

OPINION 6

DON'T MESS WITH
THE RUSSIANS

WORLD 9

N KOREA FLIES WARPLANES NEAR
S KOREA AFTER MISSILE LAUNCHES

MONEY 10

WORLD BANK DOWNGRADES INDIA'S
GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5% FOR FY 23

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY OCTOBER 7, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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INDIA TO FACE
PAKISTAN IN
ASIA CUP T20
11 SPORT36 dead, mostly kids, in
Thai day-care carnageEx-cop on shooting
spree rushes home,
shoots wife, child,
then kills himself

AP ■ BANGKOK

A former police officer facing a drug charge burst into a day care centre on Thursday in Thailand, killing dozens of preschoolers and teachers and then shooting more people as he fled. At least 36 people, including at least 24 children, were slain in the deadliest rampage in the nation's history.

The assailant, who was fired earlier this year, took his own life after killing his wife and child at home.

Photos taken by first responders showed the school's floor littered with the tiny bodies of children still on their blankets, where they had been taking an afternoon nap. The images showed slashes to their faces and gunshot to their heads and pools of blood.

A teacher told ThaiPBS public broadcaster that the assailant got out of a car and immediately shot a man eating lunch outside, then fired more shots. When the attacker paused to reload, the teacher had an opportunity to run inside.

"I ran to the back, the children were asleep," said the young woman, who did not



In this image taken from video, a distraught woman is comforted outside the site of an attack at a day-care centre in the town of Nongbua Lamphu, north eastern Thailand on Thursday

give her name, choking back her words. "The children were two or three years old."

The attack took place in the rural town of Nongbua Lamphu in northeastern Thailand, in one of the country's poorest regions.

Another witness said staff at the day care had locked the door, but the suspect shot his way in. "The teacher who died, she had a child in her arms," the witness, whose name wasn't given, told Thailand's Kom Chad Luek television. "I didn't think he would kill children, but he shot at the door and shot right through it."

At least 10 people were

wounded, including six critically, police spokesman Archayon Kraithong said.

A video taken by a first responder arriving at the scene showed rescuers rushing into the single-story building past a shattered glass front door, with drops of blood visible on the ground in the entryway.

In footage posted online after the attack, frantic family members could be heard weeping outside the building. One image showed the floor smeared with blood where sleeping mats were scattered around the room. Pictures of the alphabet and other colorful decorations adorned the walls.

Police identified the suspect as 34-year-old former police officer Panya Kamrap. Police Major General Paisal Luesomboon told PPTV in an interview that he was fired from the force earlier this year because of the drug charge.

In a Facebook posting, Thai police chief Gen. Dumrongsak Kittiprapas said the man, who had been a sergeant, was due in court on Friday for a hearing in the case involving methamphetamine, and speculated that he may have chosen the day care because it was close to his home.

Continued on Page 2

Infant among 4 abducted
Sikhs found dead in USPunjab CM urges
MEA to ask US to
conduct foolproof
probe into murder
of Hoshiarpur family

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

All four Sikh family members, including an eight-month-old baby girl, who were kidnapped in the US State of California earlier this week, have been found dead in an orchard, US authorities said on Wednesday.

The family, originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was kidnapped from their newly-opened trucking business in Merced County, California, on Monday.

Merced County (California) Sheriff Vern Warnke said the bodies of 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child Aroohi Dheri and the baby's uncle, 39-year-old Amandeep Singh were found on Wednesday evening in an orchard near Indiana Road & Hutchinson Road.

The murder of four members of a Punjabi-Sikh family has sent shockwaves in Punjab compelling Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to seek the Union External Affairs



KIDNAPPED



Images are displayed of 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri with her mother Jasleen Kaur, her father Jasdeep Singh, and her uncle Amandeep Singh, at a news conference in Merced, California, on Wednesday. (Right) Accused Jesus Salgado



Minister's intervention. He has urged the Union Minister Dr S Jaishankar to impress upon the US Government to conduct through probe into the "gruesome" murder.

A pall of gloom descended on the native village of 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, and his 39-year-old brother Amandeep Singh — Harsi Pind in Tanda block of Hoshiarpur district in Punjab — as soon the news broke. After receiving the news of their abduction on Monday, Jasdeep's parents had returned

to the US on Tuesday night. Settled in the US, Jasdeep's parents were on India visit for a spiritual trip to Uttarakhand when the received the news.

At 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur's village Jandir in Jalandhar, the family is shocked with relatives and villagers thronging their house, expressing shock at the "unbelievable" incident.

Shaken, Jasleen's parents were not in a mental state to speak. After tying the nuptial knot with Jasdeep in January

2019, Jasleen went to the US in October 2020; and was planning to visit her parents in January next year.

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CAPSULE

FRENCH WRITER ANNIE
BAGS NOBEL PRIZE

Stockholm: French author Annie Ernaux, who has mined her own biography to explore life in France since the 1940s, was awarded this year's Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for work that illuminates murky corners of memory, family and society. Work of Ernaux, 82, was recognised for "the courage and clinical acuity" of her writing.

UN BODY REJECTS DEBATE
ON ABUSES OF UYGHURS

Geneva: In a close diplomatic victory for China, the UN's top human rights body on Thursday voted down a proposal from Britain, Turkey, the US and other mostly Western countries to hold a debate on rights abuses against Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in China's western Xinjiang region.

'1.62 CR VISITED J&K THIS
YR, HIGHEST IN 75 YRS'

Srinagar: A record 1.62 crore tourists visited Jammu & Kashmir so far this year, which is the highest since Independence, an official said here on Thursday.

Gambia cough syrup
deaths: DCGI probes;
Haryana sends syrup
samples to WB lab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's drug regulator, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), has begun a probe into charges that the use of a domestic cough syrup could potentially be linked to death of children in Gambia.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Wednesday warned that four "contaminated" and "substandard" cough syrups allegedly produced by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited based in Haryana's Sonapat could be the reason for the deaths in the West African nation.

The Haryana Government is sending the samples of the syrups to the Central Drug Lab in Kolkata for testing and affirming any possible "contamination". Its results will guide further course of action.

Details on Page 4

Spate of rapes in UP:
Schoolgirl kills self as
cops sit on complaint

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has been rocked by a series of rapes during the last 24 hours. In one case, the victim was strangled to death after rape, and in another a girl committed suicide after the police did not act against the culprits for a fortnight. In the third case, a schoolgirl was gangraped, while another schoolgirl escaped rape bid.

In the first case, a 19-year-old BSC student was allegedly raped inside her house and then murdered. The rapists strangled her and hanged her body before fleeing the Sheesham area of Mainpuri. A heavy police force was deployed in the village.

According to information,

the girl was alone in the house at the time of the incident. Her father had gone to the city and her mother to Agra for work, while her 13-year-old sister had gone to attend coaching classes.

Taking advantage of the situation, Pushpendra Lodhi, of the same village, entered the house and raped her. As per information, when the girl threatened to complain, Pushpendra strangled her and then hanged her body. He then closed the door of the house from outside and fled.

In yet another case reported two days ago from Kannauj, a youth identified as Arif posed as Amit and befriended a Hindu girl by promising her a job and then raped her.

Continued on Page 2

Uttarkashi
avalanche: 12
more bodies
recovered

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The authorities recovered twelve more bodies of mountaineers on Thursday after a team from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) was trapped in an avalanche at Draupadi Ka Danda in Uttarkashi on Tuesday.

A total of 61 people were trapped in the avalanche out of which, 32 have been rescued safely, 16 are dead and 13 are still missing.

A team of experts from Gulmarg in Jammu & Kashmir, High Altitude Warfare School (HAWs) joined the rescue operation with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and NIM.

The officials said more teams have also been sent to the advanced base camp from ITBP Matli in Uttarkashi.

PFI ban: Justice Dinesh appointed
presiding officer of UAPA Tribunal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma of the Delhi High Court as the presiding officer of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal in the matter of recently-banned

Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates.

Once an organisation is banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, a tribunal is set up by the Government to adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause or ground for

declaring it an unlawful association.

According to an office memorandum issued by the Department of Justice, Justice Sharma's time as head of the the tribunal will count as "actual service".

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2nd CONVOCATION 2022

THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW TAKE THEIR FIRST LEAP

October 8, 2022 | 03:00 PM

APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium

Sonia joins Rahul, adds sparkle to Bharat Jodo Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Drums, trumpets, and slogans greeted Congress president Sonia Gandhi as she briefly joined her son Rahul Gandhi and a teeming multitude of party workers and aam admi during the Bharat Jodo padyatra in Mandya in south Karnataka on Thursday.

This is the first time that Sonia joined a public event after recovering from Covid-19 earlier this year. The Congress leader has not been keeping well and she recently visited the USA for treatment.

She joined the yatra twice for brief periods and in between took a car ride. Rahul remained by her side throughout. At one point, he was seen persuading her to end her walk.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra resumed from Pandavapura in Mandya on Thursday after a two-day break. Sonia joined the padyatra after it left Bellale village on Thursday morning.

Due to the massive



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with his mother and party interim president Sonia Gandhi during the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Mandya district on Thursday

response from public and party workers, Sonia also tweaked her programme schedule to stay with the yatis for two hours as against the 30 minutes planned earlier. The party tweeted a photo of Rahul tying his mother's shoelaces during the walk, captioning it "Ma (mother)".

The picture went viral on social media during the day. Congress also posted a picture of the two on Twitter, and said, "Those shielded by love fear nothing! On the road, marching ahead".

Continued on Page 2

Acting on Rahul's jumbo
advice: Karnataka CM

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday said he will respond to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's letter, seeking his intervention for providing timely treatment to a "severely injured" elephant calf at the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, on humanitarian grounds.

Chief Guest
Dr K Radhakrishnan
Former Chairman, ISRO

Guest of Honour
Dr S Chandrasekhar
Chairperson, TDB & Secretary,
DST Ministry of Science & Technology,
Government of India

Dr T R Paarivendhar
Founder Chancellor, SRM Group of Institutions
Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

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DCW seeks ATR from cops on schoolgirl's rape in KV

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women on Thursday sought from the police an action-taken report on the alleged rape of an 11-year-old student by two seniors inside the washroom of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in July. Meanwhile, Police said that an FIR has been registered at North Avenue police station under relevant section of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Based on the statement of the victim, the teaching staff and suspected students are being questioned, said police, adding that the victim filed a complaint on Tuesday and immediately a case was registered.

Calling it a serious matter,



the panel has issued a notice to Delhi Police to provide a copy of the FIR registered in the case and details of arrests made by October 10.

According to DCW, the girl has alleged that in July 2022, she was going to her classroom in the Kendriya Vidyalaya School when she collided with two boys who were students of the same school and studied in 11th-12th standard.

"She has stated that she apologised to the boys, but they started abusing her and took her inside a toilet. She has alleged that the boys locked the toilet door from inside and raped her. She has stated that when she informed the incident to a teacher, she was told that the boys have been expelled and the matter was allegedly hushed up," said DCW official. "The Commission has asked the school principal to inform as to

when did the school authorities learn about the matter and what action was taken by them. The Commission has also asked the school to furnish a copy of enquiry report conducted in the matter," said the DCW, in a statement. DCW Chairperson Swati Maliwal said that they had received a very serious case of gangrape with an 11 year old student inside a school in Delhi.

"The girl has alleged that her school teacher tried to hush up the matter. It is very unfortunate that even schools are unsafe for children in the Capital. Strict action must be taken in the matter. Also an enquiry in to the role of school authorities must be conducted on the issue," said Mailwal.

Meanwhile, KVS officials said no complaint regarding the matter was received by the school authorities.

"The regional office of KVS is investigating the issue. The incident was not reported to the principal by the girl or her parents. The issue was also not raised at a parent-teacher meeting held after the incident," a senior KVS official said.

DMRC fails to comply with HC's order directing it to pay ₹4,447.56 cr to DAMEPL

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) has failed to comply with the Delhi High Court order dated September 6 directing DMRC to pay Rs 4,447.56 crore to Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited (DAMEPL) by October 4.

The Delhi High Court, in its last order dated 6 September 2022, had directed DMRC to pay the entire amount of Arbitral Award of Rs 4,500 crore due to DAMEPL, in four weeks time i.e. by 4 October, but DMRC has failed to comply with the order of court as it did not make any payment to DAMEPL as the deadline ended on October 4. The next hearing in this matter is slated for October 10. It may be noted that the entire sum of Rs 4,447.56 crore is to go to the lenders of DAMEPL and its promoter company Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, most of whom are public sector banks. In the last six months, this is the third contempt of the High Court order by DMRC.

When contacted, Principal Executive Director Delhi Metro, Anuj Dayal refused to comment on the issue. "As the matter is subjudice we would not like to comment on the

matter," Dayal said.

In 2008, DMRC signed a contract with DAMEPL, related to the design, installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the line. DMRC in 2012 invoked arbitration after DAMEPL terminated the concession agreement on the grounds that defects pointed out in construction were not cured by DMRC within the stipulated 90 days. The Supreme Court in September upheld the 2017 arbitral award favouring DAMEPL.

The court on September 6 was informed that DMRC's appeal against the March 10 order directing it to pay DAMEPL has been dismissed by the Supreme Court. While the counsel representing DMRC sought four weeks to pay the balance amount, senior advocate Harish Salve for DAMEPL submitted that no further time should be granted as the March 10 order was not adhered to and even further time granted till August 5 was not complied with.

However, the court said it deems it appropriate to direct that the balance amount in terms of the award be made within a period of four weeks and listed the matter for hearing on October 10.

Sonia joins Rahul, adds sparkle to Bharat Jodo...

From Page 1
"We have sailed through storms in the past and today too we will break the limits of all challenges and will together unite India," Rahul tweet-

ed as the yatra continued to traverse Karnataka, where he will stay for another 15 days before moving into Telangana.

"We have weathered many storms and will overcome all challenges. Together we will unite India," he said in another tweet in Hindi and posted a photograph of him walking with his mother, his

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my client Gulshan Kumar is the owner of Property bearing No. 39/2, area Measuring 100 Sq. Yds. (80 sq. yds. + 40 sq. yds.) Situated at Subhash Nagar, Tehar I, New Delhi by virtue of Sale Deed dated 12.09.2016 (Doc No. 15018) executed by Vinay Kumar Pushkarna and will executed by Karna Wali dated 19.09.2005 (document no. 23371). And whereas he has lost the following original document pertaining to the said property:-
Original Will dated 06.05.2005 executed by Simran Oberoi in favour of Vinay Kumar Pushkarna
All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pk-E-5C, Mayur Vihar-I, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

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"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in>".

Gurugram: Traffic Police collects ₹8.81 cr in fines from 8 lakh traffic violators

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

To tighten the noose against traffic violators the Gurugram traffic police have collected Rs 8.81 crores from 8 lakh traffic violators for non-compliance with traffic rules between January and August, the police said.

According to the police, most of the challans have been issued for driving in the wrong direction including 29,548 challans issued on a manual basis for the wrong direction; 154 for tractor trolley; 72 for illegal sirens; 17076 for without high-security number plates; 1,267 for no entry; 3,651 for excess seating capacity; 307 for black films; 137 against pressure horn and without high security; 1,195 for dangerous driving; 93 against school bus and 3,679 challans without a number plate.

Apart from this, a fine of Rs 1.31 crore was collected through postal challans against 164 vehicles.

Commissioner of Police,



Kala Ramachandran said that over time, the police of Cyber City has also started the process of online challenging by hi-tech challaning system.

"Under this project t, more than 1100 CCTV cameras have been installed on the main roads, square intersections and red lights in Gurugram, which are being operated by the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) of the Police Headquarters," she said.

Through this whole process, postal challans of those who avoid the traffic rules are

being sent along with the photo against the violates.

"To make people aware of traffic rules in Gurugram, we appeal to people to follow the traffic rules in public places so that they can save themselves and their families from road accidents and avoid being a victim. Every effort is being made by the traffic police in Gurugram to get rid of the problem of traffic jams and ease the traffic in the cyber city by taking continuous action against the violators as per the rules," Ramachandran said.

Hookahs in restaurants: HC seeks Govt, cops' response on plea against interference

STAFF REPORTER ■
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Thursday sought the response of the city government and police to a plea by two restaurants seeking directions to the authorities not to interfere with the sale and service of herbal flavoured hookahs in their bars and establishments.

Justice Yashwant Varma noted a batch of petitions raising similar issues are already pending where, by an interim order on November 16, 2021, the high court had allowed the sale and service of herbal hookahs in several restaurants in the city subject to the owners filing an undertaking they will strictly follow COVID-19 appropriate behaviour while serving herbal hookah.

The high court said the petitioners – Epic



Restro Bar and Downtown Village – are also entitled to identical interim relief.

It asked the Delhi government and police to file response within six weeks and tagged it with the similar pleas.

