

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

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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 Rajya



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

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.

Continued on Page 2

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.

Continued on Page 2

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 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.

"The inflation trajectory remains clouded with uncertainties arising from continu-



ing geopolitical tensions and nervous global financial market sentiments," he said adding, "if high inflation is allowed to linger, it invariably triggers second-order effects".

Pledging to "remain alert and nimble" and data-dependent, Das said "calibrated action" will be taken to shield the economy amid fears of a global recession.

"In this backdrop, MPC was of the view that persistence of high inflation, necessitates further calibrated withdrawal of monetary accommodation to restrain broadening of price pressures, anchor inflation expectations and contain the second-round effects. This action will support the medium-term growth prospects of our economy," he said.

Consumer price index-based inflation accelerated to 7 per cent in August, driven by a surge in food prices, and has stayed above the RBI's mandated 2-6 per cent target band

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

for eight consecutive months.

News agency PTI quoted Rumki Mujumdar, economist, Deloitte India, as saying that inflation is expected to remain high even though supply-side constraints will likely ease. "This is because we are optimistic about demand and expect strong consumer spending to exceed supply, therefore leading to demand-pull inflation."

On the rupee, Das said the RBI did not have a level for the currency in mind and it was focused on curbing volatility.

The 67 per cent decline in foreign exchange reserves, he said, was due to valuation impact and that the war chest remains robust.

His statement implied that RBI interventions are likely to continue and be focused towards defending any extreme volatility in the rupee.

"The RBI intervenes to curb exchange rate volatility," Das said. "The adequacy of forex reserves is always kept in mind and the umbrella continues to remain strong."

Continued on Page 2

19 dead in Kabul edu centre fidayeen attack

ISIS carries out repeated attacks on Shia areas

AP ■ KABUL

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 minority Shia community.

The ISIS has carried out repeated, horrific attacks on



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

schools, hospitals and mosques in Dashti Barchi and other Shiite areas in recent years.

Around 300 high school graduates, boys and girls, had

come to the Kaaj Higher Educational Centre at 6.30 am to take practice exams, said 9-year-old survivor Shafi Akbary.

Continued on Page 2

Tyagi stir impact: 48 illegal extensions in society razed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NOIDA

After several hours of drama in Grand Omaxe Housing Society in Sector 93-B, the Noida authority on Friday demolished 48 encroachments into the common spaces by residents of the society.

This is the same housing society where a spat between Shrikant Tyagi and a woman resident triggered a major row last month, leading to Tyagi's arrest and a massive protest by his supporters.

The razing of encroachments, mostly temporary constructions outside ground-floor apartments, came after a 48-hour notice by the authority to residents of Grand Omaxe Society. The demolition was carried out amid heavy police presence amid protests by res-



idents who said they were not aware of the demolition notices sent by the authority.

The officials reached Grande Omaxe with excavators and trucks around 10.30 pm but were met with resistance by a section of residents sitting at the front gate of the society. While some residents carried

posters and pleaded with the officials not to proceed with the demolition, others questioned the legality of the action.

Even as the residents pleaded with the officials, bulldozers razed down more than two dozen illegal structures on the ground floor.

Continued on Page 2

15-point action plan to curb Delhi air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced a 15-point action plan to curb air pollution ahead of the winter in the national Capital. The plan includes checks on garbage burning, closure of thermal power plants, and minimising dust and vehicular emission.

The Delhi Government will launch an anti-dust campaign from October 6, distribution of bio decomposers, and will set up 380 teams to impose a crackers' ban.

"The winter is set to arrive. When winter arrives, we often witness a rise in pollution. All the preparations have been done to fight pollution. Over 20 million people of Delhi and our Government have worked very hard to curb air pollution in Delhi over the last several

years. As a result, the pollution in the city has reduced significantly in 2021-22 as compared to 2017-18," Kejriwal said.

The Chief Minister said certain steps by the Government, including the introduction of an electric vehicle policy in 2020, 24-hour electricity supply, closure of thermal power plants, curbs on dust pollution and induction of electric and CNG buses had reduced pollution levels. He added the city Government received significant help from the Centre, which built peripheral express highways to ensure that a large number of trucks no longer needed to enter Delhi to travel further.

Delhi Government will spray bio decomposer for free to tackle stubble, said the CM.

Continued on Page 2

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.

Continued on Page 2

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.

Continued on Page 2



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

NCR-PULSE

17-YEAR-OLD STABBED TO DEATH BY SCHOOLMATE
New Delhi: A 17-year-old student was stabbed to death by his schoolmate in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area. The incident occurred on Thursday. Police said that the juvenile had purchased the weapon of offence -- a button-actuated knife -- online. According to Usha Rangnani, the DCP, northwest district, on Thursday, police got a police control room (PCR) call regarding the incident in Adarsh Nagar. The injured, identified as Deepanshu, a resident of Burari, had received multiple stab injuries. He was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries during treatment.

SHARJEEL IMAM GETS BAIL IN SEDITION CASE
New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday granted bail to former JNU student Sharjeel Imam in a sedition case in which he was accused of instigating the Jamia riots here in 2019, taking into account the Supreme Court's order effectively keeping in abeyance the colonial era sedition law. Granting bail to the student activist after nearly two-years-and-a-half of incarceration, the court also referred to its own observations of October 22, 2021 that there was no evidence on record to suggest the rioters acted after hearing Imam's speech.

DELHI POLICE VEHICLE HIT BY TRUCK
New Delhi: A Delhi police vehicle got damaged after it was hit by a truck near Shiv Murti on NH-8. The vehicle belonged to a DCP rank officer who was sitting inside the car when the incident happened around 11 pm on Wednesday. No one was injured in the incident, Deputy Commissioner of Police (southwest) Manoj C said, adding the right side of the police vehicle got damaged. The truck driver has been arrested and the vehicle bearing Haryana registration number was seized.

GAUTAM CHAIRS DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
New Delhi: Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam chaired a review meeting of the State Advisory Board for Persons with Disability (PWD). The State Advisory Board briefed Gautam about the work done in the past one year. The board advised to prioritise the recruitment of the differently abled persons by identifying four percent posts in all departments for the disabled.

FATHER OF JAILED GANGSTER BAWANA ARRESTED
New Delhi: The Delhi Police has arrested the father of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana after recovering illegal pistols with live cartridges. A senior official said police recovered four countrymade pistols along with live cartridges. Two cars, including a bulletproof vehicle, was also recovered. Bawana and some of his gang members are currently lodged in the Tihar Jail in connection with several murder and extortion cases.

SISODIA VISITS SARVODAYA CO-ED SCHOOL
New Delhi: Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia visited Sarvodaya Co-Ed School in IP Extension on Friday. During the visit, he interacted with the students in the morning assembly. Sisodia asked the children about their career aspirations as well as their experiences of the three flagship curriculums of the Kejriwal government. "In the last 7 years, Delhi Government schools have become brilliant and world-class education facilities are being provided to the children here. This has boosted the confidence of our children significantly," said Sisodia.

