

NCR-PULSE

JAMIA SUSPENDS 9 STUDENTS FOR SCUFFLE
New Delhi: The Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University has suspended nine students for ‘spoiling’ the peaceful academic environment of the campus, days after a scuffle broke out between two groups, resulting in a student sustaining bullet injuries. Those suspended include Nauman Ali, a student of LL.M semester-3, who had suffered a superficial injury on the scalp after being shot at by another group of students. The other students who have been suspended are -- Mohammad Faisal, MA (Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy); Mohammad Shadab Choudhary, Diploma in Electrical Engineering; Nazim Khan, Diploma in Electrical Engineering Semester III; Nasrullah Ansari, Diploma in Electrical Engineering; Noman, BA Sanskrit; Sahil, Diploma in Electrical Engineering; Salman Khursid, BA (Faculty of Social Science); and Suhail, Diploma in Electrical Engineering.

TEACHER STABS WIFE TO DEATH IN FRONT OF DAUGHTER
New Delhi: A schoolteacher allegedly stabbed his wife to death in front of their nine-year-old daughter following an argument in southwest Delhi’s Nawada. A senior police officer said they received information regarding the argument between the couple at 6.24 pm on Friday, and that the woman had sustained serious injuries. When police reached Nawada Kakrola Housing Complex, where the couple was residing, the woman was found dead and her husband was missing.

CAB DRIVER HELD FOR KILLING BATLA HOUSE STUDENT
New Delhi: A 24-year-old cab driver was arrested on Saturday for allegedly killing a Class 12 student for not returning his money in southeast Delhi’s Jamia Nagar area, police said. The accused had allegedly given Rs 72,000 to the student to buy an iPhone, they said. The accused has been identified as Khalid, a resident of Batla House, Jamia Nagar, they said.

RRTS WORKS AT GULDHAR STATION INSPECTED
New Delhi: The NCRCT Managing Director, Vinay Kumar Singh, on Saturday inspected the activities being carried out for installation of systems and sub-systems including OHE, signaling, track laying, escalators, lifts etc at several sites on the priority section. The MD along with the team inspected the RRTS works being carried out at Guldhar Station, to Duhai Station, then the viaduct from Duhai Station to Duhai Depot Station on foot, and finally Duhai Depot.

LOK SANSAD TO BE HELD ON OCT 8-9 AT RISHIKESH
New Delhi: The Lok Sansad is going to be held on October 8-9, at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh. There will be four sessions of this two-day Parliament. AA former pracharak of the RSS and once a powerful general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), KN Govindacharya will be chief guest and main speaker of the Lok Sansad. According to Ravi Shankar, coordinator of the Lok Sansad, Kerala governor Arif Mohd Khan, UP governor Anandiben Patel are expected to attend the programme. Since the primary unit of Indian society is the family and women are at its center, the first session will focus on the structure and functioning of the family said the officials of Mata Lalita Devi Sevashram Trust and Parmarth Niketan.



22 killed as tractor falls into Kanpur...

From Page 1
“Distressed by the tractor-trolley mishap in Kanpur. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. Prayers with the injured. The local administration is providing

all possible assistance to the affected,” Modi said in a tweet.
Adityanath has sent senior ministers Rakesh Sachan and Ajit Pal to the accident site to oversee the relief-and-rescue measures.

No other country ‘practises terrorism’ like Pakistan does, says Jaishankar

PTI ■ VADODARA (GUJ)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said no other country ‘practises terrorism’ the way Pakistan does.

Speaking on ‘Rising India and the World: Foreign Policy in Modi Era’ here, he said the Narendra Modi government’s diplomacy made other countries take the issue of terrorism seriously. “No other country practices terrorism in the manner in which Pakistan has done. You show me anywhere in the world what Pakistan has done for so many years against India. After the 26/11 Mumbai attack, it is important for us to be clear to ourselves that this kind of behaviour and action is unacceptable and there will be



consequences,” said Jaishankar during interaction with the audience after the talk. While India is considered ‘expert in IT’ (Information Technology), the neighbouring country is known as an ‘expert in International Terrorism’, the minister quipped.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India successfully made other countries realize that terrorism can harm them too in the future if not contained now, Jaishankar said. “We are fairly

Will bring back illegal money from Swiss banks, says Kejriwal

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday alleged that those involved in corruption under the BJP government in Gujarat have parked their money in ‘Swiss banks’ and the AAP will bring it back if it is voted to power in the state. He also promised the construction of 20,000 mohalla clinics on the lines of Delhi across Gujarat, government-run schools in each village of the state, and also assured ‘free and unlimited’ healthcare for all.

On the first day of his two-day visit to the state, where Assembly elections are due in December this year, Kejriwal claimed a ‘secret IB report’ of the BJP government has suggested that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will win the elections with a huge

majority. Campaigning for AAP with Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann, Kejriwal addressed two rallies at Gandhidham town in Kutch district and in Junagadh.

Addressing a rally in Gandhidham, the AAP national convener said the new government will ensure that Narmada water reaches every corner of the Kutch district. Kejriwal promised to provide free and unlimited healthcare, including medicines, tests, and surgeries, to all residents of Gujarat, irrespective of their financial status.

“We will build 20,000 mohalla clinics across Gujarat. Be it rich or poor, the people of Gujarat will be given free treatment. Everything will be free, be it medicines, tests or operation, even if it costs Rs 20 lakh,” said Kejriwal in Junagadh.

successful in taking along the world in this fight against terrorism. Earlier, other countries used to ignore this issue thinking it would not affect them because it was happening somewhere else. Today, there is a pressure on those who support terrorism.

This is an example of our diplomacy,” the external affairs minister said. Terrorist activities in the North East have declined because of India’s strategic pact with Bangladesh, he said. “Thanks to that land border agreement with Bangladesh, militants failed to get any shelter there. This stopped them from carrying out their operations in the North East,” he said. To a question by a student from Sierra Leone about how the Modi government will realise

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s dream of ‘undivided India’, Jaishankar said Partition was a real tragedy and it created problems like terrorism.

“The best way of realising the dream of Sardar Patel is for India to be strong, successful and confident, and other people to understand that they have to come to terms with this India and stop policies which are not in their interest and which are harmful for the entire region,” said the minister. “...And I think if there is one leader who is realising the dreams, who has the thought process of Sardar Patel, who is realising the vision of Sardar Patel, who has that boldness, commitment and habits, you know who that is,” the minister said, apparently referring to Modi.

Kharge quits...

From Page 1
“Total of 20 forms were submitted yesterday. Of those, the scrutiny committee rejected four forms due to signature issues. There is time till October 8 for withdrawal. The picture would be clearer after that. If no one withdraws, then the voting process will begin,” chairman of Congress’s central election authority Madhusudan Mistry said addressing a press conference at the AICC.

In signs of giving a spirited fight, Tharoor appealed to the eligible voters saying if they wanted a change in the organisation then they should give a chance to him, or if satisfied then they must vote for Kharge. “I’m saying that if you’re satisfied with party’s working, vote for Kharge sahab. If you want change, I’m there. But there’s no ideological problem,” he said.

No PUC? No fuel at Delhi filling...

From Page 1
The owners are required to get their vehicles tested to ascertain if they meet emission standards for pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide. The Minister said that all

Government departments have also been advised to get PUC certificates of their vehicles checked.

“On March 3, 2022, we issued a public notice inviting suggestions on the implementation of the move

“No PUC, No fuel”. “On May 2, suggestions were received and many people were in favour of the implementation of this move. So, the Government is preparing to implement it from October 25,” Rai told reporters.

Indore cleanest city, MP tops States’...

From Page 1
While Indore and Surat retained their top positions among cities, Vijaywada lost its third spot to Navi Mumbai. In the 10 top-ranked cities with a population of more than one lakh, the other cities are GVM Visakhapatnam, Vijaywada, Bhopal, Tirupati, Mysore, New

Delhi, and Ambikapur. According to officials, the processing of 1,900 tons of urban waste every day which earns it crores of rupees and also fuels its buses has helped Indore bag “India’s cleanest city” award for the sixth straight time.
Agra was at the bottom in

the list of 100 cities in this segment. Madhya Pradesh’s Gadarwara was at the bottom in the category of cities with less than one lakh population.

Among the States having fewer than 100 urban local bodies, Tripura has bagged the top rank, followed by Jharkhand and Uttarakhand,

according to the survey results.

In the category of cities having population fewer than one lakh, Maharashtra’s Panchgani was ranked number one, followed by Chhattisgarh’s Patan (NP) and Maharashtra’s Karhad.

Haridwar was adjudged the cleanest Ganga town in the category of more than 1 lakh population, followed by Varanasi and Rishikesh.

Bijnor was ranked the first among Ganga towns with fewer than one lakh population. Followed by Kannauj and Garhmukteshwar respectively.

Noida emerged as the country’s ‘best self sustainable medium city’ in the category of 3-10 lakh population. Tirupati

bagged the first award in the category of “Safaimitra Surakshit Sahar”.

Chandigarh has secured the first position in the category of “Fastest Mover State/National Capital or UT” while Vijaywada has emerged as the winner in the category of “Cleanest State/National Capital or UT”.

Vishakhapatnam got the first position as India’s ‘cleanest big city’ in the category of 10-40 lakh population.

Meerut has emerged as the “Fastest Mover Big City” with population between 10 lakh and 40 lakh. In the category of “Best City in Maximum Citizen’s Participation” with more than lakh population,

Ujjain has been ranked first.

Among the 62 Cantonment Boards, Deolali in Maharashtra emerged as the cleanest followed by Ahmedabad and Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. Delhi Cantonment Board finished 5th in the list.

The survey is being conducted since 2016. After Mysuru had managed to secure the top spot in the first survey, Indore has been on the top of the list since 2017. According to a Government statement, the survey was launched “as an assessment tool to analyse and compare the status of sanitation of Indian cities under the Swachh Bharat Mission”. “Although it started out with the assessment

Senior CPM leader Kodiyeri Balakrishnan dies at 69

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/CHENNAI

Senior CPI(M) leader and former Kerala Home Minister Kodiyeri Balakrishnan died at Apollo Hospital in Chennai on Saturday night, party sources here said. He was 69.

He had been undergoing treatment for cancer for some time, they said.

A polit bureau member of the Marxist party, Balakrishnan had served as the CPI(M)’s state secretary from 2015 to 2022.

A multiple-time MLA, he also served as the Minister of Home and Tourism Affairs in the V S Achuthanandan ministry from 2006 to 2011. Due to failing health, he



stepped down as the party state secretary in August this year.

Kerala Assembly Speaker A N Shamseer shared a photo of the departed leader in his Facebook post and said ‘Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. Adieu Dear Balakrishnetta’.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan postponed his trip to Europe, which was scheduled from Sunday, due to Balakrishnan’s critical health condition.

5G launch historic, turning point in telecom sec...

From Page 1
Members of elite class thought that poor people will not understand digital. There was a time when a section of the elite class...you can watch speeches from Parliament as well, our politicians made fun of and thought that poor people do not have the capacity to understand digital services.

“They were under the impression that poor people will not even understand the meaning of the word ‘digital’, but I have always had confidence in the common man..Today whether its small businessmen or local artisans, Digital India has provided everyone with a platform,” said the PM, adding that “our Government is working on the goal of internet for all.” The 5G technology will offer a wide range of benefits to the common people by way of seamless coverage, high data rate, low latency, and highly reliable communications. Also, it will increase energy efficiency, spectrum efficiency and network efficiency besides helping connect billions of Internet of Things devices, allowing higher quality video services with mobility at high

speed, and delivery of critical services such as telesurgery and autonomous cars among others.

The 5G will also help in real-time monitoring of disasters, precision agriculture, and minimising the role of humans in dangerous industrial operations such as in deep mines, offshore activities etc. Unlike existing mobile communication networks, 5G networks will allow tailoring of requirements for each of these different use cases within the same network.

Speaking at the function Mukesh Ambani said Reliance Jio’s 5G services will be available pan India by December 2023. “India may have started late, but will finish first...will have the best quality and most affordable 5G services.” Sunil Mittal said Bharti Airtel will begin the 5G roll out from today itself and offer pan India 5G services by March 2024. Mittal also praised Ambani by saying that “Mukesh gave speed to 4G and we also had to run.” Birla told the PM Prime Minister about the need for increase in production of telecom equipments in India to attain ‘Atmanirbharta’.

India abstains from UN vote against Russia over...

From Page 1
Also, it declared its annexation of four Ukrainian territories as invalid. The 15-nation UNSC voted on Friday on the draft resolution on “Illegal So-Called Referenda in Ukraine.”

Enunciating the country’s stand, India’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, said India is deeply disturbed by the recent turn of developments in Ukraine and New Delhi has always advocated that no solution can ever arrive at the cost of human lives.

“Escalation of rhetoric or tensions is in no one’s interest. It is important that pathways are found for a return to the negotiating table. Keeping in view the totality of the evolving situation, India has decided to abstain on this resolution,” she said.

“We urge that all efforts are made by concerned sides for

the immediate cessation of violence and hostilities. Dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes, however daunting that may appear at this moment,” she said in the explanation of the vote.

“The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open,” she said.

Kamboj said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has “unequivocally conveyed” the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in his discussions with world leaders, including Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. She also referred to statements made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Ukraine during the high-level General Assembly session last week.

Referring to Modi’s remark to Putin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Uzbekistan’s Samarkand last month that “today’s era is not an era of war”, Kamboj said New Delhi

sincerely hopes for an early resumption of peace talks to bring about an immediate ceasefire and resolution of the conflict.

India has previously abstained on two occasions in the Security Council and once in the General Assembly on the resolutions on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said before the vote that the outcomes of Russia’s “sham referenda were pre-determined” in Moscow.

“Everybody knows it. They were held behind the barrel of Russian guns. Time and time again we have seen the Ukrainian people fight for their country and their democracy,” she said.

Earlier today, we saw Putin celebrate this clear violation of international law. He threw a party on Red Square to pat himself on the back for these illegal referenda. He is gloating

and reminiscing about the Soviet empire and stated that this was just the beginning. As we all sit in this chamber and solemnly consider this resolution, Putin is instead boastfully shoving our shared values in our faces,” Thomas-Greenfield said.

Russia’s Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia said before the vote that the results of the referendum speak for themselves and that the residents of these regions do not want to return to Ukraine.