The petitioner establishments have sought quashing of the August 3, 2020 order passed by the Delhi government's Health and Family Welfare Department banning the use of hookah, with or without tobacco, in public places on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The petitioners contended Delhi Police officials have been interfering in their business of serving herbal hookah and were harassing them by repeatedly demanding money.

They said when they showed them the high court's order permitting the sale of herbal hookah, the police threatened them with dire consequences.

Infant among 4 abducted...

From Page 1
Expressing shock and condemning the incident which has shocked everyone especially the Punjabis living across the globe, Mann on Thursday said the brutal murder has raised questions on the security of Punjabis, even in advanced nations like US. Seeking the intervention of the Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, he urged him to impress upon the national Government of the United States to thoroughly conduct a probe into the matter. "It is the need of

hour to instill a sense of security amongst the Punjabis living abroad. The Government of India must flag the issue of security of Punjabis living in the US with their counterpart in America," said Mann, adding that top most priority must be accorded to this for ensuring safety of the Punjabis living there.

Expressing deep anguish over the incident, Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal on Thursday demanded exemplary punishment for the killers. He demanded from the Governor

of California and mayor of Merced County in the US that the killers should be arrested at the earliest.

He has also appealed that exemplary punishment should be given to the killers so that no one can commit such heinous crimes in the future.

Dhaliwal said the Punjab Government stands with the family in this hour of grief. He also assured that the Punjab Government would take up the matter with full vigour at all levels to ensure that the culprits are brought to book.

Spate of rapes in UP: Schoolgirl kills self as cops sit on...

From Page 1
Earlier on September 15, two teenage Dalit sisters were found hanging from a tree in Lakhimpur Kheri after being allegedly raped and murdered. The police had arrested six people in connection with the case. The girls were lured to the farm and raped by Sohail and Junaid. After the girls asked the accused to marry them, Sohail, Hafizul, and Junaid killed them. They then called Karimuiddin and Arif and hanged the girls from a tree to make it look a suicide case.

PFI ban: Justice Dinesh appointed presiding officer of UAPA...

From Page 1
He will not be entitled to any extra remuneration for his services as the head of the tribunal except for travelling allowance and daily allowance as admissible under the High Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Rules 1956.

Justice Sharma was nominated by Delhi High Court Chief Justice S C Sharma following a request from the Union Home Ministry. According to the procedures, the Union Home Ministry requests the Law Ministry to name a sitting

judge of the High Court as Presiding Officer of the UAPA tribunal. The Law Minister then requests the Chief Justice of the concerned high court to recommend a judge to head the tribunal.

The PFI's affiliates include Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI) All India Imams Council (AIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala.

NCRPULSE

WHY NO PROBE IN MCD'S TOLL SCAM, AAP ASKS LG
New Delhi: The AAP on Thursday asked Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena why he has not yet ordered a probe into alleged toll tax scam by the MCD worth Rs 6,000 crore even though Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia sent him a complaint in this connection with documents two months ago. AAP's Delhi civic body election in-charge Durgesh Pathak also wondered if Saxena was not able to "muster courage" to order a probe into the alleged scam as some "very senior leader" of the BJP was involved in it.

POLICE SUB-INSPECTOR COMMITS SUICIDE
New Delhi: A Delhi Police sub inspector (SI) allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his residence in Punjabi Bagh area. The deceased has been identified as Benny (58), a resident of Police Colony in Punjabi Bagh, police said, adding he was posted in the Outer district. The police said the information about the incident was received at 8.50 PM on Wednesday. The S-I was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his room and there was a slit on wrist of his left arm. Family members of the deceased raised no suspicion.

17-YR-OLD BOY STABBED TO DEATH IN JAHANGIRPURI
New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy was stabbed to death in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area. The incident took place on late hours of Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Shivam, a resident of Mukundpur. Police said that a police control room (PCR) call was received from BJRM hospital in Jahangirpuri at 11.48 pm informing about the admission of a person with stab injuries on his chest. The teen was declared brought dead by the doctors, police said.

60-YR-OLD WOMAN FALLS INTO OPEN DRAIN, DIES
New Delhi: A 60-year-old woman died after falling into an open drain in Dwarka. The incident occurred around 7 pm on Wednesday in Sector 13. Police said that they received information that a woman had fallen into an open drain near the Reliance Fresh outlet. She was taken to a hospital where she succumbed to injuries. Sudha Devi's body was shifted to the DDU Hospital for post mortem.

WHY DELHI CHILDREN STUDY IN 2 SHIFTS?: GUPTA
New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Thursday said that if Manish Sisodia is even 10 per cent worried students studying in the national Capital, as he is for the children of other States, then they would not be compelled to study in two shifts.

GAHLOT CHAIRS MEETING ON COMPLEX FOR CHILDREN
New Delhi: Delhi Women and Child Development Minister, Kailash Gahlot chaired a meeting to review the development of the proposed integrated complex for children (boys) in Alipur. The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Department of Women and Child Development and Public Works Department (PWD). During the meeting, the initial design concept and layout plan of the integrated complex were presented by PWD.

SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT ACTIVITIES TO PHASE OUT SUPS
New Delhi: The government schools in Delhi will conduct weekly activities to phase out single-use plastic from schools and promote waste management, a circular from the Directorate of Education (DOE) said. The activities include taking pledges, attending lecture sessions in the morning assembly, and sharing items from 'Bartan bhandar' (a separate room in schools to store reusable utensils) with the students. According to the circular, all government school students will take a pledge to phase out single-use plastic (SUP) every Monday during the morning assembly.

VIJAY NAIR SENT TO 2 WEEKS' JUDICIAL CUSTODY
New Delhi: A special court on Thursday sent businessman and AAP communication in-charge Vijay Nair, arrested in connection with the Delhi excise policy scam case in which Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is also an accused, to two weeks' judicial custody. Special Judge M K Nagpal sent Nair to jail till October 20 after the CBI did not seek his further custodial interrogation. The central probe agency produced Nair before the court at the end of his CBI remand.

QCI CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF 25 YEARS
New Delhi: The Quality Council of India (QCI) celebrated a key milestone of completing 25 years and the momentous occasion was commemorated on October 6 at Dr Ambedkar International Center (DAIC). With the motto 'Gunnvatta se Atmanirbharta', the event commemorated the efforts made by QCI in its pursuit to delivering quality of services, products, and lives. The inaugural session was chaired by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles.

DISRUPTION IN METRO NOT DUE TO TECHNICAL FAILURE
New Delhi: The disruption of services on a section of the Delhi Metro's Blue Line on October 5 was caused by external reasons and not a technical failure, officials said on Thursday. Metro services between Akshardham and Mayur Vihar Phase-I section of the Blue Line were affected for three hours from 6:45 am to 9:45 am on Wednesday as the catenary wire (system of overhead wires used to supply electricity to light rail vehicle) was damaged, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had said. On Thursday, the officials clarified that the delay in services was not due to any technical failure or malfunctioning of overhead equipment (OHE).

36 dead, mostly kids, in Thai...

From Page 1
Earlier, Dumrongrak told reporters that the main weapon used was a 9mm pistol that the man had purchased himself. Paisal said he also had a shotgun and a knife.

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, who planned to travel to the scene on Friday, told reporters that initial reports were that the former officer was having personal problems. "This shouldn't happen," he said. "I feel deep sadness toward the victims and their relatives."

Police have not given a full breakdown of the death toll, but they have said at least 22 children and two adults were killed at the day care. At least two more children were killed elsewhere.

Firearm-related deaths in Thailand are much lower than in countries such as the United States and Brazil, but higher than in Japan and Singapore, which have strict gun-control laws. The rate of firearms related deaths in 2019 was about 4 per 100,000, compared with about 11 per 100,000 in the US, and nearly 23 per 100,000 in Brazil.

Mass shootings are rare but not unheard of in Thailand, which has one of the highest civilian gun ownership rates in Asia, with 15.1 weapons per 100 population compared to only 0.3 in Singapore and 0.25 in Japan. That's still far lower than the US rate of 120.5 per 100 people, according to a 2017 survey by Australia's GunPolicy.Org nonprofit organisation.

The country's previous worst mass shooting involved a disgruntled soldier who opened fire in and around a mall in the northeastern city of Nakhon Ratchasima in 2020, killing 29 people and holding off security forces for some 16 hours before eventually being killed by them.

Nearly 60 others were wounded in that attack. Its death toll surpassed that of the previously worst attack on civilians, a 2015 bombing at a shrine in Bangkok that killed 20 people. It was allegedly carried out by human traffickers in retaliation for a crackdown on their network.

GOVT BEGINS GRAPPLING WITH POLLUTION

Anti-dust drive launched by Rai, 586 teams to check compliance at building sites



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday launched a month-long anti-dust campaign to check compliance of pollution norms at construction sites. Rai said that 586 teams have been formed for its implementation.

"Out of these 586 teams, 33 teams came from the DPCC, 165 teams from the Revenue Department, 300 from MCD, 20 from DSIDC, 14 from DJB, 33 teams from DDA, 3 from Delhi Metro, 6 teams each from CPWD and PWD, one team from NDMC, four teams from Delhi Cantonment Board and one team from NHAI," the Delhi Government Minister said while addressing a press conference.

Rai said the campaign has been launched under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to combat pollution that has been implemented in the national Capital.

"We have collaborated with several agencies to form 586 teams to monitor the implementation of this campaign. These 586 teams will go on the ground to ensure that all the rules made for the construction sites under the anti-dust campaign are being followed," said Rai. "Also, as the GRAP system is in force in Delhi, all the construction sites with an area above 500 sq mt need to register on the portal. If they are not registering themselves, they

Smog tower cut PM2.5 by 17%, PM10 by 27% in 100 m radius

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data showed that the 82-feet-high smog tower at Anand Vihar reduced PM2.5 concentration by up to 17 per cent in a radius of 100 metres in the winter of 2021-22. The smog tower reduced PM10 pollution levels by up to 27 per cent at a distance of 100 metres during the period. The CPCB said while replying to an RTI.

The smog tower will be used experimentally for two years. Based on the results, the Government will take a call on replicating the project in other parts of the city.

Avikal Somvanshi, senior programme manager, Urban Lab, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), termed the results "insignificant", saying it seems the giant air purifier did not lead to any improvement in air quality beyond 200 metres.

The CPCB data showed the smog tower reduced PM2.5 levels at a distance of 100 metres by 13 per cent in December last year, 7 per cent in March this year and 17 per cent in April. The data per-



could not share data for November, January and February. At a distance of 50 metres, the PM10 concentration reduced by 50 per cent in November, 41 per cent in December, 26 per cent in January, 21 per cent in March, 32 per cent in April and 13 per cent in May.

"During winter, the monthly average of (PM10) at Anand Vihar is usually above 200 micrograms per cubic metre. The CPCB standard is 60 micrograms per cubic metre and the WHO standard is 15 micrograms per cubic metre. So, at least 70 per cent reduction is needed to meet the CPCB standard and over 90 per cent to meet the WHO norms," Somvanshi said.

The smog tower has 40 fans and 5,000 filters developed by experts at University of Minnesota which also helped design a 100-metre-high smog tower in Xian, China.

The Anand Vihar smog tower was constructed at a cost of Rs 13.59 crore. It is based on a downdraft airflow model. Its 40 huge fans suck air from the top of a special type of canopy structure and release clean air below.

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Congress slams AAP for burning Ravan effigies amid pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Thursday lashed out at the AAP for burning Ravana effigies in the national Capital and said this "blatant violation" of pollution norms caused the air quality in the city to turn poor.

The AAP on Tuesday burnt effigies of Ravana at around 3,500 locations in Delhi in a symbolic protest against the BJP's "failure" to maintain cleanliness in the Capital.

"Ravana made of BJP's garbage" was written on all the effigies burnt during the protest. Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said it was a blatant violation of Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) norms.

"The CAQM has put a total ban on burning of waste, use of generators and construction work generating dust, but AAP leaders and workers flouted the guideline and put the lives of Delhiites in danger," he said.

Delhi app if you come across someone or any construction site not following anti-dust pollution rules in your neighbourhood or anywhere across Delhi. You can complain on the Green Delhi app by clicking photographs. This will help us in monitoring and implementing the campaign better," he added.

L-G asks CS to look into delay in payment to sanitation workers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The L-G has expressed displeasure over delay in the payments and directed Chief Secretary to take immediate steps to clear all claims of sanitation workers before Diwali.

made. "These contractors faced the worst crisis during the Covid-19 lockdown when the Delhi Government did not release their payments for several months even as their entire fleet of the sewer cleaning machines was engaged by the Government for special sanitation drive across the city, causing hardships to these Dalit frontline workers," the complaint read.

As per the sources at the L-G office, Kamble, a Padma Awardee and also the Director of Indian Institutes of Management (IIM), Jammu, alleged that these Dalit contractors and workers are in the 4th year of their service with the DJB, but ever since they have been facing acute crisis, they said. "Kamble also claimed that a lobby active in

the DJB was constantly trying to fail these poor Dalit sanitation workers so that the sewer cleaning work again goes back to the old contractors," they informed. "On February 28, 2019, the DJB had signed an agreement with DICCI for implementing a technology-based solution for sewer cleaning to eliminate manual scavenging in Delhi, under which 189 contractors from the marginalized communities were engaged by DJB for cleaning of the sewer lines," they said.

These contractors have engaged over 1000 sanitation workers who are responsible for cleaning of sewers in the DJB areas, they stated.

"Also, to implement the project, these contractors purchased sewer cleaning machines with loan assistance under the "Stand up India" Scheme, a flagship scheme of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi which aims at supporting poor and marginalized to become self-reliant," they said.

"The State Bank of India (SBI) has extended the term loan up to 90 per cent of the project cost, that is Rs 40 lakh for each machine and the remaining 10 per cent of the margin money was brought in by the Dalit entrepreneurs.

CM's role in power subsidy 'scam' should be probed: Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena ordered a probe into the power subsidy scam, the State BJP unit on Thursday took a jibe at the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and said that his role in the 'scam' should also be investigated.

Addressing the media, the Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that the active role of Kejriwal in the power subsidy scam in the Capital should be probed as his relations with the power companies have been suspicious since the beginning.

"Due to these relations, Kejriwal managed the appointments of his close aides as the director of power companies and paved the way for the benefits of thousands of crores," Bidhuri said.

Bidhuri said that the connections of scam in electricity subsidy are directly linked to Kejriwal. Since the L-G has ordered an inquiry into the subsidy scam and the report is to be submitted by the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar in

seven days, this matter must be investigated from all angles. "Kejriwal gave all kinds of exemptions to these power companies so that his close aides Jasmin Shah and Rajya Sabha member ND Gupta's son Naveen Gupta can be appointed a director in private companies," he claimed.

Bidhuri also alleged that when ND Gupta was given a Rajya Sabha ticket, Kejriwal's aides alleged that he was given the ticket by taking crores of rupees. It is obvious that even in making his son a director in the company, there was also something wrong.

"Before the 2013 elections, Kejriwal had openly promised the public that the rates would be brought down by stopping the theft of power companies in Delhi. Describing the electricity meters as fast, he used to say that these meters would be fixed, and the power companies would be forced to reduce the rates," he said.

The role of Kejriwal is questionable because he did not utter a word against the power companies as soon as he won the election.

Even my wife does not scold me as much as L-G does, quips Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a jibe at Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that even his wife doesn't scold him as much as the L-G does. The relationship between Kejriwal and the L-G has been stormy since Saxena took charge in May. Further, the Delhi Chief Minister suggested that Saxena should "chill a bit."

In a tongue-and-cheek remark, Kejriwal said in a tweet he has not received as many "love letters" from his wife "in the entire life" as he has from the L-G in just six months.

"As much as L-G sahib scolds me every day, even my wife does not scold me. In the last six months, my wife has not written me as many love letters as L-G sahib has written to me. L-G sahib, chill a bit. And also tell your super boss, chill a little," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

Kejriwal's remarks came days after Saxena in a letter accused him and his ministerial colleagues of showing "utter disregard" towards the commemoration of the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri by not attending events at Raj Ghat and Vijay Ghat.

He slammed Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia for not staying for the whole pro-



gramme at Raj Ghat and Vijay Ghat.

Earlier, he had written to Kejriwal over the delay in granting permissions for felling trees for infrastructure projects.

Saxena, who took charge as the L-G in May this year, has ordered several probes into the Kejriwal Government's works including the new excise policy, hospital construction, classroom construction, and now the free power scheme.

The Kejriwal Government, too, on Thursday asked the L-G why he has not yet ordered a probe into the alleged toll tax scam worth Rs 6,000 crore in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi even though Sisodia sent him a complaint in this connection with "documents" two months ago.

AAP's Delhi civic body election in-charge Durgesh Pathak asked if Saxena was not able to "muster courage" to order a probe into the alleged scam as some "very senior leader" of the BJP was involved

BJP slams CM for comment

New Delhi: Soon after the CM's tweet, BJP leaders including MP Manoj Tiwari, west Delhi MP Parvesh Singh Verma and Kapil Mishra hit out at Kejriwal.

