmadapuram 54 thousand 508, Rajgarh 44 thousand 839, Harda 26 thousand 315 and Chhatarpur district 50 thousand 105.

President Murmu to give away cleanliness award to Indore

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has informed that Madhya Pradesh is once again going to set cleanliness records like every year in the Swachh Sarvekshan conducted by the Government of India every year.

According to the information received so far, 11 urban bodies of the state will be honored for the National Award for cleanliness. President Draupadi Murmu will felicitate Indore for excellence in cleanliness. The awards will be announced on Saturday in New Delhi.

Singh informed that the winners of the Swachhta League organized by the Government of India, urban bodies Khajuraho and Ujjain were honoured on 30th September. On the completion of Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, Swachh Amrit Mahotsav is being organized by the Government of India.

Urban bodies Indore, Barauni, Bhopal, Chhindwara, Khurai, Mhow Cantt, Mungawali, Obaidullaganj, Petlawad, Phufkala and Ujjain will be honored at the national level for their excellent performance in various compo-

nents at Tal Katora Stadium. Notably, since Swachh Sarvekshan-2017 till now, the performance of the state has been constantly improving every year.

In the first Swachh Sarvekshan-2017, the state was awarded the fourth cleanest state of the country, which has reached the third position in the year 2020-21. This year the state is likely to get the best position.

In the year 2021, 8 cities of the state had received national awards and 13 cities were honored at the national level for getting their 5 star and 3 star ratings. Apart from this, three cities of the state Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain got special national honor in the special competition Safai Mitra Security Challenge.

During the year 2022, the state was targeted to maintain the state of sustainability after being free from open defecation, under which emphasis was given to implement the protocols of ODF Plus and ODF Double Plus.

In the ongoing year, 323 urban bodies of the state were successful in getting the certification of ODF Double Plus. Six bodies of the state have been certified as ODF plus and 37 bodies have been certified as ODF.

LoO in BMC Shabista Zaki files a petition in HC against formation of new zone

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The issue of formation of a new zone in Bhopal Municipal Corporation has reached the High Court. Leader of Opposition Shabista Zaki filed a petition in the court. After this, the court has sought a reply in four weeks. The Leader of Opposition said that there was a violation of the rules in the formation of the zone.

This was done in order to prevent the Congress from occupying the zone. The first meeting of the Corporation Council was held on 6 September. Amidst the hustle and bustle, a proposal to reorganise the zone was passed. In the proposal, the number of zones was increased from 19 to 21.

Elections were also held on 7 September. Of these, BJP councilors were elected zone presidents in 20 zones, while Congress councilors became zone presidents on one.

The issue of this zone has now come into the limelight again. A petition was filed in the High Court on behalf of Leader of Opposition Zaki. After which a reply has been sought from the responsibilities within four weeks.

Leader of Opposition Zaki said that Congress had objec-

The issue of this zone has now come into the limelight again, after a petition was filed in the High Court on behalf of Leader of Opposition Zaki

tions to the reorganisation of the zone. The issue was raised in the council meeting. Nevertheless the motion was passed. There was a clear violation of Rule 48A in the reorganisation.

According to the rule, the population of the zone should be the same. Wards should be adjacent to each other and the number of wards should be same.

Despite this, nothing like this happened in this case. If the population of a zone is 65 thousand, then in some it is one lakh 35 thousand. Different wards were included in the zone.

However, the number of wards is also not the same. Like this, there are 3 wards in some, 6 wards were included in some. Hence the petition was filed in the High Court. After which a reply has been sought in four weeks.

अधिष्ठाता कार्यालय
अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, विदिशा (म.प्र.)
खेल परिसर के सामने, सांची रोड, विदिशा म.प्र. 464001 | दूरभाष 07592-297001
Email - deangmncvidisha@gmail.com Website www.gmncvidisha.org
क्रमांक/5864/ई.निविदा/क्रयशाला/शा.चि.महा./2022 विदिशा, दिनांक 23.09.2022

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि, अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय विदिशा संबद्ध चिकित्सालय हेतु मेडिकल ऑक्सिजन, नाईट्स ऑक्साइड, कार्बनडाई ऑक्साइड के विभिन्न क्षमता के खाली सिलिण्डरों में गैस भरने हेतु निविदा आई डी. 2022_DME_171322_6 एम.पी. टेण्डर पोर्टल के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसका विस्तृत विवरण www.mptenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

निविदा से संबंधित नियम, शर्तें, तिथि एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in वेबसाइट है। अतः निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार संशोधन होने पर केवल एम.पी. टेण्डर पोर्टल पर ही प्रकाशित की जायेगी।

अधिष्ठाता
अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी
शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, विदिशा

G-17714/22

Government of Madhya Pradesh
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief
Water Resources Department,
Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsī Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)
Email Id: ceproc.encyrdr.bpl@nic.in
Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406

N.I.T. No. 932/2022-23/E-in-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 26.09.2022
Bids for following works are invited on website <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is **20.10.2022, 17:30 hrs.** Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.

S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2022_WRD_224303	On Turnkey Basis:- Operation and maintenance and Refurbishment of existing pressurized irrigation schemes under Mohanpura, Project as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Rajgarh	5226.00
2.	2022_WRD_224325	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Gidurha Tank, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Katni	1019.05

G-17677/22 Chief Engineer (Procurement)

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PIU
NIRMAN BHAWAN, Plot No. 27-28, Arera Hills, BHOPAL
PHONE No. 0755-2559571 E-mail:- apdpiubhopal@gmail.com

NIT No.15/2022/Tender/G/APD/ BHOPAL DATE 21/09/2022
Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:

S. NO.	Tender Portal No.	Name of Work	District	Probable Amount Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Period of completion (in months i/c Rainy Season)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2022_PWPIU_223929_1	Construction for up gradation of P.G. Seat (128 to 134 P.G. seat) in Gandhi Medical College Bhopal.	BHOPAL-2	9594.28	4797140	50000	20 months i/c Rainy season

1 All details relating to the Bid Document (s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website. <http://mptenders.gov.in>
2 Bid Document (s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/Internet Banking.
3 The Bid Document (s) can be purchased only online from 10:30 (time) 21.09.2022 (date) to 17.30 (time) 09.10.2022 (date). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.
4 Amendment (s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR
PWD PIU BHOPAL

G-17674/22

Urdu Academy to organise literary seminar in Ratlam

Bhopal: A Literary seminar will be organized by Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy, Sanskriti Parishad, Culture Department, Bhopal under Silsila, and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav from 4 pm on Saturday at Hotel Sweet Avenue Hall, Ratlam.

It will be organised in coordination with District Coordinator Abdul with Salaam Khokar.

According to Nusrat Mehdi, Director of the Academy, poetry, literary and musical seminars are being organized by Urdu Academy under Silsila in all the districts of the state.

The 18th programme of this episode is being organized in Ratlam on Saturday, in which poets and litterateurs of all the villages, tehsil and settlements under Ratlam and Mandsaur districts will give their performances.

It is organised for those who got less opportunity to perform on the forums.

Ratlam district coordinator Abdul Salam Khokar told that among the poets and litterateurs who will give their performances in Sheri and Adbi Nashist,

Mohammed Shafi Sahir Ratlam, Siddiq Ratlami, Yusuf Khan Sahar Jawra, Arif Ali Jawra, Amiruddin Shaikh 'Amir' Sailana, Ashish Dashottar Ratlam, Laxman Pathak Ratlam, Shakir Raza Jawra, Yashwant Patidar Mandsaur etc.

 NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY				
No. JHS/Comm/E-Auction/COG-III/22/22			Date : 29.09.2022	
On Behalf of The President Of India, The Divisional Railway Manager, (Commercial) Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under :-				
Category	Catalogue No	Asset Details	Auction Start	Auction End
Pay & Use Toilets	JHS-PAYNUSE-04	1. Manning of Pay & Use toilets on O & M basis at 01 Railway Station i.e. MORENA of JHS Division.	14/10/2022 at 12:00 hrs.	14/10/2022 at 12:30 hrs.
Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.				
 North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in ©CPRONCR  @northcentralrailway 1355/22 (AN)				

कार्यालय, प्रधानाचार्य/मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी
हकीम सैय्यद ज़ियाउल हसन शासकीय स्वशासी यूनानी महाविद्यालय/चिकित्सालय
(कोलार-नेहरू नगर बायपास रोड मैनिट के पोछे, भोपाल)
Web: www.gumcbhopal.in E-Mail: gumcbhopal@gmail.com Ph. 0755-2970354

:: विज्ञप्ति ::

हकीम सैय्यद ज़ियाउल हसन शासकीय (स्वशासी) यूनानी चिकित्सालय महाविद्यालय एवं चिकित्सालय, भोपाल में स्नातकोत्तर छात्रों को बायोकेमिस्ट, बायो-स्टेटिस्टिशियन एवं फार्माकोलॉजी विषय के अध्यापन कार्य हेतु बायोकेमिस्ट, बायो-स्टेटिस्टिशियन एवं फार्माकोलॉजी शिक्षक (कालखण्ड के आधार पर) अंशकालिक अनुबंध के लिए आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

क्र.	पदनाम	पद संख्या	शैक्षणिक योग्यता
1.	बायोकेमिस्ट	01	स्नातकोत्तर बायोकेमिस्ट्री अथवा समकक्ष योग्यता किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से
2.	बायो-स्टेटिस्टिशियन	01	स्नातकोत्तर बायोस्टेटिस्टिक अथवा समकक्ष योग्यता किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से
3.	फार्माकोलॉजिस्ट	01	स्नातकोत्तर फार्माकोलॉजी अथवा समकक्ष योग्यता किसी मान्यता प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से

आवेदन का प्रारूप, नियम एवं शर्तें महाविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.gumcbhopal.in पर उपलब्ध है। आवेदन पत्र के साथ बायोडाटा एवं शैक्षणिक दस्तावेजों को स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रतियाँ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। महाविद्यालय में आवेदन पत्र प्राप्त होने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 15.10.2022 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक है। निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त आवेदनों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। स्वशासी समिति के निर्णय अनुसार स्वीकृत पारिश्रमिक/मानदेय रू. 1000/- प्रति कालखण्ड देय होगा।

(डॉ. मेहमूद बेगम)
प्र. प्रधानाचार्य/मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी
हकीम सैयद ज़ियाउल हसन शासकीय/स्वशासी
यूनानी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, भोपाल

G-17733/22 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch, Plot no. 4, PSP Area, Near AIIMS, Saket Nagar Bhopal Tel.: 8989014648

E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE)

Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Canara Bank (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on dates mentioned below for recovery of bank dues to the Canara Bank (secured creditor)

Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors	Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner	Demand Notice Dt. Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price EMD Amt. Bid Increment Amt.
Borrowers : Shri Amit Anand Bhargava S/o Shri B P Bhargava, Smt Anshu Bhargava W/o Shri Amit Anand Bhargava	Land and Building at Plot No. G-19 & G-20, Part of Khasra No 56, 57/1 "Paris Grah Nirman Sahkari Sanstha" situated at village Nayapura, behind Fine Avenue Colony Ward No 83, Tehsil Huzur, Bhopal measuring 1089 sq.ft. Bounded by: East House No G-1 & 2, West Road, North House No G-17 & 18, South Road	05.09.2016 02.12.2016 as on 31/08/2022 ₹ 41,38,561.60 + Interest & charges	₹ 13.41 Lakhs ₹ 1.40 Lakhs ₹ 25000/-
Borrowers : Smt Anshu Bhargava W/o Shri Amit Anand Bhargava, Shri Amit Anand Bhargava S/o Shri B P Bhargava	Residential plot and construction thereon situated at Plot No. G-1 & G-2, Part of Khasra No 56, 57/1 "Paris Grah Nirman Sahkari Sanstha" situated at village Nayapurs, behind Fine Avenue Colony Ward No 83, Tehsil Huzur Bhopal measuring 1089 sq.ft. Boundaries: East House No G-3 & 4, West Road, North Road, South House NO G-19 & 20	05.09.2016 02.12.2016 as on 31/08/2022 ₹ 41,68,585.70 + Interest & charges	₹ 15.00 Lakhs ₹ 1.50 Lakhs ₹ 25000/-
Borrowers : Mr. Bisheshwar Mitra S/o Shri Nirupam Chand Mitra Meenakshi Mitra W/o Bisheshwar Mitra	Flat No. 603.6 th Floor "Park Sereen", Apollo-1 Village- Sunkhedi, Kolar Road Bhopal measuring 74.18 sq. mt. Bounded by: East : Road at GF, West : Common Passage then Flat, North : Flat No 601, South : Lift then Flat	01.07.2019 25.11.2019 as on 31/08/2022 ₹ 32,44,994.00 + Interest & charges	₹ 14.40 Lakhs ₹ 1.50 Lakhs ₹ 25000/-

Last date for submission of online bids is on or before 28-10-2022 upto 5.00 p.m.
Date and Time of e-auction : 31-10-2022, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)

Borrowers :
Sri Ravi Prakash Ojha S/o Shri Avadesh Ojha
Smt Meena Ojha W/o Shri Avadesh Ojha

Flat No. 136, Alankar Heights, Block No. 1 Ward No. 78, Karond Bhopal Area 62.26 sq mt. Bounded by: North : Road at GF, South : Lift then Flat No. 135 of Mr. Rakesh, East : Common Passage then Flat No. 140, West : Road at GF then Colony Park

30.08.2017
13.12.2017
as on 31/08/2022
₹ 16.50 Lakhs
₹ 1.70 Lakhs
₹ 25000/-

Last date for submission of online bids is on or before 13-10-2022 upto 5.00 p.m.
Date and Time of e-auction : 15-10-2022, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM (With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each)

Account Detail for EMD Submission : Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, SPLSD ARM Branch (6816) OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM Branch, A/c No 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0006616

For sale proceeds of Rs. 50,00,000 (Rupees Fifty lakhs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (<https://www.canara-bank.com>) or may contact Mr. Ranjan Kumar Pani, Chief Manager, SPLSD ARM Bhopal, Canara Bank, Plot no. 4, PSP Area, Near AIIMS, Saket Nagar Bhopal. Contact no. 8989014648 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bhopal, Date: 30-09-2022

AUTHORISED OFFICER, CANARA BANK

BATTLE OF OPPOSITES FOR CONG PRESIDENT’S POST

Kharge banks on experience, Tharoor seeks ‘change’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

After days of turmoil, the Congress’ first family has finally turned to its “Man Friday” Mapanna Mallikarjun Kharge to settle the issue of party president. Popularly known as “Solillada Saradara” (a leader without defeat) in his home-State of Karnataka, Kharge is a hardcore loyalist of the Gandhi family and has often been deputed to solve many a crisis hitting the party. If elected, he will be the second AICC president from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa, and the second Dalit leader to hold the post after Jagjivan Ram.

With the Group of 23 Congress leaders, who had been seeking a complete rehaul of the party and a non-Gandhi as the president given Rahul Gandhi’s reluctance, backing his nomination for the top post publicly, it is expected to give the experienced leader breathing space to put the disarrayed house in order that led to the exit of the likes of Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Sushmita Dev, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitendra Prasad and Amariinder Singh



Left: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge file thier nomination papers separately for the post of party President, at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Friday, Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Ashok Gehlot and others are also seen



among others. A hardcore Congressman, Kharge has played multiple roles in different ministries that have enriched his experience as an administrator. The Congress, which started its ambitious Bharat Jodo Yatra from Tamil Nadu, is attempting to consolidate the party’s strength in south India where BJP-ruled Karnataka is going to polls in the next few months. A bigger test with Assembly polls in a dozen-odd States in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections would await him. In June 2020, he was elected unopposed to the Rajya

Sabha from Karnataka, and is currently the 17th Leader of the Opposition in Upper House. A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, Kharge, who was elected MLA for nine times in a row, has seen a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home-district of Kalaburagi. In 1969, he joined the Indian National Congress and went on to become president of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee. Kharge has served as Union Cabinet Ministers for Labour and Employment,

Railways and Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA Government. Kharge’s contender Shashi Tharoor is a former Union Minister and tree-term MP but has remained mostly in controversies which also cost him his ministry once. In fact, the best-seller author, wordsmith, former UN diplomat and social media ‘pioneer’ with 8.3 million followers has demonstrated he is quite the opposite of a ‘quocker-wodger’, a politically loaded term for a wooden puppet, and is

instead independent minded, and backs changes in the party. Born in London in 1956, Tharoor graduated with an honours in history from Delhi’s prestigious St Stephen’s College where he was also the president of the student’s union. He did his masters from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, US, and completed a PhD from there in 1978. Defying the politician stereotype, Tharoor went on to have a distinguished career in the UN. During his stint at the UN, he shouldered several key responsibilities in peace-keeping

Rajnath urges DPSUs to make India a global hub in Defence manufacturing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday urged the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) to develop and adopt latest technologies to make India a global Defence manufacturing hub. He also said the aim is to achieve Rs 35,000 crore Defence exports target by 2025. Rajnath made these assertions here while reviewing the working of the seven defence companies, carved out of erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) to mark the completion of one year of their operations. The companies had commenced operations from October 01, 2021 before they were dedicated to the nation by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on occasion of ‘Vijayadashami’ on October 15 last year. During the meeting, the defence minister was briefed by the officials of Department of Defence Production on the progress made by these new DPSUs in the last one year, defence ministry officials said here. Addressing the officers and employees of the seven companies virtually, Rajnath said the corporatisation of OFB was a major reform in the direction of making the country ‘Aatmanirbhar’ by unleashing the true potential of these entities. He appreciated the fact that these companies are moving smoothly on path of progress with full autonomy, efficiency and accountability.