“They have made an informed and free choice in favor of our country,” he said, adding that the referendum were carried out in full conformity with the norms and principles of international law.

He added that more than 100 international observers from Italy, Germany, Venezuela, Latvia, and other states, who monitored the

voting, also recognised the results to be legitimate.

“Washington which today is the loudest to criticise us and to speak of the territorial integrity of Ukraine recently declared that they were willing to use force to protect Taiwan which is an integral part of the People’s Republic of China,” he said.

The resolution would have condemned Russia’s organisation of “illegal so-called referenda” in regions within Ukraine’s internationally recognised borders.

The resolution would have also called upon all States, international organisations and specialised agencies not to recognise any purported acquisition by Russia of any or all of Ukraine’s regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson or Zaporizhzhya, and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognising any such purported acquisition.

Two weeks after sexual assault, minor boy succumbs to injuries

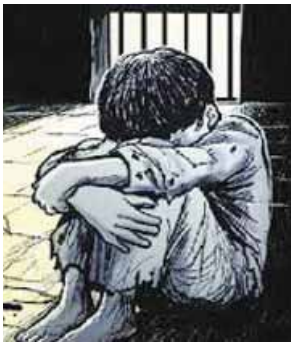
DCW chief Maliwal expresses grief, demands punitive action against offenders

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly two weeks after a 12-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted by three minors, including his cousin, in Northeast Delhi, the police said he succumbed to the injuries at the Lok Nayak hospital on Saturday morning.

Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal, too, confirmed the boy's death in a tweet. The victim had been unconscious for the last eight days.

Earlier, the Delhi Police apprehended two of the juveniles in connection with the case but they were released by the Juvenile Justice Board after their parents signed an 'undertaking'. The accused, aged 12 and 13, have been temporarily released on grounds of age and insufficient medical evidence in the case. Maliwal expressed grief and demanded punitive action against the



offenders. "This 12-year-old child is no longer with us. The child suffered a lot and fought till his last breath. His killers must be punished severely!", Maliwal wrote on Twitter.

According to Sanjay Kumar Sain, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northeast district, the incident took place on September 18 but the police received the information on September 22 from LNJP

Hospital that a boy aged around 10 years has been admitted on account of physical assault that happened three days back.

"Immediately, a police team reached the hospital and met with the parents of the child, but they refused to give any statement. The family did not give a statement till September 24 while the Investigative Officer, to whom the call was marked, contacted them regularly," said the DCP. On September 24, a counsellor from "Sakhi" was arranged by the police and counselling of the mother of the injured child was done.

"After extensive counselling, the mother of the child disclosed that three days back i.e. on September 18 her son was physically assaulted and sodomized by his three friends," the DCP had said.

Accordingly, the police registered an FIR under section

377 (Unnatural offences) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code read with section 6 of the POCSO Act and began probing the incident.

During the investigation, it emerged that the victim and the accused boys were friends of the same age category i.e. 10-12 years. "One of the accused was a cousin of the victim child. Also, they are from the same community and residents of New Seelampur Jhuggis," the senior official added.

Of the three accused juveniles, Delhi Police has apprehended two while the third one is still at large. The incident was first brought to light by Maliwal, who said the victim boy's mother submitted to commission that their child was gangraped on September 18 by three boys who even inserted a rod in his private parts. However, the police did not share any such information.

Delhi HC junks Jain's plea against transfer of his case to another court

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major setback, the Delhi High Court on Saturday dismissed a plea by Minister Satyendar Jain challenging a lower court order to transfer the money laundering case against him to another court.

Justice Yogesh Khanna said all facts were duly considered by the Principal District and Sessions Judge while transferring the case, which is being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and it cannot be held that the decision suffered from any illegality or needed interference.

The judge noted that in view of certain circumstances, the ED had an apprehension that justice may not be done and was of the opinion that such an apprehension was to be seen from the the party's point of view and not that of the judge.

"The question is not of integrity or uprightness of the judge but is of an apprehension in the mind of a party," it said. The court also said the apprehensions raised by the agency were not at a "belated stage" and "the facts show that the department did not merely harbour such apprehension but rather had acted upon it by rushing to this court (at an earlier occasion) ... Hence it cannot be said to be flimsy or not reasonable".



"The petition is, therefore, dismissed," the court said in its order. Jain had moved the high court last month challenging the September 23 order of Principal District and Sessions Judge Vinay Kumar Gupta transferring the money laundering case to Special Judge Vikas Dhull from Special Judge Geetanjali Goel, who was hearing his bail plea.

The district judge's order was passed on an application for transfer moved by the investigating agency.

The agency, in its transfer application before the district judge, had argued that while there was no complaint against the judge hearing the matter, it was "a case of probable bias" in favour of the Delhi minister and there was an apprehension that it might not get an independent and impartial hearing.

The AAP leader argued before the high court that the ED cannot be allowed to "brow beat" a judge and seek transfer of the money laundering case citing "bias" without any basis.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jain, contended that not interfering with the ED's conduct would bring anarchy and asserted that "bias suddenly dawned" on the agency after the special court judge "did not agree" at that stage with its request for constituting an independent board for Jain's medical examination.

Additional Solicitor

General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, argued that the district court order warrants no interference as in spite of "sufficiently demonstrating" that the jail officials as well as doctors of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital were "man-aged" and were assisting the minister in "feigning" sickness for the purpose of granting interim bail, and the special judge "looked the other way".

He, however, clarified that the agency was not casting any aspersions on the judge as it was "nobody's case that bias has been proved". The senior lawyer stated the transfer was sought after a "cumulative assessment" and justice should not only be done but also seem to have been done.

The ED had arrested Jain and two others in the money laundering case based on a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR lodged against the AAP leader in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Jain is accused of having laundered money through four companies linked to him.

NDMC area declared 'cleanest small city' in Swachchh list

NEW DELHI: The New Delhi area administered by year too, the NDMC was adjudged the "cleanest small city" in the category of cities with one to three lakh inhabitants in the Swachh Survekshan 2022 rankings released on Saturday. Meanwhile, South MCD received 28th rank in Swachh Survekshan 2022 and improved by three points from last year's ranking of 31st. Similarly, East MCD also improved its ranking by 6 points to 34th ranking from the previous year rank of 40. Swachh Sarvekshan is the Centre's yearly survey on cleanliness under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Last year too, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) was awarded the cleanest small city in the same population category.

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave away the awards to the winners at an event here also attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and others.

In the Swachh Survekshan 2022, Delhi Cantonment Board was ranked fifth in the cantonment boards' category across the country.

Sisodia gives nod to free sewer connections in many localities

NEW DELHI: With an aim to ensure complete cleaning of Yamuna by 2025, provide 24x7 clean water to every household and sewerage line in unauthorised colonies across the city, the Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia gave approval to various projects of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), including free sewer connections to houses in various localities across the city.

Sisodia said that completion of these projects will help in meeting the target of cleaning the Yamuna by 2025 and provide a relief to lakhs of people of Delhi from sewerage problem. According to officials, the city government will construct a chamber to connect Sant Nagar GOC, Singhu GOC,

Shahbad GOC, Pradhan Enclave GOC and Kureni GOC with house sewer connections.

"A total of 64 colonies and 10 villages will be attached with the sewer system in the aforementioned areas. Presently, the work of laying sewer connections by the Delhi Jal Board, from manholes to households is in progress," said the officials.

"Delhi Jal Board has decided that the department carrying out the construction work in the areas or colonies which have not been notified for taking sewer connection and areas or colonies which have not been handed over to the maintenance division, shall have domestic sewer connection up to the premises of consumer.

Delhi CEO honours 102 centenarian voters


NEW DELHI: On the occasion of International Day of Older Persons-2022, the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Dr Ranbir Singh, said that the CEO office felicitated 102 centenarian voters of 11 district across the city for their valuable contribution and being an inspiration for the younger generations and strengthening the overall democratic process.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) of the respective district felicitated them by visiting their home

and a personalised addressed letter from the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Rajiv Kumar in a beautiful frame was handed over to the centenarian voters, said the official.



The SDM of New Delhi handed over the letter from CEC along with a bouquet to Malini Kao (102 years of age) a resident of Vasant Vihar for her valuable contribution in bolstering the electoral process. Similarly Sitara jain (111) west Gorakh park in Babarpur was felicitated by SDM.







75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
- Mahatma Gandhi




Remembering
The Father of Nation
Mahatma Gandhi
and
Former Prime Minister of India
Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri
on the occasion of their
Birth Anniversary

Sunday, October 2, 2022



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Ukraine encircles key city; Russia intensifies bombing

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian forces encircled the strategic eastern city of Lyman on Saturday in a counteroffensive that has humiliated the Kremlin, while Russian bombardments intensified after Moscow illegally annexed a swath of Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of the war.



Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his military have vowed to keep on fighting to liberate the annexed regions and other Russian-occupied areas.

Ukrainian officials said Saturday their forces had surrounded some 5,000 Russian forces who were trying to hold the eastern city of Lyman, which is located in Luhansk, one of the four annexed areas.

Andriy Yermak, Zelenskyy's chief of staff, posted video online Saturday purporting to show Ukrainian soldiers at a monument on the outskirts of Lyman, waving a signed Ukrainian flag.

It remained unclear whether Ukrainian forces have entered

videos purportedly showing some Russian forces falling back.

Meanwhile Ukrainian authorities accuse Russian forces of targeting two humanitarian convoys in recent days, killing dozens of civilians.

On Saturday the governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said 20 civilians were killed in an attack on a convoy of people trying to flee the Kupiansky district, calling it "cruelty that can't be justified."

The Security Service of Ukraine, the secret police force known by the acronym SBU, posted photographs of the attacked convoy.

At least one truck appeared to have been blown up, with burned corpses in what remained of its truck bed. Another vehicle at the front of the convoy also had been ablaze. Bodies lay on the side of the road or still inside their vehicles, which appeared pockmarked with bullet holes.

The SBU said the convoy was attacked with "small arms fire," while the governor said it was shelled. The discrepancy could not be immediately resolved. The exact date of the attack was not announced.

Russian forces have not acknowledged or commented on the attack. Russian troops have retreated from much of the Kharkiv region after a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive last month but have continued to shell the area.

In an apparent attempt to secure Moscow's hold on the newly annexed territory, Russian forces seized the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, around 4 p.M. Friday, according to the Ukrainian state nuclear company Energoatom. That was just hours after Putin signed treaties to absorb Moscow-controlled Ukrainian territory into Russia, including the area around the nuclear plant.

Energoatom said Russian troops stopped Murashov's car, blindfolded him and then took him to an undisclosed location.

Russia did not publicly comment on the report. The International Atomic Energy Agency said Saturday that Russia told it that "the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was temporarily detained to answer questions."

The Vienna-based agency did not immediately elaborate.

19 killed, including 4 elite Guard members, in Iran attack

AP ■ DUBAI

An attack by armed separatists on a police station in a southeastern city killed 19 people, including four members of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Saturday.

The assailants in Friday's attack hid among worshippers near a mosque in the city of Zahedan and attacked the nearby police station, according to the report.

IRNA quoted Hossein Modaresi, the provincial governor, as saying 19 people were killed. The outlet said 32 Guard members, including volunteer Basiji forces, were also wounded in the clashes.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was related to nationwide antigovernment protests gripping Iran after the death in police custody of a young Iranian woman.

Sistan and Baluchestan province borders Afghanistan and Pakistan and has seen previous attacks on security forces by ethnic Baluchi separatists, although Saturday's Tasnim report did not identify a separatist group allegedly involved in the attack.

IRNA on Saturday identified the dead as Hamidreza Hashemi, a Revolutionary



Guard colonel; Mohammad Amin Azarshokr, a Guard member; Mohamad Amin Arefi, a Basiji, or volunteer force with the IRG; and Saeed Borhan Rigi, also a Basiji.

Tasnim and other state-linked Iranian news outlets reported Friday that the head of the Guard's intelligence department, Seyyed Ali Mousavi, was shot during the attack and later died.

It is not unusual for IRG members to be present at police bases around the country.

'China struggling to find enough trained pilots for its 3 aircraft carriers'

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is struggling to find enough trained pilots to operate fighter jets from aircraft carriers, prompting its navy with two aircraft carriers commissioned and another launched in June, to speed up the pilot training programme, a media report here said.

The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) is struggling to meet increased demand for qualified ship-borne fighter jet pilots to operate the specially made J-15 jets for the aircraft carriers.

The PLAN has sped up carrier-based fighter jet pilot training programmes in the decade since the commissioning of its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, but its lack of a fighter trainer specifically designed for carrier-based operations has hindered progress, according to an article published in Ordnance Industry Science

Technology, a Chinese military magazine.

With Fujian, China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier, having started sea trials last week, the PLA needed at least 200 qualified carrier-based fighter jet pilots to operate 130 ship-borne aircraft, Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Saturday.

The Fujian is equipped with advanced electromagnetic catapults, similar to those on the US supercarrier Gerald R Ford, while China's first two carriers featured ski-jump designs, so the navy will have to master a new aircraft launch and recovery system. Official media reports say China plans to produce more aircraft carriers to match the strength of the US Navy.

"It's full of challenges, as aircraft design and pilot training are among the world's most difficult and com-



Technology, a Chinese military magazine.

every month or two.

Dai Mingmeng, who flew a J-15 prototype on its maiden flight from the deck of Liaoning on November 3, 2012, when he was 41, was one of the first five Chinese pilots to achieve ship-borne certification. He and other senior carrier-capable pilots are now training the latest generation.

State-run China Central Television said the navy has directly recruited cadets from high school graduates aged between 16 and 19 since 2020. The average age of the latest generation of new naval aviation pilot cadets was 20, at least 10 years younger than their predecessors.

The PLA Navy started training its own pilots - rather than picking qualified candidates from the air force - following the establishment of the Naval Aeronautical University in Yantai, Shandong province, in 2017 - adopting the same approach as its US counterpart.

North Korea conducts 4th round of missile tests in 1 week

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles, its neighbours said, the fourth round this week of weapons launches that prompted quick, strong condemnation from its rivals.

In an unusually strong rebuke of North Korea's weapons programs, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said North Korea's "obsession" with nuclear weapons is deepening the suffering of its own people, and warned of an "overwhelming response" from South Korean and US militaries should such weapons be used.

