

OPINION 6
JUNTA'S SAVAGERY
BETRAYS FRUSTRATION

WORLD 8
MISSILES, DRONES HIT ZAPORIZHZHIA
AGAIN AS DEATH TOLL RISES

MONEY 10
CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME
FOR STARTUPS NOTIFIED: DPIIT

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City **Vol.32 Issue 279**
*Air Surcharge Extra If Applicable

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY OCTOBER 8, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



STARC SHINES
AS AUSTRALIA
BEAT WINDIES
12 SPORT

Steps promising, but LAC situation not normal: India

Disengagement at Point 15 'one problem less' on border: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India on Friday said there has been some positive development in eastern Ladakh but the situation is not yet normal. "We have not reached there... I would not like to say the situation is normal. There have been some positive steps, but some steps are yet to be taken," said Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi in his weekly media briefing.

Bagchi also referred to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks last month that the disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 in eastern Ladakh was "one problem less" on the border.

By all account, the Central Government has all along maintained that as far as India was concerned several other issues remains unresolved, and it is not satisfied with merely from the disengagement at Patrolling Point 15 since there has been no progress yet on resolving the standoff in the



Demchok and Depsang regions.

The MEA Spokesperson said India has been maintaining that it expects disengagement followed by de-escalation for the return of normalcy on the border, which could pave the way for normal ties between the two neighbouring countries.

Bagchi's comments are also in line with Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari's statement on Tuesday that the benchmark for the situation to become normal in eastern Ladakh would be to return to status quo ante prior to the standoff and a complete withdrawal of troops from all friction points.

Incidentally, China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong recently claimed that the situation at the Line of Actual Control is moving towards being "normalised and under control".

"The current border situation is overall stable," Sun said. "The phase of emergency response since the Galwan Valley incident has basically come to an end."

Sun made these comments during an event to mark the 73rd anniversary of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi.

"Some steps are required for full normalcy, we have not reached there," Bagchi said when asked about the Chinese Ambassador's remarks.

The MEA Spokesperson said India has been maintaining that it expects disengagement followed by de-escalation for the return of normalcy on the border, which could pave the way for normal ties between the two neighbouring countries.

Following the eastern Ladakh standoff, India has been consistently maintaining that peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is key for the overall development of its ties with China and the State of the border will determine the State of the bilateral relationship.

AAP Minister in soup for attending conversion event

Slur on Hindu deities stirs row, Gautam booked, BJP seeks his sacking; AAP's silence conspicuous

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A major controversy has erupted over the presence of the Delhi Minister and AAP MLA from Seemapuri, Rajendra Pal Gautam, at a mass conversion event on October 5 where "thousands" of people can be heard taking an oath denouncing Hindu deities.

At the controversial event, organised by the Buddhist Society of India and conducted at the Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan in Jhandewalan in the national Capital, people were allegedly asked to take a pledge not to worship Hindu gods and goddesses. They were also asked to show full faith in Buddhism.

Sources in the AAP claimed that the Chief Minister was "extremely displeased" with Gautam. Interestingly, neither Kejriwal nor any party leaders defended him.

Meanwhile, at a Press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused the AAP of hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

BJP leaders also asked Kejriwal to sack Gautam within 24 hours for showing "dis-



Row erupts over AAP's Rajendra Pal Gautam's presence at event where 10,000 people were converted to Buddhism

Twitter/@AdvRajendraPal

respect" towards Hindu deities in the presence of thousands of people. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta also lodged a police complaint against Gautam on the issue.

Gautam, who holds the portfolios of Social Welfare, SC & ST, Cooperative, Gurudwara Elections and Women & Child Development in the Kejriwal-led Government himself had also tweeted the pictures of the event, saying more than 10,000 people pledged to join Buddhism and work for making India free from casteism and untouchability.

Several videos of the event and the initiation have gone viral on the internet. One clip showed people being asked to vow not to worship Hindu gods and goddesses, and not to follow Hindu rituals.

In the purported video that went viral four days after the event, Gautam can be seen

sharing the dias with other persons attending the programme. He could also be seen standing in the pledge gesture.

The pledge was, "I will never hold Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh as gods and worship them. I will neither hold Ram and Krishna as God nor worship them ever. I will not believe in or worship Gauri, Ganapati or any other deity of the Hindu religion."

Later, he was seen delivering a speech wherein he urged Hindus to renounce their faith and tread the path of Dr Ambedkar. As per the video clips, during the event, a saffron-clad man administered an oath to the crowd, which closely resembled the controversial 22 vows of BR Ambedkar. The man urged the Hindus to disassociate themselves from their original faith and desist from the worship of deities.

CAPSULE

CARBON-DATING: COURT SEEKS GYANVAPI REPLY

Varanasi: A court here asked the Gyanvapi mosque management on Friday to file its reply to a petitioners' plea for carbon-dating of a structure, claimed to be a "Shivling", inside the complex on the next date of hearing on October 11. The petitioners contended that the "Shivling" found in the "wazookhana" reservoir of the mosque during survey work on May 16 was part of the case property.

IDOL OF HINDU TEMPLE DESTROYED IN B'DESH

Dhaka: Unidentified persons destroyed the idol of a deity at a colonial-era Hindu temple in western Bangladesh, prompting police to launch a massive manhunt, officials said on Friday. Authorities of the Kali temple in Dautiya village in Bangladesh's Jhenaidah district found the idol smashed into pieces on Friday and dumped the idol's head on a road half a kilometre from the temple's premises, news portal bdnews24.Com quoted Sukumar Kunda, president of the temple committee as saying.

CCI ORDERS ANOTHER PROBE AGAINST GOOGLE

New Delhi: The Competition Commission has ordered another detailed probe against Google for alleged unfair revenue sharing terms with respect to news content. The case will be clubbed with two other ongoing matters against the search engine major where the allegations are substantially same, according to the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Rupee plunges all-time low of 82.30 against \$

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee's downward journey continued on Friday as it settled at a fresh all time low and well below the 82 mark against the US dollar. The rupees hit the intra-day low of 82.43 and finally settled for the day at an all-time low of 82.30 against the American currency.

The rupee's decline is in line with weakness in the majority of the global currencies due to the Russia-Ukraine war, rising fuel prices, and uncertain economic scenario prevailing across the world.

The rupee also plummeted due to World Bank's downgrade of India's GDP to 6.5 per cent for the fiscal year 2022-23 from an earlier estimate of 7.5 per cent. Indian economy grew by 8.7 per cent last fiscal.

Forex experts content the RBI can do little at this stage to control the slide of rupee due to depletion of foreign currency reserve.

Continued on Page 2

Opp cries foul as Govt defends 'no vote' on UN China resolution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India has defended its decision to abstain from the voting on the rights situation in China's Xinjiang at the UN Human Rights Commission, saying it was in line with the practice of not voting on country-specific resolutions.

India abstained from a resolution at the UNHRC calling for a debate on the human rights situation in Xinjiang.

"It is in line with India's practice of not voting on country-specific resolutions," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

"We have taken note of the OHCHR Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China. The human rights of the people of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region should be respected and guaranteed. We hope that the relevant party

will address the situation properly," Bagchi added.

The Chinese Government has been accused of committing a series of ongoing human rights abuses against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities in Xinjiang.

Continued on Page 2

India conveys to US objections over visit to PoK

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has conveyed its objections to the US over the recent visit to Pakistan Occupied-Kashmir by the American Ambassador to Islamabad, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday. India also took objections to the US ambassador to Pakistan holding some meetings in PoK.

Continued on Page 2

Ex-CJI KGB heads panel on SC tag plea for Christian, Muslim converts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Centre has appointed a commission headed by former Chief Justice of India KG Balakrishnan to examine the matter of giving the Scheduled Caste (SC) status to people who claim to have "historically" belonged to the Scheduled Caste, but have converted to a religion other than those mentioned in the Presidential orders.

The commission will file its report on the controversial issue in two-year time.

The push has come from the Supreme Court on a petition for SC tag for Christians and Muslims (that has been pending for 18 years).

Last month, the apex court said that "all these old matters are pending in this court because of its social ramifications. A day has come when we have to take a call on this".

Continued on Page 2

Nobel Peace bestowed on rights activists from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus

AP ■ KIV

Human rights activists from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, a strong rebuke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine has outraged the international community, and to the Belarusian President, his authoritarian ally.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2022 prize to imprisoned Belarus activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and the Ukrainian organisation Center for Civil Liberties.

Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the panel wanted to honour "three outstanding champions of human rights, democracy and peace-

ful coexistence." "Through their consistent efforts in favour of human values and anti-militarism and principles of law, this year's laureates have revitalised and honoured Alfred Nobel's vision of peace and fraternity between nations, a vision most needed in the world today," she said.

Belarus' Foreign Ministry denounced the Nobel Committee for honouring Bialiatski, with the spokesman calling its choices in recent years so "politicised" that "Alfred Nobel got tired of turning in his grave."