Those supplying spurious liquor cooling their heels in prisons, says Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reiterating the state government’s policy of zero-tolerance against crime and criminals, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that those who put the lives of common man in danger through supply of poisonous liquor were today cooling their heels in prison. The chief minister said that the Excise Department in the last five and a half years had not only curbed supply of poisonous liquor and its black-marketing, but had also increased the state’s revenue. While congratulating 332 constables of the state Excise Department on their recruitment, Yogi said that tireless efforts were made after 2017 to curb supply of spurious liquor as a result of which the state managed to collect revenue of about Rs 42,000 crore by the end of this year, in contrast to just Rs 12,000 crore in 2017. “I urge all the newly-recruited constables to work as transparently and dedicatedly as the government did during their recruitment,” he said. Expressing happiness on the recruitment of about 109 female constables, the chief minister said, “It is heartening to see that 30 per cent recruitment is of females during the holy Sharadiya Navratri. The government is committed to providing employment opportunities to the youth with transparency.” Highlighting his government’s achievements, the chief minister said that in the last five and a half years, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, over five lakh youths had been given government jobs in the state, while about 1.61 crore were given job opportunities through various micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) units and the industrial sector at large. Similarly, he

said, about 60 lakh craftsmen and artisans were also connected with banks to ensure their self-employment. The chief minister also reiterated that his government would give employment to at least one person in every family in the state and would ensure self-reliance of the youth. “The government also aims to ensure that the youth become technologically advanced through the provision of two crore tablets/smart-phones,” he added. Lauding the work of the state Excise Department on the occasion, Yogi said that the department, once infamous, had set up about 33 new distilleries in five and a half years — more than half of what were present in the state for 70 years — for ensuring poison-free liquor as well as generating employment opportunities and more revenue. “This reflects the positive intent of the government and the hard work of the department,” he pointed out. “Today, UP tops in ethanol and alcohol production and has also made a record payment of more than Rs 1.80 lakh crore to the sugarcane farmers, that is even more than the annual budget of many states,” Yogi pointed out. The chief minister continued: “Under Mission Rojgar, the state government along with providing employment to the youth also carried forward the process of establishing law and order in the state which in turn brought good amount of investment leading to the creation of more employment opportunities.” He went on to say that Uttar Pradesh also managed to bring down its unemployment rate significantly from 18-19 per cent in 2016 to about 2.6 per cent currently as per the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

ED seizes ₹5,551 cr of Xiaomi under FEMA

New Delhi: The Competent Authority appointed under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) has confirmed the seizure order of Rs 5,551.27 crore dated April 29 passed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Chinese smart phone company Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited under the provisions of the foreign exchange law. “This is the highest amount of seizure order in India which has been confirmed by the Authority till date. The Authority while confirming the seizure of Rs. 5551.27 Crore, held that ED is right in holding foreign exchange equivalent to INR 5,551.27 crore has been transferred out of India by the Xiaomi India in an unauthorised manner and is held outside India on behalf of the group entity is in contravention of Section 4 of the

Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 and the same is liable to be seized in terms of provisions of Section 37A of the FEMA,” the ED said in a statement. The Competent Authority also observed that payment of royalty is nothing but a tool to transfer the foreign exchange out of India and the same is in blatant violation of provisions of FEMA, it said. Earlier, the ED had seized Rs 5,551.27 crore of Xiaomi Technology India Private Limited lying in its bank accounts under the provisions of FEMA. The company unauthorisedly remitted this amount in guise of Royalty abroad which constitute violation of Section 4 of the FEMA. Xiaomi India also filed a writ petition before the Karnataka High Court against the said order which was dismissed by the HC vide order dated July 5. PNS

SP to rope in OBCs, Dalits for LS polls

Lucknow: As the Samajwadi Party gears up for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, it is now or never-like situation for the party. After failed attempts to win over the upper caste, the SP is determined to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on the plank of 85 versus 15, or majority OBCs+Dalits and minorities and 15 per cent upper caste. The party, in its national convention which concluded on Thursday, has given a call for cementing the unity between Dalits and OBCs for taking on the hegemony of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The SP has drafted three senior OBC leaders, Lalji Verma, Ram Achal Rajbhar and Swami Prasad Maurya who were in the Bahujan Samaj Party for over three decades before they joined the SP in 2021, for this. Indrajit Saroj, also a former BSP leader and now a SP MLA, is also part of the team. The OBC leaders have been entrusted with the responsibility of drawing the

blueprint of a political narrative to bring OBCs and non-Jatav Dalits under SP umbrella. Sources in SP said the party planned to hit the street soon after Diwali for political mobilisation at the grassroots level. The party has chosen the path of agitation from the tehsil to state headquarter level to mobilise the targeted vote bank. Taking the 2024 electoral battle as the most decisive battle in its history, the SP is now aiming big. Akhilesh Yadav (49), who in his fresh term will lead the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections, said his father and SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav always wanted the SP to become a national party. “We struggled for it and tried a lot. On this day, when you are giving me another term of five years, we should all take a pledge that the next time we meet the SP will be a national party,” Akhilesh Yadav told the party’s national convention on Thursday. PNS



Former track & field athlete Anju Bobby George with badminton players Trupti Murgunde and PV Sindhu during the Navratri festival celebrations in Ahmedabad

General Chauhan assumes charge as new CDS

New Delhi: General Anil Chauhan on Friday assumed charge as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) here nearly 10 months after country’s first CDS General Bipin Rawat was killed in a helicopter crash on December 8. The CDS, the senior most commander, is the single-point advisor to the government on matters of national security. As per the mandate, he is also the head of Department of Military Affairs as Secretary and Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of the post of CDS to meet modern security challenges on August 15, 2019. General Rawat took charge as the first CDS on January one, 2020. Incidentally, both the CDS are from the same Gorkha Rifles regiment. General Chauhan said, “I am proud to be assuming the responsibility of the highest rank in the Indian



Armed Forces. I will try to fulfil the expectations from the three services and tackle all challenges and difficulties together.” Before assuming charge, General Chauhan paid tributes to India’s fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial in the India Gate complex. His 94-year-old father Surendra Singh Chauhan was also present at the memorial. He was also accorded a tri-services guard of honour at the lawns of the South Block in presence of Army Chief General Manoj Pande, IAF chief V R Chaudhari and Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral SN Ghormade. PNS

Kashmir Squadron 51 bids adieu to country

New Delhi: Squadron 51 on Friday bid adieu to service as part of the IAF plan to phase out its fleet of MiG-21 fighter jets. Known as ‘Sword Arms’, the squadron became a house hold name when one of its pilot Wing Commander (now Group Captain) Abhinandan Varthaman flying his Mig-21 shot down a Pakistani F-16 in aerial combat three years back. The IAF is sticking to its schedule of phasing out ageing MiG-21 fighter jets and will retire the remaining four squadrons (one squadron has 18-20 jets) by 2025. The Migs were inducted into service in the early 1960s and over subsequent years several mishaps took place involving this jet thereby raising a question mark about its flight safety record. The number-plating of the 51 Squadron was done on Friday. It is a process by which IAF keeps a unit on paper, while re-posting all personnel attached to it to another squadron. PNS

impact on regional water supplies, hydrological processes, ecosystem services and trans-boundary water sharing,” the researchers said in the study published in Environmental Science and Pollution Research on SpringerLink platform. The study aimed to investigate the shrinkage, snout retreat, ice thickness changes, mass loss and velocity changes of these glaciers between 2000 to 2020. Earth Scientist and glaciologist, Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, who has co-authored the study ‘Anthropogenic climate change drives melting of glaciers in the Himalaya,’ said that there is a direct link between black carbon and the melting of glaciers. “Climate change has two components — one is natural and another is anthropogenic. Broadly anthropogenic climate change is all about increasing greenhouse gases and pollutants the world over,” Romshoo said. Through this study, “we have tried to establish a link between greenhouse gases, black carbon and increased glacial melt in the Himalayas,” he said. “Black carbon deposition on glaciers decreases the reflectivity of the ice surface resulting in faster ice melt.

BJP: Kharge will be a remote-controlled chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday made light of the Congress presidential election after veteran leader Mallikarjun Kharge emerged as the favourite to win the poll, suggesting that he will be a “proxy” and “remote-controlled”. It also took a swipe at its other presidential candidate Shashi Tharoor for his manifesto showing India’s wrong map. “Kharge at 80 is an inspiring choice for the Congress. He is young, energetic and just what the Congress needed to ensure its revival. He should just pick Dr Manmohan Singh’s manual on ‘Living by the Remote Control’ and it is all sorted,” BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said in a tongue-in-cheek tweet. Tharoor continues to hang in, he added, referring to the Congress MP, who has also

filed his nomination for the Congress president post with his erstwhile G-23 ‘dissident group’ within the party earlier espousing ‘change of policies’ backing Kharge instead. Another BJP leader and spokesperson, Shehzad Poonawalla said in a tweet, “After (Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok) Gehlot lost favour with Parivar (Gandhis), now 80-year-old Mallikarjun Kharge ji becomes the chosen remote controlled ‘proxy’ candidate, who is projected as an ‘official candidate’, contrast his nomination with Tharoor’s lacklustre one. Isn’t it clear the match is fixed for Kharge.” “Does anyone believe this is a free & fair exercise where Parivar is calling the shots to get its candidate ‘selected’. Just like Dr Manmohan Singh was the face & titular PM, now the same SOP will be followed here,” he said.

SC seeks UP Govt’s reply in Owaisi firing case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought the response of the Uttar Pradesh Government on a plea by AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi challenging the bail granted to two persons who are accused of firing at his vehicle in February this year. A bench of Justices MR Shah and Krishna Murari issued notices to the State of Uttar Pradesh and the two

accused — Sachin Sharma, and Shubham Gurjar — on the limited issue as to whether the matter relating to bail granted to them be remanded back to the Allahabad High Court for fresh consideration. It dismissed the challenge to the bail granted to the third accused Aalim. The apex court posted Owaisi’s plea challenging bail granted to the other two accused on November 11.

Shrinking glaciers will affect downstream community in Indus basin, warn scientists

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Likewise, increasing black carbon concentration in the atmosphere increases radiative forcing and upon deposition on glaciers absorbs solar radiation, ultimately playing a part in fast-melting of snow cover and glaciers in the mountains,” he was quoted as saying by Mongabay, a news platform. The other authors of the study include Khalid Omar Murtaza, Waheed Shah, Tawseef Ramzan, Ummer Ameen and Mustafa Hameed Bhat, all from Kashmir University. “In Kashmir, a major factor for the increase in black carbon is the burning of pruned branches of orchard trees in autumn and woody biomass for heating in winter mainly driven by economic considerations as the horticulture sector gives 5-6 times more monetary benefits to farmers than paddy cultivation,” he said. As a solution, Romshoo suggested that the pruned branches of orchard trees can be converted into high calorific wood pellets, which would help to meet the demand for wood for heating during harsh winters when the temperature dips to several degrees below zero in the valley.

CBI files chargesheet in SSC scam

Partha, 15 others
named in CBI
chargesheet

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

There was more problem for jailed Trinamool Congress leader and former Bengal Minister Partha Chatterjee as the Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday submitted a chargesheet at a designated court against him and 15 other co-accused in the school level recruitment case.

Among the 16 persons named in the chargesheet are Chatterjee, SP Sinha a former convenor of the advisory committee (to West Bengal School Service Commission) created



allegedly by Chatterjee then Education Minister, Kalyanmoy Ganguli the deposed chairman of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, its former secretary Ashok Saha.

Incidentally the Enforcement Directorate which is probing the money laundering part of the scam too had filed a chargesheet in the SSC case where it had named the former Education Minister and his close aide Arpita Mukherjee from whose apartments the

central agency had recovered Rs 50 crore in cash and jewellery and foreign currency worth several crores.

The chargesheet resembles a progress report filed by the CBI before the Calcutta High Court where the agency said that scores of ineligible candidates were given jobs even though they got as low as “0-5” marks. The marks these candidates obtained were later increased to “anywhere between 50 to 53,” the CBI had told the High Court.

Referring to the CBI chargesheet Trinamool Congress MP Shantanu Sen said that the party had already taken a stand on Chatterjee and “if anyone has done a wrong then the law will take its own course”.

Elsewhere, another Trinamool Congress leader

and MLA Manik Bhattacharya on Friday got a small reprieve in the Supreme Court as a Division Bench of Justice Aniruddha Bose restrained the CBI from taking strong action against him for another two weeks.

Bhattacharya a former Chairman of the Bengal Primary Education Board Teachers was removed by the Calcutta High Court a few months ago for his alleged role in the TET examination where too hundreds of ineligible candidates were provided school teachers’ hobs at the cost of “passed” candidates. The Supreme Court also rebuked the central agency for slow in conducting investigations

The Apex Court while passing the order however told the CBI that it was free to grill Bhattacharya.

Kin of political violence victims in Kerala to get family pension

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

More than 300 people have lost their lives in Kerala due to political violence since 28 April 1969 when Vaadikkal Ramakrishnan, a Kannur based artisan was publicly murdered by his rivals in full daylight.

While the prime accused in that murder moves around the State accompanied by a cavalcade of high-end SUVs, Leela, his widow meets both ends of life by selling sweetsmeats made in her tiny kitchen. There are hundreds of women like Leela across Kerala who were forced into widowhood because of the political violence for which there is no dearth in the State. Once the initial shock gets

over, the victims and families are dumped into the dustbin of history only to be remembered on “balidaan” day. The highways and thoroughfares from Kasaragod to Thiruvananthapuram are full of martyr memorials built by political parties to perpetuate the memories of the fallen activists even as the close relations of these victims struggle hard to earn two-square meals a day.

A small mission titled “Sarva Mangalam” has been launched in Kerala by the New Delhi based Dr Mangalam Swaminathan Foundation to help the victims of political violence in the State. The Foundation undertook a comprehensive survey of the polit-

ical murders that took place in Kerala since 1969 and found to its horror that the next kin of the victims were leading a hand to mouth existence.

“Each political murder lead to a family getting orphaned as it is the household’s bread winner who falls prey to the knives and swords of the enemies. We enumerated more than 200 families which deserve financial assistance,” said R Balasankar, chairman and managing trustee of the Foundation.

The foundation received more than 100 applicants from the victim families and picked 51 of them based on their financial needs. “Each family is being offered Rs 2,000 per month as pension for their sur-

vival. We know that it is too meagre an amount as a pension but the issue is someone has to make a beginning. We do prey to Almighty to bless us with resources to offer pension to all families of political murders,” said Balasankar.

T P Radhakrishnan, project director, Sarva Mangalam, said that it was the ordinary activists who end up as victims of political murders which are nothing but a turf war between local chieftains. “Misery, deprivation and humiliation form the balance sheets of these political violence as hundreds of promising lives have been cut short and many families have gone astray. This is the social impact of the political murders in the State.

Yatra only way Opp has to reach out to people: Rahul

PTI ■ GUNDLUPET

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday claimed that the ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ was the only option left with the party to reach out to the masses as all other fora for expression are shut.

His ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ entered Karnataka here in Chamarajanagar district from Gudalur in Tamil Nadu.

“There are various institutions in democracy. There’s media and Parliament too but all these have been shut for the opposition and media doesn’t listen to us. There’s total government control. Our mics are muted in Parliament, Assemblies are not allowed to function and opposition is harassed. In this situation, the only option left with us is ‘Bharat Jodo Yata,’ Gandhi said at a public meeting here.

Gandhi said no force in the country can stop



this yatra because this is ‘India’s March’.

“This is India’s March and a march to hear India’s voice, which no one can suppress,” he added.

The former Congress president said in the next 21 days during which the Yatra would cover 511 km passing through various districts the “pain of Karnataka” will be heard.

“In the next 20 to 25 days, you will accompany me and you will hear the pain of Karnataka. You will hear about prevailing corruption, unemployment and price rise (in Karnataka),” Gandhi said.

According to him, the objective of the march is to “save” the Indian Constitution, and “to stand up against the BJP and RSS’ ideology of hatred and violence”. “This march is to save the Constitution. This tri-colour is meaningless without the Constitution,” he told the crowd.

J&K Pahari community anticipates announcement of grant of ST status

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the visit of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir expectations are running high among the members of the Pahari community as they are anticipating a formal announcement regarding grant of Scheduled Tribe status and political reservation.

On the other hand, members of the Gujar Bakerwal community are already up in arms and determined to oppose the move tooth and nail.

Through social media and back channel dialogues the elite members of the community including retired bureaucrats and others have been sending warning signals to the Union government against taking this

step in order to prevent any flare up.

Members of the Gujar-Bakerwal community, under the banner of All Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Welfare Forum, have been organising protest demonstrations against dilution of ST status.

However, speculations are rife in the corridors of power that during his visit to the frontier district of Rajouri on October 4, the Union Home Minister is expected to announce a package for the Pahari community with a clear cut rider to the warring factions of Pahari and Gujar Bakerwal communities to bury the hatchet and move on.

The Union Home Minister may announce reservation in government jobs and some

seats in the Legislative Assembly, for the Paharis and the Pahari-speaking people, including the refugees from Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) who could be brought at par with the Gujar population in enjoying these benefits.

Dropping a clear hint, BJP Organisation secretary (J&K) Ashok Kaul after supervising the arrangements at the venue of the rally in Rajouri told reporters on Friday, BJP is committed to fulfil the aspirations of the members belonging to the Gujar, Bakerwal and Pahari community. Recently, a member of the Gujar community Gulam Ali Khatana was nominated to the Rajya Sabha. We are working in the direction of ‘Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikaas, Sab Ka Vishwaas’, Kaul added.