"North Korea hasn't abandoned its obsession with nukes and missiles despite the persistent international objection in the past 30 years," Yoon said during an Armed Forces Day ceremony.



"The development of nuclear weapons will plunge the lives of North Korean people in further pains."

by "confrontation maniacs" and "gangsters".

Kim has already rebuffed Yoon's offers of massive aid and support plans in return for denuclearisation.

The North's testing spree this week is seen as a response to recent naval drills between South Korea and the US and their other training that involved Japan.

North Korea views such military exercises by the allies as an invasion rehearsal and argues they reveal US and South Korean "double standards" because they brand the North's weapons tests as provocation.

On Saturday, South Korea, Japanese and US militaries said they detected the two North Korean missile launches. South Korea said the liftoffs occurred from North Korea's capital region.

Myanmar accuses rebels in east of shooting passenger plane

AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military government accused rebel forces in the eastern state of Kayah of firing at a passenger plane as it was preparing to land Friday, wounding a passenger who was hit by a bullet that penetrated the fuselage. Rebel groups denied the allegation.

State television MRTV said the Myanmar National Airlines plane, carrying 63 passengers, was hit as it was about to land in Loikaw, the capital of the eastern state of Kayah, also known as Karenni.

It said Maj. Gen Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling military council, said the shooting was carried out by "terrorists" belonging to the Karenni National Progressive Party, an ethnic minority militia battling the government, and People's Defense Force.

Arizona judge won't suspend ruling that halted all abortions

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

An Arizona judge has declined to put her order that allowed enforcement of a pre-statehood law making it a crime to provide an abortion on hold, saying abortion right groups that asked her to block the order are not likely to prevail on appeal.

The ruling from Pima County Superior Court Judge Kellie Johnson on Friday means the state's abortion providers will not be able to restart procedures. Abortions were halted on September 23 when Johnson ruled that a 1973 injunction must be lifted so that the Civil War-era law could be enforced.

Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich sought the order lifting the injunction. Attorneys with his office told the judge that, since the US Supreme Court's June 24 deci-



sion said women do not have a constitutional right to obtain an abortion, there was no legal reason to block the old law.

Trump at centre of Oath Keepers novel defence in Jan 6 case

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The defence team in the Capitol riot trial of the Oath Keepers leader is relying on an unusual strategy with Donald Trump at the centre.

Lawyers for Stewart Rhodes, founder of the extremist group, are poised to argue that jurors cannot find him guilty of seditious conspiracy because all the actions he took before the siege on Jan. 6, 2021, were in preparation for orders he anticipated from the then-president — orders that never came.

Rhodes and four associates are accused of plotting for weeks to stop the transfer of presidential power from the Republican



incumbent to Democrat Joe Biden, culminating with Oath Keepers in battle gear storming the Capitol alongside hundreds of other Trump supporters.

Sweden: Right-wing party get 4 chairmanships in parliament

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

A right-wing populist party that received the second-most votes in Sweden's general election last month landed the chairmanships of four parliamentary committees on Saturday and with it, the ability to wield more influence in mainstream Swedish politics.

The positions to be held by lawmakers from the Sweden Democrats include chairing the Riksdag's justice, foreign affair, business affairs and labour market committees.

"It is important for us, a milestone in the party's history," legislator Richard Jomshof, a Sweden Democrat who was tapped to be the next chairman of the justice committee, told Swedish public broadcaster SVT.



"It is an expression of the fact that we are Sweden's second largest party."

ity in the Riksdag in the September 11 election.

Decisions on the posts were announced Friday in a joint statement from the four center-right parties that are in talks to form a coalition government. Sweden Democrats, which is one of the four, announced its nominees Saturday.

Ulf Kristersson, the leader of the center-right Moderates, the party that placed third, has been tasked with forming a government that is likely to have the Sweden Democrats as part of a governing coalition or at least the party's support in securing a majority in parliament.

Kristersson has until October 12 to present results of his talks with parties to Parliament speaker Andreas Norlen.

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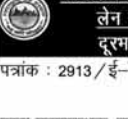
PUBLIC NOTICE

STAR HEALTH AND ALLIED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

AREA OFFICE-II CONVERTED TO THE ZONAL OFFICE

We are Happy to Inform that our Area Office-II, which is currently operating from E-27, First Floor, Hauz Khas Market, New Delhi-110065 has now been converted to the Zonal office with effect from 1.10.2022

Phone No.: 011-40572101/ 40572102 | Mail ID - delhi.zo2@starhealth.in



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R.O. No.: 721 e-Tender Notice Date: 01.10.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer(M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
e-Tender No. 12/SPH/2022-23.
Name of work/supply/ services etc.-Procurement of various mechanical spares/consumables at Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima
Estimated cost-7,46,050/- (Seven Lakhs Forty six Thousand Fifty only) GST extra.
Date of availability of bid document on website- 01/10/2022 at 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of bids on website- 24/10/2022 upto 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer (M&G)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

5	विकासनगर	कटापथखर पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुधई जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	230300.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
6	विकासनगर	लांधा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	84100.00	₹3000 + GST	06 माह
7	डोईवाला	मोहनपुर बड़कली पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	187100.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
8	डोईवाला	माजरी ग्रांट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	681200.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
9	डोईवाला	भट्टोवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुधई जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	226700.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
10	डोईवाला	गढी मयचक पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुधई जलाशय निर्माण, राईलिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	354900.00	₹4000 + GST	12 माह
निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं।					
क्र. सं.	विवरण			अनुसूची	
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि।			11.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs	
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि।			12.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs	
3	प्रो-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि।			17.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs	
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि।			22.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs	
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि।			28.10.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs	
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्केटरी, स्टैंडम पत्र एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज।			28.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs	
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि।			29.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs	
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि।			सूचना पृष्ठक से दी जायेगी।	
ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सम्स्त जानकारी या शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।					
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"जल संवर्धन-जीवन संवर्धन"					

India's unemployment rate drops to 6.43%: CMIE

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's unemployment rate has drastically dropped to 6.43 per cent in September due to an increase in labour participation in the rural and urban areas, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

During August, India's unemployment rate surged to a one-year high of 8.3 per cent as employment sequentially fell by 2 million to 394.6 million.

"In September, the unemployment rate has fallen significantly with an increase in labour participation in both urban and rural areas," CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas told PTI over the phone on Saturday.

The unemployment rate in the rural areas fell to 5.84 per



cent in September from 7.68 per cent in August, while in the urban areas it dropped to 7.70 per cent against 9.57 per cent in the previous month, according to the data.

The nearly 8 million increase in labour participation is a sign that the economy of the country is doing well, Vyas added.

According to the CMIE data, the unemployment rate was the highest in Rajasthan at 23.8 per cent in September, followed by Jammu and Kashmir

at 23.2 per cent, Haryana at 22.9 per cent, Tripura at 17 per cent, Jharkhand at 12.2 per cent and Bihar at 11.4 per cent.

The unemployment was the lowest in Chhattisgarh at 0.1 per cent in September, followed by Assam at 0.4 per cent, Uttarakhand at 0.5 per cent, Madhya Pradesh at 0.9 per cent, Gujarat at 1.6 per cent, Meghalaya at 2.3 per cent and Odisha at 2.9 per cent, the data showed.

Meanwhile, in August, the unemployment rate surged to a one-year high as erratic rainfall, which impacted sowing activities, affected employment in rural India.

In August, the urban unemployment rate shot up to 9.6 per cent and the rural unemployment rate also increased to 7.7 per cent, the CMIE data showed.

Inflation at manageable level, says FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said inflation is at a manageable level.

Her comments came a day after RBI hiked interest rate by 50 basis points to tame inflation.

"Inflation is at a manageable level," she said here.

On Friday, RBI retained its inflation projection for FY23 at 6.7 per cent amid geopolitical concerns triggered by Russia-Ukraine war, and expected inflation to be under control from January.

The central bank is mandated to keep retail inflation in a band of 2-6 per cent. Inflation has remained above RBI's upper tolerance level of 6 per cent since January 2022.

Last month, inflation touched 7 per cent.

5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors: Ashwini

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The next generation high-speed 5G services will bring fundamental changes across several sectors, including education, health, agriculture and banking, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The minister also said that 5G will create new services with digital capabilities at the centre.

"Telecom is a gateway of Digital India. Telecom is the root of all digital services that we are seeing in our modern life. 5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors — education, health, agriculture, logistics, and banking. It will create new opportunities," Vaishnaw noted.

The 5G service was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at India Mobile

Congress on Saturday.

The minister said the Prime Minister gave a challenge of developing indigenous technology for 4G and 5G, and India is marching ahead in the technology development, and now the world is looking at Indian telecom technology.

Modi launched a crucial 5G network gear — 5G Non-Standalone (NSA) core, indigenously designed and developed by state-run C-DOT.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) said that end-to-end 5G call was demonstrated using C-DOT 5G NSA Core installed at BSNL Chandigarh and 5G Radio Access Network (RAN), developed in collaboration with Wisig Networks, VVDN Technologies and Radisys India.

The industry lauded the government's move to launch

5G services in the country, terming it a transformation step for industrial development.

"It is a generational leap that can help increase the telecom sector's contribution to GDP to 8-9 per cent from 6.5 per cent presently," Ficci Director General Arun Chawla said.

Ficci IT/ITeS Committee chairperson Rahul Sharma said it is anticipated that 5G technology will add USD 450 billion to the Indian economy between 2023 and 2040.

"The potential of 5G in India is genuinely transformative. Once built, it will accommodate up to one million connected devices per square kilometre compared with only 2,000 under 4G," Chawla said.

Nokia Senior Vice President and Head of India market Sanjay Malik said its

global experience in 5G rollouts shows that it will provide a strong impetus to socio-economic growth and industrial development, contributing to the GDP and mission of Digital Bharat.

MediaTek India Managing Director Anku Jain said 5G will usher in a new wave of opportunities for businesses, unlocking the next level of growth for the country.

"5G will be a key driver for Digital India initiatives and realising Design in India opportunities, leveraging disruptive technologies like AI, cloud, IoT, and others across the ecosystem. We foresee India becoming a major hub for cutting-edge semi-conductor R&D and design, and the rollout of 5G services will accelerate the next wave of digital transformation," Jain said.

Jio 5G across India by December 2023, says Ambani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio, the nation's biggest telecom firm, will expand 5G telephony services offering ultra high-speed internet connectivity to every part of the country by December 2023, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Saturday.

Jio had in September 2016 made an entry into the telecom sector, offering free voice calls and dirt-cheap data, forcing the competition to either match or fold up/consolidate.

Ambani has now promised affordable 5G ser-

vices.

"Today, I want to reiterate Jio's commitment to deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country by December 2023," he said at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) conference here.

Ambani had at his flagship Reliance Industries Ltd's annual shareholder meeting in August announced the rollout of 5G services across multiple key cities, including metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, by Diwali.

Most of Jio's 5G is devel-

oped in India, and hence carries the stamp of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', he said, adding 5G and 5G-enabled digital solutions can bring affordable and high-quality education and skill development within the reach of common Indians.

It can deliver high-quality healthcare to rural and remote areas by turning existing hospitals into smart hospitals without much additional investment, making the services of the best doctors digitally available anywhere in India as well as improving the speed and accuracy of diagnostics and enabling real-



time clinical decision making.

5G can also bridge the gap between urban and rural India by accelerating digitisation and intelligent data management of agriculture, services, trade, industry, informal sec-

tor, transportation and energy infrastructure, he said.

"By bringing AI into every domain, 5G can power India's emergence as the world's intelligence capital. This will help India become a major exporter of high-value digital solutions and services," he said, adding all these will trigger a huge explosion of entrepreneurship in the country, which in turn will attract even larger investments and create millions of new jobs.

Ambani said by harnessing the combined power of demography and digital technologies, India can become

the world's leading digital society, accelerating growth by making the country a USD 40 trillion economy by 2047, up from USD 3 trillion now and increasing per capita income rapidly to over USD 20,000, from USD 2,000.

"It will not be an exaggeration to say that 5G is like a Digital Kamadhenu, the heavenly cow that grants whatever we desire," he said.

With 5G, India will take longer and faster strides towards 'Sab Ka Digital Saath and Sab Ka Digital Vikas', he said. "India may have started a little late, but we'll finish first

by rolling out 5G services that are of higher quality and more affordable than anywhere else in the world."

Ambani further said 5G is much more than just the next generation of connectivity technology, offering foundational technology that unlocks the full potential of other transformative technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things, robotics, blockchain, and metaverse.

Speaking to reporters later, Ambani said Jio's 5G services will be launched by Diwali, but did not comment on tariffs. The company's 5G

services will be affordable, he said, adding "Jio is always affordable".

"Today is a historic day where as a country we started 5G, and I am very grateful to the PM for his Digital India vision... We have implemented his vision and I think this is really a new era in terms of connectivity, and what the PM has outlined, we in the telecom industry will work together to achieve this and make India and Indian connectivity ecosystem best in the world and the most affordable in the world," Ambani said.

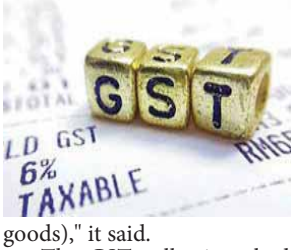
GST mop-up in September at ₹1.47 lakh crore; festive season to push up revenues in coming months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

GST collections remained above Rs 1.40 lakh crore for the seventh month in a row at Rs 1.47 lakh crore in September, a 26 per cent increase over last year, reflecting buoyancy in tax collection and stability of the GST portal, the finance ministry said on Saturday.

With the ongoing festive season, the collections are expected to go up in the coming months, experts said.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2022 is Rs 1,47,686 crore, of which Central GST is Rs 25,271 crore, State GST is Rs 31,813 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 80,464 crore (including Rs 41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 10,137 crore (including Rs 856 crore collected on import of



goods)," it said.

The GST collections had touched a record Rs 1.67 lakh crore in April, while in August it was over Rs 1.43 lakh crore.

The revenues for the month of September 2022 were 26 per cent higher than those recorded in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods were 39 per cent higher, while from domestic transaction (including import of services) the mop-up was 22 per cent more than the amount collected from these sources in the year-ago month.

The growth in GST revenue till September 2022 over the same period last year is 27 per cent, thus continuing to display very high buoyancy.