Asked whether the Nobel Committee was intentionally rebuking Putin, whose 70th birthday is on Friday, Reiss-Andersen said the prize was not against anybody.

Continued on Page 2

Terrorism, crime in India, don't travel to J&K: US to citizens

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US on Friday asked its citizens to exercise "increased caution" while travelling to India due to "crime and terrorism" and advised them not to travel to the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

In a new travel advisory issued on Friday, the US State Department reduced the India Travel Advisory Level to 2 on a scale of one to 4 with the latter being the highest.

The State Department in a separate advisory, a day earlier, had put Pakistan on Level 3 and asked its citizens to reconsider their travel especially its restive provinces due to terrorism and sectarian violence.

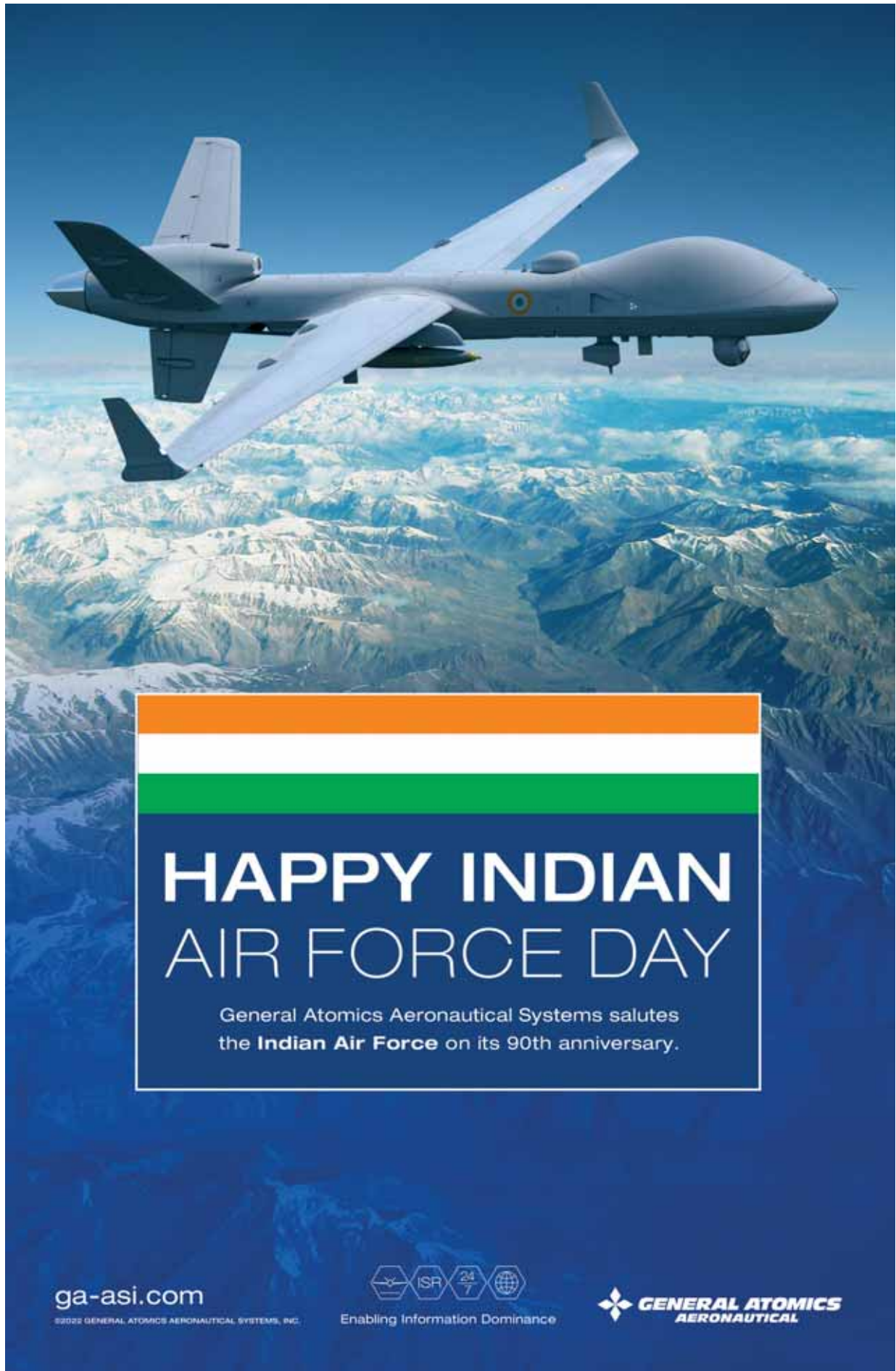
"Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and

terrorism," said the State Department.

"Do not travel to: The union territory of Jammu & Kashmir (except the eastern Ladakh region and its capital, Leh) due to terrorism and civil unrest. Within 10 km of the India-Pakistan border due to the potential for armed conflict," it said.

According to the travel advisory, "Indian authorities report rape is one of the fastest growing crimes in India. Violent crime, such as sexual assault, has occurred at tourist sites and in other locations."

The advisory said that "terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and government facilities."



NCR-PULSE

WANTED CRIMINAL ARRESTED AFTER ENCOUNTER
New Delhi: A criminal wanted in several cases was arrested on Friday after an encounter with police in Noida Filicity. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ashutosh Dwivedi said Danish (27) alias Sayar alias Cheeta had over 20 FIRs lodged against him for loot at various police stations in Delhi NCR. Danish, a shooter of the Chhenu gang, was also wanted in two cases in Noida's Sector 20 police station.

34-YR-OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR KILLING FATHER
New Delhi: A 34-year-old man was arrested on Friday allegedly for killing his father and seriously injuring his mother attacking them over money. Swarnjeet Singh, 65, was killed in the attack, while his wife Ajinder Kaur, 60, survived the blow but sustained some serious wounds and is critical. Both were rushed to Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital, where Swarnajeet was declared brought dead, and his wife was referred to Sir Gangaram Hospital, where she was shifted.

10 PEOPLE PROTESTING OUTSIDE SC DETAINED
New Delhi: Police detained 10 people when they were protesting outside the Supreme Court on Friday with controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand claiming they had gone there to seek 'legal sanction' to kill themselves due to repeated death threats from 'jihadis'. According to Delhi Police, 10 people were detained for protesting outside the apex court. They were later released, said police.

KIDNAPPED MAN RESCUED BY DELHI POLICE, 1 HELD
New Delhi, Oct 7 (PTI) A 22-year-old man was allegedly kidnapped by some persons in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area, police said on Friday. One of the accused has been arrested, they said, adding that the victim was rescued from Majlis Park area here, police said.

BANK ANNOUNCES AWARDS FOR MARATHON RUNNERS
New Delhi: IDFC FIRST Bank announced a financial Pledge to enable participants in the Delhi Half Marathon to contribute towards causes that matter to them. IDFC FIRST Bank has committed Rs. 2100 to every participant who completes the half marathon within 1 hour and 55 minutes and Rs. 1000 for every participant who completes the 10k run within 55 minutes. The Runners Pledge is bank's newest effort towards maximising social good, which is one of the founding pillars of the bank. "It is expected to be a powerful message on social inclusion for participants in the marathon and also aligns with Delhi Half Marathon's philanthropy theme," said Naarayan TV, Chief Marketing Officer, IDFC FIRST Bank, which is an Associate Sponsor.

DELHI GOVT TO ORGANISE CHHATH PUJA AT 1,100 SITES
New Delhi: With a budget of Rs 25 crore, the Delhi Government has decided to organise 'Chhath Puja' celebrations at more than 1100 sites across the national Capital. Delhi's Revenue Minister, Kailash Gahlot on Friday also held a review meeting on the preparedness of Chhath Puja in Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-AMC-066-2022-23
DRM Office
New Delhi
Dated: 07.10.2022

Name of work with its location	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Westrace make EI for 08 stations viz. GHM, PT, MSP, MOZ, DBD, JDW, SSZ and PHWR of Delhi Division for 03 years.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 1,73,70,910/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 2,36,900/-only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time-02.11.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

(Cheshta Minocha) DSTE/Sig.H.Q Northern Railway, New Delhi.
2660/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

J&K POLICE DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F), email- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE
SP Hqrs., Jammu vide communication No. SPHQJ/RDR/2022/7218-19 dated 28.09.2022 has intimated that one Joginder Singh S/O Sewa Singh R/O Bhalsir, Tehsil R.S. Pura was missing since 28.02.2018. Accordingly, his missing report was entered at P/S Arnia vide DDR No. 11 dated 22.02.2019. Despite thorough search his whereabouts are still unknown.
As such photograph of above named missing is being published for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.
Description Roll :-
Name : Joginder Singh
S/O : Sewa Singh
Permanent Address : Bhalsir, Tehsil R.S. Pura, District Jammu
Age : 71 years
Height : 5' 9"
Build : Wheatish
Face : Normal
Complexion : Long
Eyes : Brown
Dress : Pent Shirt
Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP Hqrs., Jammu : 0191-2439919
5. SDPOR S. Pura : 01923-250240
6. Landline of P/S Arnia : 01923-272236
No. : DIP/J-9729/22 Sd/- For Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu
Dated: 07/10/22