Two JEM terrorists killed, huge cache of arms and ammunition recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces Friday eliminated two more Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists in Yedipora area of Pattan in the Baramulla district. According to police the slain terrorists were planning to target the Army’s Agniveer recruitment rally in the area in order to discourage youth from joining the ranks of the Indian armed forces.

Meanwhile, the security forces also recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition close to the line of control in the Gurez sector of Bandipora district at the end of the three day long searches. According to a Srinagar based Defence spokesman, “a hideout was found along the Nala on 29 Sep 2022, very close to the Line of Control. On digging, a huge weapon cache of 07 AK Rifles, 02 Chinese Pistols, 13 Chinese Grenades, 21 AK magazines, 04 pistol magazines, 1190 AK ammunition and 132 Pistol ammunition were recovered”.

Sharing details of the Yedipora operation, Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, Rayees Bhat told reporters, “a cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces in the Yedipora area of Pattan in the early hours of Friday after



information was received from intelligence agencies about the presence of terrorists there”.

“During the searches, the terrorists opened fire and an encounter ensued. During the heavy exchange of firing both the terrorists were killed,” the SSP said.

Bhat said the terrorists were planning to target the Army’s Agniveer recruitment rally which concluded in Pattan’s Hyderbeig on Thursday.

“The information we have is that they (terrorists) had reached here to target the Army’s Agniveer (recruitment) rally and they were planning to disturb the youth who are trying to join the mainstream and to make this rally unsuccessful. But we foiled their plans,” he said.

The security forces also recovered an AKS-74U rifle from the encounter site along with three magazines, a pistol,

a pistol magazine and two bullets, he said.

Referring to the recovery of weapons, Defence spokesman said, “recovery of this large size of war like stores close to the Line of Control has given a major setback to the terrorist groups attempting to fuel violence in Kashmir Valley and has prevented unrest and loss of innocent lives”.

According to police sources, these weapons were likely dropped at Line of Control for being picked up by the terrorists and anti-national elements on the Indian side and further transported to Bandipora and other areas in hinterland.

Another encounter broke out in Chitragram in south Kashmir’s Shopian district in the early hours of Friday following a cordon and search operation in the area, police spokesman said.

Agniveer scheme: Four held for recruitment fraud in Muzaffarnagar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After Meerut, yet another racket of luring aspirants for recruitment in the Army under the Agniveer scheme was busted by the police in Muzaffarnagar district.

The Agniveer recruitment is presently underway in Meerut and Muzaffarnagar.

The breakthrough was made on the tips provided by the sleuths of the Army Intelligence and the cops arrested four of the accused on Friday. The police recovered fake mark sheets, Aadhaar cards, identity cards and Rs 2,35,000 the accused had collected from the aspirants. According to reports, the cops of the Muzaffarnagar police acted on the inputs provided by the Army Intelligence from Meerut and laid a trap on four of the accused identified as Sikander, Prashant Chaudhary, Anuj Choudhary and Himanshu Choudhary.

The gang was providing fake documents to youths appearing for Agniveer recruitment. The police have recovered a fake mark sheet, Aadhaar card, identity card and Rs 2.35 lakh in cash from the accused who are natives of Baghpat, Moradabad and Sambhal districts. The police said the accused provided fake

documents to the youth coming in for Agniveer recruitment. The gang used to charge anything between Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh from those taking its services. One of these accused is an advocate, and he is said to be the mastermind of the gang. He used to make all necessary fake documents required for eligibility for recruitment as Agniveer while the other three trapped youths who were ready to pay money to get the certificates.

The cops said that so far this gang had been able to trap two to three candidates who came for Agniveer recruitment, but many more youths were in touch with the gang. Before the gang could cheat them, the police conducted raids and arrested all the four gang members.

The police officials said that they would seek police custody of the accused to grill them and extract details of other gang members besides whether they also provided similar fake certificates for recruitment in other places.

Superintendent of Police (City) Arpit Vijayvargiya said that the gang mainly targeted older candidates who were age-barred and were in need of certificates showing them younger as per the eligibility for recruitment as Agniveer.

Sangh Parivar’s policy of appeasement, Maya on BJP Govt’s banning of PFI

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati on Friday hit out at the Central government for banning the Popular Front of India (PFI) along with its eight affiliated organisations and said that it was part of the Sangh parivar’s policy of appeasement.

“The targeting of the People’s Front of India (PFI) across the country by the Centre and now the ban on it along with its eight affiliated organisations before Vidhan Sabha polls is being done under the policy of political selfishness and the Sangh’s appeasement politics and this has led to ... more restlessness among the people,” the BSP chief said



in a tweet on Friday morning.

Days after the law enforcement agencies launched a nationwide crackdown on the PFI, the Centre on Wednesday banned the organisation and its affiliates for five years.

In another tweet, the former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh said, “This is the reason that opposition parties have attacked the government for ulterior motives and have openly sought a ban on the RSS

(Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) as well, saying that if the PFI is a threat to internal security, then why are other similar organisations not banned?”

Mayawati is the first opposition leader in Uttar Pradesh to question the ban on PFI with Samajwadi Party deciding to remain silent.

Invoking the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to effect the ban, the union Home Affairs Ministry said the PFI and its affiliates were linked to terror groups like ISIS and propagated “anti-national sentiments and radicalised a particular section of society with the intention to create disaffection” and constituted a “major threat to internal security of the country”.

Fateh Bahadur congratulates Akhilesh on being re-elected as SP president

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former IAS officer and president of social organisation Bahujan Bharat, Kunwar Fateh Bahadur, congratulated Akhilesh Yadav on being re-elected as the national president of Samajwadi Party.

He said that Akhilesh Yadav had reiterated his resolve to save the Constitution and protect the interests of Bahujan samaj and had shown a resolve



save the Constitution, someone will have to raise a voice,” Singh said.

Area under paddy coverage falls 4.76%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Area under coverage for paddy declined by 4.76 per cent in the Kharif season to 402.88 lakh hectares as due to erratic monsoon rains in some states like Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The paddy acreage stood at 423.04 lakh hectares (LH) in last year’s Kharif season. The agriculture ministry on Friday released the final area under coverage for Kharif season of 2022.

The total area under coverage for all Kharif crops declined to 1102.79 LH from 1112.16 LH last year. In case of paddy, less area has been reported from Jharkhand (9.22 LH), West Bengal (3.65 LH), Uttar Pradesh (2.48 LH), Madhya Pradesh (2.24 LH), Bihar (1.97 LH), Andhra Pradesh (1 LH),



Assam (0.99 LH) and Chhattisgarh (0.74 LH).

Pulses acreage too declined to 133.68 LH from 139.21 LH in Kharif season of 2021. However, coarse cereals acreage rose to 183.89 LH from 175.15 LH. In the non-foodgrains category, the area under coverage of oilseeds fell to 192.14 LH from 193.99 LH.

The country received 7 per cent excess showers in this year’s monsoon season, but the rice-growing states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand reported deficient rains.

BRO making Sela tunnel at LAC to back up troops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to enhance logistical back up for troops guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China in Arunachal Pradesh, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is constructing Sela tunnel costing Rs 686.12 crores. It is one of the most vital and strategic projects in the region. Once constructed, Sela tunnel will be the longest bi-lane tunnel in the world at an altitude above 13,000 feet. Given its critical importance in terms of ensuring national security, Director General BRO Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry inspected important tunnel projects in Arunachal Pradesh during his

visit to Sela Tunnel Project on Thursday, officials said here on Friday.

Lining and electric and mechanical work of the tunnel are proceeding in full swing. The first blast of the tunnel was carried out on January 15, 2021. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh carried out last breakthrough blast of the tunnel on October 14, 2021 from New Delhi. On the same road, the BRO has also completed excavation of 500 metres long Nechiphu tunnel cutting through the foggiest stretches. This project, too, is on the verge of completion. The total cost of this tunnel is Rs 88.78 crore.

During his visit, Chaudhry was briefed by Chief Engineer Project Vartak on construction activities and challenges being faced during the construction.

370 travel on Vande Bharat 2.0 inaugural run with the PM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

More than 370 passengers travelled on board the new upgraded Vande Bharat 2.0 train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai during its inaugural journey on Friday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the semi-high speed train from Gandhinagar Capital railway station around 10.30 am. Among its first passengers were railway enthusiasts and YouTubers besides railway officials, security personnel and media persons.



Effigies of Ravana on display for sale by the side of a road, ahead of the Dussehra festival, in Jaipur on Friday.



www.dailypioneer.com

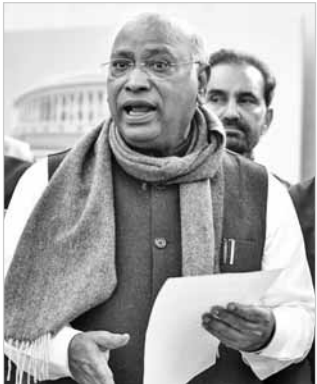
facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Twin jobs

Mallikarjun Kharge is the Gandhi family’s candidate for the office of Congress president

After a lot of tribulation and turmoil, Mallikarjun Kharge has emerged the candidate of choice of the Gandhi family in the race for Congress president. Consequently, senior party leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh, who also enjoyed the family’s support, bowed out of the contest. So, now there will be a two-horse race, with former Union minister Shashi Tharoor challenging Kharge. It may be mentioned here that Tharoor is among the rebel G-23 leaders who are not very happy with the Gandhis. Kharge may quit as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha in accordance with the grand old party’s ‘one person, one post’ rule. After the fiasco of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot’s candidature, the family’s choice of Kharge seems quite sensible on several counts. First, the 80-year-old veteran from Karnataka is unlikely to rebel or betray the GOP’s first family. This is very important, for the family sets much store by loyalty; what



hurt it most in the Gehlot episode was the stubbornness of the Rajasthan Chief Minister and his followers. Second, Kharge is widely respected among Congress leaders. For instance, former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, a leading light of the G-23 group, has reportedly supported Kharge. Third, Kharge is a Dalit, which can help the Congress in electoral terms, given the tokenism that is prevalent in politics in general. It is another matter that he doesn’t like being called a ‘Dalit leader.’

Another good thing about Kharge as Congress presidential candidate is that Singh is out of the race. It is a well-known fact that Singh has been an easy target for the Bharatiya Janata Party and other saffron outfits because of his staunch (which sometimes becomes rabid) opposition to Hindutva and its protagonists. Remember how he was roasted on social media by using the expression ‘Osama-ji’? Kharge, in contrast, doesn’t have any such baggage. Age, however, is not on his side. There may be a question mark over his capacity to undergo the physical and mental strain of such an onerous task. It is now up to the 9,000-odd Congress electors who have to decide whether they want an old family loyalist or a younger rebel as the party chief. If they opt for Tharoor, the chances of which seem to be very low, they would be voting for a major transformation, if not metamorphosis, of the party; under party president Tharoor, the GOP may cease to be a family enterprise as it is now. If, on the other hand, they choose Kharge, they would be voting for continuity with very little change. The Gandhi family will keep calling the tune, which is mostly discordant these days. The family seems to have mastered the art of losing friends and antagonising people. Therefore, Kharge, if elected, will have twin jobs: reviving the party which is in ICU; and convincing the family not to do more damage.

PICTALK



People perform 'garba' during the Navratri celebrations, in Jabalpur

PTI

SC empowers women

The SC decision to legalise abortion for all women irrespective of their marital status is pathbreaking

With one stroke of a pen, the Supreme Court has taken a bold decision for women's emancipation. Its verdict on giving abortion rights to all women regardless of their marital status would indeed pave the way for women's lib as it gives them full control of their bodies and a milestone in giving reproductive rights to a woman. The landmark decision is welcomed because from now on women would not need the consent of their partner for aborting their pregnancy. Moreover, her marital status would not be taken into account which was earlier the case. Though it falls short of criminalizing marital rape but gives a married woman right to abort pregnancy legally before 24 weeks if she so desires for whatever reasons. So now women could opt for legal and safe abortion under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, (MTP) as the Supreme court has decreed that abortion for 'only married women' is constitutionally unsustainable. This must come as a big relief for women, especially unmarried women who do not enjoy equal rights as men when it comes to gender-specific issues. It is rather unfortunate that the incidents of rape are on the rise and thousands of victims undergo the trauma of going ahead with the pregnancy as the law forbids them to abort the child if they happen to be unmarried.



A similar condition is faced by women in live-in relations when the relationship goes sour or the partner decides to desert his pregnant live-in partner. The woman is left to fend for her pregnancy alone. Though the SC judgment is being criticized for not criminalizing marital rape, it paves the way for that. And there are reasons for not taking that step. First, it would require an amendment in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code which deals with the definition of rape but is silent on marital rape though it says that intercourse with a minor wife would be construed as rape and second it would not be easy to investigate and establish a marital rape. More often than not the legal system is paces ahead of the progression of society. This is one such area where the society would take quite some time to catch up with the progressive laws. Nevertheless, the SC has done the right thing by giving them reproductive rights that they well deserved. One step at a time is a good idea.

Regulation of Wakfs is a must

The institution of Wakf is not just about the property; it has political dimensions to it. It operates unregulated and without any monitoring.

The institution of the Wakf makes Muslims the largest urban property owners in India. Accurate figures are difficult to obtain; one has to rely on impressions gained from mutawallis (Wakf managers) and conjectures by civic officers. Nevertheless, some estimates are startling. Like, over half the land in Jaunpur belongs to Wakfs. Nearly all land on the hillocks of Kannauj is Wakf territory. Ahmedabad, according to a mutawalli in the Jamalpur locality, is some 13 per cent Wakf-owned. Kolkata exceeds 5 per cent and Patna 8.

Asaf AA Fyzee, former Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia in his Outlines of Muhammadan Law (OUP, New Delhi, 1999) says: "Wakf is a permanent foundation for a religious object; the corpus belongs to God and cannot be consumed". The religious motive is the origin of the legal fiction that Wakf property belongs to Almighty God. It is a harbinger of economic ruin, best indicated by the phrase "Dead Hand". The word Wakf means detained or the dead hand. In India now, most Wakfs belong to wakifs (founder of a Wakf) family, children, and descendants.

But the issue of Wakf is not simply economic. Wakfs are first and foremost, a political issue. Most states have their own Wakf laws and the Centre has almost always had an overall law operating; the last one was the Wakf Act 2013. There is little monitoring that should accompany the governmental recognition of any institution. Nor is there an all-India list or census of the tens of thousands of Wakfs, including unregistered ones. For example, even a grave that is not in use can be claimed post facto as a Wakf so long as the land has a grave.

Fyzee informs us that tangible items too can be part of Wakf including cattle, agricultural implements, the Quran, horses, camels, swords, et al. Yet, all Wakf property stands in the name of Allah, according to what the Wakf Enquiry commit-



tee of 1975 said. If the involvement of Allah by an Indian committee is legitimate, how did Muslim countries like Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, and Morocco abolish their Wakfs? Also, can any secular state be a guardian of Allah's property? One must bear in mind this was not a historical legacy but a recent inquiry committee that led to the passing of the Wakf Act.

Wakfs in India enjoy impunity above all laws. No other legislation can interfere with a Wakf. The Urban Land Ceiling Act can apply to all urban centres but not Wakf properties. No other religion or community enjoys such privilege. The Hindu undivided family may be good for a separate income tax file but has no other advantage. Nor do Christian, Parsi, or Jewish communities have any similar privilege, a glaring instance of communal discrimination.

Wakf has its origins in conquest and plunder. Sir William Muir's biography of the Prophet (London, 1894; page380) based on original Arabic sources says: "The plunder of Kheibar 628 AD was rich beyond experience. A fifth was, as usual, set apart for the Prophet's use. The remaining four-fifths

“
AFTER INDEPENDENCE, INDIA ABOLISHED THE ZAMINDARIS AND JAGIRDARIS, AS WELL AS PRINCELY STATES. THERE CANNOT EXIST ANY COMPETING CENTRES OF POWER IN INDIAN TERRITORY, THEY ARE A THREAT TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE INDIAN STATE

were sold, and the profits, according to the prescribed rule, divided into 1,800 shares, being one for a foot soldier and three for a horse-man. The villages and lands were disposed of in another way. One half was reserved for Muhammad and constituted thereafter a species of crown domain". The roots of Wakflie in an exhortation by Mohammad for contributions toward jihad.

Wakf soon developed into an instrument of aggression. Professor Joseph Schacht of Columbia University in his Introduction to Islamic Law (Universal Law Publishing Co., Indian reprint, 1997) writes: "The Wakf has one of its roots in the contributions to the holy war which Muhammad incessantly demanded from his followers in Medina".

Many Muslim countries have modernized their laws including the abolition of private and family Wakfs. Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and especially Egypt are examples. Most governments resented the Wakfs because they tended to be a law unto themselves. But in India, they continue to remain outside the purview of taxation, municipal regulations, and even the pro-poor Urban Land

Ceiling Act.

After Independence, India abolished the zamindaris and jagirdaris, as well as princely states. There cannot exist any competing centres of power in Indian territory, they are a threat to the sovereignty of the Indian state. Wakfs were created on land conquered and confiscated from the then resident owners, mostly Hindus.

As the largest owners of urban and in India, the Wakfs are virtually a state within the state. They are a base for the ulema to promote their separate identity, also providing them income and security. The latest claim made over the TajMahal is a classic example of how Wakfs can assume an adversarial role against the State, its territory, its tourist revenue and, above all, its sovereignty. But past governments in India, in the thrall of the vote bank, have been unwilling to act against them. Pakistan was a secession, but it was called Partition merely because it took place on the eve of India's Independence. Do we want another such consequence?