In August 2022, a total of 7.7 crore e-way bills were generated, which was marginally higher than 7.5 crore in July 2022. This month witnessed the second highest single day collection of Rs 49,453 crore on September 20 with second highest number of 8.77 lakh challans filed, next only to Rs 57,846 crore collected on July 20, 2022 through 9.58 lakh challans, which pertained to end of the year returns.

"This clearly shows that the GST portal maintained by GSTN has fully stabilised and is glitch-free," the ministry said.

During September, more than 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoices combined were gen-

erated without any glitch on the portal run by NIC.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the generation of 1.1 crore e-way bills and e-invoicing in a single day showcases a stability in the IT infrastructure of NIC.

"However, it's important for the big businesses to move to private Invoice Registration Portals appointed by the government in order to share the load of data which is likely to be increased due to increase in number of assesses liable to generate e-invoices from 1 October 2022," Agarwal said.

KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said the collections in September reflect supplies made in August. "With the festive season coming up, the GST collections can further be expected to go up in the coming months," Jain added.

Deloitte India Partner, Leader - Indirect Tax Mahesh Jaising said, the key contributors appear to be the expansion in usage of e-invoicing and e-way bills, use of analytics for audits and also the increased in imports with the upcoming festive seasons as businesses build up stocks.

"With the pandemic behind us, further reduction in e-invoicing threshold from October 1, 2022 and the recent amendments to extend year-end compliance due dates, we expect the last quarter of 2022 to witness even higher collections," Jaising added.

N.A. Shah Associates Partner, Indirect Tax, Parag Mehta said the major reasons were pick up in sales due to festive seasons. In September and October due to festivals like Navratri, Dusshera, Diwali, the spending is usually high.

ATF price cut 4.5%, commercial LPG rates down ₹25.5

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jet fuel (ATF) price on Saturday was slashed by 4.5 per cent and that of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants by Rs 25.5 per 19-kg cylinder.

The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was cut to Rs 1,859.50 in the national capital from Rs 1,885, according to a price notification from state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the sixth reduction in price of commercial LPG since June, in step with softening international energy prices.

In all, rates have come down by Rs 494.50 per 19-kg cylinder.

However, rates of LPG used in household kitchens for cooking purposes remained unchanged at Rs 1,053 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

This because the rates of domestic cooking gas were way lower than cost and now



with a drop in international prices, they are at breakeven, industry sources said.

Commercial LPG rates, on the other hand, have largely been aligned with cost and so they have moved in tandem with rise and fall in international prices.

Simultaneously, the rates of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) were cut marginally by 4.5 per cent.

Jet fuel price was cut by Rs 5,521.17, or 4.5 per cent, to Rs 115,520.27 pr kl in the national capital.

Rates differ from state to state depending on incidence of local taxes.

While commercial LPG rates are revised once a month, ATF prices are changed every fortnight. There was no change in jet fuel prices on September 16. Prior to that, they were cut marginally by 0.7 per cent on September 1.

Petrol and diesel prices, however, continued to remain on freeze for a record near six months. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for Rs 89.62.

₹2 additional excise duty on petrol deferred to Nov; diesel to Apr 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has put off by one month the levy of an additional Rs 2 per litre excise duty on petrol that is not doped with ethanol, and by six months for diesel that is not blended with bio-diesel.

The government relaxed the deadline for supplying ethanol-blended petrol to avoid the extra levy to November 2022 and that for supply of bio-diesel doped diesel to April 2023 in a bid to give the industry more time to implement the oil import cutting measure.

The finance ministry, in a Gazette notification issued late on Friday (September 30), stated that the additional excise tax on petrol will now be levied from November 1, 2022 and that on diesel from April 2023.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had in her Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 2022 brought a Rs 2 per litre additional levy on petrol and diesel that is not blended with ethanol and bio-diesel, respectively. This duty was to be applicable from October 1, 2022, but now has been deferred to November 1 for petrol and April 1, 2023 for diesel.

Presently, 10 per cent ethanol, extracted from sugarcane or surplus foodgrain, is blended or mixed in petrol (meaning 10 per cent of ethanol mixed with 90 per



cent of petrol) with a view to cutting oil import dependence and providing farmers with an additional source of income.

This will help avoid the levy of additional excise duty on petrol.

But there is only an experimental blending of bio-diesel, extracted from non-edible oilseeds, in diesel -- the most used fuel in the country.

"Blending of fuel is a priority of this government. To encourage the efforts for blending of fuel, unblended fuel shall attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs 2 per litre from the 1st day of October 2022," Sitharaman had stated in her Budget speech in the Lok Sabha on February 1.

In the September 30 notification, her ministry stated that "petrol which is intended for retail sale, not so blended with ethanol or methanol" will attract Rs 3.40 per litre basic excise duty effective November 1, 2022, instead of Rs 1.40 a litre currently.

Branded petrol, not doped with ethanol, will attract Rs 4.60 a litre excise duty as

against Rs 2.60 currently.

In the case of diesel, it said the fuel "intended for retail sale, not so blended with alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids obtained from vegetal oils, commonly known as bio-diesels" shall attract Rs 3.80 a litre basic excise duty instead of Rs 1.80. Branded diesel will attract Rs 6.20 a litre basic excise levy as against Rs 4.20 currently.

Besides basic excise duty, cess and special additional excise duty is levied on petrol and diesel. The total incidence of excise on petrol comes to Rs 19.90 a litre and that on diesel to Rs 15.80.

While the additional duty will push oil companies to procure more ethanol for mixing in petrol and arrange for logistics for transporting to deficient areas, it is unlikely that the country will be able to build infrastructure to manufacture bio-diesel in the scale needed for blending in diesel, industry officials said.

Last year, the government brought forward the target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol to 2025, five years ahead of its previous target, to help reduce its dependence on costly oil imports. 10 per cent ethanol blending was achieved earlier this year.

India is the world's third-biggest oil importer, relying on foreign suppliers to meet more than 85 per cent of its demand.

UPI transactions up over 3% at 678 crore in September



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

UPI transactions grew by over 3 per cent to 6.78 billion in September from a month ago, data from NPCI showed on Saturday.

In August 2020, the total number of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) based digital financial transactions stood at 6.57 billion (657 crore).

In value terms, 6.78 billion (678 crore) transactions in last month corresponds to transactions worth Rs 11.16 lakh crore, up from Rs 10.73 lakh crore in August, as per the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data.

In July, India processed 6.28 billion UPI transactions worth Rs 10.62 lakh crore.

Among other payments methods under the NCPI umbrella, the instant inter-bank payments through IMPS stood at 462.69 million (46.27 crore) in September slightly lower from 466.91 million (46.69 crore) in the preceding month. In July, it was 460.83 million (46.03 crore).

UP: All-women milk business flourishing in economically backward Bundelkhand

PTI ■ JHANSI (UP)

Women in the parched landscape of the Bundelkhand region are steering towards self-sufficiency through milk production run by a well-structured women self-help group that has expanded to over 40,000 female members.

These women are partners in Balinee Milk Producer Company Limited and have taken big strides since the inception of the company in 2019.

The all-women initiative in the economically backward Bundelkhand region has drawn praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The company, which was inaugurated by Adityanath, has members spread across six districts of the Bundelkhand region.

During a virtual programme based on the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Nari Shakti' last year, Modi lauded the initiative. Adityanath appreciated the successful experiment in Jhansi while speaking at a special session of the state assembly on September 22.

Started by Uma Kanti Pal, who mobilised women of the villages, the initiative has helped thousands of women of

the region stand up on their feet.

The women members take care of milk production, collection and safe transport to processing centres. They are paid on a weekly basis for their work.

At the break of dawn, the centres could be seen buzzing with activities with women members one after another visiting there with their pots full of milk.

The earnings have helped rural women contribute towards running their families and providing better education to their children.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Balinee Milk Producer Company Limited OP Singh said, "We collect over 1.35 lakh litre milk every day from more than 40,000 women members from six districts of Bundelkhand region, including Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Mahoba, Banda and Hamirpur."

"Over 7,000 more women members will soon join us, which we are expecting will help to increase our capacity to 2 lakh litre milk every day."

The woman members have been made the shareholders in the company.

Currently, the company has 703 milk collection centres in 795 villages in six districts. The collection centres are



equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to determine the quality of the milk.

The milk collected is sold in Jhansi city and is also sent to other milk processing firms located in nearby states.

To facilitate easy payment and empower its women members, the company has also helped them to link with the banking system.

"We have also signed MoU with various banks so that our members can get easy loans from the bank to buy cattle. We are also working to ensure the milking cattle of our members get insured," Singh said.

The earnings have helped the women members to improve their status and quality of life.

Asha Devi, a group member, said that at the time of joining the company, she only had one cattle but with help of the

earnings she now owns three cattle.

"I have three buffaloes who produce around 20 litres of milk, which I deposit in the collection centre. The company pays me Rs 55 per litre and the payments are always on time," she said.

"I have admitted my children to a better school and am able to save some money for the future," she added.

Another member Pavitra Devi of the Babina area said, "In the last three years, I have increased the number of cattle from two to 11. The cattle give around 40-litre milk every day which I submit to the collection centre". Pavitra Devi added that her family has been able to build a new shed for the cattle with the money she earned.

US WOMEN WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT GOLD AT WORLD CUP, TOP CHINA

AP ■ SYDNEY

The names on the US team have changed, the Americans' dominance has not.
A'ja Wilson scored 19 points, Kelsey Plum added 17 and the United States beat China 83-61 on Saturday to win its fourth consecutive gold medal at the women's basketball World Cup.
"It feels great," said Wilson, who was selected as the tournament's MVP. "We came here on a mission, we got it. We got gold. Now we're going home with some hardware. It feels great to us. Australia was great to us. I didn't see any kangaroos, but it's OK because we are leaving with a gold."

This was one of the most dominant teams in the Americans' storied history in the World Cup that now has won 11 gold medals. They've won four straight gold medals for the first time. This also was the biggest win in a gold-medal game, surpassing the 20-point wins that the Americans had done twice.

"Everybody wants to beat us. Everybody wants what we have and that's gold medals and victories," Breanna Stewart said.

What started with Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi has now been passed down to Wilson and Stewart. With Alyssa Thomas the oldest player at 30, the domination could continue for years to come.

"It's been an incredible journey just to continue to lay that foundation down like so many of the greats in front of us have," Wilson said. "Now it's our turn to step up and be in that situation."

Host Australia defeated Canada 95-65 to win the bronze medal, led by 41-year-old Lauren Jackson's 30 points.

As they've done all tournament, the Americans did it on both ends of the court, playing stellar defense as well as using a high-powered offense.



The U.S. (8-0) finished the World Cup averaging 98.8 points — just short of the mark held by the 1994 team that averaged 99.1. They won by an average of 40.8 points, topping the mark held by the 2010 team.

The game was a sellout with nearly 16,000 fans — the biggest crowd to attend a women's World Cup game since the inaugural tournament in 1953 in Chile.

Led by Li Yueru and Wu Tongtong, China hung around. The Chinese team trailed 33-28 late in the second quarter before the U.S. went on a 10-2 run highlighted by fast-break layups by Stewart and Wilson to extend the advantage to double-digits.

Jin Weina hit a 3-pointer just before the halftime buzzer to get China back to within 10.

The U.S. was just too good to let the upset happen, outscoring China 25-14 in the third. The Americans did have one scary moment when Thomas went down after a collision with Li in the

lane. She was helped off the court, but returned a few minutes later.

"It was a tough game as we expected," Thomas said. "By no means is this game easy. We stuck to it and pulled out a win."

China won its first medal since the 1994 World Cup when the team also took the silver and are a rising power in women's basketball. After the game, the team posed for a photo with their flag and men's great Yao Ming, who is the president of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Li finished with 19 points and Wu added 13 before leaving the game in the fourth quarter after her knee gave out driving to the basket. She had to be carried off the court.

The victory was the 30th in a row in World Cup play for the Americans, who haven't lost since the 2006 semifinals against Russia. The Soviet Union holds the World Cup record with 56 straight wins from 1959-86. This is only the second time in the Americans'

storyline they've reached four consecutive gold medal contests. They also did it from 1979-90, winning three times.

This U.S. team, which has so many new faces, continued to dominate the paint even without 6-foot-8 Brittney Griner, outscoring its opponents by an average of 55-24.

The teams met in pool play and China gave the U.S. its toughest game, losing by 14 points.

CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

Wilson, Chelsea Gray and Plum are part of an incredible group that won a World Cup and WNBA title in the same year. There have been 14 total now.

HONORING GRINER

"This is for BG. I hope BG knows she's in our thoughts," Stewart said. "We can't wait for her to come home and hoping that she's going to be home as soon as possible. BG, we got the gold for you and we miss you and we love you."

Griner was sentenced in August to

nine years in a Russian prison after she was convicted of drug possession. The U.S. honored her by not having anyone wear her No. 15 on the roster.

WOMEN'S WORLD

FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis was pleased that half of the officials in the tournament were female and five of the 12 head coaches were women. Both China and the U.S. had women in charge of their teams, the second straight time that two female coaches made it to the gold-medal game.

MISSING IN ACTION

The U.S. was without Kahleah Copper for the second straight game after injuring her left hip in the win over Serbia in the quarterfinals. Copper landed hard on her hip driving to the basket and had to be helped off the court. China was missing its star guard Li Meng, who sat out a second consecutive game with what Chinese media reported as having a fever due to body fatigue.



Hockey India names 33 probables for FIH Pro League matches

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Hockey India on Saturday named a 33-member men's core probable group, including the likes of captain Manpreet Singh and veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, for the FIH Pro League season opening matches beginning on October 28.

The players will report to the SAI Center in Bengaluru on Monday for a national camp ahead of FIH Pro League matches against New Zealand and Spain at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Talking about the camp, chief coach Graham Reid said, "The FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 will give us insights into the areas that require work ahead of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

"The matches against Spain and New Zealand are important for us and the players are excited about the upcoming months of hockey. We have chosen some fresh names in the core group who have shown great potential and are eager to perform when

given a chance."

India play against New Zealand on October 28 and November 4. They face Germany on October 30 and November 6.

The team will move to Bhubaneswar on October 21 after a three-week camp in SAI, Bengaluru.