**M.P. HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

SYSTEM TENDER No. 2022 MPHID 225512_1
Madhya Pradesh Housing & Infrastructure Development Board (MPHIDB) hereby invites online proposals through e-tendering mode from reputed consultants for "Selection of Consultant for Supervision and Quality Control (SQC) for Re-densification work at Chambal Colony Bhind under redensification policy of GoMP" Selection process would be as per RFP terms and conditions . Online bids are invited from interested bidders asper following details :

Name of work	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
Selection of Consultant for Supervision and Quality Control (SQC) for Re-densification work at Chambal Colony Bhind under redensification policy of GoMP. (Estimate cost of Government Facilities Rs. 51.14 Crore)	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 1,00,000/-

1. The bid document can be purchased online only at <https://mptenders.gov.in> as per schedule 10.10.2022 10:30 A.M. to 04.11.2022 at 05:30 Hrs. 2. Interested bidders can view the detailed NIT on website <https://mptenders.gov.in> 3. Amendments to NIT if any would be published on website only, and not in newspapers. 4. MPHIDB reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason.
Email : eednbmra@mp.gov.in
M.P. Madhyam/106727/2022
f/mpbidb **mpbidb**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Dn. Morena, Mob. : 8770327441

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

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

Afghan heroin worth ₹1,200 cr seized; 6 held

PTI ■ KOCHI

An Iranian fishing vessel with around 200 kg of heroin worth over Rs 1,200 crore has been seized in a joint operation by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Indian Navy, the NCB said on Friday.

Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (operations) of the NCB, who met reporters here, said the agency has arrested six Iran nationals and the boat, along with the heroin, was brought to Mattancherry wharf here.

"The NCB has now seized the vessel and 200 kg of heroin. The six Iranian crew members have also been arrested under relevant sections of the NDPS Act, 1985," Singh said, adding that interrogation was on. He said the drug was found in 200 packets each of which has markings and packing specialties unique to Afghanistan-

and Pakistan-based drug cartels.

"While some of the drug packets had 'Scorpion' seal markings, the others had 'dragon' seal markings. The drug was also packed in a waterproof seven-layered packing. Preliminary investigation revealed that the seized drug was sourced from Afghanistan and was transported to Pakistan. This consignment was then loaded into the now-seized vessel off Pakistan coast in a mid-sea exchange," NCB said. The agency said the vessel then set sail to Indian waters for further delivery of the consignment to a Sri Lankan vessel. It said efforts were made to identify and intercept this Sri Lankan vessel but it couldn't be traced.

Singh said the accused tried to escape by jumping into the sea and also tried to dump the consignment into the waters.

‘Sapno ki Udan’ takes hopes soaring high



PNS ■ RANCHI

Keeping darkness behind, anticipating the glory ahead, following the ray of hope kept motivating students and administrators both in "Sapno ki Udan". "Sapno ki Udan", the initiative started by Khunti district administration in Jharkhand to help Govt school girl students crack national level competitive exams like Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), has finally born fruits with two girls clearing NEET and three qualifying JEE Mains this year.

Shashi Ranjan, Deputy Commissioner, Khunti, who conceived this idea, said that the main objective of this programme was to provide support and guidance to the Government school students so that they too can crack exams like JEE and NEET. Their latent capability needs to be chiselled and we should instil in them confidence and positivism, he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that **Mrs. Sushila** who is purchasing the Residential Property/House No.960, area adjoining 54 Sq. Yds. (18.6x26), situated at Maaja Shi, within the limit of Lal Dora, Tehsil Ballabgarh, District Faridabad (Haryana); from **Mrs. Amreen Wiro**, Mr. Arif Khan who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Transfer Deed dated 12.05.2022, registered with the office of Sub-Registrar, Ballabgarh, vide Document No.963 and same to be finance & mortgage by **Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited**. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim / right / title / interest / creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucern Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South East, II, New Delhi-49
Contact# 011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE
VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED
A Public Ltd. Company Incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956
Date of Incorporation: 04.02.2005
CIN: U65922MH2005PLC272501
Registered & Corporate Office:
Unit Nos. 203 & 204, 2nd Floor, A Wing, Navbharat Estates, Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai - 400015
Tel No: 022-24190911 / Email: cs@vastuhfc.com
Website: <https://www.vastuhfc.com>

SHIFTING OF BRANCH OFFICE
The Branch office of Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Limited ("Company") at Ghaziabad shall be shifted to the new premises as mentioned below from 8th November, 2022.

Old Address: 301& 304, 3 rd Floor Pankaj Tower, Plot No. 10 L.S.C. Savitri Vihar, Delhi- 110092
New Address: 211 S/F Plot No. - 7 District Centre Roots Tower Laxmi Nagar, Delhi - 110092

The Old Premises will remain operational till 7th November, 2022. From 8th November, 2022 onwards, all transactions / customer service requests of the Company should be sent to the new address only.

In case of any queries, you may contact us at: **customercare@vastuhfc.com**

Address: Unit Nos. 203 & 204, 2nd Floor, A wing, Navbharat Estates, Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai- 400015

Date : 08/10/2022
Place : New Delhi

Signature

MCD identifies 250 mosquito breeding hotspots in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has identified 250 hotspots breeding mosquitoes at a large scale across the national Capital.

The Capital has recorded 638 cases of Dengue in the past week, according to the reports released by the MCD.

MCD officials said that the corporation has identified around 250 hotspots where large scale breeding of mosquitos have been found in the city.

"Some of the areas where the mosquito breeding has been found are Gali No. 3, Ambedkar Nagar, A4 Kothi near MCD Primary School, Gali No. 1 and 2, Sri Nagar, C Block, Omkar Nagar, Macchli Market, Chander Shekhar Azad Colony, Wazirpur Industrial Area, 1, B and D Block, Jailer Wala Bagh Huts, Ashok Vihar, Phase-II, K and L Block, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, B

Block, Derawal Nagar, MIG, LIG, HIG Motia Khan, Arya Nagar Paharganj," he informed.

"F-Block Sudershan Park, B- Block Mansarover Garden, 16 Block East Punjabi Bagh, Old Ranjeet Nagar, A-Block Pandav Nagar, C Block, Aman Vihar, B and E Block, mangol puri, K Block, Prem nagar-II," officials said.

While informing about the action taken by the corporation to destroy the mosquito breeding in the area, he said, "In Garhi area, Unauthorized construction and water storage practices were found the sources of the breeding, the civic body has taken various steps including temporary malaria clinics, management with Mohalla leaders, Extensive fogging etc to fight the disease.

"In Jal Board Pump house area, haudis were present where the corporation is constantly doing vector surveillance and awareness measures by staffs," he said.

Raids in terror related case in South Kashmir

PNS ■ JAMMU

In order to completely demolish the ecosystem of existing terror networks across different parts of the Kashmir valley, the State Investigation agency (SIA) Thursday conducted multiple raids across South Kashmir in a terror related case. According to the spokesman of the SIA, the raids were conducted across Anantnag, Awantipora, Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian after obtaining search warrant from the court of Special Judge designated under NIA Act (TADA/POTA) Srinagar in connection with investigation of case FIR No. 16/2022 u/s 13, 18, 19, 38, 39, 40 UA(P) Act read with 120-B, 121 IPC registered in Police Station CIK (SIA) Kashmir. The SIA spokesman said, masterminds of terrorist outfits operating from Pakistan with active support of Pakistani Intelligence Agencies and in connivance with proscribed terrorist organisation(s) like JeM, LeT and its offshoot TRF have been activating their over ground workers (OGWs) in J&K for executing terror activities in J&K.

From Page 1

Human Right Watch has specifically charged China with mass detention, torture, cultural persecution of Uyghurs and Turkic Muslims. More than one million Uyghurs have been detained in a large network of what Beijing calls "re-education camps".

India's decision has invited strong criticism from the Opposition parties who have accused the Centre of lacking courage to take on China.

Senior Congress leader and Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari wondered why there was "so much diffidence on China".

"The Government of India will not agree to a Parliamentary debate on Chinese incursions. India will abstain at UNHRC on a resolution for debate on human rights in Xinjiang," he tweeted.

He alleged that the Ministry of External Affairs does not accord political clearance to Parliamentarians to visit Taiwan.

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Saket Gokhale

Officials take stock of Banihal-Nashri stretch

PNS ■ JAMMU

Taking note of the frequent jamming and inconvenience caused to commuters due to poor management of the traffic movement along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta along with Additional Chief Secretary Home and Director General of Police (DGP), Dilbag Singh, Thursday took first hand appraisal of the progress of four laning of Banihal-Nashri stretch in district Ramban besides reviewing status of traffic movement.