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SC RULING TO EMPOWER WOMEN

Sir — The people of India, especially the legal and women's rights activists, have hailed the ruling by the Supreme Court of India which has held that the meaning of 'rape' must be held to include "marital rape" for the purpose of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (MTP) and that all women (married and unmarried) are entitled to seek abortion up to 24 weeks into their pregnancy. This judgment stresses on the rights-based perspective for accessing abortion, which was not articulated before. The judgment states that a woman, who conceives as result of her husband's act of sexual assault or rape committed on her, will fall under the "survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest" mentioned in Rule 3B(a) of the MTP Act.

This ruling recognises gender identities outside of the cis-hetero normative, thereby bringing these to the centre as well while talking about the law and access to safe abortion. A study published in the *BMJ Global Health* pointed out the grim statistics of unsafe abortions in India: Between the years 2007 and 2011, an estimated 67 per cent of the abortions carried out were classified as unsafe.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

NO PLACE FOR FANATICISM

Sir — India is a democratic country where people of different cultures, religions, beliefs, rituals, disciplines and ethnicities reside. That's what makes this country a place so robust and versatile to reside in. But the exponentially expanding heinous events have demolished the very platform on which the robust effigy of secularism resides. The recent brutal murder of a 22-year-old girl on the pretext of compelling her to follow the proper burqa practice has given rise to several questions and turned the issue of maintaining law and order on its head.

When the world's largest democracy, which claims to stand by its promises in its constitutional documents to abide by and thereby protect law and order, the policies of which are shaped and embod-

Congress-mukt Bharat a reality?



For the post of the Congress president, the names doing the rounds include Shashi Tharoor, Digvijaya Singh, Ashok Gehlot, Manish Tewari and PK Bansal. If any one of them is elected to the office, it should be sufficient for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil his dream of having a Congress-mukt Bharat. None of these leaders has a voter base to win the upcoming

ied within it, shows no interest in the matter, communal riots are the final ramification. In a democracy like ours, citizens have the right to everything they want, especially when it comes to practicing a ritual or donning an attire, especially for women. The ending of draconian laws in the context of attire, especially for women, is the need of the hour; otherwise the future could prove to be dreadful from the perspective of a true secular national.

Sarthak Sharma | Ujjain

THE RISE OF SURYAKUMAR YADAV!

Sir — Suryakumar Yadav's meteoric rise to stardom in international cricket is astonishing. The right-hander, who started his T20 international career with a stunning six off the very first ball he faced from England's Jofra Archer, has established himself as a key player in the Indian side in white-ball cricket, especially in T20Is. His 117 against England in

Assembly elections. In Himachal, the party's working president joined the BJP. In the adjoining States of Punjab and J&K, former CMs Capt Amarinder Singh and Ghulam Nabi Azad have quit the Congress. In Rajasthan, Congress is in an upheaval which can prove fatal in the Assembly elections.

Even if he were to become the party president, Ashok Gehlot will remain busy in State politics. To be the Congress president, a person must have a national-level approach, so he must learn to shun narrow thinking. As far as Tharoor is concerned, he has been the Thiruvananthapuram MP for the last three terms but the BJP has more seats in the corporation than the Congress. Similarly, Digvijaya has been out of power for the last 20 years and Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP along with 28 Congress MLAs. The crux of the matter is that Rahul Gandhi should himself step forward and take charge of the Congress as its president.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

the third T20 at Nottingham a few months ago, the 26-ball 68 not out against Hong Kong in the Asia Cup and his game-changing knock of 69 against Australia at Hyderabad recently were more than a proof of his immense talents.

No wonder SKY has become the top run-getter for India in T20Is with 732 runs so far in 2022, surpassing Shikhar Dhawan's 689 back in 2018 ('*SKY is now India's highest run-scorer in T20Is in a single calendar year*', Sept30). And incredibly he has scored these runs, batting at No. 4. It is a great honour for Suryakumar Yadav to be compared to South African dynamite AB de Villiers for his 360-degree shots. No doubt, India's batting fortunes in the upcoming T20 world cup in Australia will revolve around this gifted right-handed batter.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

It has been proved that only our party can defeat the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh.



Samjiwadi Party chief
—Akhilesh Yadav



US President
—Joe Biden

There is a sweet surprise for everyone. You guys will see us together very soon. She is one of the best things that has happened to me.



Actor
—Ranveer Singh



Cricketer
—Adam Gilchrist

Unfortunately, Uddhav ji and Aaditya ji are deserting Balasaheb ji's preachings.



BJP MLA
—Ashish Shelar



FIRST COLUMN

GOVT CAN'T DIRECT RBI RANDOMLY

RBI has called for comments on charges on payment systems



S KALYANASUNDARAM

The Reserve Bank of India released a Discussion Paper on Charges in Payment Systems on August 17, 2022. The RBI paper, seeking feedback on the fee structure for a range of digital payment services, is open for comments till October 3. It was perceived that the RBI is likely to introduce charges for Unified Payments Interface which is free now. It is not clear why RBI has sought public opinion on this, as hitherto RBI has not sought any public opinion on charges on NEFT or RTGS transactions or for various service charges levied by different banks. Immediately, the Government clarified that there is no such move with the government to levy any charges on UPI services. In a tweet, the Finance Ministry said “UPI is a digital public good with immense convenience for the public productivity gains for the economy”. There is no consideration in the Government to levy any charges for UPI services.

The concerns of the service providers for cost recovery have to be met through other means. There seems to be a difference of opinion between the Government and the RBI on the issue and it has come to the public domain. The RBI has also come out with a study paper titled ‘Privatisation of Public Sector Banks: An Alternate Perspective’ on August 18, 2022. As the title itself suggests it is an ‘Alternate Perspective’. It means that it is contrary to the existing perspective. The government a number of times through different agencies and through officials informed that they intend to privatise government banks. Sometimes they say that they want to privatise all banks and



some other times they say that they intend to privatise some two or three. When bank unions sought categorical assurance from the government that government banks will not be privatised, it was not acceded to and the bank unions continue their agitation which is inclusive of strike action. The concluding part contains the following assertions “a big bang approach of privatization of these banks may do more harm than good”. “This article provides an alternative view with evidence that public sector banks are not entirely guided by the profit maximization goal alone and have integrated the desirable financial inclusion goals in their objective function unlike PVBs” and “Despite the criticism of weak balance sheets, data suggests that they weathered the Covid-19 pandemic shock remarkably well”.

There is a possibility that the above assertions may not be convenient to the government. When the contents were widely discussed, the RBI itself came out with a clarification immediately stating that the views expressed in the article are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI did not stop with that. It further highlighted some points from the conclusion of the report, which may be to show that the Central Bank is in tandem with the government's views. If the report does not represent the views of the RBI, why should they elaborate on that?

Here again, it seems that the RBI has attempted some damage-control exercise. Autonomy of RBI is important for orderly conduct of financial intermediation and financial markets; independence of financial regulators is important. There is no doubt that the Central Government is supreme as Section 7 of the RBI Act, 1934, provides for “Management — (1) The Central Government may from time to time give such directions to the Bank as it may, after consultation with the Governor of the Bank, consider necessary in the public interest.”

But it is also true that, as provided by the Allahabad High Court in its order dated August 28, 2018 “The Central Government, however, is not expected to issue any directions, as contemplated under Section 7(1), indiscriminately or randomly. Such directions are possible when there exists sufficient material in support.”

(The author is a retired banker)

Startups at forefront of waste management

Swachhata startups are shaping the future of sanitation. They are employing cutting-edge technology for waste management and generating employment



SUCHARITA SEN

Unsegregated and poor waste management leads to decline in quality of life, health and hygiene. This can be used as a potential source of energy, if utilized properly. The amount of waste generated in rural and urban areas of India depends on the population and economic conditions. Increasing usage of electronic components like laptop, computers and mobile phones is a key cause of flooding e-wastes.

Consumption of packaged products is also a cause of worry for growing plastic wastes. Solid waste management is a problem area which many cities in India are dealing with. Urbanization contributes more solid waste generation, and their unscientific handling harms the urban environment and causes health hazards. Many tourist locations with a massive footfall suffer the most.

In Tirupati City, on an average, daily around 65,000 (24 million/ year) pilgrims visit Tirumala for darshan of Lord Venkateswara and on peak days it reaches even 1,00,000 mark. Because of floating population

In Tirumala, they face a huge difficulty in maintaining two bin systems and 100 per cent segregation at source. Even places like Chandigarh are seeking solutions for source separation and solid waste collection and transfer.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) launched the Swachhata Startup Challenge in January 2022 to nurture the evolving ecosystem of the Indian waste sector. Almost 244 enthusiastic startups from 23 states and Union Territories, including 100 women-led startups, working on innovative solutions in the waste management domain sent in their entries.

Out of these 30 startups were short-listed. These startups were evaluated under four thematic areas of (i) Social Inclusion: Low-cost efficient mechanical solutions for cleaning septic tanks and sewer lines, (ii) Zero Dump (Solid Waste Management): Innovative solutions for tracking segregated door to door collection of solid waste, (iii) Plastic Waste Management: Solution of processing and recycling of plastic waste and minimizing degradation of plastic during recycling and (iv) Transparency (Digital Enablement): Tech innovations in real-time monitoring of operations in waste management infrastructure.

Startups are coming up with innovative solutions to boost sanitation and waste management in urban areas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “India is among the largest and fastest growing startup ecosystems in the world. We in India remain open to learning from global best practices and sharing ours with others.”

The Swachhata Startup challenge was a big leap in the same direction. It gave



SWACHHATA STARTUPS ARE GENERATING EMPLOYMENT. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN COMING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS THAT CAN HELP MANY WORKERS AVOID HEALTH HAZARDS AND CLEAN SEWAGE, SEPTIC TANKS AND MANHOLES



Swachhata startups a platform to showcase their innovative solutions in source segregations, waste management, recycling of waste, value-added material creation, zero dump, robotic sanitation solutions and much more.

The top 10 startups who won the challenge received funding to the tune of Rs 25 lakhs from MoHUA and AFD as well as personalized professional and capacity-building support for a year. The winners of the Swachhata Startup Challenge are not only concerned about source segregation and waste management but they have also come up with creative and innovative solutions and products made of recycled goods, plastic, poultry waste, e-waste waste, etc.

Sanitation workers enter septic tanks or sewer lines with no or little protection and without any training or emergency support. It has always turned out to be a health hazard and their protection has been a cause of worry for a long time.

As Covid-19 broke in 2020, it added a layer of unsafe and unhealthy conditions. In August, 2022, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched ‘NAMASTE’ (National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) Scheme.

The Thiruvananthapuram-based Genrobotics Innovations has developed Bandicoot, the world's first robotic Scavenger, using robotics and artificial intelligence, which removes the need for manual scavenging. They designed it to transform manhole to machine hole, thus rehabilitating hundreds of people working

as manual scavengers as robot operators. They are currently empowering 16 city Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) refineries, corporations, housing colonies, and other areas in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, etc. Bangalore-based Cherries Engineering and Innovation India Pvt. Ltd. is producing a portable, multi-functional Sanitation Service Equipment, which pumps high-density fecal and sanitary sludge from leach-pits, septic tanks and manholes.

Bringing revolution in India's waste management industry, the Madhya Pradesh based ‘The Kabadiwala’ is enabling users to sell and schedule free pickup of over 40 different categories of recyclable wastes. They are integrating the fragmented waste industry into one platform to organize the supply chain — transforming the linear economy into a circular economy. Managing collection of waste from households has been a huge task. And this is what is being streamlined by many solution providers and startups.

Bintix waste research from Hyderabad is tracking collection, weighing, sorting and recycling of dry waste coming from each household. Recycled products are shaping up the consumer buying behaviour these days. From hiking gear to toys for kids, consumers can find a range of innovative items made of 100 per cent recycled materials, like plastic water bottles, poultry waste, dry waste, crop residues, used cooking oil, etc. Green Delight Innovations

from Coimbatore produced India's first FDA-approved sanitary pads that are organic, plastic-free and biodegradable. Mudita and Radhesh from Jaipur transform chicken waste into handloom cloth, which is turned into clothes and accessories by tribal women and local village artisans.

Sewage water pollution and disposal has been a growing problem in India. It is impacting not just the humans but the animals and the environment. Jal Sevak Solutions from Pune just had the right solution. They recycle wastewater from bathrooms, sinks, cloth-washing and dishwashing for flushing toilets and urinals.

Almost 45 per cent of global carbon emissions come from the built environment and two billion tons of crop residues are burnt annually around the world. Visakhapatnam's GreenJams found an innovative way of creating building bricks. They produce carbon-negative building materials out of crop residues and industrial by-products to replace conventional bricks.

Keeping in line with Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, these start-ups are contributing immensely to save environmental pollution, helping to create innovative solutions for waste segregation, plastic recycling, making reusable products for many urban local bodies.

Not just this, they are generating employment and sources of income. They have also been coming up with technology-driven solutions that can help many workers avoid health hazards and clean sewage, septic tanks and manholes.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WHY DID THE BJP GOVT HAND OVER THE BODY OF TERRORIST YAKUB MEMON TO HIS FAMILY?...BJP IS USING THE ISSUE.
—MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS SPOKESMAN ATUL LONDHE



SHARAD PAWAR AND RAHUL GANDHI SHOULD APOLOGISE FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION OF THE GRAVE.
—SHIV SENA (SHINDE) LEADER RAMDAS KADAM

India's anti-Covid fight prepares it for next battles

India fought back against Covid-19 resiliently, and that instills confidence that our health system can rise to the occasion

Last two years have completely redefined lives across the globe, as the impact of one of the most deadly virus outbreaks has left an indelible mark on everyone. India too faced a tumultuous fight against the coronavirus pandemic. However, under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who spearheaded a successful fight against Covid-19, the country emerged stronger. Also, the people of India showed exceptional resilience and unity during the most challenging time.

In January 2020, when we first heard of the three Indian medical students testing positive for an unknown virus, while returning from Wuhan, China, no one could have



RANDEEP GULERIA

(The author is former Director, AIIMS, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal)

anticipated the scale of catastrophe this novel virus would unleash upon the world. The virus quickly spread from one country to another and led to a total collapse of public health systems, even in the most developed countries. Many experts believed that a crowded and developing country like India would not be able to withstand the onslaught of such a virus.

However, from March 2020 onwards, as the cases started to rise, India responded proactively through a collaborative and collective effort by the government and citizens.

Quick response helped curtail the spread. The government swung into action immediately by imposing travel restrictions, introduc-

ing contact tracing and testing, and isolating confirmed cases to prevent the spread of the contagion. All of this helped in slowing down the spread of the virus in the country.

From the initial days itself, the government launched an extensive information campaign to educate and inform the public about infection control. The campaign was led by Prime Minister himself, who bolstered the public's trust by directly addressing the nation via mass media.

This phase also emphasized the importance of mental wellbeing like never before. The challenge was not just to keep the public morale high, but also to motivate healthcare workers to fol-

low ‘Service before Self’ and work as a team for patient care. The lockdown provided valuable time to bolster the health system's preparedness and boost the production of essential equipment.

The government adopted a “Test, Track, Treat” strategy to contain the virus from spreading rapidly. The National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, isolated a strain of the novel coronavirus, making India the fifth country to do so. This enabled India to embark upon the journey of developing rapid diagnostic tests and vaccines. India started with 52 testing centers for Covid-19, but rapidly increased it to over 3,000 centers. It developed the capacity of performing 20 lakh tests per day and has

already crossed the half-billion mark of total samples tested. We need to acknowledge the accessibility, affordability and speed at which the tests were conducted.

To support these efforts, the government approved the ‘India Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package’ worth Rs 15,000 crore in April 2020. The Prime Minister's office also set up multiple empowered groups for multi-sectoral management of COVID-19. This helped in understanding the rapidly changing scenario of the pandemic and developing implementation programs. Tele-medicine guidelines and ‘esanjeevani’ helped provide care to millions of patients.

In line with the philoso-

phy of Atmanirbhar Bharat, India was producing two vaccines locally and launched the largest vaccine drive in the world in January 2021. This is remarkable progress since the H1N1 pandemic when we had to rely on WHO. With the willingness and support of the government, India was able to develop multiple innovative vaccines for Covid-19. India also produced the world's first plasma DNA vaccine for Covid-19.

The vaccines were rolled out in a phased manner in India, with priority given to essential workers, the elderly, and those with comorbid medical illnesses. As a goodwill gesture, India provided essential vaccine supplies to friendly countries in the neighbourhood as part of its

Vaccine Maitri campaign.

The vaccination campaign has been successfully implemented nationwide for adults and children alike. While anti-vaccination sentiments were rising across the globe, India ensured a diligent and disciplined response to the vaccinations. Coupled with the willingness of its citizens, India was able to vaccinate two billion people within less than 18 months of the launch of the vaccination efforts.

Finally, this pandemic has highlighted the need for the upgradation of the public health infrastructure. It is essential to prepare ourselves and be ready to fight the next pandemic, and India is already making strides in that direction.

US hits Russia with sanctions for annexing Ukrainian regions

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US on Friday sanctioned more than 1,000 people and firms connected to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including its Central Bank governor and families of Security Council members, after President Vladimir Putin signed treaties absorbing occupied regions of Ukraine into Russia in defiance of international law.