DCW WRITES TO CBI ON CHILD PORN ON TWITTER
New Delhi: Delhi Commission For Women chairperson Swati Malihwal has written to the Central Bureau of Investigation seeking its intervention on the issue of the availability of child porn on Twitter. The commission said it has identified 14 more tweets, apart from the ones it has already flagged, involving children in sexual activities. In a letter to CBI Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, Malihwal has sought his urgent intervention by registering an FIR and the immediate arrests of those involved in the crime.

BLUE LINE METRO OPERATIONS TO BE HIT ON OCT 2
New Delhi: Due to planned maintenance work on a section of the corridor, the Delhi Metro operations on the Blue Line will be curtailed during the first half on October 2. The busy line connects Dwarka Sector 21 in Delhi with Noida Electronic City, and also branches off to Vaishali from Yamuna Bank station. "To undertake the scheduled track maintenance work between Yamuna Bank and Akshardham section on the Blue Line i.e. Line-3/4 (Dwarka Sec-21 to Noida Electronic City (NEC)/Vaishali), train services on the morning of 2nd October 2022 (Sunday) will be regulated," the DMRC said.

Tyagi stir impact: 48 illegal extensions...

From Page 1
They also uprooted 11 of the 15 palm trees which were transplanted outside Tyagi's

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Shakuntla Rani, W/o. Late Shri Mehar Singh P/O. H.No. 94/C1, Ward No-2 Mehrauli, South Delhi Mehrauli Delhi-110030, that my clients son, Aashish Kumar is disobedient, is not according to my client's arrangements, and is beyond my control and supervision. That my above name client have also disowned and disbarred her son, Mr. Aashish Kumar from all her moveable and immovable properties and severed all their relations with him. Anybody dealing with him (Aashish Kumar) will do so at own risk and responsible and my client would not be liable for any kind of act, deed, or dealing done by him (Aashish Kumar).

For S and S Associates
Girish Kumar Advocate
D/4071/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr. Onil Bhatnagar S/O. Sh. J. P. Bhatnagar P/O. G-1105, VVIP Addresses, Raj Nagar, Ext. Ghaziabad, U.P., Has breakup all his relations with his wife and sons namely Mrs. Madhu and Nakul & Rohan respectively because of their illegal acts & rude and non co operative behavior towards my client. Any person who will deal with Mrs. Madhu, Nakul & Rohan, in any manner, what soever, will be held responsible himself, not my client.
(N.K. Rath) Dated: 27/09/2022 Advocate D-896/97(R) G-323, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi M.8911283109, 09990060333 Email: nkrathadv@yahoo.com

उत्तराखण्ड परिवहन निगम द्वारा विभिन्न मार्गों पर सीएनपीजी बसों को अनुबन्ध के आधार पर संचालन किये जाने हेतु निजी वाहन स्वामियों से प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। प्रस्ताव हेतु सर्तों एवं मार्गों का विवरण utc.uk.gov.in पर आम लाईन उपलब्ध है। इसके अतिरिक्त dakutcho@gmail.com पर ई-मेल कर निविदा प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा ऑनलाइन खोलनेसे कर अथवा ई-मेल के माध्यम से प्राप्त कर विविध प्रकार ईएम्पलीमेंट व टेण्डर फीस डाकूट चार्ज आबश्यक प्रपत्रों सहित ओहोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में दिनांक: 15 अक्टूबर-2022 समय 15:00 बजे तक जमा कराये जा सकते हैं। (दीपक जैन) महाप्रबन्धक (संचालन)

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-39-T-2022-23-E3
Electrical work in connection with setting up of quick watering arrangement at HN2M station.
Approx cost of the works : Rs. 125.92 lacs
Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security : Rs. 2,13,000.00
Date & time of submission of tender : 26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender : 26.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
2578/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile
Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by Narendara Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

BJP wins 417 out of 841 seats in MP local polls

PTI ■ BHOPAL

The ruling BJP on Friday won 417 out of 814 seats in local body elections in Madhya Pradesh and claimed to have secured majority in 38 out of 46 local bodies. The elections had been held on Tuesday. The main opposition Congress won 250 seats, Independents 131, Aam Aadhi Party seven, Gondwana Ganatantra Party (GGP) six and Bahujan Samaj Party three seats in the polls to 46 local bodies, an official said. As many as 3,397 candidates were in the fray in the elections to 17 nagar palikas and 29 nagar parishads. Voter turnout of 72.60 per cent was recorded in the polls held across 18 districts.



At least 25 corporators were elected unopposed. Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath congratulated Congress candidates on their performance and alleged that the BJP misused the official machinery to contest the elections. Congress candidates were harassed by the administration at the BJP's behest, he alleged, adding that the results showed that "the truth can be harassed, but it can't be defeated."

Paratroopers of PBG para jump to mark 250th raising day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



All the paratroopers of the Aelite President's Bodyguard (PBG) carried out para jumps to mark the 250th raising day of the Regiment. The troopers of the regiment performed the jumps in Agra for two days ending Thursday. Giving details of the history of the President's Bodyguard, officials said here on Friday it is one of the oldest regiment of the Indian army raised on September 30, 1773 in Varanasi. In addition to the ceremonial tasks, the PBG performs many operational tasks. The personnel from the PBG are excellent horsemen as well as trained paratroopers. They are trained to be dropped by parachute into battle or behind enemy lines. Even today a detachment of Regiment remains permanently deployed at the world's highest battlefield, the Siachen Glacier. With a view to celebrate and commemorate 250 years, the PBG paratroopers show-

cased their para trooping skills during their annual training jumps on 28-29 September at Malpura dropping zone, Agra wherein, all paratroopers underwent a low altitude, static line jump.

The Regiment has successfully participated in almost all wars and performed exceedingly well. In 1962, the Regiment's Armoured Cars were deployed at Chushul and in 1965, it participated in "Operation Ablaze" in Ferozpur Sector.

Detachments of the Regiment have served with the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka in 1988-89. PBG personnel have even served with distinction with Indian contingents forming part of the United Nation Forces in Somalia, Angola, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Lebanon.

Claiming that a large number of Congress-supported candidates won the polls, Nath said the party will return to power in the state in the next 12 months (after Assembly polls) as people have supported it. State BJP spokesperson Pankaj Chaturvedi said that out of 46 local bodies, the party secured majority in 38. The BJP emerged victorious in all seats in Khurai and Garhakota local bodies in Sagar district, while the party's performance was also good in Chhindwara, Nath's bastion, he said. "He (Nath) should tell why the Congress lost in his stronghold," Chaturvedi said. The BJP spokesperson also claimed that the party had won many seats in the tribal areas too.

At 80, yes-man Kharge to...