"This puerile language shows what is the mental state of @ArvindKejriwal... In the last seven years, he did not handle a single department and did not send a single file. You are only interested in loot and lies and it comes down to such a low level," Tiwari tweeted in Hindi.

The Delhi BJP also took a dig at Kejriwal asking, "When was the last time you were scolded by Bhabhi ji? Was it when you falsely swore in the name of your children? Anyway, LG is scolding you only to mend your ways. Mend your ways and stop scams and pay salaries of sanitation workers before Diwali," Delhi BJP tweeted in Hindi.

in it. There was no immediate reaction from the L-G office to the AAP's charge even as Kejriwal has maintained a studied silence over Saxena's letters, till now, with responses coming only in the form of AAP statements or comments from spokespersons such as Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj.

IGIA Customs dept arrests man with luxury watches worth crores

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Customs officials at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport arrested a man for allegedly smuggling seven luxury wrist watches, including one gold and diamond-studded Jacob & Co watch worth Rs 27.09 crore.

Commissioner of Customs at IGIA, Zubair Riaz Kamili said it is the biggest seizure, in value terms, of commercial or luxury goods. "In value terms, it is equivalent to seizing around 60 kgs of gold in one instance," he said.

The accused passenger, an Indian national, was intercepted by the Customs officials after his arrival from Dubai on Tuesday, an official statement said.

The detailed examination of the baggage and personal search of the passenger resulted in the recovery of seven wrist watches — Jacob & Co (model: BL115.30a), Piaget Limelight Stella (SI.No.1250352 P11179), Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust (SI. No. Z71 12418), Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust (SI. No. 0C46G2 17), Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust (SI. No. ZV655573), Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust (SI. No. 237Q 5385) and Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust (SI. No. 86 1R9269), it said. One of the watches of Jacob & Co is worth Rs 27.09 crore alone, it added.

Besides these watches, a diamond-studded gold bracelet and an iPhone 14 Pro 256 GB having a total value of Rs 28.17 crore were also recovered from the passenger, said the state-



ment issued by Delhi Customs. The watches were seized and the passenger was arrested, it said. A senior Customs official said the accused passenger and his uncle have a retail outlet of expensive watches in Dubai with branches at other places in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"He was carrying them for delivery to a high-profile client in Delhi. The passenger was to meet this client from Gujarat, at a Five Star hotel in Delhi. The client did not turn up for the meeting. So far, the accused has also not disclosed the name of

the client saying he fears for his life," the official said, wishing anonymity.

Chief Commissioner, Delhi Customs Zone, Surjit Bhujabal said, "Alert customs officers at Delhi Airport has made this (seizure) possible in spite of having such high passenger traffic."

"Indian Customs have always ensured maximum facilitation with minimal disturbance to genuine passengers and simultaneously ensuring to safeguard of economic frontiers by curbing smuggling," Bhujabal said.

Major fire in Gandhi Nagar market, man charred to death

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A charred body of a 19-year-old man was recovered on Thursday morning from the second floor of a shop in east Delhi's Gandhi Market where a major blaze broke out on Wednesday evening. It took nearly 10 hours for the fire-fighters to douse the flames, fire officials said, adding a short circuit might have caused the inferno. As per family members, the deceased has been identified as Shehnawaj, however, since the body is charred completely, DNA profiling would also be conducted to ascertain the identity of the victim, police said.

According to Atul Garg, the Director, Delhi Fire Service (DFS), around 35 fire tenders and 150 firefighters controlled the blaze which broke out around 5.40 PM on Wednesday and the fire was extinguished at 3.30 AM. "A charred body was found on the second floor



of the building on Thursday morning following the blaze broke that broke out in Jai Ambe garments shop.

"The fire quickly spread to other nearby shops due to storage of synthetic cloths," said R Sathiyasundaram, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Shahdara district. "All senior officers were on the spot including police

personnel of Gandhi Nagar sub-division and DCP Reserve. Civil defence personnel were also deployed to bring the fire under control," said the DCP.

According to police, one of the workers identified as Aftab (32), stated that he has been working at the Jai Ambe garments shop for the last 12 years. "After closing the shop

on Wednesday at about 5-5.15 pm, he along with four other workers went near main road. After five-seven minutes, they came back towards Janta lane which is another entry towards the shop, when they saw smoke emitting from their shop," said a senior police official. "He immediately called his owner and went near the shutter where he realised that his

brother Shehnawaj was trapped inside and he also heard the voice of him knocking the door," said the senior police official. "They attempted to break the locks and told his brother to go upstairs. However, by the time they broke the lock, the fire had spread and his brother was not traceable," the senior police officer said.

The fire started in a shop in the Nehru lane where mainly garments and hosiery outlets are located and it soon spread to other adjacent shops. "When the fire vehicle reached the spot, the operation was impeded by narrow lanes and the absence of a water source nearby. The fire tenders had to be parked far away from the site," said Garg, the chief fire officer.

"Crime team and forensic team will inspect scene of incident once the heat generated is down," police said, adding short circuit is suspected to be the reason behind the fire.

Traders blame poor infra for delay in dousing blaze

NEW DELHI: Traders in the national Capital blamed the poor infrastructure for delays in extinguishing the flames, hours after a charred body of a 19-year-old worker Shehnawaj was recovered from a shop in east Delhi's Gandhi Market, where a fire broke out on Wednesday evening.

According to K K Balli, president of the Association of Wholesale Readymade Garment Dealers (Gandhi Nagar), two of the shops in the market were completely gutted by the fire and the traders rendered huge financial losses running into crores of rupees.

Balli said it appears the fire was triggered by a short circuit

in a shop and spread to nearby buildings. "As it was Dussheera, the shopkeepers decided to close their shop at about 5 pm," he said.

"Shehnawaj's brother, who worked with him in the same shop, saw smoke emitting from the store and realised his brother was still inside it. He attempted to break the locks and told his brother to go upstairs," Balli said.

"We rang the fire department. However, due to the narrow lanes and mesh of hanging wire, the fire fighting operation got delayed and the fire spread to other shops, he said, adding the shops had combustible materials, mostly

clothes which is why the fire spread quickly.

"The traders have rendered crores of rupees of loss. The major hurdles I feel were narrow lanes and the poor infrastructures," Balli said.

Ramkishan, a trader who owns a shop adjacent to the one that was gutted in the fire said such incidents have become very frequent in the Delhi markets due to poor infrastructure. "Have you seen the conditions of transformers and electrical poles? The wires are hanging everywhere."

The wiring has not been changed for several years. So, short circuits are imminent," he said.

Gambia deaths: Probe begins, samples sent to Kolkata lab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Central Drugs Standard Organisation (CDSCO) has initiated an "urgent investigation" and sought for more details from the World Health Organization (WHO), which has warned that four "contaminated" and "substandard" cough syrups, allegedly produced by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited based in Haryana's Sonapat, could be the reason for 66 deaths in the West African nation of Gambia.

The samples of the cough syrups have been sent to the Central Drug Lab in Kolkata for testing and affirming any possible "contamination". Government sources said the exact "one-to-one causal relation of death" has neither been



provided by the UN health agency nor the details of labels and products shared by it with the CDSCO, enabling it to confirm the identity or source of the manufacturing of the products. "Based on available information, the CDSCO has already taken up an urgent investigation into the matter with regulatory authorities in Haryana.

While all required steps will be taken, as a robust regulatory authority, the WHO has been requested to share with CDSCO at the earliest the report on the establishment of a causal relation to the deaths with the medical products in question, photographs of labels/products etc," sources said. Sources said the Union Health ministry would take all "required steps".

"WHO has been requested to share with CDSCO at the earliest the report on the establishment of a causal relation to the deaths with the medical products in question, photographs of labels/products etc," sources said. WHO has also informed India that it will share the certificate of analysis soon, they pointed out.

Haryana Home Minister Anil Viz said, "The Central government officials are gathering complete information. Samples have been sent to the Central Drug Lab in Kolkata. After reports come, stern action will be taken if anything wrong is found."

Vij said the cough syrups manufactured by the pharma company were approved for export. "It is not available for sale or marketing in the coun-

try. Whatever action has to be taken will be taken once the CDL report comes. Only after the report is in, we can arrive at any conclusion," he said. According to the sources, the WHO had on September 29 informed the Drugs Controller General of India that it was providing technical assistance and advice to The Gambia.

It had highlighted that a significant contributing factor to the deaths was suspected to be the use of medicines which may have been contaminated with Diethylene Glycol/Ethylene Glycol, and said its presence had been confirmed in some of the samples it tested.

The CDSCO said it responded to the WHO within an hour-and-a-half after receiving intimation, by taking

up the matter with the state regulatory authority. Further, a detailed investigation was launched to ascertain the facts and details into the matter in collaboration with Haryana State Drugs Controller, the source explained.

"From the preliminary inquiry, it has been made out that Maiden Pharmaceutical Limited, Sonapat, Haryana, is the manufacturer licensed by the state drug controller for the products under reference, and holds manufacturing permission for these products.

"The company has manufactured and exported these products only to The Gambia so far," sources said. It is a practice that the importing country tests the products for quality before sanctioning their usage there. According to the

tentative results received by the WHO, four out of the 23 samples tested have been found to contain either Diethylene Glycol/Ethylene Glycol.

Gambia initiates door-to-door search for medicine removal

NEW DELHI: Reports, meanwhile, stated Gambia has launched an urgent door-to-door campaign to remove the medicines from each house. The Ministry of Health has teamed up with the Gambia Red Cross Society and dispatched hundreds of young people to collect the suspect syrups through a house-to-house campaign. **PNS**

NCW issues notice to Uditraj for his remark on Murmu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has summoned Congress leader Udit Raj over his 'sycophancy' remark against President Droupadi Murmu even as the BJP termed the Congress anti-tribal and demanded the opposition party's apology for his remarks. In a notice issued on Thursday, the Commission asked him to appear before it on October 10 and explain his "extremely condemnable and shameful" comments.

"No country should get a president like Droupadi Murmu. This is height of sycophancy. She says 70 per cent of people eat Gujarat's salt. Spend your life eating salt, then you will know the truth," he had remarked.

At a function recently, Murmu had noted that Gujarat manufactures 76 per cent of salt produced in the country. "It can be said that all countrymen eat Gujarat's salt," she had said. "It



is a matter of surprise and pain that Congress leaders are regularly using such undignified expressions. This exposes the party's anti-tribal mindset. The Congress should apologise," BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said. Another BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla hit out at the Congress leader tweeting, "Udit Raj uses unacceptable language for the 1st woman Adivasi President! Does the Congress endorse this insult of Adivasi samaj?" "After Ajoy Kumar called President Draupadi Murmu as evil & then Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary used the term 'Rashtrapati' now Congress stoops to a new low!" the BJP spokesperson tweeted. In the notice, the NCW said, "The Commission has taken cognisance of his remark. The comments made are extremely condemnable and shameful. The Commission has sent a notice to Shri Udit Raj. NCW has scheduled a hearing and asked Shri Raj to appear before the Commission in person on October 10, 2022 at 3 pm."

Facing backlash from the BJP and other quarters over social media, the Congress leader put out a clarification on Twitter, saying his statement on President Murmu was his only and "nothing to do with the Congress".

"Her candidature & campaign were in the name adivasi, it doesn't mean she is no longer adivasi. My heart cries that when SC/ST reach to higher position, they ditch their communities & become mum," he said. But Poonawalla said nei-

ther Udit Raj nor the Congress can wash the hands off this by issuing a statement. Raj comes from the Scheduled Caste community and was elected to Lok Sabha on a BJP ticket in 2014. He joined the Congress before the 2019 polls after the BJP denied him a ticket.

"By merely tweeting this is a personal statement won't do! Congress must tell us if they will ACT ON UDIT RAJ or not for his Adivasi Virodhi statement. This is the third strike after Ajoy Kumar & Adhir Ranjan statements on Murmu ji! This is not a Sanyog ! It is INC mindset," Poonawalla wrote.

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma tweeted, "Highly objectionable statement against the Supreme power of the country and a woman who with her sheer hard work reached this position. @Dr_Uditraj must apologise for his derogatory and insulting statement. @NCWIndia is sending him a notice."

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Shinde faction to meet EC to claim Sena symbol

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Eknath Shinde faction of Shiv Sena will meet the Election Commission on Friday to stake claim to the party's 'bow and arrow' poll symbol ahead of the Andheri East Assembly bypoll in Maharashtra. The move is seen as the Shinde faction's bid to deny the 'bow and arrow' election symbol to the Uddhav Thackeray group which has decided to field Rutuja Latke, widow of MLA Ramesh Latke, for the November 3 bypoll.

"We are meeting the Election Commission on Friday in connection with the party election symbol," Rahul Shewale, leader of the Shinde faction of Shiv Sena in the Lok Sabha, said. BJP, an ally of Shinde faction, has decided to field Murji Patel, a corporator in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, for the bypoll necessitated due to

the death of Ramesh Latke.

Congress and the NCP have decided to support the candidate of the Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena, their coalition partner in the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA). Shinde had raised a banner of revolt against Thackeray for entering into an "unnatural alliance" with the Congress and NCP. Over 40 of the Shiv Sena's 55 MLAs had supported Shinde, leading to the resignation of Thackeray from the post of Maharashtra Chief Minister.

Twelve of the 18 Lok Sabha members of the Sena also came out in support of Shinde, who later claimed to be the leader of original Sena. The Andheri East bypoll is the first after Shinde and the BJP unseated the MVA Government in June, and is considered as a precursor to settling of claims by Shinde and Thackeray to be the "real Shiv Sena".

Operation Chakra: 26 cyber criminals held in 115 CBI raids

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 26 alleged cyber criminals have been arrested so far under 'Operation Chakra' of the CBI to dismantle cyber crime gangs operating in the country.

The operation has been launched in coordination with State police, Interpol and agencies of other countries, officials said on Thursday.

The CBI said 16 people were arrested by Karnataka Police, seven by Delhi Police, two by Punjab Police and one by Andaman and Nicobar Police.

The central probe agency, in coordination with state police, conducted searches under the operation at 115

locations across the country on inputs provided by Interpol, FBI, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Australian Federal Police, the officials said.

The CBI registered 11 cases against cyber criminals involved in financial fraud using the internet. While the agency conducted searches at 87 locations, 28 places were raided by the state police, they added.

"The operation intends to dismantle the infrastructure of these international cyber crime gangs in India and bring these perpetrators to justice. India's fight against transnational organised cyber crime has thus achieved a major milestone," a statement from the agency said.

SC to examine minority status for edu institutes run by minorities



New Delhi: The Supreme Court has agreed to examine whether an educational institution administered by members of a minority community would result in it being conferred the status of a minority institution.

A Bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh Government, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, National Medical Commission and others while seeking their replies. The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Mahayana Theravada Vajrayana Buddhist

Religious and Charitable Trust challenging the Allahabad High Court order which observed that mere administration of an educational institution by a minority would not confer on it status of a minority institution.

The high court was dealing with the petition against the Uttar Pradesh government order, where the state government refused to treat the institution as a minority institution.

"Thus for an institution to qualify as minority institution within the meaning of Uttar Pradesh Private Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Act, 2006, it should be an institution not only being administered by a minority but it also ought to have been established by the minority and it should also be notified by the State as such," the high court had said. **PTI**

SC directs States, UTs to submit report on welfare schemes for elderly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed all States and Union Territories to submit information on welfare schemes for the elderly with respect to pension, old age homes in each district and level of geriatric care.

A bench of Justices Anirudhha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said the report of the States shall also disclose the present status as regards implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act.

"We direct that schemes operating for the welfare of the

elderly with respect of (i) pension for the elderly, (ii) old age homes in each district and (iii) level of geriatric care ought to be produced before us.

"Let the respective States and Union Territories furnish the information on their existing schemes on the aforesaid three heads to the advocate-on-record of the Union of India.

After collecting information from all the respective States and the Union Territories within a period of two months, a revised status report shall be filed one month thereafter by the Union of India," the bench said.

The apex court will take up the matter for hearing in January, 2023. The top court was hearing a plea filed by former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar seeking setting up of old age homes with basic healthcare facilities across the country. **PTI**

SC to hear plea raising safety concerns over production of undertrial prisoners in courts

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on October 11 a plea which has raised the issue of safety at trial courts across country and said production of undertrial prisoners before court should not be ordered as a "matter of routine" on every date. According to cause list uploaded on apex court website, the petition will come up for hearing before a bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit on Tuesday.

The petition, filed by advocate Rishi Malhotra, said even if trial court deems fit physical presence of an undertrial prisoner before it, the same can be ordered through video-conference from jails, especially in cases of gangsters, so public safety and security of judicial officers remain unaffected and the rights of accused are balanced. **PTI**

Birla: India calls for multilateralism as it supports rules-based global order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has reiterated that India has always supported a rules-based international order.