The Treasury Department named hundreds of members of Russia's legislature, leaders of the country's financial and military infrastructure and suppliers for sanctions designations. The Commerce Department added 57 companies to its list of export control violators, and the State Department added more than 900 people to its visa restriction list.

In Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his nation was making an "accelerated" bid to join the NATO military alliance.

President Joe Biden said of Putin's steps: "Make no mistake: These actions have no legitimacy." He said the new financial penalties will impose costs on people and companies inside and outside of Russia "that provide political or economic support to illegal attempts to change the status of Ukrainian territory."

"I look forward to signing legislation from Congress that



will provide an additional \$12 billion to support Ukraine," he said.

The US and European Union are stepping up the intensity of sanctions after Russia announced it was mobilising up to 300,000 more troops to join the invasion of Ukraine and Putin ratified the results of Kremlin-orchestrated annexation "referendums" that Kyiv and the West call sham elections.

Putin warned that Russia would never give up the

absorbed regions —the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions—and would protect them as part of its sovereign territory.

Both houses of the Russian parliament will meet next week to approve the treaties for the regions to join Russia.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said, "We will not stand by as Putin fraudulently attempts to annex parts of Ukraine."

"The Treasury

Department and U.S. Government are taking sweeping action today to further weaken Russia's already degraded military industrial complex and undermine its ability to wage its illegal war."

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. "unequivocally rejects Russia's fraudulent attempt to change Ukraine's internationally recognized borders."

"This is a clear violation of international law and the United Nations Charter," he

said. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan also spoke with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

A readout of the conversation outlined the U.S. And NATO's "firm commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Democratic and Republican lawmakers this week accused the Biden administration of overpromising and under-delivering on how hard and quickly initial rounds of sanctions would hit Russia and hurt Putin's ability to keep waging his war in Ukraine.

Pressed by lawmakers on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to identify sanctions that could force an end to Russia's invasion, assistant Treasury Secretary Elizabeth Rosenberg, one of the architects of the administration's sanctions regime, said the US must focus above all on curbing the record oil and gas profits that are allowing Russia to ride out the world's financial punishments and keep fighting.

The US and its European allies are rushing to complete agreement on a measure they hope will accomplish that aim, and deliver the long-promised knock-out punch to Russia's economy: a cap on Russia's maritime oil exports, that would undermine the prices Putin can demand for his country's oil globally.

UNSC to vote on resolution condemning Russia's referendum in Ukraine



AP ■ KYIV

The United Nations Security Council has scheduled a vote for Friday afternoon on a resolution that would condemn Russia for its "illegal so-called referenda" in four Ukrainian regions and declare that they "have no validity."

The US- and Albanian-sponsored resolution would call on all countries not to recognise any alterations to the status of Ukraine's Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

It would reaffirm the UN commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence within its internationally recognised borders. The Kremlin has

announced plans to move on annexing Russian-controlled areas of the four regions on Friday, and Russia is certain to veto the resolution.

US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said earlier this week that if that happens the US and Albania will put the resolution to a vote in the 193-member General Assembly where there are no vetoes.

The draft resolution, obtained late on Thursday by The Associated Press, would order Russia to "desist and refrain from actions aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

It would also demand the withdrawal of all Russian troops from Ukraine.

Montenegro ordered six Russian diplomats to leave the country, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

In a short statement published on Twitter, the ministry said the diplomats were asked to leave over "breaches of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations". It did not elaborate.

Montenegro was once considered a strong Russian ally, but in 2017 it joined NATO over strong opposition from Moscow. It has also joined Western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

Russia has put Montenegro and most other European nations on its list of "enemy states" for acting against Kremlin's interests.

Ukraine war: Why Russians fleeing conscription should be treated as refugees

THE CONVERSATION TORONTO

People fleeing across borders is a hallmark of armed conflict. We first saw millions of Ukrainians flee the country when the Russians invaded Ukraine in February this year.

Now there are reports of hundreds of thousands of Russians fleeing their country in order to avoid Moscow's first mobilisation since the second world war.

So how should the west respond to young Russian men fleeing to avoid military service? Politically and legally, according to international law, they must be given protection.

Conscription into military service has a long history dating back at least to ancient Egypt. But it has been slowly disappearing with the professionalisation of the world's militaries.

However, conscription remains a rite of passage in more than 100 countries –

including Russia which has a long and difficult practice of conscription.

Refusal to perform military service also has a long history. In Europe, Saint Maximilian of Tebessa (in Algeria) was executed in 295 AD for refusing to serve in the Roman legions because of his religious beliefs – the first record of a conscientious objector.

In more recent decades, tens of thousands of Americans fled to Canada to avoid the Vietnam War, Kurds have sought protection in the UKx, to avoid service in Turkey's war against them and US soldiers have deserted to avoid service in the invasion of Iraq.

Make sure you know what's happening in Ukraine

Today, international human rights law and international humanitarian law impose limits on conscription and international refugee law requires states to offer protection to

some of those who flee it.

While border states are worried about the mass influx of young Russian men, there are a range of practical reasons for other countries to provide Russians fleeing conscription with protection.

Most obviously, providing sanctuary abroad undermines Russia's ability to raise an army to continue its fight in Ukraine. It also further strengthens the Russian expatriate community and its opposition to the invasion.

European politicians from the start of the conflict have debated providing special allowances for Russians deserting from or evading military service.

Beyond strategic self-interest, there is a requirement to offer protection to at least some of those who flee based on the international humanitarian, human rights and refugee treaties we have signed.

In general, human rights



law prevents states from sending individuals back to cruel and inhuman conditions.

And, while refugee law doesn't automatically protect Russians evading conscription,

it has historically recognised a range of circumstances in which individuals fleeing conscription are entitled to protection.

What the law says

Applying these obligations to the case of Russians fleeing conscription is complicated (recent UK government guidance on asylum seekers fleeing conscription runs to 14 pages)

EU seeks clampdown on issuing visas to Russian citizens



AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union's top migration official on Friday urged the bloc's 27 nations to clamp down on issuing visas to Russian citizens amid heightened security concerns over Russian President Vladimir Putin's nuclear threats and his annexation of parts of Ukraine.

"This is clearly an escalation and that means also an escalation of the security threat towards the European Union," Migration Commissioner Ylva Johansson said. She urged EU countries to enforce more stringent checks on Russian citizens and deny documents to anyone who might pose a threat.

Over 194,000 Russian citizens have fled to neighboring Georgia, Kazakhstan and Finland – often by car, bicycle or on foot – since Putin last week announced a partial mobilization of reservists to bolster his troops in Ukraine. In Russia, the vast majority of

men under 65 are registered as reservists.

Johansson said EU authorities must stop short-term visa holders from Russia from renewing them in Europe. "If a Russian person intends to stay longer than 90 days in the EU, he or she should not be issued a visa," she told reporters. Johansson also said Russians who have fled the country should not be allowed to apply for visas abroad.

"They have to do that from their home country, Russia," she said, but underlined that they should be allowed in for humanitarian reasons, or other exceptional circumstances.

Johansson also urged countries to reassess whether already valid visas should have been issued. She said that none of the measures the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, is recommending would stop Russian citizens from applying for asylum in Europe.

Putin declares Ukrainian regions part of Russia, defies West

AP ■ KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties Friday to annex parts of Ukraine in defiance of international law, saying Moscow would protect the newly incorporated regions by "all available means."

He also urged Ukraine to sit down for peace talks but immediately insisted he won't discuss handing them back, opening a new escalatory phase of his seven-month invasion of the country.

Kyiv and the West have rejected his land-grab in Ukraine. The European Union's 27 member states said they will never recognize the illegal referendums that Russia organized "as a pretext for this further violation of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

In a Kremlin ceremony at the ornate St. George's Hall to herald the annexation of the occupied parts of Ukraine, Putin accused the West of fueling the hostilities as part of what he said is a plan to turn Russia into a "colony" and a "crowd of slaves." The hardening of his position, in the conflict that has killed and wounded tens of thousands of people, further cranked up tensions, already at levels unseen since the Cold War.

The European Union immediately responded to



Putin's latest step with a joint statement rejecting and condemning "the illegal annexation" of the four regions: Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

Ukraine vowed to continue fighting. "We don't pay attention to those whose time to take pills has come. The army is working, Ukraine is united – only moving forward," said Andrii Yermak, head of the presidential office.

The ceremony came three days after the completion in the occupied regions of Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" on joining Russia that were dismissed by Kyiv and the West as a bare-faced land grab held at gunpoint and based on lies.

In his speech railing at the West, Putin urged Ukraine to sit down for talks and said it should treat the Kremlin-managed votes "with respect." But he

Airstrike in Ethiopia's Tigray region kills civilians

AP ■ NAIROBI

An airstrike in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region killed at least five civilians earlier this week as the revived war continues, according to humanitarian workers and an internal document seen by The Associated Press.

The airstrike hit the town of Adi Daero in northwestern Tigray on Tuesday morning, also injuring 16 civilians and destroying several homes, the document by a non-governmental organisation said.

Humanitarian workers in the Tigray capital, Mekele, and the region's second-largest city, Shire, confirmed the deadly attack. They spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

On Friday, an Ethiopian government-run Twitter account accused the rival Tigray forces of "hiding its arms" in residential areas and said Ethiopia's air force recently targeted the forces' "military equipment and arsenal" in Adi Daero.

In a statement on Thursday, Tigray forces accused the air force of neighbouring Eritrea of striking Adi Daero and killing "a number of civilians".

Eritrean forces are fighting alongside Ethiopia's military in Tigray.

The AP was unable to verify who was responsible for the strike.

Ukraine accelerates NATO bid as Russia annexes seized areas

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's president says his country is submitting an "accelerated" application to join the NATO military alliance.

The comment Friday by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy came just after Russia said it would annex four regions of Ukraine it seized amid its war and held gunpoint referendums viewed as illegitimate by the international community.

Zelenskyy said: "We are taking our decisive step by signing Ukraine's application for accelerated accession to NATO."

It wasn't immediately clear what an "accelerated" application would mean, as ascension to NATO requires the unanimous support of the alliance's members. "De facto, we have already proven compatibility with alliance standards. They are real for Ukraine -- real on the battlefield and in all aspects of our interaction," Zelenskyy said. "We trust each other, we help each other, and we protect each other. This is the alliance."

Zelenskyy also repeated his pledge to reunite all of the Ukrainian territory now held by Russia.

"The entire territory of our country will be liberated from this enemy - the enemy not only of Ukraine, but also of life itself, humanity, law and truth," he said. "Russia already knows this. It feels our power. It sees that it is here, in Ukraine, that we prove the strength of our values."



Responding to Putin's call for negotiations, Zelenskyy added: "We are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but ... with another president of Russia."

The war has rapidly accelerated Ukraine's shift toward the West. During Russia's seven-month war, the country has shifted off Soviet-era weapon systems and used NATO-standard ordinance and weapons, though the process is still ongoing.

In June, the European Union agreed to put Ukraine on the path toward EU membership. That swiftness of that move -- nearly unthinkable only months earlier -- required unanimous approval among the bloc's often fractious members.

While there is considerable overlap among the members of the EU and NATO, securing agreement to allow Ukraine into the security alliance and its guarantee of mutual defense could be considerably more difficult. One immediate impediment to Ukraine joining is that it is already engaged in an active military conflict on its soil.

A great deal of world’s history will be written in Indo-Pacific in coming years: Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US is committed to ensuring a free, open, stable and secure Indo-Pacific, President Joe Biden has told visiting leaders from more than a dozen Pacific Island countries, asserting that a great deal of the world's history will be written in the strategically vital region over the coming years.

Biden addressed the visiting leaders here on Thursday in the first-ever summit held to make the Indo-Pacific safe and keep the island nations away from the growing clout of China, which in the past few years has made extraordinary outreach efforts in the region.

"Today, security in the Pacific and for the Pacific Islanders remains as critical as

ever to us and I hope to you as well. The security of America, quite frankly, and the world depends on your security and the security of the Pacific Islands. And I really mean that," Biden said.

He said the purpose behind the summit was also about deepening enduring commitment to each other and a shared future and commitment to tackling the climate crisis, which threatens all.

"A great deal of the history of our world is going to be written in the Indo-Pacific over the coming years and decades. And the Pacific Islands are a critical voice in shaping that future," Biden said.

That is why his administration has made it a priority to strengthen America's partner-

ship with the Pacific countries and with the Pacific Islands Forum, he said.

The summit was attended by heads of state from Fiji, Solomon Island, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Marshall Island, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Polynesia, New Caledonia and Cook Islands.

"We're seeing the consequences of climate change around the world very vividly, including in the United States right now. And I know your nations feel it acutely. For you all, it's an existential threat. It's an existential threat," Biden said.

"We are also committed to working together to equitably rebuild the global economy in the wake of COVID-19 and Russia's war, to ensure an Indo-Pacific region that's free and



open, one that is stable and prosperous, and resilient and secure," he said.

Biden announced more than USD 810 million in expanded US programmes to improve the lives of Pacific Islanders, which includes more

than USD 130 million in new investments to support climate resilience and build sustainable blue economies in the Pacific Islands; prepare for climate impacts on public health and food security, and to strengthen sustainable development; and also to build a better early warning capacity to predict, prepare for, and respond to climate hazards.

"This is going to build on approximately USD 375 million in climate programmes we currently have in the region," he said. Biden announced that his administration will also take several important diplomatic steps.

"I'm proud to announce that, following appropriate consultations, we will recognise the Cook Islands and Niue as sovereign states," he said.

"We look forward to successfully concluding negotiations for a Compact of Free Association with three of our closest partners in the region - the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau," he said.

According to the White House, the Summit reflects America's broadening and deepening cooperation on key issues such as climate change, pandemic and economic recovery, maritime security, environmental protection, and advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The Biden administration believes that the Pacific Islands region - an "ocean continent" spanning nearly 15 per cent of the Earth's surface - is a vital sub-region of the Indo-Pacific.

It holds opportunities and challenges, from the climate crisis to an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape.

"The United States recognises that geography links the Pacific's future to our own: US prosperity and security depend on the Pacific region remaining free and open," it said.

China has been expanding its ties to countries in the Pacific Ocean in recent years, and Beijing signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands in April, promising cooperation in trade and education.

Countries like the US and Australia have expressed concerns following the announcement, and Beijing has denied that it will set up a military base on the Solomon Islands.

The White House said it will

coordinate with its allies and partners - as well as with the Pacific Islands - to avoid redundancy and best meet the needs of the Pacific Islands.

It said it would deliver results through the Quad and the Partners in the Blue Pacific and in alignment with the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment.

"We will leverage multilateral partnerships with France, the Republic of Korea, the European Union, India, and other partners of the Pacific Islands to cooperate with the Pacific on climate resilience and adaptation; education and employment opportunities; access to financing; and protection of maritime domains and livelihoods," the White House said.

Lanka's inflation zooms to 69.8% in September



PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's inflation has set a new record of 69.8 per cent in September, up from 64.3 per cent a month earlier, data from the state statistics office said on Friday, highlighting the challenge for the central bank as the island reels under its worst economic crisis in seven decades.

The Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI), a leading indicator that gauges inflation in Sri Lanka's biggest city, rose 69.8 per cent from a year ago, from 64.3 per cent in August.

The contribution from the food sector was 30.82 per cent in September, the statistics department said.

Based on the CCPI, the moving average inflation in September was 33.4 per cent over 28 per cent recorded in August.

Most basic food items other than rice and eggs had seen increases. The government recently hiked utility services rates of water and electricity alongside the high cost of food.

Import restrictions imposed in the ongoing

economic crisis have caused scarcities. The worsening foreign exchange crisis in April caused the government to announce debt default.

The International Monetary Fund staff-level agreement to be reached soon for a USD 2.9 billion facility is hampered by the need to restructure debt.

On September 1, the IMF announced that it will provide Sri Lanka with a loan of about USD 2.9 billion over a four-year period to help the island nation overcome the unprecedented economic turmoil.

Sri Lanka is facing the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948, which has led to an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and fuel across the country. The severe economic downturn, weak Sri Lanka revenues, rising health expenditure and energy needs led to a worsening of the fiscal situation. While the decline in growth partly led to shrinking revenues, Sri Lanka had to increase spending to safeguard its population from a double-pronged health and energy crisis, primary balance, revenues and expenditures.

Gunfire heard in Burkina Faso, sparking coup fears

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU

Gunfire rang out early on Friday in Burkina Faso's capital and the state broadcaster went off the air, sparking fears that another coup attempt may be underway, nine months after the democratically elected president was ousted from power.

It was not immediately known where coup leader-turned president Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba was in the West African country.

He had given a speech the day before in Djibo, in the north of Burkina Faso.

Friday's developments felt all too familiar in West Africa, where a coup in Mali in August 2020 set off a series of military power grabs in the region.

"This smacks of a coup attempt," said Eric Humphrey-Smith, senior Africa analyst at risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft. "While gunfire around military barracks could be due to some form of mutiny, the closure of the national television station bodes ill."

Last week, Damiba had traveled to New York where he addressed the UN General Assembly. In his speech, Damiba defended his January coup as "an issue of survival for our nation," even if it was "perhaps reprehensible" to the international community.

Burkina Faso's coup came in the wake of similar takeovers in Mali and in Guinea, heightening fears of a rollback of democracy in West Africa.

Amnesty: Iran ordered forces to 'severely confront' protests

AP ■ DUBAI

Leaked government documents show that Iran ordered its security forces to "severely confront" anti-government demonstrations that broke out earlier this month, Amnesty International said Friday.