The Probables:

Goalkeepers: PR Sreejesh, Krishan B Pathak, Pawan

Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Tirkey, Sanjay, Manjeet, Sumit

Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Pawan Rajbhar

Forwards: Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Maninder Singh, Mohd Raheel Mousen, S Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

Marseille beats Angers 3-0 to lead French league

AP ■ ANGERS

Jonathan Clauss notched a goal and two assists to help Marseille take the lead in the French league by downing Angers 3-0.

Marseille remained unbeaten to overtake Paris Saint-Germain by a point, but the defending champion can take the top spot back when it hosts Nice on Saturday.

Clauss rounded Angers right back Yan Valery to fire home an angled strike off the near post in the 35th minute. The France international then intercepted a pass from Valery in the 50th to feed Luis Suarez, who doubled the lead by beating goalkeeper Yahia Fofana.

Marseille midfielder Gerson made it 3-0 by controlling a cross from Clauss in the 59th to curl into the bottom corner.

"The squad lives very well together. We all stick together," Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout said in explaining Marseille's strong start to the season.

"All the players are very important, whether it's the 11 who start or the bench. We are



a team showing solidarity, that's what makes us strong this season."

Marseille rested striker Alexis Sanchez, who stayed on the bench after playing two full matches for Chile during the international break.

Angers created the first chances by pressing high up the pitch but lacked the finishing touch. Nabil Bentaleb intercepted a pass from Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout before rattling the post in the 18th. Angers left back Souleyman Dombia also dispossessed Issa Kabore in the 34th to cut the ball back for Adrien Hunou, who fluffed his shot wide.

TT: Manika loses both matches as Indian women go down to Germany in World Team C'ships

PTI ■ CHENGDU

Sreeja Ajula and Diya Chitale registered impressive wins but star paddler Manika Batra lost both her fixtures as Indian women lost 2-3 to Germany in their ITTF World Team Championships opener here on Saturday.

The men's team, on the other hand, blanked Uzbekistan 3-0 in its Group 2 opening clash.

Commonwealth Games medallist Batra, ranked 44 in the world, was no match to the world number eight Ying Han, who breezed past the Indian 3-0 (11-3 11-1 11-2) to give her side a 1-0 lead.

World number 77 Sreeja then upstaged the higher-ranked Nina Mittelham 3-0 (11-9 12-10 11-7) to put India back in the contest.

The 122-ranked Diya then gave India the lead with a hard-fought 3-1 (11-9 8-11 11-6 13-11) win over Sabine Winter.

Asian Games medallist Batra made a strong start to her second match but couldn't take advantage of the winning momentum as she was handed a 1-3 (11-7 6-11 7-11 8-11)



defeat by world number 14 Mittelham as the fixture was tied at 2-2.

However, the 24-year-old Sreeja too was no match to the mighty Ying, the 2016 Rio Olympics team silver medallist, as she also surrendered meekly to the German 0-3 (3-11 5-11 4-11) in the decider.

Indian women are placed third in Group 5.

Earlier, the men's team was hardly tested by its Uzbek rivals.

Harmeet Desai gave India the lead with a 3-0 (11-9 11-9

11-1) win over Elmurod Kholikov.

G Sathiyam then doubled the lead with a similar 3-0 (11-3 11-6 11-9) victory against Abdulaziz Anorboev while Manav Thakur sealed the fixture after defeating Shokhrukh Iskandar 3-0 (11-8 11-5 11-5).

The win puts India in third place in Group 2 behind Germany and France.

The Indian men will next face Germany while the women will take on Czech Republic on Sunday.

My focus is World Tour Finals: Prannoy

PTI ■ SURAT

Star India shuttler HS Prannoy has set his sight on the season-ending World Tour Finals but said he will have to hone his skills to ensure that he doesn't falter at the business end of the remaining tournaments.

One of the most consistent players in the international circuit this season, Prannoy has consistently reached the quarters and semifinals this season but a title has still eluded him.

The 30-year-old from Kerala recently replaced Tokyo Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark at the top of the latest men's singles HSBC Race To Guangzhou rankings.

He is leading with 58,090 points, having participated in 13 tournaments on the BWF World Tour this year. Players in the top 8 qualify for the year-ending World Tour Finals scheduled to be held from December 14 to 18 in Guangzhou.

"My focus would be the World Tour Finals. There are quite a few tournaments before that. I hope to produce winning results in those," Prannoy said after guiding Kerala to a 3-1 win



over Assam in the mixed team quarterfinals of the National Games here.

"I have to be consistent. I would like to get into a good rhythm before the World Tour Finals. I'm happy with my results over the last year and I need to be consistent."

A former world number 8, Prannoy had slipped out of the top 20 after enduring a tough phase plagued with health issues and a slump in form.

However, Prannoy has regained his place in the top 15 in the latest rankings and said his aim remains to get back into the elite 10.

"I would like to get into the top 10 and preferably top five as I would get a better draw. I also need to work on my game so that I should go beyond the semifinals. That is my priority now."



Popular wrestler and politician Antonio Inoki dies at 79

AP ■ TOKYO

A popular Japanese professional wrestler and lawmaker Antonio Inoki, who faced a world boxing champion Muhammad Ali in a mixed martial arts match in 1976, has died at 79.

Inoki brought Japanese pro-wrestling to fame and pioneered mixed martial arts matches between top wrestlers and champions from other combat sports like judo, karate and boxing.

He also was the first in his sport to enter politics. He promoted peace through sports and made more than 30 trips to North Korea during his time as a lawmaker in hopes of forging peace and friendship.

Inoki, who was battling a rare disease called amyloidosis, died earlier on Saturday, according to the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., of which he was the founding president. Inoki was upbeat and in good spirits, even as he was fighting the disease.

With his trademark red scarf dangling from his neck, Inoki last appeared in public in August on a TV show, in a wheelchair.

"As you can see, I'm pushing myself to the limit, and I'm getting power as I get to see you," he said.

Born as Kanji Inoki in 1943 in Yokohama, just outside Tokyo, he moved to Brazil with his family when he was 13 and worked at a coffee plantation.

Inoki won local fame in shot put as a student, and debuted as a professional wrestler at 17 while on wrestling tour in Brazil where he captured the attention of Rikidozan, known as the father of Japanese pro-wrestling.

Inoki made his pro-wrestling debut in 1960 and gave himself a ring name Antonio Inoki two years later. With his archival and another Japanese legend, the late Shohei "Giant" Baba, Inoki made pro-wrestling a hugely popular sport in Japan. Inoki founded the New Japan Pro-Wrestling in 1972.

Guinea removed as host of 2025 African Cup

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

The African soccer confederation has removed Guinea as host of the 2025 African Cup of Nations because of inadequate infrastructure.

The decision was announced late Friday night and after Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe traveled to the country to meet with Col. Mamady Doumbouya, the head of the military junta in Guinea who took power in a coup in 2021.

CAF said its executive committee would meet in Algeria on Saturday to discuss the details of re-opening the bidding process for the 2025 tournament.

Guinea's hosting of the continental championship had been under scrutiny for weeks after an inspection committee made a visit in early September and determined that Guinea wouldn't be ready. CAF made an internal decision then to strip the West African nation of the tournament but held off making an official announcement until Motsepe's visit.

In a statement, CAF said the infrastructure and facilities in Guinea were "not ready to host a world class AFCON competition."

Advani, Laxman among 6 Indians to qualify for knockout stage of World Men 6-Red Snooker C'ship



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star cueist Pankaj Advani and defending champion Laxman Rawat were among the six Indians to qualify for the knockout stage of the World 6-Red Snooker Championship here.

Besides Advani and Laxman, Dhvaj Haria, Kamal Chawla and S Shrikrishna have also made it to the last 32.

Advani won all the four group stage matches with a scoreline 4-0, 4-1, 4-1, 4-2 and secured top position in his group. However, the other Indian players qualified for the knock-out stage after finishing second in their respective groups.

The 37-year-old from Pune defeated Mohamed Emeesh of

Libya 4-0 in the morning session, before getting the better off Enkhtuvshin Bat-Ochir of Mongolia 4-1 in the evening session on the opening day of the competition on Thursday.

On Saturday, Advani beat Loh Chung Leong of Malaysia 4-2 in another group B match.

Advani took a 2-0 lead against Loh but the Malaysian surprised him and took away two frames to level the match but then the Indian tightened the string and sealed the next two frames to close the proceedings. His frame score against Loh Chung Leong was 34-26, 37-01, 24-38, 19-47, 32-20, 41-10.

Advani will face Lim Kok Leong in the last 32 stage on Sunday.

Sikki-Kapoor pair loses in Vietnam Open semifinals, Indian campaign ends

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH

Indian mixed doubles pair of IN Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor suffered a straight game loss in the semifinals of the Vietnam Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The unseeded Indian pair lost 16-21 14-21 to top seeded Indonesian combination of Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati in a 37-minute contest.

The defeat brought the curtains down on India's campaign at the tournament.

Sikki and Kapoor had clinched the Chhattisgarh International Challenge title, last week.

The Indonesian pair opened up a 8-4 lead early on and even though the Indian duo brought the equation down to as close as 15-16, Rehan and Lisa quelled the challenge and knocked off four straight points to pocket the opening game.

The second game also went on similar lines with Rehan and Lisa leading 12-9. Sikki and Kapoor then reduced the deficit to 14-15 but the Indonesian pair sealed the contest with six points on the trot.

Bayern routs Leverkusen 4-0 to end crisis, Musiala stars

AP ■ BERLIN

Jamal Musiala starred and Bayern Munich ended its four-game winless run by beating Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 as the Bundesliga returned from the international break on Friday.

The 19-year-old Musiala was involved in all three of the first-half goals. And this time – in contrast to the 1-0 defeat in Augsburg or the three preceding draws – fortune was smiling on Bayern. Every score was helped on its way by a slight deflection – or a gift from the opposition.

The 10-time defending champion wasted little time in answering its first loss of the season in Augsburg as Musiala skipped down the right wing and crossed for Leroy Sané to open the scoring in the third minute.

Thomas Müller set up Musiala to score in the 17th, and Musiala was involved again when he set up Sadio Mané to end his six-game scoring drought in the 39th. It was Mané's first goal in Munich for his new team.

Mané thought he'd scored again early in the second half, but the goal was ruled out after a VAR check for an apparent



foul by Matthijs de Ligt on Odilon Kossounou in the buildup. Bayern's players kept playing while the Leverkusen defender was lying on the ground after a clash of heads with de Ligt and Musiala again provided the final pass. Referee Tobias Stieler checked replays while Kossounou received treatment and consequently penalized de Ligt for a foul.

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer denied Amine Adli in the

visitors' only real chance, while his counterpart Lukáš Hrádecký ended an evening to forget by gifting Müller Bayern's fourth goal in the 84th. Hrádecký wanted to play the ball out but slipped and inadvertently provided the assist for Müller, whose celebrations were muted by embarrassment.

Bayern moved two points behind league leader Union Berlin, which visits Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

JEMIMAH’S CAREER-BEST POWERS INDIA TO 41-RUN WIN OVER SL IN WOMEN’S ASIA CUP

PTI ■ SYLHET

Jemimah Rodrigues played the role of an enforcer to perfection with a career-best 76 in T20Is before the bowlers produced a clinical display to power India to a 41-run win against Sri Lanka in their women’s Asia Cup opener here on Saturday.

Rodrigues put up a boundary-hitting exhibition as she whacked 11 fours and a maximum in her counter-attacking 53-ball innings to help India post 150 for six on a wicket where batters struggled due to low bounce.

The Indian bowlers then struck at regular intervals to bowl Sri Lanka out for 109 in 18.2 overs.

The Indians were better than their Sri Lankan counterparts in all three departments.

India were not off to the best of starts after being asked to bat.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (10) was the first to be dismissed, while her fellow opener Shafali Verma’s (6) batting woes continued as she became spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe’s (3/32) first victim of the day.

But Rodrigues, who is coming off a wrist injury, was in control from the beginning, timing the ball to perfection.

She kept sending the ball to the fence every over and punished the Sri Lankan bowling attack all over the field.

Rodrigues raced to her half-century in 38 deliveries and together with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (33 off 30) steered India over the 100-run mark.

The two got 92 off 71 balls



with Kaur also looking dangerous.

The skipper got a reprieve in the 15th over when she was dropped off Sugandika Kumari (1/26) but couldn’t capitalised on it as Ranasinghe had her stumped in the next over.

Sri Lankan bowlers then staged a comeback in the death overs with a flurry of wickets.

While Rodrigues continued to score at a good pace, going past her previous career-best T20I score of 72, her fabulous innings soon came to an end off a Chamari Athapaththu

(1/8) slow and low delivery as the Indian was bowled.

Dayalan Hemalatha chipped in with an unbeaten 13 towards the end while Richa Ghosh (9) slammed a six.

Spinners, led by Ranasinghe did the bulk of the work for Sri Lanka.

Chasing 151, Sri Lanka were off to a flyer, plundering 13 runs off the first over bowled by pacer Renuka Singh (0/20). But Sri Lanka couldn’t continue the momentum as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma

(2/15) got the prized wicket of the experienced Chamari (5) with her slower ball.

The Sri Lankan skipper looked to slog it over the on side only for Renuka to catch the ball at square leg. Sri Lankan’s running between wickets was sloppy as a sharp India side capitalised on the errors.

Deepti ran out Melsha Shehani (9) but opener Harshitha Samarawickrama (26) continued to play aggressively but she too was run out in the eighth over.

With the required run rate increasing, the Sri Lankans wilted under pressure.

Pooja Vastrakar (2/12) snared the wickets of Nilakshi de Silva (3) Kavisha Dilhari (1) off her successive overs as Sri Lanka were left tottering at 61/5.

However, Hasini Perera (30) provided some resistance as she partnered with wicketkeeper Anushka Sanjeevani (5) and Oshidi Ranasinghe (11) to breach the 100-run mark.

But spinner Hemalatha (3/15) cleaned up the tail with a three-wicket burst as India started their Asia Cup campaign with a win.



It’s difficult to defend when Surya attacks bowlers: Parnell

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Suryakumar Yadav’s incredibly strong and powerful batting has made him one of the most feared T20 batters at the moment and South African all-rounder Wayne Parnell says the bowlers will have to stay strong and focussed while tackling him.

Surya slammed a 33-ball 50 in India’s eight-wicket win over South Africa on a tricky track in the series-opener.