From Page 1
"The Gandhi family has not endorsed anyone," Mistry said at an AICC press conference. Mistry said they have received a total of 20 nomination forms, of which 14 were by Mallikarjun Kharge, five by Shashi Tharoor, and one by Jharkhand Congress leader KN Tripathi. "Saturday scrutiny of forms will be done and then announce valid candidates' names," Mistry said. His candidature was proposed by party leaders Ashok Gehlot, Digvijaya Singh, Pramod Tiwari, PL Punia, AK Antony, Pawan Kumar Bansal and Mukul Wasnik. Kharge is one of the most experienced persons in the party and is a Dalit leader too, Tewari said. This will be the first time in two decades that a non-Gandhi leader will head the Congress at the national level. Rahul has time and said that no member of the Gandhi family will contest the party president's poll. By making way for a non-Gandhi to lead the party, Rahul hopes to blunt the edge of the "dynasty" charge the BJP repeatedly funds at the Congress "first family" and the party.

598 accidents in 7 months on 37 blackspots in G'gram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM



The city of Gurugram has 37 'black spots' where 598 accidents have taken place in less than seven months. Most of these 'black spots' are under the jurisdiction of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). This was disclosed in the monthly meeting of the Road Safety Advisory Committee headed by deputy commissioner (DC) Nishant Kumar Yadav on Friday. Yadav also reviewed the progress of the work being done by the concerned departments for making necessary improvements on these 37 'black spots'. These 'black spots' include busy junctions in Gurugram such as Rajiv Chowk, Narsingpur Chowk, Bilaspur-Pataudi Road, Hero

Honda Chowk, Shankar Chowk, Pataudi Road and IFFCO Chowk apart from areas like Kherki Daula, Golf Course, Sohna Road and IMT Manesar. Apart from this, during the meeting, officials of the Regional Traffic Authority (RTA) informed that in September, 512 vehicles were fined by the RTA office in Gurugram, out of which 418 were disposed off. Also, about Rs. 1.7 crores were recovered via these chal-

lans. Yadav also directed the concerned officials about making the traffic system easier on Sohna Road's key traffic points which include Tikri Cut, Sheeshpal Vihar T-Point and Vatika Chowk. Apart from this, on the matter of ease of traffic at Vatika Chowk, it was informed that the underpass will be constructed by NHAI here, whose detailed project report (DPR) process is under process.

Soorarai Pottru bags best feature...

From Page 1
Highlighting the recognition enjoyed by Indian music abroad, the President said that it has been a great medium for spreading India's soft-power globally. She further remarked that In July this year, a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Uzbekistan where a popular song from a 1960s Hindi film was performed by a foreign band at the closing ceremony. Speaking on the occasion Anurag Thakur said he strongly believed that cinema is poetry in pictures mirroring the magic, marvel and madness of all that makes us feel alive and human. "Cinema has captured and carved the conscience, community and culture of our country. Debutants, professionals and legends from the Indian Film Industry have tickled and touched our hearts and minds for over a century," he added.

Cities will shape India's destiny...

From Page 1
"PM @narendramodi is on board the Vande Bharat Express from Gandhinagar to Ahmedabad. People from different walks of life, including those from the Railways family, women entrepreneurs and youngsters are his co-passengers on this journey," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO India) said in a tweet. In the photographs attached with the tweet, the prime minister is seen interacting with railway officials, women entrepreneurs and others on board the train. The train, which connects the capital cities of Maharashtra and Gujarat, is the third Vande Bharat Express in the country. The first such train was started on New Delhi-Varanasi route, while the second one on New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra route, an official said.

Tharoor...

From Page 1
In a tweet, BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya said Tharoor put a mutilated map of India in his manifesto. Taking a swipe at Tharoor, he said, "While Rahul Gandhi is supposed to on Bharat Jodo Yatra, wannabe Congress president is hell bent on dismembering India. May be he thinks this might help find favour with the Gandhis." Echoing similar sentiments, BJP's national spokesperson RP Singh said, "It is not a mistake or blunder but laid policy of Congress about Jammu & Kashmir." The Congress sought to distance itself from the "egregious error", trying to deflect the BJP's attacks on Rahul's ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said the BJP was using "any flimsy excuse" as ammunition against party leader Rahul's 'Unite India March'.

19 dead in Kabul edu centre...

From Page 1
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." Akbary, who was unharmed, said he saw dozens of bodies and wounded people scattered around him. "I was so afraid and couldn't even move myself to help them. Later, other people ran inside and took us out," he added. Akbary said he has attended classes at the center the past six months. Khalid Zadran, the Taliban-appointed spokesman of the Kabul police who gave the casualty toll, said students were among the victims of the blast, but he did not specify how many. He said education centers in the area will need to ask the Taliban for additional security when they host events with big gatherings like Friday's exam prep. Police have arrested a suspect who may have links to the attack, Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor said later. He was unable to provide any updates on the casualties. The Emergency NGO Hospital in Kabul said in a tweet it had received 22 patients so far, adding that most of them were women aged 18-25 who were taking an exam. Husnia Azimi was one of those killed in the suicide bombing. She left home Friday morning to attend the exam, even though her sister Zainab told her it was late and not to go. "Once she left, it was around 09:00 a.m. that we heard about the explosion," said Zainab. "We didn't hear its sound, but once we got the

news, we went to all the hospitals, Ali Jinnah hospital, Watan hospital, and other hospitals. "But when we went to the Emergency Hospital, we got a call from Ali Jinnah hospital that my sister's dead body was found. Then we went back there and saw her body." No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But the Islamic State group, the chief rival of the Taliban, has been waging a campaign of violence that has intensified since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in August 2021. Afghanistan's Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims, have been a frequent target of the violence. In Dashti Barchi, IS carried out a 2020 attack on a maternity hospital that killed 24 people, including newborns and mothers, and an attack on a school in 2021 that killed more than 90, mostly schoolgirls. The neighborhood sees frequent bombings of minibuses and, earlier this year, a school and another education center were hit near simultaneously, killing six. Local police chief Abdul Rahman Nafiz said, "Neither police officials nor intelligence officials were aware of any activity going on or a big exam happening in this center, so the officials from the center were very reckless," he said. "Now our mujaheddin (Taliban police) are here, and they are investigating the incident." Amnesty International's South Asia campaigner, Samira Hamidi, said Friday's attack showed the "utter failure of the Taliban, as de-facto authorities, to protect the people of Afghanistan. She said the Taliban have taken few measures to protect the public, especially Shias and Hazaras. "Instead, their actions of omission and commission have only aggravated the risk to the lives of the people of Afghanistan especially ethnic and minority communities."

Scrap old vehicles, get tax rebate on new one

Delhi Govt gives in-principle approval to Road Tax concession after showing 'certificate of deposit'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP-led Delhi Government on Friday gave in-principle approval for offering rebate on Road Tax for vehicles purchased after scrapping of old automobiles. According to a statement issued by the Delhi Government's Transport Department, a maximum concession of 25 per cent in case of non-transport vehicles and 15 per cent in the case of transport vehicles would be provided to new vehicle buyers upon production of 'Certification of Deposit' issued during the scrapping of old vehicles.