The London-based rights group said security forces have killed at least 52 people since protests over the death of a woman detained by the moral-police began nearly two weeks ago, including by firing live ammunition into crowds and beating protesters with batons. It says security forces have also beaten and groped female protesters who remove their headscarves to protest the treatment of women by Iran's theocracy.

The death in custody of Mahsa Amini, who was detained for allegedly wearing the mandatory Islamic headscarf too loosely, has triggered an outpouring of anger at Iran's ruling clerics.

Her family says they were told she was beaten to death in custody. Police say the 22-year-old Amini died of a heart attack and deny mistreating her, and Iranian officials say her death is under investigation.

Iran's leaders accuse hostile foreign entities of seizing on her death to foment unrest against the Islamic Republic and portray the protesters as rioters, saying a number of security forces have been killed.

Amnesty said it obtained a leaked copy of an official document saying that the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces ordered commanders on Sept. 21 to "severely confront troublemakers and anti-



revolutionaries." The rights group says the use of lethal force escalated later that evening, with at least 34 people killed that night alone.

It said another leaked document shows that, two days later, the commander in Mazandran province ordered security forces to "confront mercilessly, going as far as causing deaths, any unrest by rioters and anti-Revolutionaries," referring to those opposed to Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, which brought the clerics to power.

"The Iranian authorities knowingly decided to harm or kill people who took to the streets to express their anger at decades of repression and injustice," said Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General.

"Amid an epidemic of systemic impunity that has long prevailed in Iran, dozens of men, women and children have been unlawfully killed in the latest round of bloodshed."

Amnesty did not say how it acquired the documents. There was no immediate comment from Iranian authorities.

Xi pays tributes to martyrs ahead of China's National Day

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping and leaders of the ruling Communist Party of China on Friday paid tributes to millions of martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the country's liberation struggle ahead of the National Day on October 1.

Xi and other leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC), including Li Keqiang, the second-in-command, attended a ceremony in Tiananmen Square here to present flower baskets to the fallen national heroes.

On September 30, 1949, the First Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference voted to build the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tiananmen Square to commemorate those who lost their lives fighting for national causes.

Martyrs' Day is observed a day ahead of China's National Day on Saturday.

The formal proclamation of the establishment of the People's Republic of China was made on October 1, 1949, which is celebrated as National Day every year. China will be formally shut down for a week from Saturday to celebrate the National Day holidays.

On Friday, nine huge flower baskets were placed in front of the Monument to the People's Heroes.



Xi and other leaders walked up to the foot of the monument, where he straightened the ribbons on the baskets, before leading other senior officials in a walk around the monument to pay their tributes.

From 1921 to 1949, there were more than 3.7 million martyrs in the revolutionary ranks led by the CPC, state-run Global Times reported.

The other martyrs included nearly 400 party members, who have sacrificed their lives to fight the COVID-19 outbreak and over 1,800 CPC members, who died during the poverty alleviation campaign, the report said.

The martyrs' ceremony was launched by Xi when he took over the party's leadership in 2012.

This year's National Day will be celebrated ahead of the key once-in-a-five-year Congress of the CPC, which will be held on October 16.

During the Congress, Xi, 69, is widely expected to get endorsed for an unprecedented third term or perhaps for life-long tenure in power.

Until now all his predecessors with the exception of party founder Mao Zedong retired after 10-year tenures.

Xi, who was bestowed with the title of "Core Leader", like Mao is expected to continue in power heading the party, the military and the Presidency.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
T/D/M/GEN-235/Vol-VI/22/1915, dtd.29.09.2022
Name of the work: "Allotment of 04 (Four) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP." License Fees: Rs.2,85,43,020/-, Wharfage Fees: Rs.16,93,300/-, Last date & time of submission of bid: 19.10.2022 up to 15:00 hrs, Date and time of opening (technical bid): 19.10.2022 up to 15:00 hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app & http://paradipport.gov.in/.
Sd/- Traffic Manager, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/199/22-23 dtd.30.09.2022

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
FILE NO.CMO/OE/A/GL-375/2022/1264
DATE : 23.09.2022
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
E-tenders are invited on behalf of Paradip Port Authority for the work "Providing Various Technical / High Skilled Health Workers for PPA Hospital for a period of two years". The Last date & time of submission of tender : 13.10.2022 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please refer our Website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Chief Medical Officer Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/200/22-23, Dt.30/09/22

Sweden moves closer to NATO, lifts arms embargo on Turkey

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Would-be NATO member Sweden on Friday announced it will allow exports of arms to Turkey, which had threatened to block the Scandinavian nation's application to join the 30-member defence alliance.

The decision means that Sweden, which has sought NATO membership along with neighbouring Finland, will lift an arms embargo it had imposed on Ankara in 2019 after Turkey's military operation against the Kurdish militia known as the YPG in Syria.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had threatened to block the Nordic pair's membership, insisting they change their stance on Kurdish rebel groups that Turkey considers terrorists and lift the arms embargo on Turkey.

NATO operates by consensus so Turkey needs to approve.

"Sweden's application for membership in NATO greatly strengthens the defence and security policy reasons for granting the export of military equipment to other member states, including Turkey," the Inspectorate for Strategic Products, a Swedish administrative authority, said in a statement.

Once-neutral Finland and Sweden are abandoning what in Sweden's case has been 200 years of military nonalignment, driven to join NATO's mutual defence pact in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its continuing war there.

Turkey's parliament has yet to ratify Sweden and Finland's membership in NATO, and Friday's step was widely seen as aimed at securing Ankara's approval.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, हरिद्वार
सूचना
नगर निगम हरिद्वार द्वारा दिनांक 30.09.2022 के समाचार पत्रों में पुनः ई-निविदा आमंत्रित किये जाने हेतु निविदा सूचना का प्रकाशन किया गया था जिसमें लिपिकीय वृट्टिवश कांक्ट मेले में सफाई हेतु आउटसोर्स के माध्यम से कर्मियों को रखे जाने हेतु अंकित हो गया था।
अतः उक्त विज्ञापित में "कांक्ट मेले में सफाई हेतु आउटसोर्स के माध्यम से कर्मियों को रखे जाने हेतु" के स्थान पर "स्वच्छता सर्वेक्षण - 2022 से सम्बन्धित परामर्श सहायता एवं अन्य समस्त कार्य फर्म के माध्यम से कराये जाने हेतु" पढा जाये निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेगी।
पत्रांक- 1362/सौचैय(नगरीनहरि) / 2022-23
दिनांक 30.09.2022
सहायक नगर आयुक्त
नगर निगम, हरिद्वार

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1 Name of work	Repair to RRI building of Patel Nagar and Shakur Basti in the section of SSE/W/LDL under ADEN/DLI
2 Approx Cost of work	Rs. 50,48,329.21/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Nine and Twenty One Paise Only)
3 Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 1,01,000/- (Rupees One Lakh One Thousand Only)
4 Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5 Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	14.10.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/7/1/2022-23/W-3 Dated:- 30.09.2022 2582/2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Trainset Depot, Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India, invites IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) for the under noted work.

Tender No	258762DLSBSB
Name of work	Provision of supply, and maintenance of indoor well developed ornamental flower pots, Qty- 1800 nos. per month on hiring basis at Trainset Depot, Shakurbasti, Rolling Stock Training Centre, Shakurbasti and Heritage Steam Shed, Rewari for a period of one year
Approximate cost	₹ 64,58,400/- including GST
Earnest money	₹ 1,29,200/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-1/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016)
Cost of tender document	₹ 5,900/- with GST @18% (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-1/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016)

Completion period of the work 01 Year
Date and time for opening of tender Opening of Tender at 14:00 hrs. on 21.10.2022
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in w.e.f. 28.09.2022
No. - 258762DLSBSB Dt. - 29.09.2022 2559/2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC038313
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No.96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No.266/SSD-143/Cell-1 Dated: 29-09-2022
SE/ Substation Design/ TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-tender for supply of 120 No's 66 kV Line Control & relay Panels. For detailed NIT & Tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 03-10-22 (11:00 AM onwards)
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
76155/12/1139/2021/17432 C370/22

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax- 0135- 2763507
CIN No U40101UR2001SGC025866

RO No. 719 Dated : 30/09/2022
CORRIGENDUM TIME EXTENSION-1
due to unavoidable reasons tender No. 22/EEM/2022-23 for "Annual Maintenance work of Unit no.1, 3 & 4 and Major Maintenance work of unit no.2 of Chila Power House" the dates are extended as follows:-
Last date for downloading of bid doc. from the E- procurement platform: <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> : 09 October 2022 Up to 16:00 hrs. (Server time)
Last Date & Time for submission/ uploading of bid in E-procurement platform : 10 October 2022 Up to 17:00 hrs. (Server time)
Last Date & Time for submission of Documents in Hard Copy : 12 October 2022 11:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of bids on website : 12 October 2022 at 12:00 hrs. (Server time)
1. Other terms and conditions of tender will remain same.
2. Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum /cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website.
3. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer (M)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed on behalf of my client M/s. Luxmi Southwest Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at A-145, Shivalki, New Delhi through its Director Mr. Chand Uppal
1. That my client M/s. Luxmi Southwest Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at A-145, Shivalki, New Delhi through its Director Mr. Chand Uppal (herein after referred to as the purchaser) entered in to agreement to sell and purchase dated 20-09-2020 with Mr. Rakesh Sabharwal S/o Sh. Shadi Lal & Mr. C.P. Kapoor S/o Late Sh. Suraj Prakash both R/O 6/111, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi (herein after jointly referred to as Sellers) to purchase their agricultural Land measuring 3 bigha 4 Biswas, bearing khasra number 11772 (2-13) & 18 min. (10-11) situated in the revenue estate of village Dhulsiaras, Tehsil Dwarka, New Delhi for a total sale consideration of Rs. 56,00,000/- and the purchaser paid a sum of Rs. 44,00,000/- to the sellers through UTR/NFTT before 20-09-2020 and have paid 11,00,000/- through bank transfer on 13-09-2021 and 30-09-2021.
2. That the sellers handed over the peaceful possession of the land under sale to the purchaser on the date of execution of agreement to sale and purchase at 20-09-2020.
3. That the sellers have shown and given all the original documents excluding one registry to the purchaser and the sellers were to obtain the NOC, share the same with purchaser in original and to complete all the paper work before the sale deed could be executed or registered.
4. That the purchaser has always been ready and willing to pay the balance amount of sale consideration and have requested the sellers number of times to get necessary clearance, demarcation and permissions but the sellers have always evaded the same on one pretext or the other and in the meantime prices of the land also increased.
5. That the sellers have recently tried to interfere in the peaceful possession of the purchaser by encroachment, trespassing and are trying to disposes the purchaser without due recourse of law.
6. That the intentions of the sellers have become dishonest and greedy and they are trying to enter into another agreement to sale or to sale the above said land with intention to cheat some other person and fetch as much money as they can by forgoing the documents.
7. That through this notice it is informed to the public in general that no one should enter in to any agreement pertaining to the above said land, otherwise he/she will have to bear the burden of unnecessary litigation at their own responsibility.

NITIN SAINI & ASSOCIATES
Chamber No. 152, SSS Block, District Courts, Gurugram

Sensex snaps 7-day losing streak, zooms 1,017 pts post RBI rate hike

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices made an emphatic comeback on Friday after falling for seven straight sessions after the RBI hiked interest rates by 50 basis points on expected lines and projected inflation coming under control from January next year.

A strong recovery in the rupee added to the momentum, traders said.

Overcoming a wobbly start, the 30-share BSE Sensex soared 1,016.96 points or 1.80 per cent to settle at 57,426.92. During the day, it rallied 1,312.67 points or 2.32 per cent to 57,722.63.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 276.25 points or 1.64 per cent to end at 17,094.35.

Bharti Airtel topped the Sensex gainers' list with a jump of 4.49 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Tata Steel.

However, Asian Paints, Dr Reddy's, ITC, Tech Mahindra and Hindustan Unilever were the laggards, dropping up to 1.26 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday raised benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points -- the fourth straight increase since May -- as it extended its battle to tame stubbornly high inflation.

The Monetary Policy



Committee (MPC) raised the key lending rate or the repo rate to 5.90 per cent - the highest since April 2019.

Since the first unscheduled mid-meeting hike in May, the cumulative increase in interest rate now stands at 190 basis points and mirrors similar aggressive monetary tightening in major economies around the globe to contain runaway inflation by dampening demand.

The RBI retained its inflation projection for FY23 at 6.7 per cent amid geopolitical concerns triggered by Russia-Ukraine war, and expects inflation to be under control from January. The central bank is mandated to keep retail inflation in a band of 2-6 per cent.

"An in-line rate hike along with the RBI's confidence in the

economy's growth momentum aided the domestic market to alter the seven-day losing streak. The decision to retain inflation forecast at 6.70 per cent with a marginal cut but a healthy GDP forecast of 7.0 per cent indicates the resilience of the Indian economy.

"Although the commentary warned about prevailing risks to the domestic economy from the global economy, the MPC refrained from sounding very hawkish," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said the 50 bps rate hike by the RBI was in line with expectations.

"The key highlights were the resilience shown by the

Indian economy considering the turbulent global environment and concerns emanating from global growth slowdown and hawkish stances of various central banks," he added.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex shed 672 points or 1.15 per cent, while the Nifty lost 233 points or 1.34 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.45 per cent and the midcap index climbed 1.39 per cent on Friday.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, telecom rose 3.49 per cent, metal 2.66 per cent, financial services 2.36 per cent, realty 1.94 per cent and power 1.94 per cent.

Oil & gas index ended marginally lower.

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

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in mid-session deals.

The US markets had ended sharply lower on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude futures jumped 1.19 per cent to USD 89.54 per barrel.

The rupee extended its initial gains and settled 37 paise higher at 81.36 (provisional) against US dollar on Friday.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 3,599.42 crore on Thursday, according to data available with BSE.

RBI policy: Firms must be ready for continued stress in commodity prices: Industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the RBI retaining its inflation projection for the current fiscal, India Inc on Friday said businesses will have to be prepared to tackle continued stress in commodity prices over the near to medium term.

The Reserve Bank retained its inflation projection for the current financial year at 6.7 per cent amid global geopolitical developments triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the impact of inflation globally is weighing heavily on the domestic market. For the September quarter of 2022-23, RBI projected retail inflation at 7.1 per cent.

The central bank also cut the economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 7 per cent from 7.2 per cent estimated earlier on account of extended geopolitical tensions and aggressive monetary policy tightening globally.

Industry bodies opined that the country is still much better poised than its peers amongst the emerging market pack, both in terms of demand pick-up as also supply augmentation owing to factors like the upcoming festive season and a comfortable position on forex and debt levels.

Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said



demand improvement and supply augmentation are the twin positives that would ensure a sustainable growth of 7 per cent, as spelt out by the RBI Governor.

Ficci President Sanjiv Mehta said while the beginning of the festive season in India will lend some impetus to demand, maintaining the momentum as we enter the next year could be a challenge and this factor will have to be built into the Budget preparation exercise.

"Businesses will have to be prepared to tackle a continued stress in the commodity prices over the near to medium term," he added.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday raised benchmark lending rate by 50 basis

points, the fourth straight increase since May, as it extended its battle to tame stubbornly high inflation.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), comprising three members from the RBI and three external experts, raised the key lending rate or the repo rate to 5.90 per cent - the highest since April 2019 - with five out of the six members voting in favour of the hike.

Since the first unscheduled mid-meeting hike in May, the cumulative increase in interest rate now stands at 190 basis points and mirrors similar aggressive monetary tightening in major economies around the globe to contain runaway inflation by dampening demand.



Trade settlement in Re: RBI says fairly good response so far

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has received a 'good response from four-five countries and many banks' for settling bilateral trade in the rupee.

As part of its measures to internationalise the rupee and ease the pressure on the local currency from a steeply rising dollar, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the RBI had on July 11 issued guidelines on settling international trade in the rupee.

While issuing the guidelines, the Reserve Bank said, "The mechanism to settle international trade in the rupee is to promote the growth of global trade with emphasis on exports and to support the increasing interest of the global trading community in the rupee".

At the customary post-policy presser, deputy governor T Rabi Sankar told reporters that "the response (to the rupee trade settlement proposal) has been fairly good. But since the process involves a lot vetting at the levels of banks, central banks and also of the governments, it is taking time".



Sebi tightens IPO rules, mandates issuer to disclose offer price based on past transaction

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday tightened disclosure norms for companies going for initial public offers, insisting that they should share more details on pricing.

The changes cleared by the Sebi board at its meeting on Friday include disclosures about the price at which the institutional investors have bought shares going back to up to 18 months before the Initial Public Offering (IPO).

The new norms, which follow heavy erosion of investor wealth in recent IPOs like Paytm and Zomato that led to concerns about the offer prices, will be applicable for all issuances.

Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said new-age technology companies or loss making companies cannot be assessed by the same financial parameters and the regulator felt that there is a need to end the information asymmetry.

It will give a better basis for the investors to make their investments," she told reporters at the post-board meet press conference here.

Sebi proposals include mandating the issuers to disclose the offer price based on past transactions and fund raising activities.

"The board approved the proposal to mandate the issuers coming out with IPO, to make disclosure of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and price per share of issuer based on past transactions and past fundraising done by the issuer from the investors under Basis for Issue Price' section of the offer document, and in Price Band Advertisement," Sebi said in a release. Presently, issuer companies, in addition to the audited financial numbers, also disclose their key numbers on various key performance indicators in different sections of Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) which are not covered in the financial statements in the offer documents.