"It is in this spirit that India has called for supporting multilateralism for global peace and stability so that we can unite to address the challenges facing the world and find solutions in accordance with the aspirations of the people," Birla said, addressing Presiding Officers of G-20 Parliaments on the theme "Effective Parliament, Vibrant Democracy" during the 8th Summit of Speakers of G-20 Parliaments (P20) held in Jakarta.

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh is also part of the same delegation. The Lok Sabha Speaker stressed that during the glorious journey of 75 years of democracy, India's democracy has become more empowered



and vibrant and our Parliament is making continuous and consistent efforts to pave the way for inclusive social and economic development of the people.

On the sidelines of the event, Harivansh had a meeting with Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, Republic of Korea.

Speaking about the bilateral cultural ties and people-to-people contacts, Harivansh said that Buddhism played an

important role in keeping a close connect for millennia between the two countries.

On India's proposed candidature of Aparajita Sarangi, MP, for IPU Executive Committee from Asia Pacific Group which will be filled during the meeting of the Group on the sideline of the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali Rwanda during 11-15 October, 2022, Harivansh sought the valuable support of Korea in this regard.

SPECIAL BRANCH

POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

NO. SB/Store/2022-25 (270), Bhopal, Dated 03-10-2022

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Special Branch (G) M.P., Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-

S. No.	Name of Item (s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.) Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
1	X-Ray Baggage Scanner	3	3,000/-	8,00,000/-	1st Tender
2	Night Vision Device	75	10,000/-	7,00,000/-	1st Tender
3	Deep Search Metal Detector	10	3,000/-	80,000/-	1st Tender
4	LAN Networking	1	3,000/-	60,000/-	1st Tender
5	Social Media Labs	1	10,000/-	8,00,000/-	1st Tender
6	Data Work Station Server	1	2,000/-	40,000/-	2nd Tender
7	SAN Switch for Existing technical Hardware	1	2,000/-	25,000/-	2nd Tender

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)

3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

4. Tender Schedule :

No.	Tender Activity	Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in	12/10/2022 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	
	For item No. 1 to 4	12/10/2022 at 1200 hrs.
	For item No. 4 to 7	13/10/2022 at 1200 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	26/10/2022 at 1000 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	05/11/2022 upto 1700 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	07/11/2022 at 12.00 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	
	For item No. 1 to 2	16/11/2022 at 12.00 hrs.
	For item No. 3	17/11/2022 at 12.00 hrs.
	For item No. 4, 6, 7	18/11/2022 at 1200 hrs.
	For item No. 3	22/10/2022 at 1200 hrs.

A.I.G. of Police
Special Branch (G) M.P. Bhopal
Tel. No. 0755-2443654

G-17886/22 **दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।**

Vande Bharat meets with accident; passengers safe

Railway officer: It was a case of skidding wheels due to cattle being run over

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

The newly-launched Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express train flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi suffered minor damages after hitting a herd of buffaloes in Gujarat on Thursday. No passenger was, however, injured in the incident that occurred between Gairatpur and Vatva stations around 11.15 am.

Coincidentally, the first Vande Bharat Express too had met with the same fate when cattle was hit affecting the services just a day after it was flagged off by the PM in February 2019.

Vande Bharat Express train, running between Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar, suffers damages after a collision with a herd of buffaloes, on the railway line between the Gairatpur and Vatva station, in Ahmedabad district, on Thursday **PTI Photo**

The Varanasi Vande Bharat had hit cattle near Tundla in Uttar Pradesh when the train was heading back to Delhi from Varanasi. The rail officials maintained that it was

a case of "skidding wheels" due to a cattle run over by the train. "Vande Bharat express running between Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar Capital stations had left Mumbai this morning

The front portion of the train's engine got damaged after it hit some buffaloes that came on track around 11.15 am. The incident took place between Vatva and Maninagar areas of

Ahmedabad," Western Railway spokesperson Jitendra Kumar Jayant said.

"The damaged portion was repaired and the train was sent to Gandhinagar station. The train departed for Mumbai from the Gandhinagar Capital station at its scheduled time. No passenger was injured in the incident," he added.

Another railway spokesperson said the front portion of the engine was damaged, but no functional part of the train was harmed.

"Three-four buffaloes suddenly came on the way of Mumbai-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat, damaging the nose made up of FRP (fibre-reinforced plastic).

The train moved just after removing carcasses (within eight minutes) and reached Gandhinagar on time," he said, adding that the railway authorities were trying to counsel nearby villagers not to leave cattle near the track.

The semi-high speed train was flagged off by Modi on September 30 from Gandhinagar Capital station. This is the third Vande Bharat express train in the country.

Cong, NPF slam Centre for extending AFSPA in parts of Nagaland

PTI ■ KOHIMA

The Congress and the Naga People's Front on Thursday denounced the Centre's decision to extend the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in parts of Nagaland.

Criticising the Central government for extending the AFSPA for another six months in the northeastern state, Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) president K Therie said since there was a complete ceasefire with all the Naga political groups and talks were on to find a solution to the Naga political issue, there was no requirement for

a "draconian" law like AFSPA.

On October 1, the AFSPA was extended in nine districts of Nagaland – Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, Peren, and Zunheboto and 16 police station areas in four other districts – Kohima, Mokokchung, Longleng, and Wokha.

"They (the Central government and Naga negotiators) should settle the Naga issue and not keep the solution in cold storage," Therie said, adding that enforcement of AFSPA is a "meaningless provocation".

The Centre has been holding separate talks with the

NSCN(IM) since 1997 and the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) since 2017. It signed the framework agreement with the NSCN(IM) in 2015 and an Agreed Position with NNPG in 2017.

However, no final solution has been achieved to date with the NSCN(IM) remaining firm on its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas.

Denouncing the extension of the Act in parts of Nagaland, NSF president Kegwayhun Tep and general secretary Siipuni Ng. Philo said, "We condemn the over-arching approach of the central government in extending

the draconian AFSPA for another six months under the pretext of law and order problem in major parts of Nagaland."

Describing the extension of the Act in parts of Nagaland as "uncalled for", NPF Legislature Party leader Kuzholuzo Nienu alias Azo said, "AFSPA is imposed only when there is lawlessness and insurgency problem but now the law and order situation in Nagaland is peaceful... by and large everything is so good. Therefore the extension of the Act in Nagaland is uncalled for".

Naga civil societies, including Naga Hoho, also

condemned the decision to extend the Act in parts of Nagaland.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the security forces if they shoot someone dead.

Asserting that the "draconian law must go away from our land", Naga Hoho general secretary K Elu Ndang said there cannot be true peace and mutual respect through the barrel of a gun.

"We look forward with hope for a peaceful resolution to the Naga political issue.

However, with AFSPA in place, there cannot be a true spirit of peace and tranquility," Ndang said.

Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) advisor Dr Rosemary Dziivichii said that for sustainable peace there was no place for AFSPA.

"As mothers, we are very disappointed with the extension of the AFSPA in the state and other Naga areas, in the midst of peace negotiations and despite appeals for the repeal of this Act".

By extending the AFSPA in parts of the northeastern state, an attempt has been made to "paint the state as a land of lawlessness and chaos",



the Naga Students' Federation had alleged.

Following the December 4 incident in Oting village of Mon district where security forces had gunned down 13 civilians, the Naga civil societies and the state government

had been demanding revocation of AFSPA from Nagaland. For the first time since the imposition of the Act on Nagaland, the Centre on March 31 announced to withdraw AFSPA from seven of its 16 districts.

TMC accuses Centre of revenge as it loses House Panel chair

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A day after he lost the chairmanship of the parliamentary standing committee on Food and Consumer Affairs, senior Trinamool Congress MP Sudip Bandopadhyay on Thursday slammed the BJP Government for its "dictatorial attitude" saying the saffron party was being run on totalitarian principles.

Apparently referring to the Trinamool Congress Government's denial to the BJP the chairmanship of Public Accounts Committee in Bengal Assembly the senior TMC MP said the Central Government functioned on the sole motto of "revenge".

Earlier his party colleague and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien said that despite the

TMC being the third-largest party in Parliament and the second-biggest Opposition group it was robbed off the chairmanship of a standing committee.

"The third-largest party in Parliament, also the second-biggest Opposition party does not get a single chairmanship.... This is start reality of New India," he said.

Bengal BJP MP Locket Chatterjee who was given the chairmanship of the standing committee earlier chaired by Bandopadhyay earlier thanked the BJP leadership for "giving me the responsibility and considering me capable of discharging it". She attacked the TMC saying a "party that has destroyed democracy in Bengal had no right to lecture others on how democracy should



run".

Bandopadhyay on his part said, "I am not only the senior most MP from Bengal but also the one who has at present won most number of times from my State," adding he had a discussion with Union Minister Prahlad Joshi regarding the issue and was told that the step was a quid pro quo for the TMC's denial of the PAC chair-

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Nine people including five school students were killed as two overspeeding buses had a head-on collision on the Thrissur-Palakkad highway late on Wednesday night. The school students were part of a school excursion team to Nilgiris when the accident occurred. The teacher accompanying them and three passengers of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation bus, too, died on the spot in the accident. All the dead students were Plus Two students in a Church-run public school in Ernakulam suburb.

The incident shocked the President of India Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi who condole

the deaths. The Prime Minister declared a cash assistance of Rs 2,00,000 to the families of the deceased while those injured were allocated Rs 50,000 each.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, leading a team of ministers to Norway expressed shock over the incident and has ordered a probe. Transport Commissioner S Sreejith told reporters at Thiruvananthapuram that the bus carrying the students was being driven as a speed of 97 km per hour and it was also found that the operator had altered the speed governor that limited the speed limit to 80 km per hour.

The driver of the tourist bus escaped from the accident site but was held at Kollam by the police making use of CCTV images and mobile phone calls. He has been charged with cul-



pable homicide for the death of nine persons. Owner of the bus too was arrested by the Police.

Accidents involving tourist buses that have incorporated a lot of changes like flash lights, woofers, high-decibel music which are not in compatible with the rules specified by the Motor Vehicles Department have become regular events in the State. There is widespread

complain against the KSRTC from former staff who allege that drivers with no experience in ferrying passengers were being chartered on contract basis. "Most of the drivers working with the KSRTC do not have sufficient experience in driving buses," said PV Kuriakose, a former driver with the KSRTC who has put in 30 years of service.

Mumbai cops arrest man from Bihar for threat to Ambanis

PTI ■ DARBHANGA/MUMBAI

Calls received by a hospital run by the Reliance Foundation threatening to kill Mukesh Ambani and his family members were the latest of the threats received by the billionaire industrialist.

Mumbai Police on Thursday arrested Rakesh Kumar Mishra (30) from Darbhanga in Bihar for allegedly making calls to Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital here in the last two days, threatening to blow up the hospital and kill Ambani, his wife Nita and sons Akash and Anant.

The caller had also threat-

ened to blow up Antilia, the famous south Mumbai residence of the Ambani family on Altamont Road in South Mumbai.

According to the city police, this is the second instance of Ambani family getting threats on the hospital landline number.

On August 15 this year, the hospital had received at least nine calls threatening the Reliance Industries chairman and his family members, said an official. Bishnu Vidu Bhoumik (56) was arrested in connection with the calls.

In November 2021, Mumbai Police increased the security outside Antilia fol-

lowing a tip given by a taxi driver about a possible threat, but investigation found there was no such threat.

But an incident involving threat to the Ambani family earlier that year made national headlines and shook the state government.

On February 25, 2021, an explosive-laden SUV was found parked on Carmichael Road in South Mumbai, near the Ambani residence.

Police recovered a printed threat note inside along with gelatin sticks. The note this was only a "trailer" and there would be assembled explosives next time instead of just loose sticks.

Mansukh Hiran, a Thane-based businessman, told police the SUV had been stolen from his possession.

But the matter took a grim turn when Hiran was found dead in a creek in Thane a few days later, and an Assistant Inspector of Mumbai crime branch, Sachin Waze was arrested for alleged involvement in parking the SUV near Antilia and also for Hiran's murder.

The affair also led to Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh being shunted out. An angry Singh then accused then home minister Anil Deshmukh of asking police to

collect money from bars in Mumbai; Deshmukh subsequently resigned and the CBI registered a corruption case against him.

Mukesh Ambani currently has a Z-Plus security cover, provided by the Central government. The Central Industrial Security Force provides security to his residence.

In 2013, a letter sent in the name of terror outfit Indian Mujahidin was delivered to Ambani's Maker Chambers office in Nariman Point area. It threatened him for supporting then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.



Mukesh Ambani's younger brother and industrialist Anil Ambani was in

news for reason related to security in 2009 when pebbles were discovered in the fuel

tank of his chopper. It was suspected that it was a sabotage attempt.

Behave responsibly towards nature, animal protection: Yogi

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

It was a treat to watch Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath holding a leopard cub in his arms and feeding it milk from a bottle during his visit to the Shaheed Ashfaqullah Khan Zoological Park in Gorakhpur on Wednesday afternoon.

The Chief Minister visited the zoological park on the occasion of National Dolphin Day held as part of Wild Animals Week 2022.

Within minutes, the Chief Minister made friends with the seemingly reluctant cub as he tolerated its tantrums smilingly, but insisted quietly on feeding it. The Chief Minister named the two leopard cubs, one of which was rescued three months ago, as Bhavani and Chandi. He also interacted with the zoo officials, including doctors, to enquire about the health of the animals.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that animals were friendly with him because they had the instinct to understand who could harm them and who would not.

He said that vulture conservation centres would be developed in Maharajganj, Chitrakoot and Gorakhpur as this species was on the verge of extinction.

"Life cycle must follow the laws of nature," he remarked, emphasising the need for people to behave responsibly towards nature and protection

of animals.

"In Ramayana there is Aranya kand, which encapsulates the entire story of the epic. Monkeys, bears, rivers, trees and stones become Lord Ram's friend, when he is clueless about the whereabouts of Maa Sita after she is abducted by Ravan," he said.

The chief minister also honoured several forest officers on the occasion for their commendable work in saving and conserving wild animals. He talked about his experience with 15-month-old tigress Gita that was released to an enclosure from the cage and the rhinos brought from Assam which were rescued from Maharajganj.

Referring to the efforts of the state government for wildlife conservation and eco-tourism, Yogi Adityanath said that the process of starting the state's first night safari in Lucknow was being expedited.

"It will promote eco-tourism, inculcate a sense of respect for wildlife, and provide entertainment," he said, adding that the knowledge of children would also increase.

The chief minister said that the government had already announced plans to develop a tiger reserve at Ranipur in Chitrakoot district where Lord Ram spent most of his time in exile while proposals related to eco-tourism had been approved in Bijnor and Ramnagar.

Besides, he said, the gov-



ernment was setting up rescue centres for wildlife at places like Maharajganj, Meerut, Chitrakoot, Pilibhit.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the government was also sensitive about the conservation of aquatic life and the Namami Gange project was helping a lot in this. He said that earlier 14 crore litres of sewage used to be released into the river Ganga in Sisamau of Kanpur Nagar every day, whereas now not even a drop was falling in the river from there due to the Namami Gange project.

"Now the place where the sewage fell (in the river) has become a selfie point. Similarly, due to the discharge of leather industry waste in Jajmou, aquatic creatures had become almost extinct. However, now a large number of aquatic creatures have started appearing in the river.

Speaking about dolphins in the river Ganga, the chief minister said that the government had selected the area

of Nishadraj, a dear friend of Lord Shri Ram, for its conservation. He said that now dolphins had started appearing in the Ganga in Kashi also and assured of all possible steps for the conservation of dolphins.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also directed the Forest Department to set up a separate cadre of veterinary officers for the treatment and protection of wildlife.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Forest, Environment, Zoological Park and Climate Change, Dr Arun Kumar Saxena and Gorakhpur's Member of Parliament Ravikishan were also present on the occasion.

Saxena said the government would soon start the facility of jungle safari in Sohagi Barwa area of Maharajganj.

It is worth mentioning here that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Gorakhpur Zoo on March 27, 2021.

Fiscal activities on upswing amid talks of global recession: UP FM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna, on Thursday, said that the State's revenue collection had increased to Rs 14,661.89 crore in September this fiscal, which showed that the fiscal activities in the State were on the upswing amid talks of recession across the world.

"There has been a huge increase in non-tax revenue collection in the state as there has been an increase of Rs

3,123.73 crore in the non-tax revenue items of the state. Thus, the total revenue collection in September was Rs 14,661.89 crore," the finance minister said while addressing reporters here.

He said this increase seemed to be huge as in the month of September 2021-22 only Rs 11,538.16 crore revenue was collected.

"Different departments have been able to collect more revenue than the set target. This shows that the policies of the government are on the right

track," he said.

The minister said that there was an increase in revenue receipt in all non-tax items while the revenue receipt decreased only in the Excise Department.