The chief secretary visited vulnerable spots, and proposed truck holding areas at Rampadi in Chambalwas area and directed the RO, NHAI to immediately clear the debris lying at various locations alongside National Highway on Banihal-Nashri stretch to facilitate smooth double lane vehicular traffic movement, besides developing truck holding areas.

The chief secretary issued directions for constituting a



committee to be headed by principal secretary, PW (R&B) department, and comprising of administrative secretary, transport department; divisional commissioner, Jammu; IG Traffic; deputy commissioner and SSP Ramban to submit a plan to regulate the traffic movement smoothly on NH-44 between Banihal-Nashri stretch. During a high level meeting at Chanderkote, the Chief Secretary directed the IGP Traffic to implement all the directions issued regarding the holding area management at all 4 proposed locations between Banihal- Ramban stretch to accommodate stranded vehicles in the event of closure of National Highway due to bad weather.

Opp cries foul as Govt defends ‘no vote’ on UN...

tweeted, "Giving them our land and abstaining on holding them to account. What exactly is it that makes (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi so afraid of China?"

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi wanted to know from the Prime Minister the reason for India's decision "to help China out in the UNHRC on the Uighur issue".

"Is he so scared of offending (Chinese President) Xi Jinping (Jinping), whom he met 18 times, that India can't speak for what is right," he tweeted.

"From red eye to closed eye," tweeted Priyanka Chaturvedi, Shiv Sena leader, in Hindi.

India on Thursday abstained from voting on a draft resolution in the UN Human Rights Council on holding a debate on the human rights situation in China's restive Xinjiang region.

Human rights groups have been sounding alarm over what is happening in the resource-rich north-western Chinese province for years

From Page 1

On Thursday, the Indian currency for the first time closed below the 82 level against the greenback. It plunged 55 paise to close at a record low of 82.17 against the US currency. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.19 per cent to 112.04. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures surged 0.82 per cent to USD 95.19 per barrel after oil cartel OPEC decided to cut production in view of weakening global demand.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 30.81 points or 0.05 per cent to end at 58,191.29, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 17.15 points or 0.1 per cent to 17,314.65.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 279.01 crore, as per exchange data.

Nobel Peace bestowed on rights activists from Russia, Ukraine...

From Page 1
"This prize is not addressing President Putin, not for his birthday or in any other sense, except that his government, as the government in Belarus, is representing an authoritarian government that is suppressing human rights activists," she said.

It was the second straight year that Putin's repressive government was implicitly rebuked with the prize. It was awarded last year to Dmitry Muratov, the editor of independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, and Philippine journalist Maria Ressa, for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression. Both have struggled in the past year.

This year the prize comes amid the largest war in Europe since World

War II, a conflict that has displaced millions from their homes, destroyed cities and killed a still undetermined large number.

"We are talking about two authoritarian regimes and one nation fighting a war and we would like to highlight the importance of civic society," Reiss-Andersen said.

Bialiatski was one of the leaders of the democracy movement in Belarus in the mid-1980s and has continued to campaign for human rights and civil liberties.

He founded the non-governmental organization Human Rights Center Viasna.

He was detained following protests in 2020 against the re-election of Belarus' President Alexander

Lukashenko, a close ally of Putin. He remains in jail without trial and faces up to 12 years in prison if convicted.

"Despite tremendous personal hardship, Mr. Bialiatski has not yielded one inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus," Reiss-Andersen said, adding that the Nobel panel was calling on Belarusian authorities to release him.

Exiled Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, visiting Paris, told The Associated Press she felt "honoured and delighted" that Bialiatski was among the laureates. "For sure, it will attract more attention to (the) humanitarian situation in our country," she said.

Tsikhanouskaya, whose husband is also imprisoned, said Bialiatski "is

suffering a lot in punishment cells" in Belarus.

Memorial was founded in the Soviet Union in 1987 to ensure the victims of communist repression would be remembered. It has continued to compile information on human rights abuses and track the fate of political prisoners in Russia.

The country's highest court ordered it shut down in December, the latest move in a relentless crackdown on rights activists, independent media and opposition supporters.

Tatyana Glushkova, a board member of the Memorial Human Rights Defense Center, said she and her colleagues were "very, very happy" to have the importance of their work recognized.

From Page 1

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 (amended from time to time) says that no person professing a religion other than Hinduism or Sikhism, or Buddhism can be deemed to be a member of a scheduled caste.

"No person who professes a religion different from the Hindu, the Sikh or the Buddhist religion shall be deemed to be a member of a scheduled caste," says the order. It has been amended many times only to include new SC members from the said three religions.

However, Muslim and Christian groups have often demanded similar status for Dalits who have converted to their religions.

In 2007, a panel headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ranganath Misra to recommended that the 1950

Order was discriminatory. The NDA Government at the Centre rejected the panel's report. In 2008, a study by the National Commission for Minorities recommended granting reservations among religions other than Hindu, Buddhist or Sikh. This report was also rejected by the Centre.

This year in August, the apex court gave the Centre three weeks to decide whether reservation benefits enjoyed by scheduled castes can be extended to Dalit members of Christianity and Islam.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, AS Oka and Vikram Nath said that the "day has come when we have to take a call on this."

The observation came during the hearing of a petition file by an NGO, Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), which had flagged the issue for consideration by the court in

2004. In the 18 years that have passed since, the Centre has not responded in the matter.

Appearing for CPIL, advocate Prashant Bhushan said that the issue revolves around the question of whether the 1950 Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order discriminated against Dalit Muslims and Christians.

The BJP has been opposed to their demand arguing that caste is not an essential part of Islam and Christianity.

The three-member Commission constituted by the Government also includes retired IAS officer Dr Ravinder Kumar Jain and member UGC Professor Sushma Yadav, according to a gazette notification issued by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on Thursday.

The panel will examine the matter of giving scheduled caste status to new persons,

Human Rights Commission of India.

In the notification, the Ministry said the issue is a "seminal and historically complex sociological and Constitutional question", and a definite matter of public importance.

"And whereas, given its importance, sensitivity and potential impact, any change in definition in this regard should be on the basis of a detailed and definitive study and extensive consultation with all stakeholders and no Commission under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (60 of 1952) has so far inquired into the matter," the notification said.

The headquarters of the commission will be in New Delhi and it will submit its report within two years from the date of taking over of the charge by the chairperson, the notification said.

GAUTAM LANDS IN CONVERSION CONTROVERSY

The Minister himself Tweeted pictures of the ceremony where 10,000 people pledged to join Buddhism denouncing Hinduism

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A political row erupted on Friday after a video clip of AAP Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam at a religious conversion event went viral in which hundreds can be heard taking an oath denouncing Hindu deities.

The event took place at Karol Bagh on the occasion of Dussehra, when Ashok Vijayadashmi is also celebrated in the national Capital. Gautam himself Tweeted pictures of the event, saying "more than 10,000 people pledged to join Buddhism and work for making India free from casteism and untouchability."

Sources in the AAP said the Chief Minister was "extremely displeased" with Gautam.

Gautam, who is the founder of Mission Jai Bhim, took to Twitter, penned, "Let's call the mission Jai Bhim towards Buddha. Today, under the aegis of 'Mission Jai Bhim', on Ashoka Vijayadashmi, more than 10,000 intellectuals took a pledge to make a caste-free and untouchable India by returning home to Tathagata Gautam Buddha's Dhamma at Dr. Ambedkar Bhawan Rani Jhansi Road. Namoh Buddha, Jai Bhim!" During the event, Gautam was seen repeating the controversial vows and delivering a speech wherein he urged Hindus to renounce

their faith and tread the path of Dr Ambedkar. "Who benefited from this caste system and who suffered the most? BR Ambedkar had found the medicine to this disease and we are now spreading it," he was heard as saying.

Gautam, who is Social Welfare and Women & Child Development Minister in the Delhi Government, said he has faith in Buddhism and that the Constitution gives the freedom to follow any religion. "The BJP is afraid of AAP. They can only lodge fake cases against us," he said.

As per the video clips, during the event, a saffron-clad man administered an oath to the crowd, which closely resembled the controversial 22 vows of BR Ambedkar.

The man urged the Hindus to disassociate themselves from their original faith and desist from worship of deities. "I shall have no faith in Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara, nor shall I worship them. I shall have no faith in Rama and Krishna who are believed to be the incarnation of God nor



shall I worship them," he was heard as saying. "I do not and shall not believe that Lord Buddha was the incarnation of Vishnu. I believe this to be sheer madness and false propaganda. I shall not perform 'Shraddha' nor shall I give 'pind-dan,'" he further added. The man, dressed in saffron, continued, "I shall not allow any ceremonies to be performed by Brahmins. I renounce Hinduism which is harmful to humanity and impedes the advancement and development of humanity because it is based on inequality, and adopt Buddhism as my religion."

I respect all gods, goddesses: Gautam

NEW DELHI: Reacting to the allegations of casting slur on Hinduism, AAP Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam claimed the BJP is spreading rumours about him.

"I am a very religious person. I personally respect all the gods and goddesses and can never even dream of insulting the deities by my actions or words. I did not say any word towards anyone's faith, I

respect everyone's faith. In my speech, I spoke on education, health, employment, inflation and social equality. But then BJP people are spreading false rumors about me.