The move comes against the backdrop of many new-age companies, that do not have a track record of having an operating profit at least in the preceding three years, tapping the IPO route to raise funds. Such firms generally remain loss-making for a longer period before achieving break-even as they opt for ways to gain scale of operations rather than profits in the initial years.

"Issuer shall disclose details of pricing of shares based on past transactions and past fund raising from investors by the issuer prior to IPO," Sebi said in its board meeting.

Sebi disposes of matter against 4 persons in WhatsApp leak case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the high-profile WhatsApp case, Sebi has dismissed Insider trading charges against individuals, who circulated alleged unpublished price-sensitive information about the financial results of certain companies, including TCS and Ultratech Cement.

Those individuals are -- Shailendra Mehta, Aditya Omprakash Gaggar, Shruti Vishal Vora and Neeraj Kumar Agarwal, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in five separate orders.

The latest orders came after the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) had set aside Sebi's insider trading charges against certain individuals in the WhatsApp leak case in March 2021 and the same was upheld by the Supreme Court on September 26 this year.

The case pertains to the circulation of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI) in various private WhatsApp groups about five companies - Tata Consultancy Services



(TCS), Ultratech Cement, Bata India, Tata Chemicals and Mindtree -- ahead of their official announcements to the stock exchanges.

It was alleged that Mehta circulated UPSI-related financial earnings of Bata India, Ultratech Cement and Mindtree to others through Whatsapp messages. Also, Gaggar and Agarwal were accused of similar violations in the case of Tata Chemicals and TCS, respectively. In addition, Vora allegedly communicated

the financial earnings of TCS and Ultratech Cement to others.

It was alleged that these four persons violated Sebi's regulations that prohibit insider trading activities.

Now, in its orders passed on Thursday, Sebi has disposed of insider trading charges against the four individuals.

Dismissing the charges against these four persons, Sebi said the instant case is a replica of the case that was decided by SAT in March 2021 and

upheld by the Supreme Court its order passed on September 26, 2022, with the only difference that the circulation of WhatsApp messages pertain to different scrips.

In its order, SAT had noted the definitions of unpublished price sensitive information and insider information and had said that generally, available information would not be a UPSI. It further, said that the information can be branded as a UPSI only when the person getting the information had knowledge that it was a UPSI.

In 2017, some news reports referred to the circulation of UPSI in various private WhatsApp groups about certain companies ahead of their official announcements to the respective stock exchanges.

Against that backdrop, Sebi had initiated a preliminary examination in the matter during which search and seizure operations against 26 entities of a WhatsApp group were conducted, and about 190 devices and records, among others, were seized.

India and California agree to collaborate on zero-emission vehicles

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India has entered into a collaboration with California for research and innovation in the field of zero-emission vehicles to spur the development of its nascent EV industry and address climate risks.

California has the world's most advanced zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) policies. It has an ambitious 100 per cent ZEV mandate by 2035. As part of the collaboration, the University of California, research institute Davis Institute of Transportation Studies, established a new India ZEV Research Centre.

The California-India ZEV Policy programme is aimed at supporting ZEV uptake in India, spurring the development of an EV industry in India and contributing to India's industrial growth.

In addition to addressing policy, technology, and investment strategies for a ZEV transition, it would identify oppor-



tunities for India to emerge as a strategic leader in the global ZEV transition.

Announced in Pittsburgh last week on the sidelines of the Clean Energy Ministerial attended by Union Science and Technology Minister Jitender Singh, the California-India ZEV Partnership provides a unique opportunity for sub-national policy design as a lever for vehicle electrification, and importantly, harness the role of states as key laboratories of innovation, in both the countries and the global south, officials said.

Asian stocks sink on German inflation, British tax cuts

AP ■ BEIJING

Asian stocks sank again on Friday after German inflation spiked higher, British Prime Minister Liz Truss defended a tax-cut plan that rattled investors and Chinese manufacturing weakened.

Shanghai, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Sydney retreated. Oil prices edged lower.

Wall Street's benchmark S and P 500 index fell 2.1 per cent on Thursday to its lowest level in almost two years after strong US jobs data reinforced expectations the Federal Reserve will stick to plans for more interest rate hikes.

Investors increasingly worry the global economy might tip into recession following interest rate hikes by the Fed and central banks

in Europe and Asia to cool inflation that is at multi-decade highs.

Global export demand is weakening and Russia's attack on Ukraine has disrupted oil and gas markets.

Markets slipped on Thursday after Germany reported September inflation accelerated to 10.9 per cent and Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the world's fourth-biggest economy faces a "double whammy" as energy prices surge.

"We'd be inclined to argue that we haven't yet seen the bottom," said ING economists in a report.

The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.6 per cent to 3,023.91 after surveys of manufacturers showed production and new orders declined in September.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo fell 1.7



per cent to 25,979.75 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong declined by 0.2 per cent to 17,126.01. The Kospi in Seoul added 0.2 per cent to 2,173.71.

Sydney's S and P ASX 200 sank 0.7 per cent to 6,506.20. New Zealand and Southeast Asian mar-

kets declined.

Investors already were uneasy about signs global activity was weakening before Truss's government announced multibillion-dollar tax cuts.

Traders worry that will push up already high inflation, forcing the British central bank to cool economic growth by raising interest rates further.

Stock markets and the value of the British pound rebounded on Wednesday after the Bank of England said it would buy government bonds to support their price. But markets resumed their slide on Thursday after Truss shrugged off criticism and defended her tax-cut plan despite a plea from the International Monetary Fund to reverse course.

SC to hear banks' pleas against disclosure of info on customers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to consider the petitions by several banks, including private banks, challenging the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s direction to disclose under the Right to Information Act certain "confidential and sensitive information" pertaining to their affairs, employees and customers. A bench headed by Justice BR Gavai rejected the preliminary objections raised by one Girish Mittal who as an intervener sought the dismissal of the petitions on the ground that the issues concerning such disclosures have already been "put to rest" by earlier decisions of the top court. The court, "without expressing any final opinion" said that prima facie, the aspect of balancing the right to information and the right to privacy was not considered at that stage.

IBBI amends norms, allows Insolvency Professional Entities to act as IPs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Regulator IBBI has allowed Insolvency Professional Entities (IPEs) to act as insolvency professionals, a move that is likely to help in speedier resolution process.

Till now, only individuals were permitted to register as insolvency professionals under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution of stressed assets.

"Considering the limitations on the part

of an Insolvency Professional (IP), being an individual, in dealing with processes under the Code requiring concurrent efforts, and multi-disciplinary expertise, the board decided to institutionalise the profession of IP," the regulator said in a release on Friday.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is a key institution in the implementation of the Code, which came into force in 2016.

It has amended the regulations governing IPs to enable recognised IPEs to carry on the activities of IPs.



Akasa Air partners with RateGain for dynamic allocation of airfares

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Newly launched Akasa Air has partnered with RateGain Travel Technologies for gathering real-time air travel information that will help the airline in deciding dynamic fares.

In a release on Friday, RateGain said its AI-powered platform AirGain provides the airline's revenue and pricing teams with the most accurate and reliable market insights to build a competitive pricing strategy.

It allows the airline access to act upon changing market dynamics and optimise airfares in real-time to provide the best fares to the customers, the release said.

"As Akasa grows, our product AirGain will help in maximizing revenues by providing accurate and real-time competitive intelligence," Bhanu Chopra, Chairman and Managing Director of RateGain, said.

According to the release, it provides the user with real-time competitor insights across channels to reduce disparity and revenue losses.

"AirGain's nimble solution delivering real-time air travel information across channels will help us achieve a dynamic allocation of fares," Praveen Iyer, co-founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Akasa Air, said.

INBRIEF

MALABAR GOLD BECOMES WORLD'S 6TH LARGEST JEWELLERY BRAND

Mumbai: All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) felicitated Malabar Gold and Diamonds on being selected as the 6th largest jewellery group in the world. MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group, and Managing Director O Asher received the award from the Ashish Pethe, Chairman, GJC.

MADHAVBAUG TO FORAY INTO UAE, EUROPE, US

Mumbai: Madhavbaug, the flagship brand of Vaidya Sane Ayurved Laboratories Ltd, a specialist in treating cardiac-related ailments through their research-based Ayurvedic treatment, is planning to set up its healthcare centres in the UAE, Europe and US. It will invest 20-25 million Dirhams for its first phase of expansion in the UAE. "The non-invasive approach will be the right fit for the UAE market predominantly made up of Indians," said Rohit Sane, founder, MD & CEO, Madhavbaug.



Mirabai pips Sanjita for 49kg Nationals Gold

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

Olympic Silver medallist Mirabai Chhanu expectedly won the Gold medal with a total lift of 191 kgs in the women's 49kg weightlifting competition at the 36th National Games here on Friday. Mirabai, who had claimed the Commonwealth Games Gold medal in Birmingham in August, walked away with the title after lifting 84kg in snatch and 107 kgs in clean & jerk.

Participating in her second National Games, Mirabai revealed that she was nursing an injury in her left wrist, due to which she didn't go for her third attempts in both sections.

"I recently injured my left wrist during training at NIS, Patiala, after which I made sure not to risk it further. The World Championships are coming up in December," she said.

"It is a proud moment for me to represent Manipur at the National Games, and the excitement doubled when I was asked to lead the contingent at the Opening Ceremony. It normally gets hectic to attend opening ceremonies as my event starts early the next day, but I felt I must challenge myself this time around," she added.

The diminutive Manipuri, who is aiming for her first podium finish at the Asian Games next year, prefers to stay in the moment and focus on the World Championships where she is expected to be up against weightlifters from the Asian powerhouses.

"Yes an Asian Games medal is missing from the cabinet, and it's something

that's on the back of my mind. It will my first Asian Games after missing out on the 2018 edition with a back injury. The competition level at the Asiad will be great, but for me, the main focus now is the Worlds, where I will get to compete against the same weightlifters," the 28-year-old said.

Sanjita Chhanu settled for the Silver medal with a total lift of 187 kgs (Snatch 82kg, C&J 105kg), while Odisha's Sneha Soren picked up the Bronze after totalling 169kg (Snatch 73kg, C&J 96kg) at the Mahatma Mandir here.

"This is a special moment for me. But congratulations to Mirabai. She deserves all the praise and accolades for her brilliant effort," a visibly emotional Sanjita said.

"It feels great to compete at the National Games, and represent my state. The last time (in Kerala 2015), I won the Gold in a lower weight category, but after seven years, the level of competition definitely goes up."

In snatch, Mirabai seized an early advantage by raising the bar to 81kgs in her very first attempt, before a clean effort of 84kg in her second lift gave her a cushion of 3kgs over her Manipuri state-mate Sanjita, who could manage 80kg and 82kgs in her first two attempts. Sanjita's third attempt of lifting 84kg was adjudged a foul. Mirabai preferred to save her energy and didn't turn up for the third attempt.

In clean and jerk, Sanjita lifted 95kgs in her first attempt before raising the bar to 100kg and 105kg, with all three attempts getting the green light from the judges.

India to host MotoGP for 1st time in 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MotoGP on Friday confirmed that it will race in India from 2023 with provisional dates set at September 22-24, marking the return of a big ticket motorsport event in the country after Formula 1's departure nine years ago.

The world's premier two-wheel racing championship will be held at the Buddh International Circuit, which staged Formula 1 from 2011 to 2013.

After MotoGP announced that India will become the 31st country to host a motorcycle Grand Prix next year, a provisional calendar was released. India has been listed as the 14th round, to be held in September, in a 21-race calendar.

Top officials from MotoGP's commercial rights holder Dorna had visited India earlier this month to sign a seven-year MoU with Indian race promoters Fairstreet Sports (FSS).

They had also held meetings with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

The FSS had announced that a MotoGP round will be held next year but Dorna MD Carlos Ezpeleta did not commit to a time frame considering the complexities surrounding a season's calendar. Friday's announcement from MotoGP makes the picture much clearer.

"We're very proud to announce that Buddh International Circuit will be on the 2023 calendar. We have a lot of fans in India and we're excited to be able to bring the sport to them," Dorna CEO Carmelo Ezpeleta said in a statement.



"India is also a key market for the motorcycle industry and therefore, by extension, for MotoGP as the pinnacle of the two-wheeled world. We very much look forward to racing at Buddh International Circuit and can't wait to welcome the fans through the gates to see this incredible sport in person."

UP CM Adityanath added: "It's a matter of great pride for Uttar Pradesh to host such a global event. Our gov-

ernment will provide full support to MotoGP Bharat."

HOMOLOGATION PROCESS BEGINS

The track will need to be homologated by governing body FIM before the mega event which is expected to be a formality considering it has already hosted Formula 1.

FSS COO Pushkar Nath told PTI that homologation process has already

begun with FIM officials inspecting the BIC track.

"The homologation process has begun, the officials are already here," said Nath.

"It is (race coming to India) a landmark moment for the country and we are happy to have played a role in that."

Government support is a must to pull off an event of this scale and the race seems to have the blessings of

both the state and central government. Formula 1 had left India due to financial health of the race promoters, taxation and customs issues. FSS, which will be shelling out millions of dollars to host the race every year, is confident of overcoming the logistical and tax hurdles.

Around 5000 people, including riders and staff, work during a MotoGP. On his visit earlier this month, Dorna MD Carlos Ezpeleta said MotoGP weekend generates economic activity of 100 million euros.

"This event will provide a major impetus to the economy by generating an influx of foreign investment in the state," said Nand Gopal Nandi, a Cabinet Minister in UP government.

With the country being the world's largest two-wheeler market, Carlos had said that "MotoGP and India were meant for each other."

"Buddh International Circuit's debut will make it the 75th venue at which the premier class have raced, and India becomes the 31st country to host a motorcycle Grand Prix," said MotoGP in a statement.

"As MotoGP continues to push to reduce its carbon footprint, India and Motegi mark the start of a longer stint in Asia - significantly reducing the paddock's potential mileage.

"India is a true economic and cultural powerhouse, with a population of over 1.4 billion people and more than 200 million motorcycles on its roads. Two-wheeled transportation counts for nearly 75% of the total number of vehicles used daily, making India one of the biggest motorcycle markets in the world and a key focus for the manufacturers in the paddock," it added.

Ten Hag 'convinced' Maguire can recover form

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Eric Ten Hag says he is "convinced" Harry Maguire can turn his form around after another error-strewn display in England's Nations League match against Germany.

Maguire, ruled out of United's derby at Manchester City on Sunday due to injury, gave away a penalty against Germany on Monday and lost possession before the visitors' second goal in the 3-3 draw.

His latest sub-par performance led to renewed talk about whether the 29-year-old defender, who has been out of form and favour at United, should still be in the England team, just weeks away from the World Cup.

But Ten Hag, like England boss Gareth Southgate, retains faith in



Maguire and is certain he will improve. "First of all, of course I have to coach him, I have to back him," Ten Hag said at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"But I back him because I believe in him. In the period I worked with him in pre-season he was good, I think I would say really good -- training and games."

"Then he fell out (of the starting lineup) but it's also to do with the good performance of the centre-backs who are playing now."

Argentina's Lisandro Martinez and France international Raphael Varane have been Ten Hag's preferred centre-back partnership in recent games.

Ten Hag said everyone in United's squad and on their coaching staff still believe in the former Leicester centre-back, who picked up a knock on England duty.

Sainz leads Ferrari 1-2 in Singapore

AP ■ SINGAPORE

Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc powered their Ferraris to a one-two in second practice Friday for the Singapore Grand Prix, while runaway championship leader Max Verstappen and Red Bull struggled on Formula One's return to Asia.

The Dutchman celebrated his 25th birthday Friday with a cake in the Red Bull team hospitality before the first session, then spent most of the second in the garage with mechanics working on his front suspension. Verstappen, who can retain his Formula One world championship with a race win on Sunday if other results go his way, did emerge late in the hour-long session for one qualifying simulation lap.

His time of 1min 42.926sec was good enough only for fourth, 0.339sec behind Sainz who clocked 1:42.587 around the Marina Bay street circuit.

"In FP2 we wanted to try a few things but it took a bit longer than we thought," said Verstappen of the delay in getting out of the garage.

"So it's not really representative."

Leclerc posted a time of 1:42.795, 0.208sec behind his teammate, and the Mercedes of George Russell was third at 1:42.911.

Earlier Lewis Hamilton had sprung a surprise with the quickest time in the opening practice session of the first Singapore race weekend since 2019 because of the Covid pandemic.

It was the first time Hamilton had topped the timesheets this season, giving him hope of being able to score a first grand prix victory in 2022 and maintain his run of winning a race in every season since his 2007 debut.

Esteban Ocon's Alpine was sixth fastest, ahead of Alfa Romeo's Valtteri Bottas.

Kamara ruled out of WC with knee injury

AP ■ LONDON

Aston Villa have confirmed France midfielder Bouabacar Kamara will be out of action until after the World Cup with a knee injury.

The 22-year-old, who joined the club in the summer transfer window, was forced off during the first half of Villa's win over Southampton before the international break.

Further tests confirmed Bouabacar, signed from Marseille, had sustained ligament damage which will require a lengthy spell of rehabilitation.

"Kamara will be missing until after the World Cup with a knee ligament injury, suffered during the win over Southampton," a Villa statement said.

Kamara, who has won three caps for France, had been called up for the latest round of Nations League matches before his injury.

The loss of Kamara is another setback for Villa, whose Brazilian defender Diego Carlos ruptured his



Achilles in only his second appearance for the club.

"It is not ideal, we have had better days on the injury front," Villa manager Steven Gerrard said at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"Bouabacar will be missing

until after the World Cup unfortunately, so that is a huge blow.