"There is a big increase in the collection of goods and services tax (GST) and value-added tax (VAT). There is a bumper collection of revenue in the Stamps and Registration Department. This month the revenue in the Transport Department increased by Rs

73.20 crore. Revenue receipts also increased in the Geology and Mining Department," the minister said. Khanna said that the rate of VAT per litre petrol and diesel in Uttar Pradesh was less compared to other states. At present, VAT on petrol is Rs 15.08 per litre and on diesel it is Rs 12.76 per litre.

"Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and talks of recession, economic activities are on the upswing which is reflected in the revenue collection," the minister said.



Tourists take camel safari in the deserts of Pushkar on Thursday.

FIRST COLUMN

COVID EFFECTS MAY BE RESULTING IN DEATHS

Covid after-effects could be the reason for spurt in sudden cardiac arrests



LK JHA

Doctors have reported seeing a significant surge in cases of heart attack and heart failure in the post-Covid period. Their incidence has gone up by more than one-fourth in the last one year, according to our experience at Sarvodaya Hospital, Faridabad.

After the pandemic, the incidence of heart attacks and heart failure has increased by 25-30 per cent in people who got infected with Covid. Patients who had to be hospitalized or put on a ventilator due to Covid are now much more vulnerable to heart complications, and we are seeing a considerable surge in such cases.

There are two ways by which Covid affects the heart. First is direct infection of the heart muscle, due to which it gets weakened, leading to heart failure. The second is that after Covid, a mild form of the infection persists in the body for many months. The arteries remain inflamed, leading to the tendency of clotting inside the heart. This results in heart attack and other complications. Many incidents have come to light in recent months of sudden heart attack in people after doing vigorous exercise. In these cases, the heart muscle may still be inflamed due to Long Covid, triggering a heart attack.

The social media platforms are abuzz these days with videos of artists on stage suddenly collapsing and dying, with the spectators watching the incidents with disbelief. Even some of the celebrities have succumbed to this phenomenon of becoming victims of cardiac arrests after exercise in gym or state performance. There are scopes for the people to speculate when incidents of similar nature appear on the social media platforms with short videos. There is a need to understand that we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.



The people who had a severe form of Covid need to take precautions. It is difficult to predict heart problems in recovered Covid patients. But there are blood tests that measure inflammatory markers like ESR and High-sensitivity C-reactive Protein (hs-CRP). These can tell whether any form of infection still exists in the body, and how much is the risk. It is advisable not to do any vigorous exercise for the next six months after getting Covid infection. Only light exercises in the form of brisk walking or mild jogging are OK. Don't indulge in any kind of strength training exercises like weight-lifting or extreme treadmill because your heart may still be weak.

We have seen an increase of 30 per cent over the last five years in the number of young patients with heart attacks coming to the hospital. They are also showing up with more extensive heart complications, with multiple blockages. Our advice is not to ignore any kind of symptoms, especially pain in the chest or upper part of the stomach. If you do activities like brisk walking or climbing the stairs and feel any kind of stiffness or heaviness in the chest, you should be very mindful. Many people attribute heart-related symptoms to acidity or arthritis, but any gastritis that persists for 2-3 days is unusual.

It is important in these cases to get tests done to rule out heart problems. Diabetes and tobacco are the top two risk factors for heart disease in India. Diabetic people have three times higher chances of having a heart attack than non-diabetic individuals. Smoking is also very dangerous for the heart, due to which we are seeing many young patients with heart attacks.

(The author is a cardiologist at Sarvodaya Hospital, Sector 8, Faridabad)

Pity that women don't understand manpower



MANOJE NATH

From behind the desktop, wife can be seen indulging her pleasure of doing much pointless work

After I have undertaken my mandatory walk or stint on the treadmill, I do not undertake any wasteful expeditions. My wife is no "mechanical bride". She is as complete a human being as ever there was, and inordinately humane at that, but she is tidying up this, minding that apart from the regular chores all the time. Like planets, she is in a state of perpetual motion. Her living room is her pride, her bedroom her work of art. Having done my quota of physical activity, why should I waste man-power on frivolous movements? Parked in front of my desktop or sprawled on the bed, it gives me the vertigo to watch my wife indulging her pleasure of doing such pointless work. But women, I guess, do not understand much about man-power!

I had told my wife very early during our marriage that it takes many to solve a problem and there are various steps to solving it. My job was to reflect on the nature of the problem, so she could do the solving. That is division of labour. My wife gave me that look which she perfected in a short time living with me. The translation would run in volumes but I get it in an instant. Ever since she has gone about doing her things; I have learnt to manage to cope up with my vertigo reasonably well. But now that domestic helps are becoming a little unpredictable she expects me to join her in these mad pursuits.

I have some rule of thumb excuses to dodge the draft. "Is it necessary, we will be leaving in a couple of days, anyway?" "Is it legal?" I escaped the edict to locate the source of a leak (my version of investigating the source of Oxus) from somewhere behind the geyser. I said the municipality will have to be notified, the power supply company will have to be informed. "So the government has now entered our bathroom? And in the next move they will be sprawled right in our bedroom?" She said facetiously. But she let it pass; she was just testing me. She knew that my intervention would have resulted in flooding the bathroom anyway and a call to the National Disaster Management Authority.

During the course of the same week I was asked to go up to the terrace to see whether the help was malingering or tending to the many plants and pots. I pleaded that I had lost my cap and standing in the sun for long made me feel giddy and nauseated. My Ray Ban aviator glasses were missing. Maybe this was also just a dry run and she let me get away with this one as well. Now I know why; she was laying a perfect ambush, she trapped me on an S-bend!

My books—poor me in my untidy environment of books—are her greatest eyecore. There was a time when we could dedicate one big hall to my books, neatly displayed, easily accessible. Even in the



MAYBE THIS WAS ALSO JUST A DRY RUN AND SHE LET ME GET AWAY WITH THIS ONE AS WELL. NOW I KNOW WHY; SHE WAS LAYING A PERFECT AMBUSH, SHE TRAPPED ME ON AN S-BEND!

(The author is a former IPS officer)



middle of the night if I was seized by an urge to look up a reference or browse a few pages it was no problem.

But gone are days and in the more frugal circumstances, in the brutal struggle for existence my books have lost out to the many shelves and almirahs which according to my wife contain objects of absolute necessity. The rest of my books have been dispatched to a room on the first floor. I argued with my wife that I and my books had co-evolved. It is like my environment for me, you can't destroy my habitat. "Don't you have any concern for the sole member of that rare species called husband?" My wife said that you could survive with your thousand books and the rest of it is an indulgence." I said these are not a thousand but only six hundred. She threatened to count each one of them so I climbed down and it was agreed that if I imported some books from upstairs an equal number would have to be deported.

Now my wife has a suspicion that some illegal immigrants from the first floor are hiding in the pile. Of course my children have sent me a few hundred in the last few years, but they are all legal. I told her, "I have papers from Amazon, even for the imported ones. Don't

husbands have human rights?" "So long as they don't create a pigsty in the bedroom," she said. The clutter and the pile are intruding into alien territory of her nicely curated corner. "Don't you quote all the time "I would rather be an unsatisfied Socrates than a satisfied pig". "So, Mr. Socrates of the slums, don't be a pig."

My wife has served me notice that either I do the needful or she will take things in her own hand. And in matters like these she is an extremist. Either I find a way to somehow accommodate these books on the uppermost shelves by weeding out some for extinction or see them deported en masse. I am a human being not an uncaring cruel natural agency like evolution!

I have avoided the task so far by pointing out that the aluminium ladder has become a little unstable and by generally playing on her insecurity that her aging sixty six plus husband might take a bump. This has worked so far, but for how long? Aluminium ladders can be mended! Our departure from Patna has earned me a reprieve but how long can I be an exile?

I had asked my wife, sometime back, to buy me a pair of walking shoes and a couple of track pants. Normally I am pressured into

accompanying her on these missions because of size issues but over the years I have managed to find comprehensive strategies to evade the demand. But this time she did not say a word. I got my pair of shoes and track pants from Decathlon but the inventory included an un-indented trekking backpack, a pair of mountain trekking shoes, a rucksack, trekking gloves, trek zip off pants, a solid looking harness, and waterproof all weather multilayer peel off jacket. She sat down triumphantly. "When we get back to Patna you are going to go on your climbing expedition and plant the books in proper order, tidy up the clutter on the lower reaches and leave no waste on the top. You are equipped for every season and every eventuality, the activity is perfectly legal and does not violate any of your human rights. I checked up with our family lawyer."

It has steeled my resolution. I shall arise and go now and go to the Arctic tundra, report triumphantly for Facebook, wearing all that gear, petting a caribou or riding a sled. Chase the lions chasing antelopes and gazelles for lunch in the Serengeti Savannahs in the darkest Africa. At least I would earn some admiring oohs and aahs from known and unknown women friends!

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE ARE TWO MODELS: ONE OF PM MODI WHICH GIVES EMPLOYMENT AND PEACE; THE OTHER IS THE GUPKAR MODEL WHICH LED TO PULWAMA. —UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH



IF THE GUPKAR MODEL GAVE GUNS AND STONES TO KASHMIRI YOUTH, WHY IS THE PM INVITING THESE LEADERS TO MEETINGS IN DELHI? —NATIONAL CONFERENCE VICE-PRESIDENT OMAR ABDULLAH

Ukraine war: Grain trade disruption and India's role

Russia and Ukraine were breadbaskets of the world, but they have now created a global shortage of wheat

Since the war broke out in Ukraine, the international order of trading has experienced a severe jolt in terms of grain trade. Food production and export supply have rapidly decreased due to crop failures and supply chain disruptions which have failed to meet the growing global demand, further adding to global food insecurity, particularly in Africa and West Asia.

In recent years, Ukraine, along with Russia, have emerged as major players in the world grain market and are commonly considered the breadbasket of the world. Prior to the war, Ukraine and Russia accounted for 14 per cent of world wheat production and around 25 per cent of world export of wheat.



RITUPARNA KAUSHIK



ARPAN GANGULY



YASHOBANTA PARIDA

(Authors are Assistant Professors in Economics at FLAME University, Pune)

Prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022, grain exports rose by 8.5 per cent between 2021 and 2022. Thereafter, grain exports are estimated (as of July 29, 2022) to have decreased by 53.2 per cent for 2022-23.

The ongoing war continues to reshape geo-political relations between nations, exposes fissures in the global supply chain, and the dominance of nations strategically situated to take advantage of the food crisis.

Continuous imposition of new Western sanction packages, blockade of Black Sea ports, loss of human life and destruction of Ukrainian agricultural fields have severely disrupted the global wheat supply.

Nations in Africa, West

Asia and Southeast Asia, sourcing their wheat from Ukraine or Russia, are facing dire shortages of grain and are in urgent need of finding alternative sources to meet their grain requirements.

On the other hand, grain shortages have also led to an increase in the price of wheat in the international market. Given this growing shortage in the world supply of wheat and rising prices (which further adds to food insecurity in developing countries), to what extent can India fill the growing void in grain trade?

India is the second largest producer of wheat in the world economy, with a share of around 13.5 per cent (107.59 MT) of total world production in 2020. However,

it accounts for a very small proportion of total world exports of wheat (1-2 per cent) with its share increasing from 0.14 per cent in 2016 to 0.54 per cent in 2020.

Nearly the bulk of wheat production is either for domestic consumption or for storage. More recently, based on a notification dated May 13, 2022, India imposed a temporary ban on wheat export due to the destruction of wheat crops caused by unprecedented heat waves in the country.

The ban was intended to ward off domestic farmers and consumers from the global grain shortage, enhance food security, and thwart inflationary pressures. This was met with criticisms from several advanced

nations who urged India to contribute to addressing growing food insecurity and fulfil its responsibility as a G20 nation. However, India has sought to maintain its trade ties with neighboring nations as it continues to export wheat to countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

To export more wheat or not is a dual-edged sword. In terms of benefits, firstly, India can enter new and potential markets by filling the void left by Ukraine and Russia in Africa and West Asia. Secondly, greater wheat exports can potentially increase the prices wheat traders or farmers receive. Thirdly, wheat exports can help stem the

massive volume of grain wastage every year.

However, even if the Government seeks to fill the void, it should plan the move in such a way that it does not hamper local consumption but also, more importantly, ensure that wheat farmers are protected from the vagaries of global competition. The extent to which gains from wheat exports will trickle down to farmers in terms of higher MSP or higher profitability remains unclear.

Outcomes will significantly vary for farmers from richer agricultural states like Punjab (who benefited from access to large-scale production technologies during the Green Revolution) vis-à-vis those from poorer agricultural states where agricultural

networks (in terms of access to markets, input costs, irrigation facilities, or technology) remain disjointed and weak.

The equitable distribution of gains from wheat exports to the farming community will remain a potent challenge moving forward.

Moreover, the role and intervention of FCI (Food Corporation of India) add an additional layer of complication, as an increase in exports might end up drawing out stocks from the FCI (in the absence of a bumper season), which would lead to conflict with other developed nations at the World Trade Organisation stage (as FCI stocks are meant for domestic consumption and welfare programs only).

Russian rockets hit Ukrainian city

Near nuke plant

AP ■ KYIV

Seven Russian rockets slammed into residential buildings in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia before dawn Thursday, killing one person and trapping at least five in the city close to Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, the governor of the mostly Russian-occupied region said. The strikes came just hours after Ukraine's president announced that the country's military had retaken three more villages in one of the regions illegally annexed by Russia, the latest battlefield reversal for Moscow.

Governor Oleksandr Starukh wrote on his Telegram channel that many people were rescued from the multi-story buildings, including a 3-year-old girl who was taken to a hospital for treatment. He initially reported two people were killed but later said that one woman initially thought to have died was saved by doctors.

Photos provided by emergency services showed rescuers scrambling through rubble in the wreckage of a devastated building.

Regional authorities reported another rocket attack later in the morning, but there were no immediate details of casualties or what was struck.

The deputy head of the Ukraine president's office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said 10 people had been killed in the latest Russian attacks in the Dnipro, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

Zaporizhzhia is one of



four regions that Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed in violation of international laws on Wednesday, and is home to a nuclear plant that is under Russian occupation. The city of the same name remains under Ukrainian control.

The head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog is expected to visit Kyiv this week to discuss the situation at the Zaporizhzhia facility after Putin signed a decree Wednesday declaring that Russia was taking over the six-

reactor plant. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry called it a criminal act and said it considered Putin's decree "null and void." The state nuclear operator, Energoatom, said it would continue to operate the plant.

Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, plans to talk with Ukrainian officials about the Russian move. He will also discuss efforts to set up a secure protection zone around the facility, which has been damaged in the fighting

and seen staff including its director abducted by Russian troops.

Grossi will travel to Moscow for talks with Russian officials after a stop in Kyiv.

The U.S. Sent its international development chief to Kyiv on Thursday, the highest-ranking American official to visit Ukraine since Russia illegally annexed the four regions.

The head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Samantha Power, was holding meetings with government officials and

residents. She said the U.S. Would provide an additional \$55 million to repair heating pipes and other equipment.

USAID said the United States has delivered \$9.89 billion in aid to Ukraine since February. A spending bill signed by U.S. President Joe Biden last week promises another \$12.3 billion directed both at military and public services needs. Power said Washington plans to release the first \$4.5 billion of that funding in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, leaders from more than 40 countries are meeting in Prague on Thursday to launch a "European Political Community" aimed at boosting security and prosperity across the continent, a day after the Kremlin held the door open for further land grabs in Ukraine. Speaking in a conference call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "certain territories will be reclaimed, and we will keep consulting residents who would be eager to embrace Russia."

The precise borders of the areas Moscow is claiming remain unclear, but Putin has vowed to defend Russia's territory — including the annexed regions — with any means at his military's disposal, including nuclear weapons.

In his nightly video address Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the Ukrainian army recaptured three more villages in the Kherson region.

Novooskrysenko, Novohryhorivka, and Novopavlivka are all situated northeast of Kherson.

Ukrainian forces are seizing

back villages in Kherson in humiliating battlefield defeats for Russian forces that have badly dented the image of a powerful Russian military and added to the tensions surrounding an ill-planned mobilization. They have also fueled fighting among Kremlin insiders and left Putin increasingly cornered.

On Wednesday, the Ukrainian military said the Ukrainian flag had been raised above seven Kherson region villages previously occupied by the Russians. The closest of the liberated villages to the city of Kherson is Davydiv Brid, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) away.

The deputy head of the Ukrainian regional government, Yuriy Sobolevskyi, said military hospitals were full of wounded Russian soldiers and that Russian military medics lacked supplies. Once they are stabilized, Russian soldiers are being sent to Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014. When Russian troops pulled back from the Donetsk city of Lyman over the weekend, they retreated so rapidly that they left behind the bodies of their comrades. Some were still lying by the side of the road leading into the city on Wednesday.

Ukrain's presidential office said 10 more bodies of people killed during the Russian occupation were recovered over the past 24 hours in Lyman and Sviatohirsk following their recapture. Lyman sustained heavy damage both during the occupation and as Ukrainian soldiers fought to retake it. Mykola, a 71-year-old man who gave only his first name, was among about 100 residents who lined up for aid on Wednesday.