"I am deeply hurt by this act of BJP people and I apologize with folded hands to all those people who have been hurt in any way due to this propaganda of BJP," Gautam said. **SR**

BJP, VHP ask Kejriwal to sack Gautam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the conversion controversy raged on, Delhi BJP and the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Friday lambasted the Kejriwal Government, and termed the AAP as an "anti Hindu Party."

Questioning the presence of the Delhi Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam at the event, BJP leaders asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to sack Gautam within 24 hours.

The VHP also slammed Gautam and demanded his sacking. The RSS-affiliate also urged the Delhi Police and Lieutenant-Governor V K Saxena to take "strictest action" against Gautam, alleging that administering of oaths to people at the event attended by the Minister hurt the sentiments of Hindus.

"We do not have any problem with people embracing Buddhism at the event. Hinduism and Buddhism are not separate. But the way our gods and goddesses were openly scorned at the event is not acceptable," VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said. Addressing the media, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia accused the AAP of hurting the sentiments of Hindus and alleged



that "Gautam's comments highlight the hate the party has for the community." Bhatia claimed the comments were made due to "vote bank" politics in light of the coming elections. "How low you will stoop for votes, Kejriwal," he asked.

Calling it an insult to Hinduism and Buddhism, Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said, "This is an insult to Hinduism and Buddhism. AAP Ministers are attempting to incite riots. The Minister should immediately be removed from the party. We are submitting a complaint against him."

In charge of the BJP IT cell, Amit Malviya also took a jibe at Gautam and Tweeted, "I will not consider the deities of Hinduism as Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh, Shri Ram, Shri Krishna as God, nor will I worship them. Arvind Kejriwal's

Minister Rajendra Pal executing the 'Breaking India' project. Make no mistake, Kejriwal is the prime sponsor of this Hindu hate propaganda..."Hitting out at Gautam, West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma Tweeted, "Every day, news of conversions comes from AAP-ruled Punjab. Similarly, Kejriwal's Minister Rajendra Pal is now conducting a mass conversion of people in Delhi." The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said, "It's shameful as the AAP Minister was involved in conversion activity in Delhi and now their activities have come out in open and he has no right to remain a Minister."

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta has termed act as "Hindu virodhi" and further asked their leaders not to pretend by going to Hindu temples.

ED raids 35 locations in Excise Policy case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday launched fresh raids in connection with its money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy.

The searches were carried out at 35 locations in Delhi, Punjab and Hyderabad, officials said. Sources said some liquor distributors, companies and linked entities are being searched after the agency obtained some fresh leads in the case during questioning of various accused.

The ED has conducted more than 103 searches in this case till now and had also arrested Sameer Mahandru, businessman and Managing Director of liquor manufacturing company Indospirit, last month.

The money laundering case follows a CBI FIR that had named Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as prime accused along with many others. The scheme came under the scanner after Delhi L-G VK Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the alleged



irregularities in the implementation of Delhi's Excise Policy 2021-22 and suspended 11 excise officials.

The ED has questioned AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak and Minister Satyendar Jain, while the CBI has also questioned a number of suspects and arrested businessman Vijay Nair. The CBI enquiry was recommended on the findings of the Delhi Chief Secretary's report filed in July showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009, and Delhi Excise Rules-2010.

The Chief Secretary's report had shown prima facie violations, including "deliberate and gross procedural lapses", to provide post-tender

Nothing found in 500 raids in 3 months, says Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said hundreds of raids by central agencies to find evidence against his deputy Manish Sisodia have yielded nothing as he didn't do anything.

In a tweet, Kejriwal said that over 500 raids have been carried out in three months, "yet nothing has been found". "500 raids... more than 300 officials have been working 24*7 for three months.

"They all are trying to find proof against one Manish Sisodia," he tweeted in Hindi, referring to his deputy. "Nothing has been found, because there is no proof... because nothing was done," he



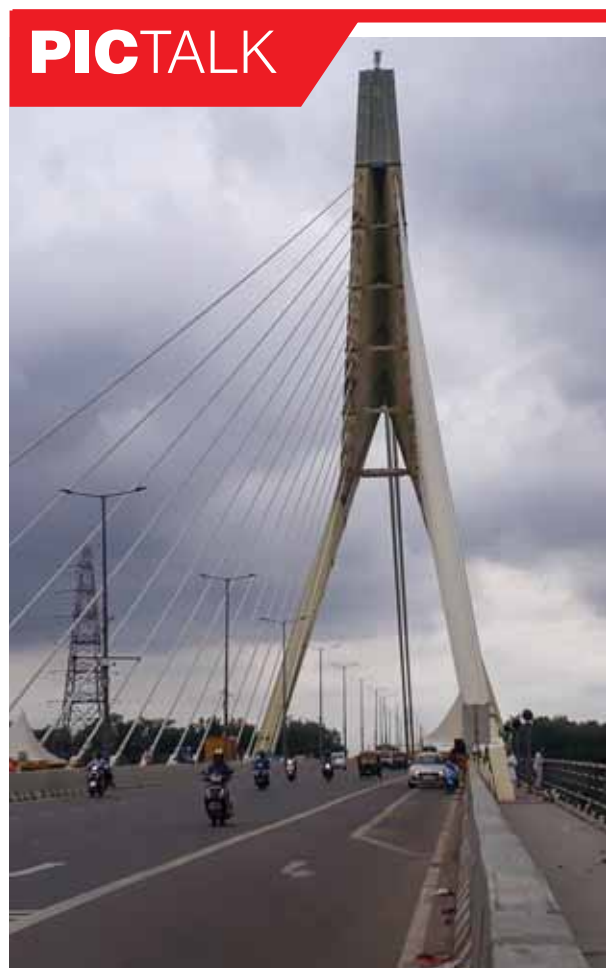
stressed. "Time of hundreds of sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is being wasted for dirty politics", he said.

"Due to dirty politics, such officers are losing their precious time. How will the country progress like this?" Kejriwal further tweeted in an apparent

attack on the BJP. He has made similar comments in the past as the probe deepened in the liquor policy case after a CBI investigation was recommended by Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena in July. Kejriwal's tweet comes after the ED raided about 35 locations in Delhi, Punjab and Hyderabad earlier in the day in connection with its money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy.

The ED and CBI investigation has also led to a massive BJP-AAP stand-off as the rival party accuses the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of corruption. Kejriwal, Sisodia and other AAP leaders, however, have dismissed these allegations.

lated on the basis of an expert committee report, was implemented on November 17 last year and retail licences were issued under it to private bidders for 849 vends across the city, divided into 32 zones.



Vehicles ply on the Signature Bridge during pleasant weather in New Delhi on Friday **PTI Photo**

Rai asks DPCC to issue show-cause notice to Parsvnath Dev for flouting pollution guidelines



On an anti-dust campaign, Environment Minister Gopal Rai visits a construction site at Khyber Pass in New Delhi on Friday **Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister, Gopal Rai, on Friday said that the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has been asked to issue a show-cause notice to real estate company Parsvnath Developers Limited for "flouting pollution-related guidelines" at a construction site in Khyber Pass near Civil Lines.

Rai, who was on a visit to the construction site as a part of the government's anti-dust campaign, said that the firm was found in violation of several guidelines, and was found

to have kept only one anti-smog gun instead of four, that too outside the construction site. Rai said that the construction work will remain halted until the real estate company abides by all the 14-point guidelines.

"Installation of wind breaking walls of appropriate height around the periphery of the construction site and tarpaulin or green net on scaffolding around the area under construction and the building is a must.

This construction site did not abide by that guideline too," he said. A month-long anti-

dust campaign to check compliance of pollution norms at construction sites was launched in Delhi on Thursday and 586 teams have been formed for their enforcement. The Delhi government has also issued a 14-point guideline that every construction company or agency will have to follow at its sites in the National Capital Region (NCR).

"At least 8 out of 14 norms were violated by the Parsvnath Developers real estate company at the Khyber Pass construction area. Only one anti-smog gun has been stationed here, that too outside the area

Don't send old, polluting buses, Kejriwal Govt tells Haryana, UP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has tasked the neighbouring States, including Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, not to deploy old buses in the national Capital and also those without a valid pollution certificate.

According to the sources, Transport Department officials of the city Government held a video-conference with their counterparts from other States on Thursday.

"We requested them not to send old buses to Delhi. We told them that they should not send buses older than eight years to the city to help us contain the pollution levels. Another request was also made not to send those buses that do not have valid pollution under control certificates (PUCCs)," said a source privy to the development. Air pollution usually peaks in Delhi in the months of October and

November. The Delhi government is carrying out a drive to ensure that buses without a valid PUC do not enter the national capital. "We have the air pollution data and are carrying out targeted interventions on the basis of that. It is a well-known fact that Anand Vihar is one of the most polluted places in Delhi.