"Personally from what I’ve watched in the last couple of months, I think he’s probably the best T20 batters at the moment. He scores 360-degree which is very difficult for bowlers to defend," he said on the eve of the second and penultimate T20I of the series.

"It’s about being strong and focussed on each ball. He’s allowed to play good shots, but the other day he was lucky as

well. He’s certainly a guy whom I enjoyed watching the last couple of months. He’s certainly playing good cricket," Parnell said.

Parnell insisted that their flop show in the first T20I was an aberration and there’s no need to panic before the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"It’s just one of those things. It wasn’t a good T20 wicket and they bowled really well, but our batters have been world class in the last couple of years so there’s nothing to panic about," he said.

On their meek show in the powerplay when they were stutering 9 for five, Parnell said, "It’s a bit of a Catch-22 situation really. Certainly experience tells you that new ball does swing so you have to have a look at the first one-two overs."

"We have to credit the Indian seamers who bowled really well. We will have to define ways to counter that in

the second game."

Kagiso Rabada and Parnell hit the right lengths but the likes of Anrich Nortje and Tabraiz Shamsi struggled badly in the first match as the visitors looked one seamer short.

"Competition is good for the spots. Every single fast bowlers is different and has different skill sets. It’s a positive sign for us. It also means that when we are presented with any particular condition, we can play a certain set of fast bowlers so I think personally having the variety that we have is really exciting," he said.

On World Cup preparation, he said: "It’s been very good over the last few months. We were here in June, then went on a UK tour, coming back here again before coming to Australia. Everyone is in really good spir-its and looking forward to next couple of T20Is and the ODIs as well."

India remain static on 4th in ODI and T20I ranking after annual update



PTI ■ DUBAI

India have maintained their fourth spot in the ICC women’s ODI and T20I team rankings after the world body carried out an annual update on Saturday.

India have gained a point and now have 104 points in the ODI rankings.

In the T20 list, the Commonwealth Games silver medalists’ rating points have increased by four as the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side sits on 266 points in the latest update, which expunges results from the 2018-19 season, weights the 2019-20 and 2020-2021 seasons at 50 per cent and the 2021-22 matches at 100 per cent.

Australia have established a record margin at the top of the ODI team rankings while also increasing their lead in the T20I team rankings.

The Commonwealth Games and World Cup champi-

ons have stretched their lead over South Africa from 48 to 51 rating points in the ODI rankings, which is the biggest lead ever by any international men’s or women’s side in any form of the game.

Their lead over second-placed T20I team England has increased from 14 to 18 rating points.

There is no change of positions in the ODI rankings.

Australia have gained three rating points and sit comfortably at 170, with South Africa (119), England (116), India (104) and New Zealand (101) the other teams holding three-figure rating points.

In T20Is, Australia are on 299 rating points, stretching their lead over second-placed England from 14 to 18 rating points.

New Zealand maintained their third position, while South Africa have overtaken the West Indies to fifth position.

Team India grapple with Bumrah riddle as it chases rare series win vs SA

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

It may be unsettled after an unexpected injury to Jasprit Bumrah but the Indian team would aim to continue its winning run and complete a rare home-series win against South Africa when the two sides clash in the second T20 International, here Sunday.

From the tranquility of Thiruvananthapuram, the Team India atmosphere, suddenly, wears a chaotic look -- much like the traffic of Guwahati, thrown out of gear in the midst of Durga Puja rush and construction of flyovers.

Bumrah was expected to play a key role in Indian team’s campaign in the Australian conditions but his "back stress fracture" has ruled him out of the ICC flagship event, starting in three weeks’ time.

The ongoing series was originally planned as the final tune-up for Rahul Dravid’s team but Bumrah’s absence from the remaining two T20Is has now thrown more questions than answers.

Umesh Yadav and Mohammad Siraj have been added to the squad as injury replacements but they do not figure in the World Cup-bound squad, as of now.

The burning question is, will the two remaining T20Is give the team management scope to test Bumrah’s replacement.

The seasoned Mohammad Shami, who is in the World Cup squad as stand-by, is not

here for the South Africa series. Shami has recovered from COVID-19 and has more chances of making it to Australia because of his experience Down Under.

If that’s the case, he might end up having little game time before their World Cup warm-up fixture against the reigning champions on October 16.

For the SA series, the team has a fit-again Deepak Chahar who also figures in the World Cup standby.

Chahar (4-0-24-2) looked in fine mettle when he along with young left-arm pace gun Arshdeep Singh (4-0-32-3) reduced the Proteas to 9/5 inside the power on the Greenfield track as India took a 1-0 lead.

But swing will be out of equation in conditions Down Under and Chahar is more in the mould of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who is in the World Cup XI along with Arshdeep. Siraj, on the other hand, has struggled of late and has inspired very little confidence.

It’s a different debate altogether that Bhuvneshwar, who is short on experience -- three T20Is -- in Australia has started leaking runs and no longer holds the ace, as it was seen in their Asia Cup elimination last month.

Ditto for World Cup-bound Harshal Patel as it remains to be seen how the think-tank manages to arrange the jigsaw.

In the past, they have overcome bigger hurdles, like when



in 2020-21 they won a back-to-back series in Australia with their fifth or sixth choice bowlers.

The Axar effect

Thankfully, it’s not the case in the spin department.

Axar Patel has been a revelation after Ravindra Jadeja’s knee surgery finally cemented his spot. From struggling to find a spot, Patel, a like-for-like replacement for the ace Indian all-rounder, has ticked all the boxes.

He was the top wickettaker -- eight wickets at an average of 7.87 -- in India’s 2-1 win over the world T20I champions in their last series here.

And against South Africa too he was at his miserly best

— 1/16 — bowling in the middle-overs along with Ravichandran Ashwin as it’s a department that looks sorted.

For someone who has a career strike-rate of 136-plus from 30 T20Is, it’s his batting that has inspired confidence in skipper Rohit Sharma: "I would like to see him batting as well."

But India will head to Australia with their star-studded batting providing the big confidence. The top four, including their star batter Virat Kohli, look in their zone.

That KL Rahul also returned among runs with a slow but steady fifty in the first T20I was a big confidence-boost.

It’s just that their middle-order with the likes of Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik seemingly looks short on game time.

Pant, who is likely to be the X-factor in Australia, has not got any batting opportunities at all since returning from the Asia Cup where he had a mixed campaign.

Karthik, the designated Indian finisher, on the other hand has faced nine balls in last seven games as pushing them higher would not be a bad play.

Elusive series win in sight

From the series’ perspective, India will be chasing their first ever victory over the Proteas in the format at home soil and a win will seal it. It’s a

different thing that it would hold little significance in the bigger picture.

That they have struggled in the world tournaments is not a secret and the 2007 champions, who last made the semifinal in 2016, would hope to avoid a repeat of 2021 UAE edition when they failed to make the knockouts.

Boasting the likes of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje, the South African bowling lacked the sting after the duo dismissed Rohit and Kohli cheaply.

Bavuma would hope that they put up a much-improved show and also the toss of the coin comes in his favour so as to test the Indian batting up front.

Teams (from)

India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shahbaz Ahmed and Mohammad Siraj.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Captain), Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.

Irani Trophy: Mukesh swings, Sarfaraz sizzles as Rest of India take control

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Medium pacer Mukesh Kumar rattled Saurashtra with some high quality swing bowling before Sarfaraz Khan continued his dream run with an attractive hundred to put Rest of India in the driver’s seat on the opening day of Irani Trophy match here on Saturday.

At stumps, Sarfaraz’s unbeaten 125 off 126 balls took Rest of India to 205 for 3 after Mukesh’s swing and scorching pace from young guns Kuldeep Sen (3/41) and Umran Malik (3/25) demolished the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy Champions for a meagre 98 in 24.5 overs.

In the presence of chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma and his colleague Sunil Joshi, Sarfaraz gave an exhibition of his wide array of strokes that included 19 boundaries and three sixes.

Coming in when the Rest were tottering at 18 for 3, in the post lunch ses-

sion, Sarfaraz played one of his most counter punching knocks to take the stuffing out of Saurashtra attack while adding 185 for the unbroken fourth wicket stand with Hanuma Vihari (62 batting off 145 balls).

The hallmark of Sarfaraz’s innings was how he picked the length very early and that enabled him to play late. He played some attractive shots square of the wicket but the manner in which he toyed with domestic doyen Jaydev Unadkat was worth watching. Unadkat bowled two bouncers at varied pace. In the first one, he kept his shape to come under the delivery and pulled it upishly for a six.

The next bouncer from the same spot, he rolled his arms over to keep the ball shot down for a boundary.

It was a late cut off left-arm spinner Dharmendra Jadeja that brought his century. Later in one over of Jadeja, he repeatedly slog-swept him for three boundaries



as Unadkat was forced to open his field to stop boundaries. However in the morning, the pitch was spicier than expected. On a track that offered good bounce and some early moisture aiding a bit of nip in the air, Mukesh (4/23 in 10 overs) literally decimated Saurashtra with his first spell as he made the batters play every delivery.

Most of his deliveries swung in and either left the batter late after pitching or straightened with the keeper and slip cordon pitching almost everything that came its way. The best part about each dismissal was that it was more about bowler hitting the fuller length while delivering very close to the stumps.

Neither of the two openers Harvik Desai and Snell Patel played away from their body but the Bengal seamer, who had a dream A series versus New Zealand, made them push at deliveries on off stump.

Salt’s 88 trumps Babar’s 87 to set up T20 decider

AP ■ LAHORE

Phil Salt’s 88 trumped Babar Azam’s 87 for England to beat Pakistan in a Twenty20 and set up a series decider.

Both openers carried their bats through the sixth match, and Salt’s extra ruthlessness was a big reason why England won by eight wickets to even the series 3-3.

They play the seventh and last match on Sunday at the same Gaddafi Stadium.

Salt smashed an unbeaten 88 off 41 balls, propelling a chasing England to 170-2 in just 14.3 overs.

Babar anchored Pakistan to 169-6 with an unbeaten 87 off 59 balls.

Salt’s brutal batting in the powerplay led England to 82-1, the most runs ever conced-



ed by Pakistan in the first six overs.

Alex Hales made 27 off 12 balls and added 55 runs with Salt. Then Dawid Malan and Ben Duckett combined with Salt to get England home with 33 balls to spare.

"Thought the way we batted in particular was outstanding," England stand-in captain Moeen Ali said.

Unmukt suffers eye injury in US

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India Under-19 captain Unmukt Chand has suffered an eye injury while playing for Silicon Valley Strikers in Minor League Cricket in the United States.

The 29-year-old, who retired from Indian cricket to be able to play in the US, shared on social media an image of his swollen eye.

"It’s never a smooth ride for an athlete. Some days you come home victorious, other days disappointed & there are some when you come home with bruises and dents," tweeted Chand who led India to the U-19 World Cup title back in 2012. "Grateful to God to have survived a possible disaster. Play hard but be safe. It’s a thin line," wrote the Delhi-born player.

“Be happy with being you. Love your flaws. Own your quirks. And know that you are just as perfect as anyone else, exactly as you are”
—Ariana Grande



AFTER A LONG ROPE, PFI FINALLY NAILED

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agenda,, writes RAKESH SINGH

The ban on the radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates by the Centre earlier this week under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has come in the wake of intelligence reports that the Islamist organization's scale of radicalization has reached monumental proportions and its linkages with several global terror groups was threatening national security.

The banned outfit's deep-seated strategic ambit is clear as it has begun regrouping within a week of the ban under the banner of Tipu Sultan Volunteer Force.

The most alarming element in the PFI's tactics was the recruitment of a large number of mentally challenged children by its affiliate Rehab India Foundation, also banned along with the parent organization. The clandestine nature of such recruitment left the children open to abuse into drug trafficking, organ harvesting, gunrunning, and suicide bombing without them being aware of their role in such affairs.

While the government has banned the Rehab India Foundation, measures are yet to be taken to rescue these children. Their legal verification and tracing of their families are the need of the hour to stem any possible threat posed by their misuse in the future.

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agendas.

The PFI affiliate National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation was working in the guise of raising human rights issues of the Rohingyas and also organized protests in favour of the displaced Myanmar nationals illegally residing in India and also organized anti-state protests in the name of human rights violations of the Muslims to further its anti-government propaganda by projecting that the Muslims were being crushed in the country at the hands of the state. It was also working to create a pro-Rohingya and anti-UAPA narrative. It was being mentored by an American Human Rights group and also had a working relationship with urban Naxals and ultra-Left human rights groups.

The Empower India Foundation that brought the Vision 2047 document for Islamisation of India was engaged in intellectual narrative building and pushing Muslims at different levels of the government administrative machinery.

Likewise, the All India Imams Council, also a PFI affiliate, also banned, was allegedly working to convert the youths of Islamic factions like Sufism and Shia denominations into radical

Salafism. It also engaged in conversion for which it issued a detailed set of guidelines.

PFI's National Women's Front was reportedly tasked to spearhead the hijab movement. The outfit was not only radicalizing gullible Indian youths but also Islamic cohorts from a number of countries like Maldives and Seychelles among others.

The PFI had also reportedly ran a "Boycott India" campaign in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region when India was coping with the Covid pandemic and cryogenic oxygen was being imported from the Gulf countries. Through the Boycott India campaign, the outfit intended to disrupt the supply of oxygen so that more and more Indians could die due to the pandemic.

The outfit had grown so bold that it issued threats to a few serving and former Intelligence officers including Interlocutor for the Northeast RN Ravi last year.

The organization, with a membership base of over 15 lakh, was growing organically. The Tamil Nadu Tauheed Jamat merged with it in 2021. Tauheed Jamat's Sri Lankan faction was involved in the 2019 serial bombings in Colombo in the high security diplomatic zone killing over 200 people.

The PFI had developed significant connections with the Rohingyas. On the Uyghurs, the PFI facilitated the movement of leaders to Hyderabad but in a display of a double game, it did not endorse Uyghur demands in line with the Pakistani government line on the issue.

The PFI was also in the advanced state of setting up training camps abroad in conjunction with the Taliban and ISIS.

The PFI hierarchy is divided into two factions-the one owing allegiance to ISIS and the other to Al Qaeda. The current action against the PFI by the law enforcement agencies entails measures against the ISIS faction within the outfit.