Zelenskyy: Putin wouldn't survive nuclear attack



AP ■ CANBERRA

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday it was "hard to say" whether the risk of nuclear war had increased with his military's territorial gains, but he remains confident his Russian counterpart would not survive such as escalation in hostilities.

Zelenskyy was addressing the Lowy Institute international think tank in Sydney via video link after Ukraine's military retook ground illegally annexed by Russia last week.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that he won't hesitate to use nuclear weapons to ward off Ukraine's attempt to reclaim control of Moscow-occupied areas.

Asked if the risk of Russia using nuclear weapons had risen, Zelenskyy said through an interpreter: "It's hard to say."

He questioned whether Putin had enough control over the Russian campaign to direct a tactical nuclear strike. The Russians found it "hard to control everything that is happening in their country, just as they're not controlling everything they have on the battlefield," Zelenskyy said.

Zelenskyy said Putin understood that the "world will never forgive" a Russian nuclear strike.

"He understands that after the use of nuclear weapons he would be unable any more to preserve, so to speak, his life, and I'm confident of that," Zelenskyy said.

Spain, Germany discuss energy crisis before EU summit

AP ■ MADRID

The leaders of Spain and Germany held talks in Spain Wednesday, two days before both participate in an European Union summit to discuss Europe's energy crisis derived from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez hosted German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the northwestern city of A Coruña. The two centre-left leaders were accompanied by 15 ministers from their governments.

The EU summit in Prague on Friday will likely include discussions on Germany's plan to subsidise gas prices for its consumers and businesses, a move that has raised questions from France and Italy.

Sánchez said that he "empathises" with Germany due to its pressing need to find alternatives to Russian gas and oil, while adding that the EU should find common solutions. Both Sánchez and Scholz support reforming the EU's energy market.

"The consequences of the



war in Ukraine impact us all, but clearly it has a greater impact on the countries with a higher dependency on Russian carbon-based fuels ... so we empathise with the situation that Germany is in," Sánchez said. "(And) Germany is Europe's leading economy, so it is in all our interests that Germany does well."

Scholz, meanwhile, reiterated his support for Spain's push to build another, larger pipeline with France that could pump natural gas, and potentially green hydrogen, north to the rest of Europe. That plan, however, has received zero support from French president Emmanuel Macron.

Sweden seizes evidence at Baltic Sea pipeline leak site

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Sweden's domestic security Agency said on Thursday that its preliminary investigation of leaks from two Russian gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea "has strengthened the suspicions of serious sabotage" as the cause and a prosecutor said evidence at the site has been seized.

The Swedish Security Service said the probe confirmed that "detonations" caused extensive damage to the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines last week. Authorities had said when

the leaks off Sweden and Denmark first surfaced that explosions were recorded in the area.

The agency, which said what happened in the Baltic Sea was "very serious", didn't give details about its investigation.

But in a separate statement, Swedish prosecutor Mats Ljungqvist said "seizures have been made at the crime scene and these will now be investigated".

Ljungqvist, who led the preliminary investigation, did not identify the seized evidence. Ljungqvist said he had



given "directives to temporarily block (the area) and carry out a crime scene investigation".

Now that the initial probe is completed, a blockade around the pipelines off Sweden will be lifted, he said. The governments of

Denmark and Sweden previously said they suspected that several hundred pounds of explosives were involved in carrying out a deliberate act of sabotage.

The leaks from Nord Stream 1 and 2 discharged huge amounts of methane into the air. Last week, undersea explosions ruptured Nord Stream 2 and its sister pipeline, Nord Stream 2, at two locations off Sweden and two off Denmark. The pipelines were built to carry Russian natural gas to Germany.

Danish authorities said the two methane leaks they were

monitoring in international waters stopped over the weekend. One of the leaks off Sweden also appeared to have ended.

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the West of attacking the pipelines, which the US and its allies have vehemently denied, noting that Russia has the most to gain in wrecking havoc on Europe's energy markets.

Separately the Swedish coast guard said "the remaining emissions is more or less unchanged", and that it was returning to its ordinary environmental rescue operations.

EU lawmakers condemn Myanmar's crackdown on media freedom

AP ■ BRUSSELS

EU lawmakers on Thursday condemned the crackdown on media freedom in military-ruled Myanmar and called for the release of "every unfairly detained journalist."

Since the military seized power in February last year, it has forced at least 12 media outlets to shut down and arrested about 142 journalists, 57 of whom remain detained.

Most of those still detained are being held under an incitement charge for allegedly causing fear, spreading false news or agitating against a government employee.

In its resolution adopted by show of hands, the EU Parliament cited the cases of BBC freelance producer Htet Htet Khine; Sithu Aung Myint, a Frontier Myanmar columnist and contributor to Voice of America; and freelancer Nyein Nyein Aye.

"Strongly condemning the military junta's violent and illegitimate rule in Myanmar, MEPs urge it to drop all politically motivated charges against the members of the press and media workers, and unconditionally release every unfairly detained journalist," the EU Parliament said.

"They also call on the junta to immediately end its abuses, including arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, sexual violence and other ill-treatment, as well as unfair trials against people working in the media."

According to Reporters Without Borders, Nyein Nyein Aye was sentenced in July to three years in prison with hard labor on charges of "causing fear, spreading false news and



agitating crimes against a government employee."

Htet Htet Khine was sentenced on September 15 to three years' hard labour. On September 27, a court sentenced her to a further three years, with a reduction for time served. She has been in detention since August 2021.

"We remain concerned for her safety and wellbeing in detention, and call for the release of Htet Htet Khine and other media workers who have been unjustly detained in Myanmar," said BBC Media Action Chief Executive Officer Caroline Nureye.

Sithu Aung Myint was arrested in August 2021 along with Htet Htet Khine.

Some of the closed media outlets have continued operating without a license, publishing online as their staff mem-

bers dodge arrest. Others operate from exile.

The army's takeover led to mass public protests that the military and police responded to with lethal force, triggering armed resistance and escalating violence that have led to what some UN experts characterise as a civil war.

According to detailed lists by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a watchdog group based in Thailand, 2,336 civilians have died in the military government's crackdown on opponents and at least 15,757 people have been arrested.

EU lawmakers also called for restoration of the civilian government and the "unconditional release" of Myanmar's former president, Win Myint, and former leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

21 more Malaysian scam victims return from Cambodia, Laos



AP ■ SEPANG (MALAYSIA)

An additional 21 Malaysians rescued from human traffickers in Cambodia and Laos returned home on Thursday, as the government intensified efforts to locate scam victims reported missing abroad.

Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah, who met some of the returning victims at Kuala Lumpur's airport, said the government has now managed to rescue 273 people out of 401 reported missing in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Most have returned except for 60 still in immigration detention centres in those countries who are waiting to be processed, he said at a news conference.

Saifuddin, who heads a new government group tackling the issue, said officials have stepped up measures to locate the remaining 128 people. He said most of the victims are in their 20s and urged Malaysians to check carefully before taking any jobs outside the country.

The government has pledged to rescue Malaysians caught in what has been called "modern slavery" in the region.

The issue took on more urgency after a 23-year-old Malaysian died in a Thai hospital near the Myanmar border after falling prey to a human

trafficking scheme.

Some opposition politicians believe the 401 people reported missing are only a fraction of the actual number of Malaysians who have been caught in such scams. The opposition has urged the government to take legal action against local agents working with the human trafficking syndicates and ban false job advertisements.

Cambodia officials say they have uncovered numerous illegal online schemes that lured illegal workers and have arrested hundreds of people from China and Taiwan for involvement. Police said scammers, mainly from China, have used Cambodia as a base for extorting money. Apart from Cambodia, scammers are also known to have set up bases in Laos and Myanmar near the Thai border.

A UN envoy has said the scam networks, which often have links to transnational organised crime, are set up in countries with weak law enforcement, attracting educated young workers with promises of high earnings. The workers are then subject to isolation and the threat of violence unless they succeed in cheating victims reached by phone into transferring payments into overseas bank accounts.

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002
Email add- hocecb@gmail.com

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अन्तर्गत सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स प्रकाश इण्डस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड, ग्राम-भास्करगारा, खडपाड़ा, बड़सरा, कुर्गडीह, कुसमुसी, धनौली खुर्द एवं केवरा, तह.-भैयाथान, जिला-सूरजपुर (छ.ग.) के भास्करगारा खुर्दी एवं भूमिगत कोयला खदान की उत्पादन क्षमता 1.0 मिलियन टन/ वर्ष के माईनिंग लीज क्षेत्र 932.00 हेक्टेयर के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त खदान परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्तियाँ/सुझाव/विचार, टीका-टिप्पणियाँ, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के भीतर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल, कन्या परिसर रोड, शासकीय आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सालय के पास, मन्माकला गंगपुर, अंबिकापुर, जिला-सरगुजा (छ.ग.) के कार्यालय में मौखिक या लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस खदान परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 09/11/2022, दिन-बुधवार, पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से स्थान-शासकीय हाईस्कूल के निकट ग्राम केवरा, वि.खं. भैयाथान, जिला-सूरजपुर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि :

- लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेंटेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14/09/2006 (यथा संशोधित) के प्रावधानों के अनुसार खदान परियोजना को डाफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार की प्रतियाँ (हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी में) एवं इसकी सी. डी. (साफ कॉपी) जन सामान्य के अवलोकन/पठन हेतु डीयरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोरबाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, साईटिस्ट 'डी', एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, अण्डय भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, सूरजपुर, जिला-सूरजपुर, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत-भरसेडी, तह.-ओड़ुगी, जिला-सूरजपुर (छ.ग.), सदस्य सचिव, मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) एवं क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल, कन्या परिसर रोड, शासकीय आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सालय के पास, मन्माकला गंगपुर, तह.-अंबिकापुर, जिला-सरगुजा (छ.ग.) में रखी गई है।

हस्ता/- सदस्य सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

Biden to mark IBM investment with Democrats in tough races

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is ready to celebrate a new USD 20 billion investment by IBM in New York's Hudson River Valley with two House Democrats running in competitive races in next month's critical mid-term elections.

Biden is taking part in a Thursday afternoon announcement at the IBM facility in Poughkeepsie, New York.

He is expected to hold out the company's plans as part of what the White House says is a manufacturing "boom" spurred by this summer's passage of a USD 280 billion legislative package intended to boost the US semiconductor industry and scientific research.

Democrats facing tough mid-terms races have largely avoided appearing with Biden in the leadup to November's elections.

But Biden, whose approval ratings remain underwater, will be joined by two House incumbents in competitive New York races who are bucking the trend: Reps. Sean Patrick Maloney and Pat Ryan.

"When I heard @POTUS was looking to see the benefits of the CHIPS & Science Act first-hand, I told him that the Hudson Valley was the perfect place," Maloney wrote on



Twitter on Wednesday.

"I'm thrilled to host him in Poughkeepsie this week to celebrate the major wins and good-paying jobs we are delivering here in NY."

The CHIPS and Science Act, which Biden signed into law in August, was a rare piece of legislation for which the president was able to win bipartisan support.

IBM's USD 20 billion investment over the next decade is intended to bolster research and development and manufacturing of semiconductors, mainframe technology, artificial intelligence and

quantum computing in New York's Hudson River Valley, according to the White House.

"As we tackle large-scale technological challenges in climate, energy, transportation and more, we must continue to invest in innovation and discovery — because advanced technologies are key to solving these problems and driving economic prosperity, including better jobs, for millions of Americans," said Arvind Krishna, IBM's chairman and CEO.

The IBM investment comes on the heels of chip-maker Micron announcing

earlier this week an investment of up to USD 100 billion over the next 20-plus years to build a plant in upstate New York that could create 9,000 factory jobs.Maloney, chairman of the powerful Democratic congressional campaign fundraising arm, is running against Republican state Assemblyman Mike Lawler in New York's 17th District. Ryan is up against state Assemblyman Colin Schmitt in the 18th District.

The boundaries of most New York districts, including Maloney's and Ryan's, have been affected by redistricting. Ryan in August won a close special election to serve out the term of Democrat Antonio Delgado, who vacated his 19th District seat after he was appointed lieutenant governor by Democratic Gov Kathy Hochul. Ryan is running to serve a full term in the 18th District, where he lives.

Maloney, who had served New York's 18th District since 2013, decided to run in the 17th District. His Hudson Valley home fell inside the new boundaries after redistricting.

Hochul, who took office last year after Democrat Andrew Cuomo resigned amid sexual harassment allegations, is also scheduled to attend.

She's looking to win a full term in next month's election against Republican Rep. Lee Zeldin.

Lanka's Parliament defers debate on 22nd constitutional amendment

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The much-anticipated debate for the adoption of the 22nd Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president was deferred on Thursday as Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena told the House that the government will have more discussions to seek views of the opposition to make it a "meaningful" exercise.

The parliamentary debate was fixed for October 6 and 7. However, it was speculated that due to disagreements in the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party coalition the debate would not take place.



"We have decided to have more discussions to seek views of the opposition as they raised some concerns", Prime Minister Gunawardena told Parliament.

"We are willing to have talks to make sure that this amendment would be meaningful. At the moment it is a useless exercise", the main opposition leader Sajith

Premadasa said in response. New dates are yet to be fixed.

The government sources said a section of the ruling coalition was in disagreement with the amendment. They do not want any pruning of presidential powers.

Some members of the SLPP went public with their opposition to 22A.

French writer Annie gets Nobel Prize

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

French author Annie Ernaux, who mined her own biography to explore life in France since the 1940s, was awarded this year's Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for work that illuminates murky corners of memory, family and society.

The Swedish Academy said Ernaux, 82, was recognised for "the courage and clinical acuity with which she



uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory".

She is the first French literature laureate since Patrick Modiano in 2014.

Ernaux told Swedish broadcaster SVT by telephone that the award was "a great honor" and "a very great responsibility".

Ernaux started out writing autobiographical novels, but quickly abandoned fiction in favour of memoirs.

Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said Ernaux had used the term "an ethnologist of herself" rather than a writer of fiction.

Her more than 20 books, most of them very short, chronicle events in her life and the lives of those around her. They present uncompromising portraits of sexual encounters, abortion, illness and the deaths of her parents.

Solomon Islands leader rules out China base in his country

AP ■ CANBERRA

The Solomon Islands prime minister assured Australia on Thursday that he would not "endanger his country" by allowing China to establish a naval base in the South Pacific.

Solomons Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare made his first visit to the Australian capital Canberra since his counterpart Anthony Albanese's centre-left Labour Party came to power at elections in May.

"Prime minister, I reiterate again that Solomon Islands will never be used for foreign military installations or institutions of foreign countries, because this will not be in the interest of Solomon Islands and its people," Sogavare told Albanese in front of reporters before their meeting began in Parliament House.

A bilateral security agreement between China and the Solomons signed early this year raised concerns of a Chinese naval base being established in the South Pacific. China has denied seeking a military foothold in the Solomons.

"My government's legacy is to safeguard the future of Solomon Islands and its people, and not to endanger the country and its citizens or the security of any forum country," Sogavare added, referring to the Pacific Islands Forum, a bloc of 18 regional neighbours that includes Australia.

The pair released a joint statement after their meeting rather than hold a customary joint press conference. The leaders "reaffirmed mutual security commitments and the Pacific family first approach to



regional peace and security", the statement said.

Australia wants the Solomons to turn to its neighbours to support its security needs rather than China.

Australia already has a bilateral security treaty with the Solomons signed in 2017. It provides a legal basis for the rapid deployment of Australian police, troops and associated civilians in the event of a major security challenge.

Australian police have been in the Solomons' capital Honiara since November to maintain peace after rioting.

Australia had led a force of Pacific Islands police and troops under the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands from 2003 to 2017. It included 2,300 police and troops from 17 nations, invited by the Solomons' government. The deployment successfully ended the conflict that killed 200 people.

In the five years of ethnic and civil unrest before RAMSI arrived, the Solomons was close to becoming a failed state.

Sogavare and Albanese embraced when they met at a Pacific Islands Forum summit in July in Fiji, in a sign that bilateral relations were mending after Australia's nine years of conservative rule.

But relations remain testy. Sogavare accused Australia of interfering in domestic politics last month by offering to pay for Solomons' elections next year.

Sogavare had argued that his country could not afford to hold elections and host the regional Pacific Games next year.

Solomons lawmakers last month voted to delay the election until 2024, which critics condemned as a power grab. Sogavare accused Australia of attempting to influence that vote with its offer to help with elections.

In the joint statement on Thursday, Sogavare welcomed Australia's commitment of 16.68 million Australian dollars (USD 10.86 million) to pay for the games and its offer of support for the 2024 elections.

China's vast Xinjiang hit with Covid travel restrictions

AP ■ BEIJING

The sprawling Xinjiang region in western China has been hit with sweeping COVID-19 travel restrictions as the government ratchets up control measures across the country ahead of a key Communist Party congress later this month.