"It has an industrial area as well as an ISBT. Our enforcement teams have been stationed at the ISBT from this week to check the PUC of the buses coming from other states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana," an official said. He said no buses have so far been found plying without a valid PUC during the drive carried out at Anand Vihar.

Vehicles are periodically tested for their emission standards for various pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO) and carbon dioxide (CO2), after which they are given the PUC certificate.

of the construction site. I have asked the DPCC to issue them a show-cause notice," the Delhi Minister said.

According to the guidelines, construction sites larger than 5,000 sqm will have to deploy one anti-smog gun,

those larger than 10,000 sqm should have two such guns, and sites larger than 15,000 sqm will have to keep three anti-smog guns. Sites larger than 20,000 sqm will have to engage four anti-smog guns to combat dust pollution.

PWD issues norms after finding instances of fast deterioration in building structures

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Public Works Department (PWD) in Delhi has issued a set of guidelines to be followed during construction to ensure quality and durability of buildings. It has also instructed officials to ensure that there was no use of substandard material in construction activity.

The move comes after the department found instances of deterioration in building structures in a very short period as compared to their designed life, it said in a circular.

Works department officials said the department had issued a circular asking executive engineers, assistant engineers, junior engineers and contractors to thoroughly inspect each building and other development works and prepare a list of building-wise deficiencies.

They have been asked to attend to these deficiencies in a systematic manner to ensure quality. "It is very important to ensure desired quality of the structures so as to live its designed life as well as to reduce the future maintenance

expenditure," the works department said in the circular issued on Thursday.

The guidelines stated that it should be ensured that the structural design was based only on the site's soil investigation report and foundations rested on firm ground and not filled-up soil.

Along with the soil, the quality of water to be used in construction should be tested before start of work, it said.

For repair of minor honeycombing in concrete, the guidelines dissuaded dismantling and suggested that it be repaired after removing the loose portion, followed by injection grouting.

The circular stated that the honeycombed area should not be plastered before proper treatment. Honeycombs are hollow spaces or cavities in concrete mass that may be dangerous for any building or flyover as it reduces structural strength, the officials said. The circular also suggests locating floor traps for drainage in toilets in a corner to achieve proper sloping.

Flooring levels of wet areas should be lower than the general floor, it said.

BJP MLA's letter on misuse of 'dhalaos' by Gambhir stirs up controversy

NEW DELHI: BJP MLA Anil Bajpai has stirred a controversy after his letter to the Lieutenant-Governor seeking a CBI probe into "illegal" allotment of garbage collection centres by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has surfaced on social media.

Bajpai, the Gandhi Nagar MLA, is at loggerheads with his own party leader and East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir, whose foundation has been using the MCD's garbage collection centres, called 'dhalaos', as free-meal kitchens in his constituency.

A library named Shahid Bhagat Singh Jan Library, set up in an abandoned 'dhalaos' in Priya Vihar, also in Gambhir's constituency, is slated to be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah later this month, an aide of the MP said. "This is to inform you that in some Assembly constituencies of East Delhi, the space allotted for 'dhalaos' has been converted into kitchen, library and other things, and ownership has been given to an individual having his NGOs and also to private organisations," Bajpai wrote in his letter.

The MLA, however, said he had written letter on July 25 and that he does not know how letter has grabbed attention now.

Gambia effect: Govt blacklists pharma

Maiden Pharma had earlier come under the scanner for substandard tablets for diabetics in Bihar, J&K and Guj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

It is not the first time that the products of Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd — whose cough syrups allegedly caused the death of 66 Gambian children — have come under the scanner. Its tablets for diabetics have earlier been declared “substandard” by states like Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Gujarat. In 2015, authorities in Gujarat reported that samples of Maiden-manufactured Macipro, a drug containing the popular antibiotic ciprofloxacin, had failed the dissolution test. In 2021 and early 2022, Kerala authorities found Maiden's products to be of substandard quality by at least five times. Two sets of tablets of metformin — used to treat type-2 diabetes — from a hospital in

Palakkad in March 2022 and from a primary health centre in Ernakulam in September 2022 had failed the dissolution test, according to a news agency report. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has sent the samples of the same batch of the four Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd-manufactured cough syrups, on which the WHO issued alert, for testing. The Union Health Ministry has said that the further course of action in the matter will depend on the CDSCO probe outcome. “The samples (controlled samples of the same batch manufactured by M/s. Maiden Pharmaceuticals Ltd for all the four drugs in question) have been taken and sent for testing to Regional Drug Testing Lab, Chandigarh, by the CDSCO, the results of which will guide further course of action as well as bring clarity on the inputs received, to be received from WHO,” said the Ministry in a statement here. The CDSCO in its preliminary report has said that it has been found that Maiden Pharmaceuticals is a manufacturer licensed by the State

Drug Controller for products Promethazine Oral Solution BP, Kofexnaln Baby Cough Syrup, MaKoff Baby Cough Syrup, and MaGrip n Cold Syrup under reference, and holds manufacturing permission for these products for export only. The company has manufactured and exported these products only to The Gambia. As per the tentative results received by WHO, out of the 23 samples of the products under reference which were tested, 4 samples have been found to contain Diethylene Glycol/ Ethylene Glycol. It has also been informed by the WHO that the certificate of analysis will be made available to the WHO in near future and it will share it with the Indian regulator. The exact one to one causal relation of death has not yet been provided by the WHO to the CDSCO, the ministry added. Maiden Pharmaceuticals exports its products to countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Medical officers in The Gambia first raised the alarm in July after dozens of children were diagnosed with serious kidney problems.

India protest against US envoy’s POK visit



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reacting belatedly, India on Friday objected to US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome's recent visit to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) where he repeatedly referred to the region as “Azad Jammu and Kashmir”. New Delhi holds that the region was forcibly occupied by Pakistan in 1947. “Our objections to the visit and meetings in PoK by the US envoy have been conveyed to the US side,” Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. Blome's was the second high-profile visit by a US diplomat to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Earlier this year, US Congresswomen Ilhan Omar visited PoK evoking a strong protest from India. In a strongly worded statement, India had then said, “She visited a part of Jammu

Death of Indian prisoners in Pakistan alarming: MEA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a tragic revelation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said six Indian prisoners, including five fishermen, have died in the Pakistani custody in the last nine months and described the incidents as “alarming”. “There have been an increasing number of deaths of fishermen in recent times. Six Indian prisoners out of which five of them were fishermen have died in Pakistani custody. They completed their sentences but were illegally detained by Pakistan,” MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing. “These incidents are alarming. The matter has been raised by our high commission in Islamabad. Pakistan is duty bound to maintain the safety and secu-

rity of Indian prisoners,” Bagchi added. The MEA's statement comes on a day Pakistani authorities claimed to have saved the lives of six Indian fishermen from drowning close to the international maritime boundary line between the two neighbouring countries. The incident occurred on Thursday when a ship of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) was patrolling in the Eastern maritime region and found six Indian fishermen in the water. “A rescue operation was launched immediately and all crew members of the Indian fishing boat were safely recovered,” a statement from the PMSA said. Later, the rescued fishermen were handed over to an Indian Coast Guard ship operating in the area, the statement said.

India rescues 130 IT professionals from job racket in South East Asia

AGENCIES: In a massive job racket in which people are being lured with attractive IT jobs in Thailand but kept in harsh conditions in other countries, India has managed to rescue around 50 people from Myanmar and 80 from Cambodia while advising its citizens to be more circumspect because “if a job offer is too good to be true, it is too good to be true.” “We are trying to get others back too. We do not have the exact number of people captive in Myanmar. We are in touch with many Indians there,” said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi at a media briefing on Friday. While 50 from Myanmar have been brought back, many more are in police custody on charges of entering country illegally. Legal formalities have been initiated to get them repatriated at earliest. Around 80 people have been

rescued from Cambodia but it is an evolving number, said Bagchi. “We have issued advisories in this regard. I would like to reiterate to everyone to be extremely careful about what kind of jobs you accept because once you are stuck there it gets very difficult to bring you back safely. This is a word of caution,” he observed. In order to get a fix on the exact number of youngsters duped similarly, the MEA has also shared details of agents allegedly involved in this job racket with relevant authorities in various states in India for appropriate action. MEA had issued an advisory a fortnight back cautioning IT skilled youth about “instances of fake job rackets offering lucrative jobs to entice Indian youths for the posts of ‘Digital Sales and Marketing Executives’ in Thailand by dubious IT firms.”

EC asks Uddhav to reply to Shinde's symbol claim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday asked the Shiv Sena faction led by Uddhav Thackeray to respond by Saturday on Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde group's claim on the party's 'bow and arrow' election symbol. The Commission's directive came on Friday after the Shinde faction submitted a memorandum seeking it be allocated the symbol as the Andheri East assembly bypoll is approaching. The two factions have claimed that they represent the real Shiv Sena and were asked by the EC to submit any documents to support their claims by Friday. In a letter to Thackeray, the Commission directed it to furnish comments along with requisite documents latest by 2 pm



on October 8. "In case no reply is received, the Commission will take appropriate action in the matter accordingly," the Commission said. The Commission told Thackeray the Shinde faction had staked claim to the 'bow and arrow' on October 4. The Andheri East bypoll was notified on Friday. Shiv Sena leader Anil Desai, who belongs to the Thackeray faction, said the party would respond to the Commission within the stipulated time.