The policy will come into effect after its final approval by Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena. According to the Delhi Government, the policy will pave the way for scrapping of old vehicles and introduction of new vehicles with upgraded pollution norms. It will also help in the establishment of a



circular economy in the transportation sector, reducing the vehicle scrappage and those old vehicles which are lying unutilized.

Speaking at the occasion, Delhi's Transport Minister, Kailash Gahlot said that they have to find every possible way to promote a circular economy and establish mobility infrastructure which is environmentally sustainable.

"A lot of cities in the world are struggling with waste disposal and looking for efficient solutions. I am confident that the policy will encourage vehicle owners in Delhi to replace and scrap their old vehicles with new vehicles of higher emission standards. I would rather urge them to buy an EV than any other type of vehicle to help our city become clean," said Gahlot. Officials said, "The 'certificate of deposit'

will be issued at the registered scrapping facilities of the Government upon scrapping of old vehicles." Giving details, the officials said that the concession to new buyers will be given in three vehicle categories.

"For non-transport vehicles, the concession will range from 8 to 25 per cent based on the cost of the new vehicle and fuel type, while in second category, the new vehicles registered under BH (Bharat) series are liable to deposit the motor vehicle tax for two years as per the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway guidelines," said the officials adding that the motor vehicle tax concession to BH series vehicles will be provided "Thirdly, the motor vehicle tax concession on purchase of new transport (commercial) vehicles on production of certificate of deposit will be 15 per cent of total motor vehicle tax paid at the time of registration of new vehicles," said the official.

"The concession will be available up to eight years in case of transport vehicles and up to fifteen years, in case of non-transport vehicles and there will be no concession available after these periods," said the official.

Saxena raises projects delay issue with in letter to Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has again written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal regarding delays in execution of several critical developmental projects in the city that are pending due to delayed permissions for tree cutting/translocation.

This is the second letter from the L-G over the delayed permission issue. On August 17, the L-G had shot off a similar letter to Kejriwal, but there was no response from the Government.

According to Raj Niwas, as many as 15 major projects involving the felling and translocation of over 8,000 trees have been stalled as the Delhi Government is yet to give permission for it.

The files pertaining to these projects are pending with the Delhi Minister of Environment and Forest department, since 2019. Saxena also raised the issue with Kejriwal during the weekly meeting on Friday evening.

The stalled projects in the city include the redevelopment of premier all India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) as World Class Medical University pending since January, 2022.



The metro line tracks from Paschim Vihar to Madhuban Chowk; Majlis Park to Derawal Nagar and Saket G-Block to Khanpur to Tughlakabad are pending since 2019. The metro line track from Pul Bangash to Ghatanghar, Janakpuri West to RK Ashram and Saket G-Block to Sangam Vihar are also pending since April, 2022.

"Construction of new engineering block and academic complex in IIT Delhi is also pending since 2021, building of CISH in Saket pending since 2021, construction of road over bridge and road under bridge by MCD at Sultanpuri near Nangloi and construction of the important Dwarka Expressway Phase II, pending since April, 2022 and the construction of Urban Extension Road-II at National Highway-34 in Delhi since 2021," Raj Niwas said in a statement.

"Similarly, projects for redevelopment of General Pool Residential Accommodations (GPRA), that will provide a much higher number of houses for Government servants as well as private individuals apart

from creating commercial space have been stalled at various locations since as long as 2019," it said. The L-G in his letter has observed that, "Such unwarranted delays in disposal of applications regarding permission for relocation /transplantation is leading to a waste of public funds due to time and cost overruns of the projects for which accountability needs to be fixed.

"Further pendency in completion of the projects is also delaying the provision of much required public utilities and services to the citizens of Delhi.

"Project Management Agencies/Departments are being constrained to seek relief from the Hon'ble Courts, resulting in overburdening the Hon'ble Courts besides leading to wastage of time and energy at all levels," the letter stated.

He has further written, 'Considering the public importance of projects and the inconvenience being faced by several Agencies, I had raised the matter regarding undue delay in disposal of applications for grant of permission for tree cutting/translocation in case of various projects of CPWD, DMRC, Indian Railways several times during my meetings with you, however the pendency continues to persist.

City's air-polluting sources to be tracked in real time from Oct 20

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Government's source apportionment system will start providing data from October 20 after sources of pollution at any location in the national Capital will be tracked in real time.

According to Adviser to the Delhi Government Reena Gupta, the real-time source apportionment study will help identify and locate the exact contribution of various polluting sources within the city on a real-time basis.

She said the air quality and Air Quality Index (AQI) at multiple locations will be forecast on an hourly basis for three days in advance and on a daily basis for a week in advance."Based on the apportionment and forecasting, control actions required to curb major polluting sources can be customised," Gupta said.

The Delhi Government, in partnership with IIT-Kanpur, had come up with a supersite, capable of monitoring various compounds, at Rouse Avenue to monitor air quality in real time and also make forecasts.

Through the project, the factors responsible for the rise in air pollution at any particular location in Delhi will be identified. The sources of pollution could be vehicles, dust, thermal power plants, biomass burning, stubble burning and smoke emanating from facto-

'Based on the apportionment and forecasting, control actions required to curb major polluting sources can be customised.'

Adviser to the Delhi Government
Reena Gupta

ries. It will also provide daily and weekly forecasting of air quality and AQI at multiple locations, within and outside Delhi.

Pollution forecasting will help the Government take significant policy decisions such as order closure of schools, and impose restrictions on construction activities and vehicular movement beforehand, Gupta said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a 15-point Winter Action Plan, including setting up teams to check garbage burning, dust and vehicular emission to curb air pollution.

He said certain steps taken by the Government, including the introduction of an electric vehicle policy in 2020 and 24-hour electricity supply, had led to an 18.6 per cent decline in air pollution levels in the last four years.

Govt did nothing to check air pollution: Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced the 15-point Winter Action Plan to curb air pollution, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri criticised it saying the Government had done nothing to check air pollution except put out advertisements and termed it a paper action plan.

Bidhuri said the smog towers installed by the Delhi Government have proved to be useless and the plan to destroy stubble through the Pusa biodecomposer was a propaganda tool. He alleged, "In Delhi, a



chemical worth Rs 40 thousand was purchased to destroy the stubble, while Rs 24 crore was spent on its promotion. The Winter Action Plan will remain only on paper as no work has been done at the ground level.

This is the reason that in the WHO's report, Delhi has been facing the stigma of the world's most polluted Capital and the Kejriwal Government is fully responsible for this." The LoP alleged that the Government has no intention to reduce pollution and due to its negligence pollution increases.