"It is him and obviously Diego Carlos, two of our signature signings, who are going to be missing for a large part of the season."

3 WOMEN REFEREES

The presence of women referees at the 2022 World Cup will send "a strong sign", said trailblazing French referee Stéphanie Frappart on Thursday, one of three women officials selected for the tournament in Qatar.

"It's a strong sign from FIFA and the authorities to have women referees in that country. I'm not a feminist spokesperson, but if this can make things happen..." said Frappart.

The 38-year-old is one of 36 referees selected for the November 20-December 18 tournament being staged in the conservative Gulf state.

Rwandan Salima Mukansanga and Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan are the other two women officials to be chosen.

Frappart has set numerous landmarks in her career - she was the first woman referee to officiate the men's UEFA Super Cup (August 2019), in the Champions League (December 2020), and at the French Cup final (May 2022).

After Norrie, Ruud also crash out of Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

World number two Casper Ruud crashed out of the Korea Open quarter-finals on Friday to 56th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka, while Britain's Cameron Norrie pulled out ill.

Japan's Nishioka had the top seed and US Open finalist on the back foot from the start, breaking his first service game without allowing the Norwegian to take a point before powering to the first set 6-2.

Ruud rallied to take the second set 6-3 but was outclassed in the third set as Nishioka won it 6-2 to take a shock victory in just under two hours in Seoul.

Nishioka will face either Mackenzie McDonald of the United States or Aleksandar Kovacevic from Serbia in the semi-finals.

"It was an unfortunate result but that's how it is sometimes," said the 23-year-old Ruud, who was also the runner-up at the French Open.

"I was trying to improve some things and step further into the court but, in the end, it led to too many mistakes."

"Even though it didn't go well I still like to think it's going to help improve my game in the future."

Ruud had beaten Nicolas Jarry of Chile in the last 16 to secure his spot in the ATP Finals. Also out is eighth-ranked Norrie, who with-



drew less than an hour before he was due on centre court to face Jenson Brooksby in the quarter-finals.

Fourth seed Denis Shapovalov is the highest-ranked player left in the Korea Open.

The Canadian world number 24 beat Radu Albot in straight sets and will face Brooksby in the semi-finals on Saturday.

We're making right progression: Katariya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star striker Vandana Katariya feels the Indian women's hockey team has been making the right progression at the international level and the players remained focussed on setting goals and achieving them going forward.

Vandana, a veteran of over 250 internationals matches, said by virtue of improved performances in tournaments of late, the world is now taking note of Indian women's hockey.

A testimony to Indian team's improvement is nomination of several players in the FIH Star Awards. While



captain Savita has been nominated for the Best Goalkeeper of the Year, young Mumtaz

Khan has been nominated for the Rising Star of the Year award and chief coach Janneke

Schopman is the vying for Coach of the Year recognition.

"I feel we are making the right strides. About three or four years ago, the team rarely made the cut for any awards as our performance was not up to the mark. But now, we have been making the right progression in international hockey and our performance is being recognised," Vandana said.

"It feels great to receive this kind of recognition which shows that our performances are at par with some of the top teams of the world, but we are still grounded and focused on our own targets."

"We have set short-term and long-term goals for the

team and we are ticking the boxes, one-by-one," she said.

India's next major international outing is the FIH Women's Nations Cup in December but the team's biggest aim remains a direct qualification for 2024 Paris Olympics through the Asian Games scheduled next year in Hangzhou, China.

"Everybody's aim is to win the Asian Games next year and, in the lead up to that it is important we keep up the right momentum by doing well in tournaments like the Nations Cup which will help us qualify for the FIH Pro League matches. I would say, we are on the right path," Vandana concluded.

Djokovic makes winning return to ATP action

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Novak Djokovic, playing a singles tournament for the first time since winning Wimbledon in July, reached the Tel Aviv quarter-finals on Thursday with a straight-sets victory over Spain's Pablo Andujar.

Djokovic eased to a 6-0, 6-3 win over his 115th-ranked opponent in 86 minutes, firing 30 winners and breaking Andujar four times.

He was always in control against his Spanish rival who he has now defeated three times, taking control of the match by



winning the first seven games.

Former world number one Djokovic hasn't played a singles event since capturing a seventh Wimbledon title 10 weeks ago after his refusal to get vaccinated ruled him out of the US Open

and the entire American hard-court swing.

His only other appearance had been in the Laver Cup team tournament in London last week. However, the 35-year-old Djokovic, now ranked at seven in the world, insisted on the eve of the Tel Aviv event that retirement was not on his agenda. "I still want to play tennis even though I achieved pretty much everything that you can achieve in tennis," said Djokovic, whose 21 Grand Slam titles is just one short of Rafael Nadal's men's record of 22. "I still have passion and hunger to play at a highest professional level."

INDIA START AS FAVOURITES IN WOMEN’S ASIA CUP

PTI ■ SYLHET

An in-form India would look to carry forward the momentum of a historic ODI series sweep in England while trying to put behind the “Mankading” controversy as they open their women’s Asia Cup T20 campaign against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

The Indian women haven’t had a lot of success of late in the T20 format but at the continental level, Harmanpreet Kaur’s team will start as clear favourites.

Barring their only blemish in the last edition of the tournament, India have won all the Asia Cup titles since the event’s inception in 2004 (4 titles in ODI format and 2 in T20 version).

The Asia Cup was transformed from ODI to T20 format in 2012 and India have won twice, while losing to hosts Bangladesh in the last edition in 2018.

And, India would look to assert their continental dominance in the tournament, which returns after a hiatus of four years.

The 2020 edition of the event in Bangladesh was first postponed to 2021 due to the



COVID-19 pandemic before being cancelled altogether.

After claiming a historic silver medal at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, where women’s cricket made its debut

in T20 format, India suffered a 1-2 away defeat against England earlier this month.

But the Harmanpreet-led side made a fantastic turnaround in the ODIs, clean

sweeping England 3-0 to record a historic series victory, which marked a glorious end to Indian bowling legend Jhulan Goswami’s international career. The Indian series win, how-

ever, reignited an intense debate over the spirit of the game after all-rounder Deepti Sharma ran out Charlie Dean during the series-clinching third ODI as the English batter backed up at the non-striker’s end.

The Indian team would be desperate to move on from the incident and focus on the Asia Cup. On the team’s front, Harmanpreet has been in imperious form. Smriti Mandhana too is in good touch but Shafali Verma, Sabbhineni Meghana and Dayalan Hemalatha need their bats do the talking.

Jemimah Rodrigues’ return to the side after missing the tour of England due to a hand injury, augurs well for India. Wicket-keeper Richa Ghosh, who made a comeback in England after being dropped from the Commonwealth Games, is also in the mix.

India’s seam bowling attack will be led by Renuka Singh, while Radha Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Deepti will be in charge of the spin department.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will be heavily relying on skipper Chamari Athapaththu to deliver the goods with the bat in the absence young Vishmi Gunaratne, who is out due to a back stress fracture.

The island nation’s middle-order will revolve around Hasini Perera and Harshitha Samarawickrama, while the bowling attack will heavily depend on spinners Inoka Ranaweera and Oshadi Ranasinghe.

The tournament involves seven teams — India, Pakistan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, UAE and hosts Bangladesh. All sides will play each other in a round-robin format — a total of six matches each — with the top four qualifying for semi-finals.

THE TEAMS (FROM)

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sabbhineni Meghana, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sneha Rana, Dayalan Hemalatha, Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav, KP Navgire.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Atapattu (c), Nilakshi de Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Harshitha Madhavi, Madushika Methananda, Hasini Perera, Oshadi Ranasinghe, Inoka Ranaweera, Anushka Sanjeevani (wk), Kaushani Nuthyangana, Malsha Shehani, Rashmi Silva, Tharika Sewwandi.

T20 WC winning team to get \$1.6 million as prize money

A win in each of the 30 games in the Super 12 phase will be worth \$40,000

PTI ■ DUBAI

The winner of the upcoming men’s T20 World Cup is Australia will take home a whopping prize money of \$1.6 million, the game’s governing body ICC announced on Friday.

The ICC said in a statement that the runner-up side will get half the amount of the winning team’s prize purse.

At the end of the 16-team tournament that runs for nearly a month, the losing semi-finalists will each get USD 400,000 from the USD 5.6 million total prize pool.

The eight teams who exit at the Super 12 stage will receive \$70,000 each.

“Like last year at the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2021, a win in each of the 30 games in the Super 12 phase will be worth \$40,000,” the ICC stated.

The eight teams that made it directly to the Super 12 phase are Afghanistan, Australia,



Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa.

The other eight teams — Namibia, Sri Lanka, Netherlands, UAE in Group A and West Indies, Scotland, Ireland and Zimbabwe in Group B — have been split into two groups of four each and will play the first round.

For any win in the first round, prize money of \$40,000 will be awarded, with the 12 matches amounting to \$480,000.

The four teams that will be knocked out in the first round will get \$40,000 each.

The T20 World Cup will be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13.

Abhay Sharma roped in as Delhi head coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India A and U-19 fielding coach Abhay Sharma has been appointed as the head coach of the Delhi cricket team ahead of the domestic season beginning October 11.

Former India spinner and selector Sarandeep Singh was another strong contender for the job but Rohan Jaitly led DDCA has gone ahead with Sharma, who has more coaching experience.

The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Nikhil Chopra, Gursharan Singh and Reema Malhotra had recommended Sharma’s name to the president.

Former India selector Gagan Khoda has been appointed chief selector of the senior team, while former India pacer Pankaj Singh has been appointed head coach of U-25 side.

Anil Bhardwaj and Mayank Sadana are the other new faces in the senior selection panel.

“Abhay Sharma has been chosen as the head coach of the senior team,” said a DDCA

source.

Sharma has worked extensively with India A, India U-19 and most recently the national women’s team.

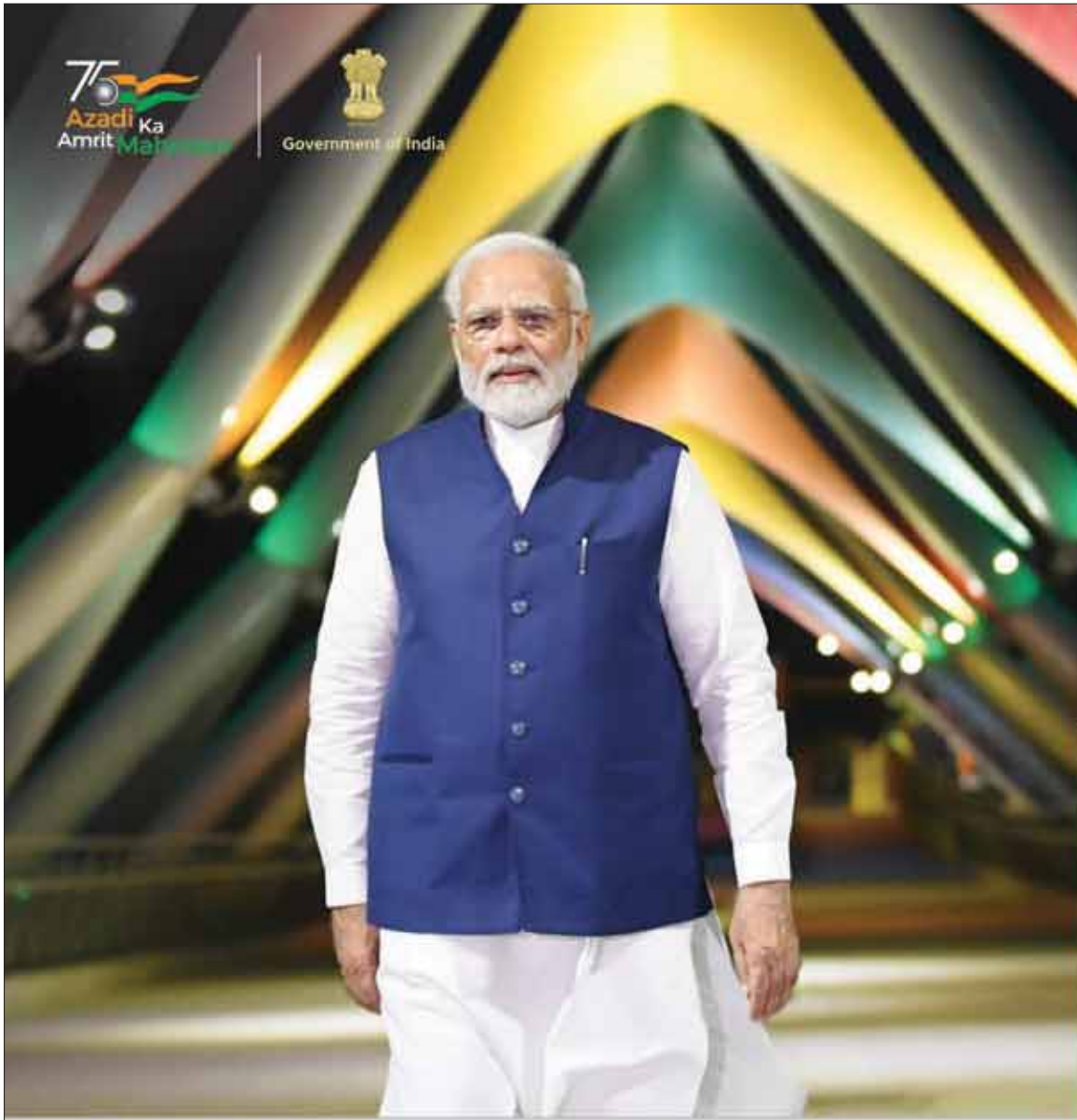
The 53-year-old, who played 89 first-class games representing Delhi, Railways and Rajasthan, was also the fielding coach of the Indian team which travelled to Zimbabwe in 2016. He also travelled with the Indian team on the tour of USA and the West Indies in the same year.

With Delhi scheduled to open their Syed Mushtaq Ali campaign against Manipur, Sharma has less than two weeks to work with the squad which is yet to be announced.

A lot of dilly dallying took place before the DDCA zeroed in on Sharma.

“It should have happened at least two weeks ago. So many teams have already announced their squads,” said another source.

Delhi had a forgettable last season when they failed to qualify for the knock outs of all three competitions -- Mushtaq Ali, Vijay Hazare and Ranji Trophy.



“ When India makes big resolutions, it also implements them. During Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal, nation resolves to build a Vikasit Bharat. ”

Narendra Modi

Grand resolve for Vikasit Bharat

Dawn of a new era of Digital Connectivity in India from today

Launch of 5G services

by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi



India Mobile Congress, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
10 a.m. onwards



Modern Infrastructure for a developed India

- Development of multi-modal infrastructure under PM Gati Shakti
- Number of airports increased from 74 to 142; Metro train services expanded to 20 cities from 5

Major Reforms for a developed India

- GST reduced compliance burden and tax burden on people, increased transparency and tax collection
- Banks and businesses benefit from the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

Digital Progress for a developed India

- 5.33 lakh common service centres across India; 1.81 lakh villages connected to optical fibre network
- India leads the world in digital transactions; UPI transactions worth Rs 208 lakh crore to date

Empowering people for a developed India

- Resolve to fulfill the aspirations of all; emphasis on providing basic facilities like house, toilet, water, electricity to all
- 360 degree support to farmers from farm to market
- Promoting employment and self-employment through skill development

Irani Cup final: Pujara and ‘five openers’ in focus

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Veteran Cheteshwar Pujara would strive to stay relevant in the national team’s scheme of things with a purposeful knock when Saurashtra clashes with Rest of India, a side that is packed with five specialist openers, in the Irani Cup clash starting here Saturday.

While Madhya Pradesh are the 2021-22 Ranji Trophy champions, Saurashtra will be playing the Irani Trophy by virtue of being the 2019-20 champions as the one-off match wasn’t held for successive seasons due to COVID-19.

Gone are those days when the Rest of India versus Ranji champions’ encounter used to be a virtual national team trial game where a good performance was a sure shot ticket towards an entry into the national dressing room.

An Irani Cup in 2022 is more about being in the scheme of things as far as reserve bench is concerned and majority of the Rest of India squad comprises of players, who have all featured in the recent A series against New Zealand.

The Saurashtra team has a battle-hardened pro in Pujara, whose Test career is at the crossroads and he wouldn’t like to put a foot wrong before the away series in Bangladesh.

He has had a dream run for Sussex in both red ball and white ball (List A) games but whether the selectors will persist with him in Tests going forward is another matter.

But on his home ground where he has scored truckloads of runs, Pujara can prove to be more than a handful for the young speed guns like Umran Malik, Kuldeep Sen, Arzan Nagwaswalla or the upcoming spinners namely R Sai Kishore and Saurabh Kumar.

However the primary problem that Rest of India face is having too many openers — all in-form in their squad of 15.

There is India ‘A’ pair of Priyank Panchal and Abhimanyu Easwaran that did well against New Zealand ‘A’ while Yashasvi Jaiswal was in regal form in the Duleep Trophy, scoring 265 in the final.

Then there is Test opener Mayank Agarwal who is trying to make a comeback and young Yash Dhull who has scored 770 runs in five first class games in his debut season.

Only skipper Hanuma Vihari and in form Sarfaraz Khan are the two specialist batters apart from keeper Kona Bharat.

The Saurashtra bowling attack will be manned by Jaydev Unadkat, a pro in domestic cricket, who is sure to feel short changed on not getting a national call up after 65 wickets in 2019-20 season.

There is Chetan Sakariya who will bring the ball back into the right handed batters.

On a slow batting surface, the spinners of both sides will come into play from third day onwards.