Desai met Commission officials earlier on Friday to submit documents in connection with a separate matter where the Shinde faction had claimed to be the "real Shiv Sena", citing support of majority members of the Lok Sabha and the state assembly. The fresh claim to the 'bow and arrow' election symbol by the Shinde faction is seen as an attempt to deny its use by the Thackeray group which has decided to field Rutuja Latke, the widow of MLA Ramesh

Latke, for the November 3 bypoll. The BJP, an ally of the 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. The 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, forcing the resignation of Thackeray from the post of Maharashtra Chief Minister. Twelve of the 18 Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena also came out in support of Shinde, who later claimed to be the leader of original Shiv Sena.

ED attaches ₹1.5 crore Amnesty assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has provisionally attached assets worth Rs 1.54 crore in bank accounts of Indians for Amnesty International Trust (IAIT) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED had initiated a money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI against Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd. (AIPL) and others under Indian Penal Code Section related to criminal conspiracy and provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). In this case, Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) had been granted permission under the FCRA during 2011-12 for receiving foreign contributions from



Amnesty International UK. However, the same was cancelled and permission/registration has been denied. AIPL and IAIT were formed in 2013-14 and 2012-13 respectively to escape the FCRA route and carried out NGO activities in the guise of service export and FDI, the ED said in a statement. The ED probe revealed that upon cancellation of FCRA Licence of Amnesty

International India Foundation Trust, a new method was adopted by Amnesty entities to receive money from abroad and Amnesty International, UK sent Rs 51.72 crore to AIPL in the guise of Export of Services and Foreign Direct Investment. However, there was no documentary proof for the alleged export such as invoices and copies of the agreement submitted during the investi-

gation. It is prima facie found that Amnesty International (UK) invested in AIPL in the form of “Compulsory Convertible Debentures”. Subsequently, another Indian entity, IAIT established an overdraft facility for Rs 14.25 crore keeping Rs 10.00 crore FD of Amnesty as collateral. The overdraft facility was used by IAIT for Amnesty India's NGO activities including salary, administrative and operational expenses. “The FDI received by AIPL is being used by the Indians for Amnesty International Trust, Bengaluru to carry out its NGO activities. It is seen that there is a layering of remittances received by AIPL, a company, into IAIT, a charitable trust,” the agency said. With the present attachment, total seizures in the case stands at Rs 21.08 crore.

ED files chargesheet against IAS officer in graft case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a Prosecution Complaint (chargesheet in police parlance) against Gujarat cadre IAS officer Kankipati Rajesh Md. Rafiq Memon before the Special PMLA Court, Ahmedabad on money laundering charges linked to a corruption case. The court has taken cognizance of the Prosecution Complaint, the ED said. The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI's Economic Offences-III wing, New Delhi against Kankipati Rajesh and others under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Information Technology Act and Prevention of Corruption Act. The ED probe revealed that K Rajesh used to demand and accept illegal gratifications from

the general public in lieu of discharging his official duties. In this way, he generated proceeds of crime and further utilized part of proceeds of crime in acquisition of immovable properties, the ED said in a statement. During the course of investigation, K Rajesh was arrested by ED on August 6 under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Through an order of the Special PMLA Court, Kankipati Rajesh was in remand of ED till August 12. Presently, he is undergoing judicial custody. On October 3, the ED had also attached assets worth Rs 1.55 crore in form of two immovable properties situated at Surat, bank balance and fixed deposits of accused under provisions of PMLA. PNS

Green Min sets up 9-member panel to monitor KNP cheetahs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a nine-member task force for monitoring Cheetah introduction in Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh and other suitable designated areas. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) would facilitate the working of the Cheetah Task Force and render all necessary help, according to a statement from the Ministry. The Task Force shall be in force for a period of two years. This task force may appoint a subcommittee to regularly visit the Cheetah introduction area as and when decided by them. The members of the Task Force include Principal Secretaries (Forests and Tourism), Madhya



Pradesh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, Alok Kumar, Retd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife

Warden, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Amit Mallick, Inspector General, NTCA, Dr. Vishnu Priya, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Abhilash Khandekar, Member MP SBWL, Bhopal and Subhoranjan Sen, APCCF-Wildlife - Member Convener.

Centre asks CJI UU Lalit to recommend his successor

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A month to go for his retirement, the Government on Friday wrote to Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit to recommend his successor. Justice Lalit will retire as the CJI on November 8 after a brief tenure of 74 days. “As per the MoP on appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, today the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for sending his recommendations for appointment of his successor,” the Ministry of Law and Justice said in a tweet, which many believe is the first such instance. According to the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the CJI names the

senior-most judge as his or her successor. The MoP is a document which guides the appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and high court judges. Justice D Y Chandrachud is the senior-most judge after the CJI. Going by the established practice and convention, Justice Chandrachud would be the 50th CJI and take oath on November 9. He would have a tenure of two years and demit office on November 10, 2024. While Supreme Court judges retire after attaining the age of 65, high court judges retire at 62 years. Incidentally, Chief Justice Lalit's move to get four Supreme Court appointments cleared by circulating a written proposal has been opposed

by two members of the collegium. “Appointment to the highest constitutional office and as judges of the highest court should never be done through circulation,” the judges are said to have maintained. Once he names his successor, he cannot clear any more appointments, sources said.

IN SHORTS

SINGHVI NOMINATED TO HEAD PARL PANEL BY CONG
New Delhi: The Congress has nominated senior party leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi as the chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on commerce. This comes days after the Opposition party was stripped of the chairship of the parliamentary committee on Home Affairs and the panel on Information Technology. While Singhvi headed the panel on home affairs, Shashi Tharoor headed the panel on Information Technology.

DISPOSE ALL COMPLAINTS BY DEC 31: SC TO BCI
New Delhi: Observing the complaints made by litigants against lawyers need to be decided at the earliest to maintain the purity of the legal profession, the Supreme Court has directed the Bar Council of India (BCI) to dispose of all such complaints by December 31, 2022.

SEERS DEMAND 'SANATAN CENSOR BOARD'
New Delhi: Top body of Hindu seers Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti on Friday demanded the setting up of a 'Sanatan Censor Board', claiming that Hindu deities and religious leaders are not being projected appropriately in Bollywood movies.

IAS officers have opportunity to serve country during ‘Amrit Kaal’: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asked IAS officers to adopt out of the box thinking and a holistic approach in their work, while noting that the focus of governance has shifted outside Delhi to all regions of the country. Addressing officers of the 2020 batch in the concluding session of the Assistant Secretary Programme, 2022, Modi said that they have the opportunity to serve the country during the 'Amrit Kaal' and help realise the 'Panch Pran'. They have a key role in ensuring that the target of a developed India is achieved in the 'Amrit Kaal', he said. The PM has termed the period in the run up to the 100th anniversary of India's



Independence in 2047 as 'Amrit Kaal' and had spelt out 'Panch Pran' (five pledges) for the duration, including making India a developed country. In his address, Modi discussed the importance of innovation and how it has become a collective effort and part of work culture in the country,

according to a PMO statement. He noted that the number of startups in the country has witnessed a significant jump in the last few years, and that it has been made possible due to several ministries working as a team through a 'whole of government' approach. Asserting that the focus of the

governance has shifted outside Delhi, he gave examples of several important schemes being launched from places outside the national capital. He suggested that officers develop an understanding of the local culture of the area of work and strengthen their connection with local people at the ground level. The PM asked them to focus on "One District One Product" and explore the opportunities of exporting products of their district. He also asked the officers to prepare their action plan for the aspirational districts programme. Speaking about MGNREGA, Modi highlighted the requirement of implementing the scheme in a more effective manner. He also underlined about the significance of people's participation and said that this approach can play a key role in tackling malnutrition. Highlighting the success of the Jan Dhan Yojana, he talked about the importance of digital economy and exhorted the officers to try to connect people across villages with digital economy and UPI. He said the mindset of 'Rajpath' has now changed to the sentiments of 'Kartavya Path', a reference to the change in the name of a key avenue in the Central Vista. The statement said eight presentations were made by these assistant secretaries to the PM, including on the tool for improved monitoring of nutrition campaign, enabling multilingual voice based digital access through 'Bhashini' and corporate data management among others.

ple's participation and said that this approach can play a key role in tackling malnutrition. Highlighting the success of the Jan Dhan Yojana, he talked about the importance of digital economy and exhorted the officers to try to connect people across villages with digital economy and UPI. He said the mindset of 'Rajpath' has now changed to the sentiments of 'Kartavya Path', a reference to the change in the name of a key avenue in the Central Vista. The statement said eight presentations were made by these assistant secretaries to the PM, including on the tool for improved monitoring of nutrition campaign, enabling multilingual voice based digital access through 'Bhashini' and corporate data management among others.