"All PWD roads are in a bad condition and it is difficult for people to drive on them and consequently it is causing more fuel consumption and pollution. Let alone making new roads they are not even being repaired. The Supreme Court has said that PM 2.5 is the main reason for pollution in the

Capital. Due to the dust rising from these roads, PM 2.5 is increasing," he said.

He also alleged that due to the lack of improvement in public transport people are forced to use their vehicles, due to which vehicular pollution is increasing. "The Government has failed on this front.

For the last eight years, Delhiites have been waiting for new buses as 3,760 DTC buses have completed their life cycle and they are being run on the roads ignoring the safety of the public. These buses often break down which causes traffic jams and pollution as well," the LoP said.

Guj co-incharge Raghav will be arrested soon: Kejriwal

In which case they will do it and what will be the allegations, these people are making these up now: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday that there was a possibility that the party's Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha would be arrested soon. "Ever

since Raghav Chadha has been appointed as the co-incharge of Gujarat and he has started going for election campaigns in Gujarat, we are hearing that these people will also arrest him.

In which case they will do it and what will be the allegations, these people are making these up now," he said in a tweet. Kejriwal, however, did not specify which agency was working on the alleged plan to arrest Chadha.

Kejriwal's assertion comes after the CBI arrested the party's media communications in-charge Vijay Nair in connection with the alleged Delhi

Excise Policy "scam" on Tuesday. Responding to Kejriwal's tweet, Chadha said the BJP has lost its sleep seeing the progress of the AAP in Gujarat. "Gujarat is demanding change and every day the BJP has lost its sleep seeing the progress of the Aam Aadmi Party.

We are followers of Bhagat Singh. We are neither afraid of the walls of your jail nor of the noose," he said.

After Kejriwal's tweet, AAP Gujarat highlighted its earlier tweet stating that the "BJP was afraid after seeing the increasing popularity of the AAP in Gujarat and therefore they

have been planning to arrest Chadha." Meanwhile, the Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged that the BJP wanted to prevent its defeat in Gujarat by getting AAP leaders arrested, claiming that people of the State wanted to give their mandate to Kejriwal this time. "The BJP wasted 27 years of the people of Gujarat.

Neither did it open good schools nor hospitals (in the State). Be it youth wandering in search of jobs or farmers, cow keepers or rickshaw pullers, everyone now wants to give a chance to Arvind Kejriwal," Sisodia said in a tweet in Hindi following Kejriwal's assertion.

FIR over Holy Family Hospital firing lodged, six arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have registered an FIR in connection with an incident of firing at the Holy Family Hospital in which a Jamia Millia Islamia student was shot at and injured by another student on Thursday evening. Six people have been arrested in the case.

According to a senior police official, around 8.50 pm on Thursday, information was received regarding a quarrel at Jamia Millia Islamia university library.

"During enquiry, it was found that there was a fight between two groups of students. In the incident, Noman Chaudhary (26), a resident of Meerut district in Uttar Pradesh, sustained a blunt injury on his head and had gone to the Holy Family Hospital in southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar with his friend Nauman Ali for treatment," said the senior police official.

Meanwhile, a student from the second group, Zalal, a resident of Mewat in Haryana, came to the hospital with his friends and fired at Ali outside the emergency ward, the senior police official said.

Ali had a superficial injury on the scalp. The injured was shifted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre. The crime team is inspecting the scene of crime,

the police said. An FIR has been registered in the matter, the officials said. In a statement issued on Friday, the Holy Family Hospital said, "There was a clash between two groups in the locality (Jamia Nagar) and some of the injured persons were brought to the hospital Emergency." "One shot was fired in the Emergency between the clashing groups. No bystanders, other patients or hospital staff were injured. The situation was brought under control," it said.

A day after a Jamia Millia Islamia student was shot at by another student at a hospital, the varsity on Friday assured that the campus has a robust security mechanism and that students' safety is the administration's priority.

Registrar Nazim Hussain Jafri said that a scuffle broke out on the campus between two groups in the morning and we immediately took action and resolved the issue.

"In the evening, the group got engaged in another fight and a student suffered injuries and was taken to the hospital. In the hospital, a few students along with outside people fired bullets. On the campus, we ensure the safety and security of the students. We ensure discipline is maintained and that the students are safe. Their safety is our priority," said Jafri.

12th class student shot in Jamia Nagar; probe underway

NEW DELHI: A class 12th student was allegedly shot dead by unidentified assailants in Southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar area. Police said that they are scanning CCTV cameras in the area to identify the culprits.

According to a senior police official, on Friday, a PCR call regarding a boy being shot near Azeem dairy was received at Jamia Nagar police station.

"The victim was taken to Holy Family Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead," said the senior police official. "Victim's brother, Asif, told police that at the time of incident he was in the house, and after hearing gunshot when Asif came out, he found that his younger brother was lying injured on the road. He took his brother to hospital," said the senior police official.

"People residing nearby have been examined and legal action is being taken accordingly," said police, adding that further investigation is going on. **SR**

PWD identifies 10K spots to set up 5G towers in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Public Works Department (PWD) has identified around 10,000 spots across the national Capital for installation of small 'cell sites' or small towers for roll out of 5G network in the national Capital.

According to sources, the government departments including the PWD will provide infrastructure related support to telecom companies in installation of these small towers. The locations were identified in a PWD survey and the data has been submitted to a Delhi Government enterprise Geospatial Delhi Limited (GSDL).

Sources said that locations where 5G small cell sites can be set up include large sign boards and street light poles on arterial roads and high-mast lights.

"We have included poles of street lights, high-mast lights and large sign boards situated at prominent and busy road stretches, as potential sites where small cell sites or small towers of 5G network can be set up to improve connectivity. So as per our calculation, nearly 10,000 such spots have been identified and related data has been given to the GSDL," sources said. The small

towers or cells sites of 5G network weigh around 40-50 kg hence these can easily be installed atop electricity poles or large sign boards, they said.

The actual number of 5G towers to be set up at these locations will be decided by concerned telecom companies, sources said.

The PWD manages around 1,500 kilometres of roads in Delhi. Some of the key stretches where 5G small towers will be set up include Ring Road, Outer Ring Road, Vikas Marg, Rohtak Road, Mathura Road, Aurobindo Marg, Africa Avenue Marg among others, They said.

The move comes after Delhi chief secretary had a meeting with telecom companies earlier this month to discuss the plan to roll out 5G network connectivity plan.

After roll out of the 5G network connectivity, major agencies and government department will shift to the 5G, which are currently using 4G network.

They said that 5G small towers are likely to be set up in areas and road stretches where network is weak or the density of mobile phones is high. The 5G network towers will provide high-speed internet connectivity in these areas.

Delhi Govt to fill more than 17,000 posts

Many outsourced employees are also engaged through agencies such as ICSIL, NIELIT

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has expedited the process of making permanent recruitment in more than 17,000 posts in its various departments and agencies. According to a senior Government official,

many of these posts in various departments and local and autonomous bodies are currently filled with contractual employees.