The PFI leadership, tilted toward the Al Qaeda global terror group, was in contact with the Tahreek-e-Taliban. The group had also prepared a hit list of top political leaders.

The PFI was indulging in "disturbing" the country's communal and secular fabric and "posing a grave threat" to national security by advancing its radical ideology and seeking to establish "political Islam" in India besides targeting Hindu activists.

According to agencies monitoring the activities of the PFI and its members, a secret 'service team' was formed, similar to the 'hit squads', whose main task was to provide security to senior PFI leaders and also keep track of Hindu leaders in their areas and plan action against them.

The PFI also covertly organised training exercises, and military-like drills, where participants are trained to use force and violence against certain religious groups, which are perceived as enemies of Islam.

Since its inception, the PFI has been against Hindu organisations and their leaders. The e group has a secret hit squad that engages in targeted killings of Hindu activists and those allegedly indulging in blasphemy.

The PFI is alleged to have been continuously involved in anti-government propaganda and spreading the narrative that Muslims were being

THE MOST ALARMING ELEMENT IN THE PFI'S TACTICS WAS THE RECRUITMENT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN BY ITS AFFILIATE REHAB INDIA FOUNDATION, ALSO BANNED ALONG WITH THE PARENT ORGANIZATION. THE CLANDESTINE NATURE OF SUCH RECRUITMENT LEFT THE CHILDREN OPEN FOR ABUSE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORGAN HARVESTING, GUNRUNNING, AND SUICIDE BOMBING WITHOUT THEM BEING AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN SUCH AFFAIRS

persecuted in India.

The outfit was at the forefront in organising anti-CAA protests during December 2019-March 2020 and many cases were registered against them which included 51 in Uttar Pradesh alone where the PFI-led platform, Samvidhan Suraksha Andolan, was among those which coordinated the anti-CAA agitations.

Through active involvement in the protests, the PFI was able to project itself as a prominent Muslim organisation capable of safeguarding the interests of the community.

By projecting itself as the champion of Muslim causes, the PFI had been successful in attracting new members over the years. Its role in the Delhi riots was also investigated by the ED.

In recent years, the peaceful atmosphere of the country was

threatened by PFI, which has a presence in 17 States.

The murder of Praveen Nettaru in Bellare town on July 26 was one of the cases that exposed the violent character of PFI. Nettaru, a member of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha and a local businessman, was hacked to death in typical ISIS style by bike-borne assailants and most of the accused in the case had an affiliation with the PFI.

An investigation by local police claimed a chilling tale of cold-blooded murder by PFI cadres and SDPI members in retaliation to the killing of 19-year-old Masood, a Muslim migrant labourer.

A list of RSS and Bajrang Dal members of the town was prepared and the PFI leaders handpicked some members to avenge Masood's death. Nettaru was targeted as he had commented on the halal issue, officials said.

Contrary to PFI's claim of being a social organisation working for the uplift of Muslims, the ground actions of the outfit tell a totally different story with several of its cadres having a violent history.

Over 1,400 criminal cases had been registered against PFI cadres and its affiliates across the country including under the UAPA, the Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act and other sections of the IPC.

The interrogation of the accused in various cases showed that the PFI would identify Muslim youths, from poor or middle-class backgrounds, for physical training during which they were also inculcated with anti-Hindutva ideology.

These cadres were trained in handling knives, swords, and rods and how to attack specific body parts to inflict maximum damage.

On July 4, Telangana Police registered a case against 27 people after a training camp for 200 PFI cadres was found in Nizamabad. The PFI had been trying hard to make inroads into Telangana to increase its cadre base and was undertaking social programmes like distributing school books and food to the poor to gain traction among them.

There have been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups where some PFI activists, particularly from Kerala, had joined ISIS and had participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, which was an outcome of the continuous radicalisation of its cadres.

While investigating the foreign funding trail of PFI, the ED found that PFI had formed district executive committees in various gulf countries including the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The India Fraternity Forum (IFF) and Indian Social Forum (ISF) were PFI's overseas fronts and were to politically engage the expatriate Muslims to conform to their ideology and organise funds for activities of PFI in India.

Their executive committees were responsible for sending money to PFI in India without leaving any trail. Funds were generally collected in cash and remitted to India either through hawala channels or camouflaged as remittances made to relatives and friends of PFI's members and sympathisers working abroad.

Further, PFI had linkages with the dreaded Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, which was involved in several terror incidents in that country.

Also, 21 people having linkages with the PFI had joined the internationally banned ISIS terror group.

Some Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) training videos, depicting gruesome murders, were recovered from the PFI cadres accused in the professor TJ Joseph hand-chopping case in 2010.

PFI's top leaders visited Turkey in 2018 and 2019 to attend programmes related to Palestine.

Its radical activities had attracted the attention of an international radical outfit namely, the Party of Islamic Renewal, which had in April sent an online letter to PFI on Twitter, praising its activities and urging it to organize a 'Revolutionary Army' for Jihad against the Indian government.

The PFI has also been targeting leaders of the Sufi Islamic Board, who were campaigning constantly for a ban on the PFI.

Since its inception in 2006, the PFI encouraged its cadres to undertake actions that mar peace and harmony among religious groups and disrupt the secular fabric of the country.

On December 9, 2006, three south Indian Muslim fundamentalist groups -- National Development Front/NDF, Kerala; Karnataka Forum for Dignity/KFD, Karnataka; and Manitha Neethi Pasarai/MNP, Tamil Nadu, rechristened 'South India Council' (a Bengaluru-based organisation floated by NDF in 2004) as 'Popular Front of India'.

Several members of PFI, including its top leadership, had been active members of banned SIMI. They included EM Abdul Rahiman (former Chairman), E Abubacker (Member, National Executive Council/NEC) and P Koya (Member, NEC).

SIMI was banned in 2001 under the UAPA for anti-national activities.

In their oath of allegiance, the PFI cadres swear to sacrifice their lives for the creation of Allah's rule (Shariah). This oath was administered to the cadre

only when he was judged to have been suitably radicalised for the group.

PFI recruits were radicalised by the display of selective video clippings on emotive issues like the Babri Masjid demolition, and communal riots in Gujarat and other parts of the country, aimed at instilling a sense of Muslim persecution and distrust against the state as well as other communities.

During interrogation by the ED (December 2020), Rauf Sharief (former general secretary, CFI), had said that PFI runs a secret relief wing, which actually plans and executes revenge attacks on selected RSS leaders.

On the funding part, the officials said that PFI receives dubious funding from within the country as well as from abroad.

PFI and its affiliates maintain a large number of bank accounts and receive money through its well-wishers/financers based in India and abroad. It also collects Zakat (donations) from its wealthy supporters.

The ED searched several office premises and residences of PFI leaders in 2020 and 2021 for suspected money laundering and arrested PFI leaders. The ED probe revealed that the PFI had created a very well-organized structure in Gulf countries for raising funds and the collected fund was sent to India through Hawala.

PFI was operating money laundering fronts overseas, which included the Munnar Villa vista project in Kerala and Darbar restaurant in Abu Dhabi.

In the Munnar Villa vista project, lakhs of unaccounted cash were infused and some benami shareholders were located in UAE, who later transferred the shares to PFI leaders.

The PFI was parking its illegally raised funds in this project so as to use them as and when required.

ED probe also revealed that Anshad Badruddin (PFI, arrested by UP ATS in Lucknow in February 2021 with arms and explosives) had received more than Rs 3 lakh from PFI (from 2018 to 2021) for criminal activities.

The PFI's accountant during the investigation, in the aftermath of the Delhi riots, told his interrogators that PFI's headquarters at Shaheen Bagh, Delhi kept crores of unaccounted money, which they use without any accountability.

Many cases of Hawala money transactions were being investigated by various law enforcement agencies against PFI.

A large jewellery company from Kerala is also suspected to be funding PFI.

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

DELHI UNIVERSITY RECOLLECTING THE PAST

As Delhi university celebrates its centenary, Union Minister HARDEEP SINGH PURI launched an anthology of writings by its well-known alumni titled — DELHI UNIVERSITY: CELEBRATING 100 GLORIOUS YEARS—and reminisced the time he spent in DU's Hindu College and noted that a good institution is defined by its student body. The book is edited by Puri himself

BY HARDEEP SINGH PURI

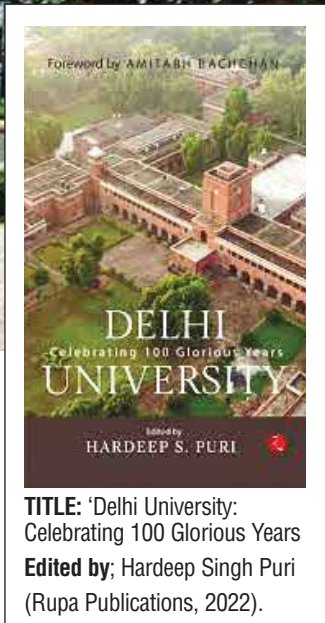
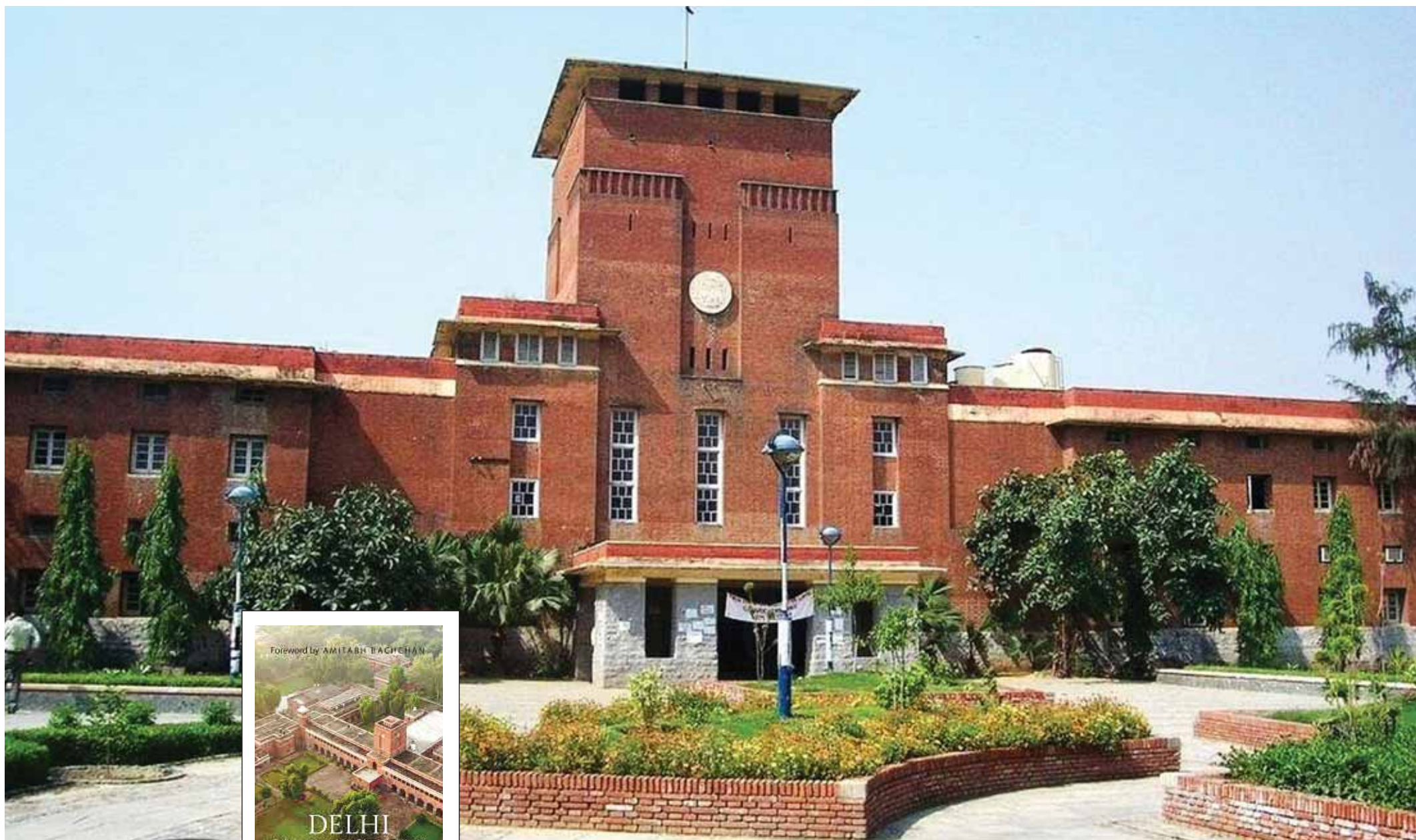
Many of India's most consequential nation-builders and opinion-makers have emerged from the hallowed grounds of the University of Delhi — India's most sought-after educational institution. Its alumni include political leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and litterateurs of the highest caliber. The university celebrated its 100 th anniversary on May 1 2022. I am proud and honoured that I brought together some of its most illustrious alumni to collective reflect on its rich history, vibrant student life, and influence in India's public discourse today.

As Editor, coordinating the development of this anthology was made easy because the who's who of Indian public life agreed to help me in this endeavour without a moment's hesitation. This anthology was conceived to celebrate the 100 years of our alma mater and the role it has played in furthering world-class education. It has successfully captured a spectrum of viewpoints that covers five decades of studying or teaching at the university.

While no such work can be exhaustive, I do believe that we have been able to capture the ineffable spirit of the university in the eclectic recollections of our authors.

Prospective students who have seen the university from afar will get an inside view of one of the most prestigious public universities in the country, while those intimately familiar with the institution will reconnect with their fondest memories through the words of some of its most famous alumni.

Speaking at the launch of the book at Hindu College, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri—an alumnus of Hindu College—noted that the university is a leading centre of excellence in the country and among the most successful universities in the country. The launch was also attended by other contributors to the book — Former DU Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh; former assistant secretary-general



at the United Nations and deputy executive director of UN WOMEN, Lakshmi Puri; lawyer Raian Karanjawala; Indian writer Namita Gokhale; and Director Imtiaz Ali.