Trains and buses in and out of the region of 22 million people have been suspended, and passenger numbers on flights have been reduced to 75 per cent of capacity in recent days, according to Chinese media reports. A notice from the regional government on Tuesday said the measures were enacted to "strictly prevent the risk of spillover" of the virus.



A Xinjiang official apologized for the spread of the epidemic to other regions and provinces in China, particularly in recent days. As is often the case with China's draconian "zero-COVID" policy, the measures seemed out of proportion to the number of cases detected. The National Health Commission announced on Thursday that 97 cases had been recorded in Xinjiang in

the latest 24-hour period, after 91 cases were reported the previous day. All of them were asymptomatic.

Officials are desperate not to be called out for new outbreaks in their regions and Xinjiang has been under special scrutiny over the government's establishment of a series of prison-like re-education centres in which Muslim minorities have been taught to renounce their religion and allegedly subjected to a range of human rights abuses.

Xinjiang's vast surveillance system, relying on ubiquitous checkpoints, facial and even voice recognition software, and universal cell phone monitoring has made controlling travel among the population especially easy.

Gambia recalls syrups blamed for 66 child deaths

AP ■ BANJUL (GAMBIA)

Gambia has launched an urgent door-to-door campaign to remove cough and cold syrups blamed for the deaths of more than 60 children from kidney injury in the tiny West African country.

Speaking to The Associated Press, the Director of Health Dr Mustapha Bittaye confirmed the wave of child deaths from acute kidney injury, sending shockwaves across the country of 2.4 million people and around the world.

The World Health Organisation has issued an alarm in response to the deaths.

"WHO has issued a medical product alert for four contaminated medicines identified in The Gambia that have been potentially linked

to acute kidney injuries and 66 deaths among children," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

"The loss of young lives is beyond heartbreaking for their families," he said. The four medicines are cough and cold syrups produced in India, said the WHO statement.

While the contaminated products have so far only been detected in Gambia, they may have been distributed to other countries, said the statement.

The WHO is pursuing investigations with the company and regulatory authorities in India, it said.

"WHO recommends all countries detect and remove these products from circulation to prevent further harm to patients," it said.

Teaming up with the Gambia Red Cross Society, the Ministry of Health has dispatched hun-

dreds of young people to collect the suspect syrups through a house-to-house campaign.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER **Date: 07.10.2022**

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Description	Cost of EMD (₹)	Pre Bid Date & Time	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & time of opening
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/Sv/AS/48	In House /Onsite Repairing/Overhauling & upgradation of RMU's & ACB's Of Various Make & Rating In BYPL	4 Lakh	14.10.2022 11:00 Hrs	28.10.2022 15:00 Hrs	31.10.2022 15:30Hrs

PAWAN JAIN ADVOCATE
CH. C-77, C-1, JOSEPH BLOCK
TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1,180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com ->Tenders -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Open Tenders

Head (Contracts & Materials)

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जनसंपर्क संचालनालय
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन
इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर, छत्तीसगढ़
फोन:- 0771-2221616

क्रमांक 4736/जसंअ/वि.अ.प्र/2022 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक : 06/10/2022

गणतंत्र दिवस परेड 2023 के अवसर पर नई दिल्ली में चयनित होने पर प्रदर्शित की जाने वाली छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य की झांकी निर्माण के लिए निविदा आमंत्रित सूचना

जनसम्पर्क संचालनालय, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, नवा रायपुर की ओर से नई दिल्ली में आयोजित होने वाली गणतंत्र दिवस 2023 की राष्ट्रीय परेड में चयन होने पर प्रदर्शित होने वाली झांकी की डिजाईन/मॉडल प्रस्तुत करने तथा अनुभेदन पत्रवात तथा रक्षा मंत्रालय के निर्देशानुसार फेब्रिकेशन आदि कार्य कर झांकी तैयार करने हेतु अनुभवी झांकी/टेब्यु निर्माताओं/फर्मों से गुहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

इच्छुक (झांकी) टेब्यु निर्माता/फर्म जनसंपर्क विभाग की वेबसाईट www.dprcg.gov.in से निविदा प्रारूप, नियम-शर्तों डाऊनलोड कर निविदा में भाग ले सकते है। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क राशि रु. 2,000/- (दो हजार रुपए मात्र) (वापसी योग्य नहीं) का "संचालक, जनसंपर्क संचालनालय" रायपुर के नाम से रायपुर में देय डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट टैनिक्ल लिड लिफाफा के साथ जमा करना अनिवार्य है। उक्त निविदा में किसी प्रकार परिवर्तन अथवा संशोधन होने पर जानकारी उक्त वेबसाईट में प्रदर्शित की जायेगी। संशोधन सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जायेगा।

(1) पूर्णतः नये प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 28/10/2022, दोपहर 2 बजे तक।
(2) प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि दिनांक 28/10/2022, सायं 3 बजे।

R.O No:- 94815/5
R.O Date:- 06/10/2022

आयुक्त
जनसंपर्क संचालनालय
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Bipin Devi W/o Mr. Jyoti Prasad Sharma is intending to sell Residential Plot No. 10A, area measuring 105 Sq. Yds. i.e. 87.7 Sq. Meters, out of Khata No. 319, Situated in the area of Village Chhapra, under Sai Lok Colony, Pargana & Tehsil Dadr, District Gauram Budh Nagar, U.P. to Mrs. Reeta W/o Mr. Ashok Kumar, to be financed & mortgaged by my client i.e. M/s. DMV Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. The Original Sale Deed dt. 27.10.2009 regd. vide doc. No. 12087 pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and complaint bearing L.R. No. 202200055376/2022, was registered on 22.09.2022 with U.P. Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patil House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.: +91-9876188325

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that Mr. Ramesh S/o Sh. Ramesh is intending to sell Land area measuring 25 Sq. Yards, comprised in Khata No. 384, situated at Matka Vihar, Village Khara, Pargana Lam, Tehsil & District Ghazabad, Uttar Pradesh, to Mrs. Same W/o Mr. Nigamuddin, to be financed & mortgaged by my client i.e. M/s. DMV Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. The first page of Original Sale Deed dt. 30.11.2005 regd. vide doc. No. 3443 pertaining to the aforesaid property has been lost and complaint bearing L.R. No. 2020039/2022, was registered on 22.09.2022 with Delhi Police. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patil House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.: +91-9876188325

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that Mr. Sahib Singh Bedi has acquired the Eastern Half Portion of Entire Ground Floor (Without Roof Rights), "said Floor" Built on Property Bearing No. C-47, Land area measuring 438 Sq. Yds. Situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur and Colony Known as Kirti Nagar, New Delhi vide Re/Inquisition Deed dated 18.12.2012, Doc.No. 30382 and Now, Mr. Sahib Singh Bedi is mortgaging the above said property with Indusind Bank Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhanwal/Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Offices North, Unit no 907, 8th Floor, GD-17L Tower, (B-18), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818222636 (N.C.)

NEW DELHI SMC BRANCH
D-183 Peeragarhi Chowk, near Peeragarhi Metro Station, Rohatk Road, Delhi-110087
Tel No: 25255040, 25255042, 25255045, 25257275

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Bank of India, NDSME Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **07-07-2022** calling upon the borrower **Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav and Smt. Anita Yadav** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 18,44,618.63** plus int. w.e.f. **29.06.2022 (Rs. Eighteen Lakh Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen and Paise Sixty Three plus int. w.e.f. 29.06.2022)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **4 th day of October of the year 2022;**
The borrower in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of the **BANK OF INDIA** for an amount **Rs. 18,25,574.69** and interest thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the security assets.

Description of the Property
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. / Plot No – 52, Second Floor (without roof rights), Pocket 26, Sector 24, Rohini, New Delhi – 110085 land measuring 28 sq. mtrs. Bounded as: North-East by House No. 89 & Passage, On the North West by House No. 51 & Passage, On the East South by House No. 53, On the West South by Road
Date : 04-10-2022, Place: New Delhi
Auth. Officer, Bank of India, New Delhi SME

CDC, WHO, Uganda to host regional meeting as Ebola spreads

AP ■ NAIROBI

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention says Uganda next week will host a ministerial meeting on the outbreak of the Sudan strain of the Ebola virus which has no proven vaccine and which has caused alarm in the East Africa region.

Acting director Ahmed Ogwell told journalists on Thursday the three countries that suffered the devastating West Africa outbreak of Ebola in 2014-16, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, also are invited to the October 12 meeting.

The current Ebola outbreak in central Uganda has a 69 per cent case fatality rate, which Ogwell called "very high".

World Bank downgrades India's growth forecast to 6.5% for FY 23

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The World Bank on Thursday projected a growth rate of 6.5 per cent for the Indian economy for the fiscal year 2022-23, a drop of one per cent from its previous June 2022 projections, citing deteriorating international environment.

In its latest South Asia Economic Focus released ahead of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Bank, however, noted that India is recovering stronger than the rest of the world.

The Indian economy grew by 8.7 per cent in the previous year.

"The Indian economy has done well compared to the other countries in South Asia, with relatively strong growth performance... Bounced back from the sharp contraction during the first phase of COVID," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia, told PTI in an interview.

India, he said, has done relatively well with the advantage that it doesn't have a large external debt, there are no problems coming from that side, and that there is prudent monetary policy, he observed.

The Indian economy has done especially well in the services sector and especially service exports.

"But we have downgraded the forecast for the fiscal year



that just started and that is largely because the international environment is deteriorating for India and for all countries. We see kind of an inflection point in the middle of this year, and first signs of slowing across the world," he said.

The second half of the calendar year is weak in many countries and will be relatively weak also in India, he said.

Timmer said that's mainly because of two factors. One is the slowing of growth in the real economy of high-income countries.

The other one is the global tightening of monetary policy that tightens financial markets and not just that it leads to

capital outflows in many developing countries, but it also increases interest rates and uncertainty in developing countries which has a negative impact on investment.

"So, it (India) has done relatively well. It is not as vulnerable as some of the other countries. But it's still in tough weather. It (India) has to navigate the higher commodity prices and there are more headwinds at the moment," he said in response to a question.

India is doing better than the rest of the world, he said, adding that there are more buffers in India, especially large reserves at the central bank. That's very helpful. "Then the government has very actively

IMF warns of higher recession risk and darker global outlook

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund is once again lowering its projections for global economic growth in 2023, projecting world economic growth lower by USD 4 trillion through 2026.

Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the IMF, told an audience at Georgetown University on Thursday that "things are more likely to get worse before it gets better", saying the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February has dramatically changed the IMF's outlook on the economy.

Many countries are already seeing major impacts of the war on their economies. Georgieva said the insti-

tution downgraded its global growth projections already three times. It now expects 3.2 per cent for 2022 and now 2.9 per cent for 2023.

"The risks of recession are rising," she said, adding that the IMF estimates that countries making up one-third of the world economy will see at least two consecutive quarters of economic contraction this or next year.

The projections come after the OPEC+ alliance of oil-exporting countries decided on Wednesday to sharply cut production to support sagging oil prices in a move that could deal the struggling global economy another blow and raise politically sensitive pump prices for US drivers just ahead of key national elections.

reacted to the COVID crisis," he said.

The Indian government has set an example for the rest of the world, like expanding social safety nets, using digital ideas. "I think it's almost up to a million people that they are reaching at the moment. It's a good response also," he said.

At the same time, he said that he does not agree with all the policies of the Indian government.

"Especially their reaction to the high commodity prices might seem logical in the short run, but might backfire in the long run. For example, the export ban on wheat and the export ban or the very high tariffs on rice exports," he said.

They seem logical to create food security domestically, but ultimately that creates more problems in the rest of the region and the rest of the world.

OPEC output cut: Fuel price freeze gets longer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The record six-month-long freeze in petrol and diesel price revision in all likelihood will be extended after international oil prices rose on the announcement of deep production cuts by OPEC+.

Some of the world's top oil-producing countries on Wednesday agreed to slash production by two million barrels per day to spur recovery in oil prices that had dropped to pre-Ukraine war levels.

For India, this is bad news as a fall in oil prices in recent weeks had helped it cut down on its import bill as well as limit losses that state-owned fuel retailers were incurring on selling petrol and diesel.

Prior to the decision of OPEC+, losses on diesel had come down to about Rs 5 per litre from a peak of around Rs 30 a litre while oil companies had started making a small profit on petrol, industry sources said.

But the rise in prices of crude oil, which is refined to produce petrol, diesel and other products, and the weakening of the rupee against the US dollar would mean losses on diesel widen and margins on petrol erode, they said.

India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and international oil prices directly dictate domestic pricing.

State-owned fuel retailers - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and



Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) -- have changed the retail selling price of petrol and diesel in line with the international costs for a record six months now to help the government manage runaway inflation.

This prize freeze led to the firms booking losses on fuel sales as oil prices rose to a multi-year high of around USD 120 per barrel during May/June. Prices had started to ease in August and dropped to January levels last month.

The basket of crude oil that India imports had dropped to USD 84.75 per barrel on September 27 but the spurt in international oil prices following the OPEC+ decision led to rates rising to USD 92.17 on October 5.

Oil firms were hoping to recoup the losses they had

booked since April if the declining trend was to continue but the reversal means they are back to square one, sources said.

IOC, BPCL and HPCL are supposed to revise the retail price of petrol and diesel daily in line with cost. But they froze rates for a record 137 days beginning November 4, 2021, just as states like Uttar Pradesh went to polls. That freeze ended on March 22 this year and rates went up by Rs 10 per litre each in just over a fortnight before a new freeze came into effect from April 7.

Petrol currently costs Rs 96.72 a litre and diesel Rs 89.62 in the national capital. This is down from Rs 105.41 a litre price on April 6 for petrol and Rs 96.67 a litre for diesel as the government cut excise duty to cool rates.

Stock markets rise for 2nd session, Sensex gains 156 pts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 156 points while the Nifty closed above the 17,300 level on Thursday after gains in metal, IT and capital goods shares amid foreign capital inflows.

Rising for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE benchmark advanced 156.63 points or 0.27 per cent to settle at 58,222.10.

The index opened higher and later jumped 513.29 points or 0.88 per cent to a day's high of 58,578.76 on gains in metal, FMCG, IT and oil stocks. However, profit booking in select banking and tech stocks in the closing session trimmed the gains. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 57.50 points or 0.33 per cent to end at 17,331.80 as 27 of its shares ended in the green.

Among Sensex shares, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, Infosys and Axis Bank were among the winners.

However, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, HDFC and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "The Indian market is maintaining its resilience despite mixed cues from global equities and surging oil prices. Both domestic and foreign investors are supporting the rally."

The market was also bolstered by expectations on Q2 results session, with improvement in sectors like metal, IT, and realty, Nair added.



"Weakness in European indices and SGX Nifty slipping into the red prompted investors to cut their bullish bets. But key domestic benchmarks still ended in the green thanks to traders betting big on IT, metal and realty stocks."

However, inflationary concerns worldwide and central banks hiking interest rates persistently has spooked markets and kept investors on tenterhooks on worries of a global slowdown," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.30 per cent and midcap index climbed 1.13 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, metal jumped 3.89 per cent, capital goods (2.34 per cent), realty (2.15 per cent), industrials (1.96 per cent), commodities (1.67 per cent) and power (1.61 per cent).

FMCG and telecommuni-

cation were the laggards.

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

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading in the negative territory in mid-session deals. The US markets ended marginally lower on Wednesday.

The domestic equity markets were closed on Wednesday for the Dussehra festival.

In the previous session on Tuesday, the BSE benchmark had jumped 1,276.66 points or 2.25 per cent to settle at 58,065.47. The Nifty rallied 386.95 points or 2.29 per cent to end at 17,274.30.

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude futures climbed 0.14 per cent to 93.50 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers as they bought shares worth Rs 1,344.63 crore on Tuesday, according to data available with BSE.

Rupee falls 32 paise to close at all-time low of 81.94 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged 32 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday amid high volatility as firm crude oil prices weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a positive note at 81.52, then pared all the gains to settle at an all-time low of 81.94 against the American currency, registering a decline of 32 paise over

its previous close.

During the day, the local unit witnessed an intra-day high of 81.51 and a low of 81.94 against the greenback.

On Tuesday, the rupee appreciated by 20 paise to end at 81.62 against the US dollar.

The forex market was closed on Wednesday on account of Dussehra.

"Rupee, after appreciating marginally on Tuesday, is again starting to come under pressure. The dollar strengthened after services PMI and private payrolls numbers from



the US came in better than estimates," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

India's service sector activity falls to 6-month low in Sept amid inflationary pressures: PMI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian services sector activity fell to a six-month low in September, as new business inflows rose at the slowest rates since March, amid inflationary pressures and competitive conditions, a monthly survey said.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell to 54.3 in September, from 57.2 in August, highlighting the weakest rate of expansion since March.

For the fourteenth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.