"The Delhi Government has directed all its departments and agencies to furnish details of ad-hoc appointments on 17,256 posts for starting the process to replace temporary employees with permanent recruits," said the official. "The Services department has asked the departments to furnish all the details, including name and number of sanctioned


posts, number of persons appointed against vacant posts on contractual basis, and representation of SC, ST and OBC among such recruits," said the official. "It has been observed that departments have engaged contractual employees against many of such vacant posts and are extending their contract from time to time.

Many outsourced employees are also engaged through agencies such as ICSIL and NIELIT," said the official. According to a memorandum issued by the Services depart-

ment, the chief secretary has taken note of this situation and desired that all information regarding engagement, extension of contractual and outsourced employees presently working in all the departments and autonomous bodies of the Delhi Government was sought from them so that the temporary employees could be replaced with regular appointees. "The Services department in August had directed the departments and autonomous bodies having vacant direct recruitment posts

to send requisitions for filling them up. They have been instructed further to complete the process by the beginning of October," an officials said.

The departments have to send requisition to the Delhi State Subordinate Services Recruitment Board (DSSSB) and Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) within three months. The requisitions will also include those direct recruitment posts that are going to fall vacant in the coming six months, said the officials.



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

APPEAL

Due to recent heavy rains in Delhi and NCR there has been drastic increase in water stagnation in and around houses, buildings and vacant lands. Chances of mosquito breeding has increased and there is possibility of increase in transmission of mosquito borne diseases like Dengue, Malaria and Chikungunya. Dengue & Chikungunya are viral diseases for which there are neither vaccines nor anti-viral drugs available. Prevention is the only way of protection. Therefore, general public is hereby requested to participate and support in prevention of mosquito breeding in and around their houses and work places by taking following steps:-

1. Do not allow water collection in and around your houses and offices.
2. Remove the water from the Coolers and keep it dry.
3. Dispose off the unused tyres, broken utensils, metallic and plastic waste and other kabad lying in the open.
4. Change water of bird pots and flower pots regularly.
5. Tightly cover the water tanks and other water containers.
6. Prevent water stagnations and channelize the same to prevent mosquito breeding at construction sites.
7. Wear full sleeve clothes, socks & shoes to avoid any chance of mosquito bite.
8. In case of fever take Paracetamol and plenty of fluids. Do not take Aspirin and Ibuprofen like drugs. Consult a doctor.

Issued in public interest by Public Health Department.

DON'T PANIC, PREVENT MOSQUITO BREEDING AND STAY SAFE.

R.O. No. 33/DP/MCD/2022-23

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 ‘quack-er’ woodger, 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

after the Cold War and serving as senior adviser to the secretary-general, in addition to his role as under-secretary general for Communications and Public Information.

Tharoor, who was chosen as India’s official candidate for the post of secretary general, finished second of seven candidates in the 2006 election, which was won by former South Korean diplomat and politician Ban Ki-moon.

Though his political journey began at 53, he took giant strides as a politician after winning the Lok Sabha election. His candidacy was opposed by a section of leaders of the Kerala Congress who viewed him as an outsider. Tharoor, however, won by a comfortable margin over his nearest opponent from the Communist Party of India.

In July 2020, Tharoor crossed a milestone by becoming the longest-serving parliamentarian representing the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency. Among the best orators in the House, Tharoor’s move to contest the polls will undoubtedly make him a household name in India, something that will keep him in good stead.

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.

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 ‘Vijayadashmi’ 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.

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

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



Photo by Ranjan Dimri

SC recommends elevation of three High Court judges

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit, has recommended names of three High Court judges, Justice Jaswant Singh, Justice P B Varale, and Ali Mohammad Magrey, for elevation as Chief Justices of Orissa, Karnataka, and Jammu and Kashmir high courts respectively. The apex court collegium, which also comprised justices DY Chandrachud and Sanjay Kishan Kaul, has also recommended to Centre transfer of Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, Justice S Muralidhar, and Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Pankaj Mithal as CJs of Madras and Rajasthan high courts respectively. Besides these, the collegium, in its separate statement uploaded on apex court website on September 30, with regard to transfer of three high court judges. PNS

SALE NOTICE

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

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SANDEEP GARG, CS DJ 1010/18	Vehicle No. UP14DA6801, Make and Model- RENAULT KWID, Manu Year- 2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS ISHA KUMAR, CS No.498/22	Vehicle No. DL9CAU9220, Make and Model- MARUTI UDYOG LTD ALTO, Manu Year- 2016 Reserve Price: Rs.1,60,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.16,000/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS NILOFER GHUMAN, CS (Comm) No. 5194 of 2021	Vehicle No. PB10EN3713, Make and Model- TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR INDIA LTD FORTUNER, Manu Year- 2013 Reserve Price: Rs.5,80,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.58,000/-

Auction Date: October 07, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhralli, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- **Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)**

ICICI BANK LTD VS AKSHAY GIRI, OA 494/2019, IA 2240/2019	Vehicle No. - UP14GT8288, Make and Model - SWARAJ MAZDA LTD SAMRAT, Manu Year - 2017 Reserve Price Rs.2,84,000/- EMD Rs.28,400/-
--	--

Auction Date: October 17, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Shriram Automall India Ltd., Plo Maniyaari Road, Opposite Kanya Gurukul school, Narela, New Delhi - 110040.
Contact Person- **Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)**

ICICI BANK LTD VS ASLAM KHA, CS (Comm) No. 3444 of 2021	Vehicle No. UP14JT7751, Make and Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTD PARTNER, Manu Year- 2019 Reserve Price: Rs.5,40,000/- EMD Amount: Rs.54,000/-
ICICI BANK Ltd. Vs. Babar & Anr., CS (Comm) No. 1377-21	Vehicle No - UP14JT1939, Make & Model - ASHOK LEYLAND GURU 1010, Manu. Year- 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS RAJA HUSAIN, CS (COMM) No.: 1094/21	Vehicle No. UP14JT3784, Make and Model - ASHOK LEYLAND LTD GURU 1111, Manu Year - 2019

Auction Date: Oct 7, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking yard, Khasra No 527 Village Bantila Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad- UP- 201102
Contact Person- **Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)**

ICICI BANK LTD VS RAMESH, CS SCJ No. 1928/18	Vehicle No - HR38U9071, Make and Model - TATA MOTORS LTD ACE, Manu Year- 2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS JAGDISH KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 1992/2021	Vehicle No - UP16ET9417, Make and Model- HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT, Manu Year- 2017, Reserve price : Rs. 1,80,000/- EMD Amount: 18,000/-

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

Terms of Sale

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

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

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-41-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with; I) Construction of FOB (pedestrian cum two wheeler) over railway tracks for connecting Rama road and Prem Nagar colony near Patel nagar railway station. ii) Extension of platform no. 1 & 2 at both end of Bhodwal Majri Railway station on DUK section. iii) Provision of 6.0 Mtr wide FOB at Bhodwal Majri Railway Station on DUK section.
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 25.70 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divil. Elect. Engineer/General New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 51400.00
Date & time of submission of tender	25.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	25.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi

2583/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1	Name of work : Repair and Maintenance of landscaping and horticulture work in circulating area of New Delhi Railway station PG and AG side, saloon siding, plants etc. for one year at New Delhi Railway station under Sr. DEN-III/DI
2	Approx. cost of work : Rs. 1,24,97,238.80 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Four Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Eight and Sixty Paise Only)
3	Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 2,12,500/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document : Rs. 0.00/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender : 21.10.2022 at 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/64/2022-23/W-3 Date:- 29.09.2022 2568/22

Serving Customers with a Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE



Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Farah Deebe, Afroz Jahah, P 170/ 4 Naidu Enclave, Cathham Lines, Old Cantt, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No. LBALD00003216105	Flat No.- A 142/3, 3rd Floor, Wave Executive Floor, Sector-5 Green Wood Enclave, Wave City, Nh-24, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	04/08/2022 Rs. 29,29,380/-	30/05/ 2022
2.	Farah Deebe, Afroz Jahah, P 170/ 4 Naidu Enclave, Cathham Lines, Old Cantt, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No. LBLUC00004406101	Shop No. SI/56, Second Floor, Wave Galleria, Sector-3, Wave City, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	04/08/2022 Rs. 11,59,594/-	30/05/ 2022
3.	Sarita Chaturvedi, Shivam Chaturvedi, 27/191/3, Teela Gokulpura, Lohamandi, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No. LBAGR00004191091	Flat No. G39, Ground Floor, Tower-B, Khasra No. 187, 200, 201 & 202 Minjuma, Singhal Dream City, Mauza Laramada, Tehsil & District Agra, Uttar Pradesh	04/08/2022 Rs. 9,74,032/-	06/05/ 2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : October 01, 2022

Place : Ghaziabad (Noida)

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

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 18-20jets) 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

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

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

A spike in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), temperature, black carbon and other pollutants in the atmosphere is taking a toll on the glaciers in the pristine Drass region in Western Himalayas’ Ladakh, a team of Indian scientists has said, warning that a ‘business as usual’ scenario may wipe them out forever.

The long-term consequences of shrinking glaciers will affect the downstream community in the Indus basin, which encompasses Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and a part of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Chandigarh, the scientists from Kashmir University warned.

On the basis of the satellite study of around 77 glaciers, they said that situated in the Drass region, these have thinned by 1.27 metres due to soaring temperatures and black carbon (or soot, a component of particulates) which has risen from 330 nanograms to 680 nanograms in the period between 1984-2020.

“If this current trend continues in the future, the Himalayan glaciers may disappear entirely. This will have a significant

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.

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 convener 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 Vikas, 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 Baghpatt, 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.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Notice U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) who have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of loans facility obtained by them from secured creditor and loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them on their last known addresses, however, it has returned un-served and hence, they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number (DHFL, Old LAN & ICICI New LAN) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Baleshwar/ Rajkumari- (27400000668 & QZBW00005029301)- Villi Khoh, Post Manesar, NR INT Laxmi School, Gurgaon, Haryana- 122001	Flat No. P-108, 7th Floor, Trehan Hill View Garden, Tower P Thada, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, Bhiwadi- 301707	July 8, 2022 Rs. 16,15,939/-	08/02/ 2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Date : October 01, 2022
Place : Gurgaon
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Date : October 01, 2022
Place : Delhi & Faridabad & Gurgaon & Nodia
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
GOA WASTE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Goa Undertaking)
Saligao Plateau, Saligao, Bardez Goa.
Email - contact@zerowastegoa.com
TENDER NOTICE
(ELECTRONIC MODE ONLY)
E-Tender RFP NO. 05/2022-23 Date:- 30/09/2022
GWMC invites Open Online tenders on Percentage Rates from Eligible Bidders /Joint Ventures (JVs) for Design, Engineering, Development of "Waste to Art Park" at Existing Art Park at Bhagwan Mahavir Balvihar Art Park at Campal, Panaji-Goa. The last date of online submission of the tender is 01/11/2022 upto 04:30 pm
For detailed tender notice and for participation in e-tender, please visit website: <https://eprocure.goa.gov.in>
Sd/-
(Dr. Levinson J. Martins)
Managing Director
DI/ADVT/1098/2022
"Wear Mask, Follow physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

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



SUCHARITA SEN

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

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.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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, introducing

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 philosophy 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 UK, 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)

but we can identify at least three overlapping categories of individuals entitled to our protection.

Firstly, a person is entitled to protection if their conscription is extralegal, discriminatory or results in inhuman treatment.

Within the occupied territory of Ukraine, it is illegal (and a war crime) for civilians to be conscripted into military operations against their own country, even by the proxy governments in power (like the self-declared Luhansk People's Republic).

There is also growing evidence that the way in which conscription is happening in Russia (like in so many other places) is not just haphazard but targeted.

Protesters who demonstrate against conscription have been immediately served with conscription orders and ethnic minorities seem disproportionately at risk of conscription.

Once in the military, some recruits face more than simply the risk from battle. Hazing can be extreme and living conditions are often desperate.

Secondly, a person is entitled to our protection if their conscription will have a substantial possibility of involving them in internationally condemned acts.

This includes war crimes and crimes against humanity. From Bucha to Izium, evidence is emerging of the execution and torture of civilians and prisoners of war.

Although it is dangerous to generalise, the commission of such acts seems so widespread (and committed with such impunity) that there is a substantial possibility that any Russian soldier in the Ukraine could forcibly become an accomplice to such crimes.

Thirdly, a person is entitled to our protection because of their personal beliefs or circumstances.

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," 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
TID/TM/GEN-235/Vol-VI/22/1916, 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/CL-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

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 वृत्तिवश कांवेड मेले में सफाई हेतु आउटसोर्स के माध्यम से कर्मियों को रखे जाने हेतु अंकित हो गया था।
अतः उक्त विज्ञापित में "कांवेड 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" पढ़ा जाये निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
पत्रांक:- 1362/सौस्व(न/निगम/हरिद्वार) /2022-23 सहायक नगर आयुक्त दिनांक 30.09.2022 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 ADEEN/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	258762DLSLB
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 can be seen	Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in w.e.f. 28.09.2022
No. - 258762DLSLB 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 U40109PB2010SCG33813
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 Khasha number 1/17/2 (2-13) & 18 min. (0-11) 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/NEFT 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 forging 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



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 Garg, 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, Garg 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 cus-

tomers, 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 Boubacar 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 Boubacar, 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.

"Boubacar 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 Skatariya 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, however, 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 Nuthyanga, 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.

Harmanpreet plans to try out batters for all phases



It wasn't part of plan but was very much within rules: Harman on controversial run out

PTI ■ SYLHET

Running out England batter Charlie Dean while she was backing up was not part of India's plans during the recent ODI series but was very much within the rules of the game, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said on Friday.