List of authors who have contributed to the anthology
● Amitabh Bachchan (wrote the Foreword)

- Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Singh
- Sanjeev Sanyal
- Dr. Shashi Tharoor
- Hon. (Dr.) Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- Mrs. Lakshmi Puri
- Imtiaz Ali
- Arnab Goswami
- Raian Karanjawala
- Dr. Bibek Debroy
- Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath

- Kiren Rijiju
- Namita Gokhale
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Hardeep Puri, who has edited this anthology, has had a distinguished four-decade career in diplomacy spanning the bilateral and multilateral arena, having held Ambassadorial posts in London, Brasilia and as India's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations in both Geneva (2002-2005) and New York (2009-2013). He is one of the few Indians to preside over the United Nations Security Council and the only one to have chaired its Counter-terrorism Committee. He served as Chairman, RIS; as Vice President at the International Peace Institute; and as Secretary-General of the

Independent Commission on Multilateralism in New York.

He is the author of three books: 'Separating the Wheat from the Chaff, Decoding Dominant Narratives' (Konark Publications, 2019); 'Delusional Politics: Back to the Future' (Penguin Viking, 2019); and 'Perilous Interventions: The Security Council & The Politics of Chaos' (Harper Collins, 2016).

A pilgrimage with a difference

A ritualistic bath at Sangam during Kumbh is a dream for millions of Hindus across India. One of the best-known Bengali writers of our time, Samresh Bose, takes us on a memorable journey to the Kumbh mela in his fabulous book IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR. On this pilgrimage, Bose also exposes the duplicity of our belief system, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY



The magic of Kumbh mela, a humongous congregation of millions of devotees for taking the purifying ritualistic dip at Sangam, has spawned hundreds of fiction, non-fiction and memoirs. Samresh Bose's IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is one such effort.

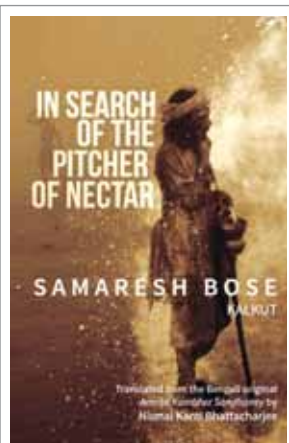
Translated from the Bengali original "Amrita Kumbher Sandhaney" by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, the book revives the magical atmosphere of the Kumbh Mela and the mythical

tales surrounding it: How a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, at the moment of the Kumbh, can provide you with "moksha" both here and in the afterlife.

The title of the book comes from the mythical tale that Amrita, the nectar of immortality arising out of Samundra manthan, the churning of the ocean by Gods and asuras, spilled out from the pot at this location. The dialogues between the two main characters in the

first few pages underline the essence of their spiritual journey. One such exchange takes place as early as on page 11:

He smiled sweetly and asked. "Why do people from the whole world go there? Why do saints and monks come there to take a dip? Have not you seen how bright they look? How well-built their physique? People are cured of their disease and receive a hundred years of life span if they bathe in the Sangam at the auspicious Kumbh moment. This is why I am also going?"



TITLE: In Search of the Pitcher of Nectar
Writer: Samresh Bose
Translator: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee
Publisher: Niyogi books
Price: Rs 450

The narrator commences on this journey with the desire not to achieve atonement, but to learn about life, about people. He is amazed and inspired by every character he meets, whether it is his fellow passenger on the train, sadhus, and devotees like Mahavir and Ramjidas at the festival, or the family with whom he shares a tent.

The protagonists reveal the double standard of the society that Kumbh brings to the fore.. How many of those millions who take the ritualistic bath are really spiritual, kind, and compassionate? The book highlights how these hardcore devotees are unable to leave behind their social prejudices, their weakness for sensual pleasure, their joys, and sorrows, their possessions and obsessions even when they are thinking of "mokshas".

Samresh Bose, born in Dhaka in 1924, is regarded as one of the greatest Bengali writers of all time. His stories have been turned into award-winning films. He received the Sahitya academy award (1980) for his novel Shambha. Among his more successful novels and short stories, collections are Baghini; Ganga; B.T. Roder Dharey; Shastharipu; Rituanga; He wrote several travelogues under the nom-de-plume Kalkut.

Anyone interested in literature and travelogues as well as spiritualist forays will find this a fascinating book. The language, the dialogues, and the translations are excellent. IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is undoubtedly one of the finest books to hit the stands in recent months in the domestic market.

NIF Book Prize longlist announced

Books on gender parity, the Chipko movement, the Tata group and iconic painter Syed Haider Raza are among 10 works named in the longlist of the 2022 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize on Thursday.

The longlisted books for the fifth edition of the prize include "Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite" (Swetha S Ballakrishnen), "The Truths and Lies of Nationalism as Narrated by Charvak" (Partha Chatterjee), "Syed Haider Raza: The Journey of an Iconic Artist" (Yashodhara Dalmia), "Governance by Stealth: The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Making of the Indian State" (Subrata Mitra), and "The Chipko Movement: A People's History" (Shekhar Pathak).

"Tata: The Global Corporation That Built Indian Capitalism" (Mircea Raianu), "Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India" (Rukmini S), "Congress Radio: The Journey of an Iconic Artist" (Usha Thakkar), "Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India" (Suchitra Vijayan) and Ghazala Wahab's "Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India" complete the list.

This year's longlist covers a variety of themes in combining keen research with scholarly writing, the New India Foundation said, adding each offers valuable insight into dif-



ferent aspects of the country's history.

"Ranging from biography and art history to analysis of environmental, industrial, and governmental shifts, the books selected this year represent the ways in which India has come to be shaped in this 75th year of independence. In theorizing the past and present, the longlisted titles offer a new way of interpreting paths towards an aspirational future," the NIF said in a statement.

Named after one of India's foremost nation-builders, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates the finest non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India published in the previous calendar year by writers of all nationalities. Instituted in 2018, it carries an award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.

The shortlist will be announced on November 8 and the winner on December 1.

This year's jury was headed by political scientist Niraja

Gopal Jayal and also included entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri, former diplomat Navtej Sarna, and attorney Rahul Matthan.

The jury termed the longlist "wonderfully diverse".

"The many themes in modern Indian history that it covers have great relevance today: if the histories of nationalism, business, the environment and state institutions offer a sobering historical lens on the present, the more contemporary works on feminism and data give reasons for optimism about the future. Deeply researched and engagingly written, these works of history reflect on the contemporary Indian condition," it said.

Previous winners of the prize are Milan Vaishnav (2018), Ornit Shani (2019), Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (2020 jointly) and Dinyar Patel (2021).

PTI

CUET: Predicament & possibilities

A nation infatuated with IITs and AIIMS makes it difficult for the vast majority of students to seek a degree in a field other than engineering or medicine. Yet, students who are unable to acquire admission to either tier II or tier III institutes often end up enrolling in a non-technical degree course. So, what we are seeing in the form of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) — a homogenised objective test — is nothing more than the fallout of that fixation where the students could be evaluated on a similar standardised test.

In an academic environment where near-perfect scores are the norm rather than the exception, the introduction of CUET to decide students' eligibility for university admission is a much-needed initiative. However, if the proposed entrance exam is going to be based on Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) test, I am afraid it would only result in mushrooming of more coaching centres to prepare students for university entrance test.

Testing a student's suitability, particularly for liberal subjects, necessitates a comprehensive evaluation. Therefore, this test cannot be solely dependent on multiple-choice questions. When a candidate is expected to employ her critical and argumentative acumen during the course, testing her ability to memorise facts and information is never a good idea. Hence, the assessment should ideally be a blend of both objective and subjective questions, done in stages (preliminary and advanced). The intention behind having an advanced stage consisting of subjective paper is to assess the applicants' linguistic, critical, and analytical skills.

This is important because the purpose of higher education is much more than just creating high paying job opportunities for students. Quality education has an inherent responsibility to play an enabling role in personal accomplishment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to society. The broader objective is to engage faculty and students



with local communities to learn a thing or two about real-world problems while functioning in collaborative, inclusive, and cross-disciplinary ways.

In liberal education, exploration is not just a whimsical luxury; it is a central benefit. Learning stuff is of secondary importance than learning about oneself, the emphasis is on developing all capacities of a human being — intellectual, physical, emotional, aesthetic, and moral — in an integrated manner.

There are no entry barriers to pursuing a graduation

degree in India. Anyone who can afford the fees can obtain the degree with minimal effort. As a result, we keep producing graduates who lack any employable skills. According to the most recent data from the periodic Labour Force Survey (20-21), only 13.8 per cent of Indian youth are vocationally trained. In comparison to Germany's 75 per cent and the United States' 50 per cent, this is woefully inadequate to reap the benefits of demographic dividend.

And we can't blame anyone but ourselves for this complete mess. We live in a country

where everyone wants to secure a limited number of white-collar jobs by acquiring a college degree. The vast majority of them are academically challenged, but they don't mind crowding colleges and universities.

Against this backdrop, it makes more sense for us to borrow a leaf or two from the US education system, where cost and academic talent are major barriers to acquire a graduate degree. The obvious advantage of this type of ecosystem is that a large number of students do not qualify for a degree course. And these

students eventually go on to pursue industry-related specific skill upgradation via diploma or certification — making them qualified for blue collar jobs.

However, there is a widespread aversion to blue collar jobs in India. Despite the government's numerous policy initiatives to connect schools to ITIs and polytechnics, the number of trained people being absorbed in industries is not encouraging.

Unless we can prepare academically average students for decent industrial opportunities, this lot of students will con-

tinue to graduate with no skill set.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to create a better entry barrier to degree colleges while also imparting industry relevant courses at ITIs and Polytechnics.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to distinguish the concept of wellbeing from wealth. In the absence of this fundamental distinction, people invariably choose wealth over wellbeing.

A generation raised on the yardstick of Instagram filter has its own challenge of accepting their inherent flaws.

Making peace with the fact that someone might not be intellectually gifted to make a dent in the academic or business world is a first step towards exploring possibilities in life.

And you never know how this exploration could prove to be a gateway to a life worth living, where you can strive to be someone who offers meaning to things rather than someone who seeks meaning in things.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')



PIYUSH KAMAL

PERSPECTIVE

Western push on China, Russia at UN rights body faces test

Western countries are leading a rare two-pronged push at the UN's main human rights body to better scrutinise the human rights records of two big world powers: China, over allegations of abuses during an anti-extremism campaign in western Xinjiang, and Russia, over its government's crackdown on dissent and protest against the war in Ukraine.

Going after two such influential UN members — two of the five permanent members of the Security Council no less — at the same time will be no small political task, diplomats and rights advocates say. It testifies to a growing rift between democracies and more autocratic countries, and is shaping up as a gamble of geopolitical clout, the outcome of which will resonate beyond the Geneva conference room where the Human Rights Council meets.

Some Western diplomats insist it's now or never, and say it just so happens the two issues need separate attention. Britain, Canada, the US and the five Nordic countries are leading a call for council members to agree a debate at its next session in March on alleged abuses against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang. They aim to build momentum on an August 31 report by the UN human rights chief that raised concerns about possible crimes against humanity during Beijing's anti-extremism drive in the region.

On Tuesday, 26 European Union countries — all of them except Hungary — floated a

proposal for the council to appoint a "special rapporteur" on Russia, citing a string of concerns about mass arrests and detentions; harassment of journalists, opposition politicians, activists and rights defenders; and crackdowns — at times violent — on protesters against President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. Both issues will come up for a vote near the end of the council's current session on October 7.

Intense backroom diplomacy is already underway. Developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and West Asia make up the majority of the 47 current members of the council. Stalwart allies of China and Russia, including Cuba, Eritrea and Venezuela, are members, as is China itself. Western and European countries have 13 seats. Some European diplomats have expressed concern that the cultural, political and economic ties — even dependence — that many developing countries have with both Russia and China could torpedo the Western initiatives.

Alexander Pchelyakov, press secretary of the Russian diplomatic mission in Geneva, rejected the "politicised" Western proposal on Russia, insisting its "main goals are to punish Russia for pursuing an independent foreign policy course" and to divert attention away from the West's own problems when it comes to human rights, economics and energy.

The proposal on China is for a simple debate, with no consistent monitoring of the



People gather to protest against China on human rights on the eve of China's National Day in front of the Bank of China in Taipei, Taiwan, on Friday

AP

rights situation, and is just about the least intrusive form of scrutiny that the council could seek. The call stops short of creating a team of investigators to look into possible crimes in Xinjiang, or appoint a special rapporteur — a proposal that is on the table with Russia.

John Fisher, global advo-

cacy deputy director at Human Rights Watch, said recently that action on China and Russia are its top two priorities, and they amount to "no small challenge."

"There was a time when states like China and Russia felt to be almost untouchable," he said. "But it now feels that states of principle are finally saying

'enough' and standing up to those who would seek to disrupt the international rules-based order."

"Even the fact that these initiatives are under active consideration — and quite likely both to move forward — is itself a signal of the relevance and engagement of the Human Rights Council," Fisher added.

Western diplomats appear to feel more confident about success with the Russia measure. The council has little power to force countries to act, and there's little certainty that Moscow would even allow an outside UN-backed monitor into Russia as part of the post if the council seeks to create it. The Xinjiang debate proposal

is shaping up as the bigger ask, diplomats say. The situation is perceived, rightly or wrongly, as a less pressing one than in Russia, where a crackdown is continuing. China, ever-protective of its reputation as its global profile and power rise, has said it has largely shuttered what it called training centers in Xinjiang — and what critics

derided as detention centres.

One Western diplomat whose country backs the debate on Xinjiang, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, insisted the proposal was a "measured" response. Some supporters of China fret that the plan for a springtime debate is secretly just a foot in the door — a quiet effort that will aim to ramp up pressure on Beijing later on.

A key test will be with Africa, whose countries hold 13 council seats. Some have populations that are predominantly Muslim. Nicolas Agostini of DefendDefenders, an NGO that promotes human rights in East Africa, told reporters recently that it estimates most African countries will abstain in the Russia vote, but maybe one or two — "we identified Malawi and the Gambia as the two most progressive African states that are members of the council right now" — will vote yes.

"Regarding China, it's much more complex," he said, alluding to "extreme Chinese pressure on African states, including members of the OIC that are African states." One African diplomat, also speaking on condition of anonymity because his country is still calibrating its response, said it has a "principled and objective approach" on the China resolution. "We will have to consider our bilateral relations with the Chinese," the diplomacy said coyly. "We're not just going to jump in there (in support of the draft decision)."

(Courtesy: AP)