"The Indian service sector has overcome many adversities in recent months, with the latest PMI data continuing to show a strong performance despite some loss of growth momentum in September," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The upturn was reportedly restricted by price pressures, an

increasingly competitive environment and unfavourable public policies, the survey said.

Lima further noted that the steep depreciation of the rupee seen towards the end of the month due to interest rate hikes in the US present additional challenges to the Indian economy.

"Currency instability poses renewed inflation worries as imported items become more costly, and undoubtedly means that the RBI will continue hiking interest rates to protect the rupee and contain price pressures," Lima said.

On September 30, the monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the key lending rate or the repo rate to 5.90 per cent — the highest since April 2019.

FMCG sales remained subdued in Q2; cos expect recovery in coming months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's FMCG industry continued to face challenges of retail inflation and slowdown in rural areas in the second quarter but expects demand to improve in the second half of this fiscal.

Leading makers such as Marico, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) and Dabur in their quarterly updates said demand across categories in the industry continued to remain soft during the second quarter on account of continued impact on unprecedented inflation.

However, the companies expect that in the remaining two quarters of the fiscal, mod-



erating inflation and the festive season should support consumption growth in the second half.

"With the moderation in inflationary pressures due to correction in commodity prices, and the monsoon largely being on track (apart for a few states), we expect consumption to improve in the second half of the year," GCPL said in its quarterly updates.



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, India's s G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant, Quality Council Of India Chairman Adil Zainulbhai, Secretary Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIT) Anurag Jain, Additional Secretary DPIT Anil Agrawal and QCI Secretary General Dr Ravi P Singh at the celebrations of completing 25 years with the motto "Gunnawatta se Atmanirbharta". On the occasion, Goyal said, "With all the festivals coming up, there is no better festival than celebrating India's quality, and it should become the DNA of every citizen." Renowned musician Sukhwinder Singh composed a special anthem for the occasion that celebrates the positive change brought into people's lives via multiple avenues.

Airtel 5G service goes live in 8 cities, customers to pay as per 4G plan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel on Thursday said its 5G services have gone live in eight cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Siliguri, Nagpur and Varanasi.

The customer availing 5G services will have to pay as per their existing 4G plan, it said. "Airtel has been at the forefront of India's telecom revolution for the last 27 years. Today marks one more step in our journey as we build out the finest network to deliver the best experience for our customers."

"For us, our customers are at the core of everything we do. Our solution will therefore work on any 5G handset and the existing SIM that customers have," Bharti Airtel Managing Director and CEO Gopal Vittal said in a statement.

Bharti Enterprises Founder

and Chairman Sunil Mittal had announced launch of 5G service in 8 cities on October 1.

A company spokesperson said that customer will be able to avail the services as per their 4G plan. Airtel subscribers getting 5G signals in their area can switch to 5G but if they find that 5G is consuming high data than can switch back to 4G network. "Access to 5G is optional," the spokesperson said.

At present, 5G models of Apple, Samsung, Xiaomi, Vivo, Oppo, Realme and OnePlus are compatible with Airtel 5G Plus service. The compatible models include Samsung's flagship devices including Fold series, Galaxy S 22 series, Samsung M32, iPhone 12 series and later models, Realme 8s 5G, Realme X7 series, Realme narzo series, Vivo X50 onwards smartphones, Vivo IQOO series, Oppo Reno5G Pro and other device.

RBI asks credit info companies to appoint internal ombudsman by April 1

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India Thursday asked Credit Information Companies to appoint internal ombudsman by April 1 next year in order to improve the efficiency of their grievance redressal mechanisms.

The Internal Ombudsman (IO) will not handle complaints received directly from the complainants or members of the public and, instead, deal only with the complaints that have already been examined by the CIC but have been partly or wholly rejected by the CIC, the RBI said in a circular. In order to make the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2021 more broad based, central bank in August this year.

Sebi clarifies on guidelines pertaining to instruction slips for share pledging

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To curb the misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) given by clients to stock brokers, Sebi on Thursday widened the scope of the Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) for pledging and repurchasing of securities for margin purposes.

Mutual fund transactions executed on stock exchange order entry platforms and tendering of shares in open offers through stock exchange platforms will also be covered under the DDPI, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The DDPI serves the same purpose of PoA and significantly mitigate the misuse of PoA. The guidelines, which will be effective from November 18, also comes against the back-



drop of instances of misuse of PoAs.

"In view of the representations by and consultations with broker associations and depositories, it has been decided to widen the scope of DDPI to include mutual fund transactions being executed on stock exchange order entry platforms and tendering shares in open offers through stock exchange platforms," Sebi said.

'Half of digital transformation over, cost-to-income ratios on tech spends plateaued'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

HDFC Bank has completed over half of the digital transformation work it had undertaken over two years ago and is past the peak on tech spends as a percentage of the income, a senior executive said on Tuesday.

It can be noted that concerns on the digital front had led to an unprecedented penal action on the largest private sector lender from the RBI, including a complete ban on launching new digital initiatives and also an embargo on selling new credit cards around two years ago.

PROTEAS BEAT INDIA IN 1ST ODI

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Below-par death bowling coupled with ordinary fielding and batting, except for Sanju Samson and Shreyas Iyer, hurt a second-string Indian team as it slumped to a nine-run defeat against South Africa in the rain-truncated first ODI of the three-match series here on Thursday.

Opting to bowl in the rain-hit 40-over-a-side game, India started on the right note reducing South Africa to 110 for 4 in 22.4 overs before David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen hit strokeful half-centuries to guide South Africa to 249 for 4.

Down at 110 for four, Miller (75 not out off 63 balls) and Klaasen (74 not out off 65 balls) added 139 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket to take the visitors to close to 250-run mark.

Shardul Thakur was the pick of the bowlers for India with figures of 2/35 from eight overs.

The Indian bowlers struggled in the death overs, conceding 54 runs in the last five overs.

If that was not enough, the Indian fielders dropped as many as four catches in the outfield to help South Africa's cause.

Chasing a stiff target of 250, Samson (86 not out off 63 balls) and Iyer (50 off 37 balls) struck fifties, while Shardul Thakur (33 off 31 balls) used the long handle to good effect towards the end but it was not enough in the end.

India endured a disastrous start to their chase, losing both Shubman Gill (3) and skipper Shikhar Dhawan (4) cheaply to be reduced to 8 for 2 inside six overs.

While Kagiso Rabada cleaned up Gill in the third over, Dhawan inside-edged one on to his stumps from a Wayne Parnell delivery in the sixth over.

Ishan Kishan and debutant Rituraj Gaikwad then tried to sta-



bilise the innings with a 48-run partnership for the third wicket before the latter was stumped by Quinton de Kock off the bowling of Tabraiz Shamsi as India slumped to 48 for 3 in 16.4 overs.

In the reserves for the T20 World Cup squad, Iyer helped his cause with a 37-ball 50 and together with Sanju Samson shared 67

runs for the fifth wicket to keep India in the hunt.

Iyer decorated his innings with eight hits to the fence before handing a simple catch to Rabada at mid-on off Lungi Ngidi's bowling.

But Samson and Thakur kept India in the hunt with an attacking 93-run partnership of just 64 balls for the sixth wicket.

With India needing 45 off the last three overs, Ngidi struck twin blows, dismissing Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav in successive balls to hand South Africa the upper hand.

Needing 30 off the last over, Samson tried his best, smashing one six and three fours but to no avail.

Earlier sent into bat, South Africa made a relatively slow start,

reaching 41 for no loss after 10 overs.

India skipper Shikhar Dhawan's decision to bowl was justified by new ball bowlers Mohammed Siraj and Avesh Khan.

Siraj, in particular, was brilliant as he swung the ball both ways to trouble the Proteas batters initially but without any luck.

Dhawan introduced Shardul Thakur in the ninth over and in two balls the pacer gave his team the first chance, inducing an edge from Janneman Malan but Shubman Gill dropped a sitter at the first slip.

But Shardul got his man four overs later as Malan flicked one straight to Shreyas Iyer at short mid-wicket.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi was taken to task by South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma (8) as he conceded 31 runs from his first three overs.

Bavuma, who was struggling for runs in the preceding T20I series, reverse-swept and drove Bishnoi for two boundaries in the 14th over.

But Bavuma's short and attacking innings was cut short by Thakur, who went through his defence as the batter registered another single digit score in the tour.

Kuldeep Yadav gave India another breakthrough soon, cleaning up Aiden Markram for a duck with a sharp leg-spin.

Quinton de Kock went about his business in quiet fashion and held one end together before perishing in the 23rd over.

De Kock scored 48 off 54 balls with the help of five boundaries before he was trapped in front of the wicket by Bishnoi as South Africa slumped to 110 for 4 in the 23rd over.

Two overs later, Miller effortlessly struck the visitors' first six of the innings, straight over long-on boundary off the bowling of Bishnoi.

Miller and Klaasen then took the attack to the opposition. Miller played sensibly and dispatched the loose balls to the boundary to record his 18th half-century off 50 balls with the help of four boundaries and one hit over the fence.

Klaasen soon followed suit and registered his fourth ODI fifty in 52 balls. Death over bowling continued to haunt India as Miller and Klaasen brought up their century partnership in just 84 balls.

To add to that, India dropped as many as four catches, displaying poor outfield fielding standards.

Pretorius ruled out of T20 World Cup



PTI ■ LUCKNOW

South African allrounder Dwaine Pretorius has been ruled out of the ongoing ODI series in India and the upcoming T20 World Cup due to a fractured left thumb, Cricket South Africa (CSA) said on Thursday. The pace bowler all-rounder, who was the joint-highest wicket-taker for South Africa in the T20 World Cup last

Playing in IPL helps in passing information easily: Rabada

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Playing in the IPL helps gather information on Indian cricketers which can be easily passed on for analysis during national duty, says South African pace ace Kagiso Rabada.

The South African quick, who is currently in India for a white-ball series, has gained a lot of popularity in the country due to his impressive stints with Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in the IPL.

"It is something we have prepared before going into the series. Lucky enough with leagues like the IPL, we play a lot with these players and

against them as well, so information can be easily passed around," Rabada told the broadcaster ahead of the first ODI.

"Analysis has been done and has to be done," he added.

The right-arm, who will lead the South African pace attack at the T20 World Cup later this month in Australia, sees ODIs as an extension of the shortest format of the game. "I think T20 and One-Day cricket are kind of similar, it is just a longer version of it. "You have similar game-plans and obviously it is less pressure than T20s, I would say the processes are pretty similar."

year, sustained the injury during the third T20I against India in Indore -- the only match he played in the series.

He had returned with figures of 3 for 26 as South Africa won the match by 49 runs for a 1-2 result in favour of India.

"The nature of the injury requires surgical intervention and Dwaine will consult the Cricket South Africa designated hand surgeon on arrival in

South Africa," CSA chief medical officer Dr Shuaib Manjra said.

Pretorius has featured in eight T20Is so far in 2022, taking 12 wickets at an average of 20.66 and most importantly, scoring quick runs with the bat down the order.

"Normal rehabilitation procedures will follow to ensure he speedily returns to playing cricket," Manjra said.

India to face Pakistan in women's Asia Cup today

PTI ■ SYLHET

India would expect that opener Shafali Verma comes out of the lean patch she has been enduring for some time and the team extends its domination of Pakistan when the two arch-rivals clash in their women's Asia Cup T20 match, here Friday. The Indian team gave ample game time to its fringe players, making as many as eight changes in the last two games, but against Pakistan -- one of title contenders -- the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side is expected to have full strength team on the field.

Pakistan are coming into the contest after suffering a shock four-wicket defeat at the hands of minnows Thailand on Thursday.

The two sides currently occupy the top two spot in the points table with India, who have won three games on the trot, leading the table.

While an India-Pakistan tie always generates hype, the recent two matches between the two sides failed to produce a close game with India winning comfortably. India were at their ruthless best as they brushed aside Pakistan at the Commonwealth Games in July. In fact, India have won the last five meeting against the neighbours in the format easily.

After being rested for a game each, the star openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana will be expected to provide a strong start.

The big-hitting Shafali will be feeling the pressure as she still looks low on confidence. She was able to spend some time in the middle in the match against Malaysia but looked scratchy and far from her best.

The teenager will be eager to shake



off the rust and play some dominant knocks with the T20 World Cup fast approaching.

On the other hand, Mandhana and skipper Kaur are coming off stellar performances in the white-ball series against England. Jemimah Rodrigues, who returned to the side after a wrist injury, is in imperious touch.

After notching up her career-best score in the opener, she brought her second consecutive half-century of the tournament and along with all-rounder with Deepti Sharma inspired a win against UAE.

The bowlers have continued to be clinical in all three games.

On the other hand, Pakistan batters, who were hardly tested in the wins over Malaysia and Bangladesh, had the perfect opportunity to get some runs under their belts. But, barring opener Sidra Ameen who scored a fifty, they failed to impress, failing to breach the 120-run mark against Thailand.

Their bowling attack, which has been clinical in the tournament, had few runs to defend. Their batters will have their task cut out against a confident and firing India bowling attack.

TEAMS (FROM)

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

Pakistan: Bismah Maroof (c), Aiman Anwer, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali, Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Ameen, Sidra Nawaz.

Paine out cheaply on return from sexting scandal

AP ■ BRISBANE

Former Australia captain Tim Paine was out cheaply on Thursday in his first match since a sexting scandal ended his international career, with his return failing to inspire his state side Tasmania.

The 37-year-old quit as Test skipper last November on the eve of the Ashes campaign against England when lewd text messages he sent to a female colleague in 2017 were about to be made public.

A week later he took leave from all forms of cricket for the "foreseeable future" as the scandal took its toll.

But he never retired and Tasmania coach Jeff Vaughan declared him physically and emotionally ready to return this week.

"Physically he is probably in the greatest spot of his physical career," said Vaughan. Emotionally he is sound."

Paine strode to the crease at the Allan Border Field against Queensland in the Sheffield Shield to a warm welcome from a modest crowd.

But batting at seven, the veteran wicketkeeper lasted just 19 balls for his six runs, edging a short-pitched delivery from Gurinder Sandhu to Matthew Renshaw at slip as Tasmania slumped to 74-6.



Praneeth, Aakarshi win singles title

PTI ■ SURAT

Top seed B Sai Praneeth of Telangana and Chhattisgarh's Aakarshi Kashyap produced superlative performances to claim the men's and women's singles badminton gold medals respectively in the National Games here on Thursday.

While Praneeth, a former world championships bronze medallist, had to work hard for his 21-11 12-21 21-16 victory over Karnataka's Mithun Manjunath in the men's singles final, Aakarshi saw off top seed Malvika Bansod of Maharashtra 21-8 22-20 in the women's singles summit clash.

Thirty-year-old Praneeth's success meant that Telangana grabbed three gold medals in badminton. They had won the mixed team and women's doubles titles earlier.

Praneeth dominated the opening game, jumping to an 8-2 lead and never looking back. However, Mithun came



back stronger in the second game but eventually could do nothing but acknowledge that he was outplayed.

"Once the game started to drift away from me, I played it cool to concentrate

for the third game," said Praneeth.

Mithun kept pace with Praneeth for the most of the third game but the experienced campaigner did enough to quell the challenge

of his young opponent.

"Once I took the lead at 16-15, I played it safe. I saw Mithun was tiring and I had just put the shuttle in," said Praneeth, who finished the match with a smash.

Gambhir-led India Capitals wins LLC title



PTI ■ JAIPUR

India Capitals made a stunning recovery after stumbling early to defeat Bhilwara Kings by 104 runs and lift the Legends League Cricket trophy here.

Former New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor sizzled with a fiery 41-ball 82. He slammed eights sixes and four boundaries and along with Aussie veteran Mitchell Johnson (62 off 35), led the Capitals' stunning revival to post a daunting 211/7 after being sent in at the Sai Mansingh Stadium on Wednesday.

The Gautam Gambhir-led side was rattled to be 21/4 inside the first five overs with Rahul Sharma (4/30) and

Monty Panesar (3-0-13-2) inflicting early blows. But Taylor held the fort in the duos' 126-run stand that came off just 60 balls.

Later, Windies powerhitter Ashley Nurse finished off in style with a 19-ball 42 not out with one six and six boundaries.

In reply, the Kings' openers, Morne van Wyk (5) and William Porterfield (12), were out inside the first four overs.

A lot depended on the broad shoulders of Yusuf Pathan (6), but he did not last long. Shane Watson (27) was unfortunate to be run out, while Jesal Karia (22) showed promise but could not carry on for long.



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2022



Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Chief Minister

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The visionary leadership of our
Prime Minister Narendra Modi,
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Government and active participation of
people, made this possible

Thank You Madhya Pradesh

Indore ranks as India's Cleanest
City for the 6th time in a row

85% Cities (323) certified
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99 Cities certified
with Star Ratings in Swachhta

Madhya Pradesh awarded
16 National Awards in Swachhta

30 Cities included among Top 100
cities > 1 lac population category

19 Cities included among Top 100
cities < 1 lac population category



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