Deepti Sharma had effected that controversial run out of Dean to complete India's 3-0 whitewash of England last week.

Upon her arrival in India, Deepti said she had warned Dean multiple times before she took the bails off. England captain Heather Knight, who sat out of the series due to injury, accused Deepti of lying.

Speaking ahead of Women's Asia Cup, Harmanpreet said it is time to move on while backing Deepti's act.

"We were noting these things from last couple of games. She was taking long strikes and undue advantage, it was Deepti's awareness (that she took the bails off)," Harmanpreet said.

"It was not part of the plan but everyone was there to win the game. Whenever you are on the ground, you want to win at any cost. The most important thing is to play within the rules. Whatever we did was very much in the rules.

"Whatever happened, it was not part of the plan but it has happened, we need to move on," said Harmanpreet.

The T20 World Cup will be played in South Africa in February next year. She also backed 18-year-old Shafali to get back amongst the runs.

"She is doing really well in the nets. Sometimes you are not able to carry that form in the middle. You need to spend some time in the middle and I am sure she will get her form back. Asia Cup will be a great platform for her.

"We will try to give her enough matches to get her confidence back."

Harmanpreet, however, has been batting at her best of late and smashed a memorable 143 not out off 111 balls in England. The India skipper said she is enjoying the added responsibility as the leader of the side.

On a rare series win in England, she said the team's long term plans are finally bearing fruit.

"When we went to England we wanted to play good cricket. Practice sessions were calculative. We did not think of creating any history and our plans were good and the results came, we have waited for it for a long time, so we were not surprised.

"The last couple of months, the way we played as team everyone was helping each other. We need to keep doing that to get the results. Watching videos and making plans of the opposition was helpful. We got enough data for all teams here as well," she added.

PTI ■ SYLHET

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has indicated that Women's Asia Cup beginning here on Saturday will be a lot about giving game time to the less experienced players as the team prepares for the T20 World Cup early next year.

The likes of D Hemalatha and Kiran Navgire were tried out in the preceding series in England but could not make an impact. Jemimah Rodrigues has recovered from a wrist injury that ruled her out of England series and is expected to play as opener against Sri Lanka on Saturday.

Opener Shafali Verma is another one under the scanner following a dismal run in England. The team however goes into the tournament high on confidence having beaten England 3-0 in the ODIs.

"A lot of T20s are coming up ahead of the World Cup. Players who have not got enough chances can also get match time before the World Cup. There are lot of areas we can work on. We are going to see if somebody else can get a chance in the first six overs and players can also be tried out in the middle overs and death overs.

"Bowling also we need to try for the right team combination. Jemi is fine, she batted in the nets today," said Harmanpreet while also providing a fitness update on Jemimah.

Siraj replaces injured Bumrah for remainder of SA T20Is

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohammed Siraj on Friday replaced injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah for India's remaining two T20 International matches against the visiting South African team.

Bumrah was on Thursday ruled out of the upcoming T20 World Cup due to a back stress fracture.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee named Mohd. Siraj as replacement for injured Jasprit Bumrah for the remainder of the T20I series against South Africa," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in the statement on Friday.

"Bumrah has sustained a back injury and is currently under the supervision of the BCCI Medical Team."



The 28-year-old Siraj, a right-arm pacer, has so far played in five T20Is and picked up five wickets from them. His last T20I match was against Sri Lanka at Dharamsala in February this year.

India lead the three-match T20I series against South Africa 1-0 after a comprehensive eight-wicket win in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The second and third matches will be played in Guwahati (October 2) and Indore (October 4).

Indian squad for South Africa T20Is: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shahbaz Ahmed, Mohd Siraj.

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.

Bharat Singh Chauhan re-elected unopposed Asian Chess Federation deputy president

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Singh Chauhan, the man behind India's successful hosting of the Chess Olympiad, has been re-elected Deputy President of the Asian Chess Federation for a third time.

His election was unanimous and no other contender joined the race before the deadline on 27 September.

In addition to being the driving force behind the Chess Olympiad, Chauhan has had a tremendous run as a chess administrator for more than a decade.

Chauhan is also the first ever chairman of the FIDE special commission where he will have the services of former world champion GM Vladimir Kramnik and many other stalwarts of the chess world.

Hisham Al Taher of UAE, Mr. Sahapal Nakvanich of Thailand and Ms. Xu Yuhua of China have also been elected as General Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President respectively.

During the FIDE Congress held along with 44th FIDE



Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram, Chauhan was elected unopposed President of the Commonwealth Chess Association. The FIDE also nominated him as the Chairman of its advisory Board which included legendary Grandmasters Vladimir Kramnik and Judit Polgar.

Speaking on his re-election as Deputy President of Asian Chess Federation, Chauhan said, "This is one of the best recognitions for all the hard work, and for the grand success of the Chess Olympiad. I am sure this is a new dawn in the history of Indian chess and we are on our way to become the best chess playing nation in the world."

Naseem Shah to travel with Pakistan team to New Zealand

AP ■ LAHORE

Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah will travel with the team to New Zealand next week after completing two-day isolation at home because of COVID-19, the Pakistan Cricket Board said on Friday.

Shah tested positive and will miss the remaining two Twenty20s against England at Lahore. He spent two nights in the hospital after being diagnosed with pneumonia but the fast bowler said in a tweet he was "feeling better and recovering well."

The PCB said Shah will follow all the COVID-19 protocols during his isolation at home and will be under observation by the cricket board's medical panel.

Pakistan is due to leave for New Zealand early Monday to participate in a triangular Twenty20 series also featuring Bangladesh before the team



flies to Australia for the T20 World Cup.

Shah played only one game in the seven-match series against England at Karachi before being rested. He returned expensive figures of 0-41 off his four overs in the first match, which England won by six wickets.

He was admitted to hospital late Tuesday in Lahore with a chest infection and fever before being discharged on Thursday.

Pakistan leads the series 3-2 with back-to-back narrow wins at Karachi and Lahore in the last two games as England couldn't chase down below-par totals.

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 was n'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 bat's.

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

Squads:
Saurashtra: Jaydev Unadkat (Captain), Cheteshwar Pujara, Sheldon Jackson, Arpit Vasavada, Chirag Jani, Kamlesh Makwana, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Prerak Mankad, Chetan Sakariya, Snell Patel, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja, Kushang Patel, Harvik Desai, Samarth Vyas, Parth Bhut, Kishan Parmar.
Rest of India: Hanuma Vihari (Captain), Mayank Agarwal, Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Yash Dhull, Sarfaraaz Khan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.S.Bharat, Upendra Yadav, Jayant Yadav, Saurabh Kumar, R Sai Kishore, Mukesh Kumar, Umran Malik, Kuldeep Sen, Arzan Nagwaswalla.