Wife of Army veteran meets PM, gifts three books to him

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The wife of an Army veteran presented three books—two on the Gita and one on partition—written by her late husband to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Modi said he had a memorable interaction with Uma Suchdeva (90) and noted that her husband, Colonel HK Suchdeva (Retd), was a widely respected veteran. She was accompanied by her nephew and former Army chief General Ved Prakash Malik (retd). She is blessed with great vigour and a spirit of optimism, the prime minister said. “Today I had a memorable interaction with Smt. Uma Suchdeva Ji. She is 90 years old and is blessed with great vigour

and a spirit of optimism. Her husband, Colonel (Retd) HK Suchdeva was a widely respected veteran. Uma Ji is the aunt of General @Vedmalik1 Ji”, Modi tweeted. “Uma Ji gave me copies of 3 books penned by her late husband. Two of them are associated with the Gita and the third one titled 'Blood and Tears' is a moving account of Col (Retd) HK Suchdeva's experiences during the traumatic period of Partition and its impact on his life,” the prime minister said in his tweet. “We discussed India's decision to mark 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day as a tribute to those who suffered due to Partition, built their lives from scratch and contributed to national progress.

CBI chargesheets Lalu, Rabri, Misa in land-for-jobs scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday filed a chargesheet against former Railways Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, his wife Rabri Devi and 14 others in connection with an alleged land-for-jobs scam during his tenure in the Railways. Yadav's daughter Misa Bharti and former general manager Sowmya Raghvan of the Railways have also been named as accused in the charge sheet, officials said.

Kamal Deep Mainrai, the then CPO, Railways, substitutes Rajkumar Singh, Mithlesh Kumar, Ajay Kuma, Sanjay Kumar, Dharmendra Kumar, Vikas kumar and Abhishek Kumar besides private persons Ravindra Rai, Kiran Devi, Akhileshwar Singh and Ramashish Singh have also been named as accused in the chargesheet, officials said.

The agency had registered a Preliminary Enquiry on September 23, 2021 related to the alleged land-for-jobs scam



in the Railways which was converted into a Regular Case or an FIR on May 18. Candidates were allegedly appointed as substitutes in group D positions within three days of applying in "undue haste" by Railways officials and were later, regularised when the "individuals themselves or their family members transferred their land" to the accused persons, according to the agency.

The land transfers were made through sale deeds in the name of Rabri Devi and daughters Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav, it alleged.

The agency has alleged that land measuring about 1.05 lakh square feet in Patna was

acquired by Yadav's family members by making payments to the sellers in cash.

During searches in August, as many as 200 sale deeds were found and the agency suspects many candidates would have given their land to get jobs, sources said.

Investigation has led to identification of at least 12 such candidates who got jobs when Yadav was Railway Minister during the UPA-I.

The CBI investigation conducted so far also revealed that Bhola Yadav, then OSD of Lalu Prasad Yadav, was persuading the engagement of various substitute candidates in Group D with the concerned railway authorities. The probe has revealed that he was instrumental in finalization and execution of land deals relevant to the case, sources said.

According to the CBI probe, most of the applications submitted for engagement in Railways were not addressed to any specific zonal Railway but

they were marked GM Railway Government of India or the Railways Minister, they said.

Bhola Yadav, according to the probe, was collecting applications from various candidates for engagement as substitutes in Group D at Camp Office Of the then Minister Of Railway Residence Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Yadav at 10 Circular Road Patna.

During CBI remand of Bhola Yadav, certain critical documents have been recovered at his instance which is crucial for investigation.

Though residents of Patna, the named candidates were appointed as substitutes in different zones of Railways like Mumbai, Jabalpur, Kolkata, Jaipur and Hajipur among others during the period 2004-09, the sources said.

Such candidates allegedly got the jobs in lieu of transferring their land in the name of family members of Lalu Prasad Yadav and in the name of a private company AK Infosystem.

Gauri Lankesh's mother, sister join Rahul in Bharat Jodo Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was on Friday joined by the mother and sister of slain activist Gauri Lankesh during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka as he walked with them and said he stood with her and countless others who "represent the true spirit of India".

He said the Bharat Jodo Yatra is the voice of people like Lankesh and that can never be silenced.

"Gauri stood for Truth. Gauri stood for Courage. Gauri stood for Freedom. I stand for Gauri Lankesh and countless others like her, who represent the true spirit of India. Bharat Jodo Yatra is their voice. It can never be silenced," Rahul Gandhi wrote on Twitter while sharing the picture of him walking with Lankesh's family members holding her mother's hand.

With the party now ready to enter another politically sensitive state of Maharashtra

where the party was in a coalition government till two months ago, Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said the "real" Rahul Gandhi is emerging out of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which completed a month on Friday.

Ramesh described the foot march as the longest-ever undertaken by anyone and said it will help the Congress strengthen itself psychologically. He also described the Congress president's election as a "side show" and the yatra as the main show. "It's a transformation of the Congress party and it shows the real Rahul Gandhi coming out. I would not say it is the new Rahul Gandhi but the real Rahul Gandhi that is being seen," Ramesh said.

"The biggest achievement is psychological. It's all in the mind. I think what the yatra has done is to show to the Congress party that we can do it. We are on the roads, on the streets, we are fighting the BJP. We are taking the battle to their camp. We



are raising issues. We are not reacting. Now the BJP is reacting to us and that I think is the greatest contribution of the yatra. It's psychological rather than electoral," Ramesh said.

AICC sources said the Karnataka leg would take another month which will include a Diwali break similar to the Dussehra and preparations have begun when Rahul leads his padyatra to enter the next nigger State Maharashtra. Former Maharashtra Chief minister Ashok Chavan held a meeting of all Congress MLAs in the presence of H K Patil, the

₹120 cr drugs seized from Mumbai, Gujarat; ex-AI pilot among 6 held

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized 60 kg mephedrone drug worth more than Rs 120 crore from Mumbai and Gujarat, and arrested six members of an inter-state drug cartel, including a former Air India pilot, a senior official said here on Friday.

The action was taken based on specific inputs received by the Naval Intelligence unit at Jamnagar in Gujarat, said Sanjay Singh, Deputy Director General of the NCB in a press briefing here.

"We have cracked a drug network spread across various

states of the country and arrested six persons involved in the syndicate," he said.

Following the tip-off, the officials from the NCB headquarters in Delhi and its Mumbai zonal unit conducted a raid at Jamnagar on Monday and seized 10 kg mephedrone, he said.

The NCB team arrested one person from Jamnagar and three others from Mumbai in this connection, Singh added.

"On Thursday, the NCB team raided a godown located on S B Road in Fort area of south Mumbai, from where it seized 50 kg mephedrone and arrested two more accused, including the king-

pin in the case," he said, adding that more people are likely to be held.

The accused former pilot had started his career as a lower-rank employee and later passed a pilot course exam, he said.

"The pilot had left his job due to some medical reasons and since then he had been involved in the drug cartel," he said.

One of the accused held from Mumbai is a history-sheeter. He was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue intelligence (DRI) in 2001 in a 350 kg mandrax drug trafficking case and has been out on bail since 2008, the official added.

ED grills Shivakumar in National Herald money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday questioned Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar in the National Herald money laundering case.

Before stepping into the agency's office at A P J Abdul Kalam Road here, Shivakumar told reporters that he was a "law-abiding citizen" and hence he was depositing before the agency despite not knowing why he was summoned.

"I am a law-abiding citizen...I have respect for the law...I had requested for a time (deferring October 7

summons) but they said no you have to come. I have come today...Let me see, let me hear them, let me answer whatever I know...", the 60-year-old Congress leader said.

Shivakumar said he reached Delhi after leaving the Bharat Jodo Yatra traversing through Karnataka in the middle. Shivakumar had walked along with party leaders Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi on Thursday during the yatra.

He had appeared before the ED here last month during which he was questioned with regard to another money laundering case linked to alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

CBI chargesheet against TMC's Mondal in cow smuggling case

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday named senior Trinamool Congress leader and strongman Anubrata Mondal as a key conspirator in its 35-page chargesheet filed in the cow smuggling case. Mondal has been in jail since the August this year.

In the supplementary chargesheet the CBI has claimed that Mondal had accumulated a large of amount assets disproportionate to his known source of income. The Agency has referred to 53 deeds related to 57 -60 landed properties apart from cash and fixed deposit in a



bank worth Rs 18 crore.

The chargesheet also refers to the name of another accused Saigal Hussein a police constable and Mondal's personal security guard who had allegedly amassed wealth in the vicinity of Rs 100 crore.

In the document the probe agency also alleges that Mondal ran his cow smuggling racket through his henchmen like Hussein. During its investigation

the agency interrogated 95 people. The name of Mondal came to the fore after the CBI registered an FIR in 2020. The Agency had arrested cattle smuggler Enamul Haq and a BSF commandant following which Mondal's name surfaced sources said adding between the years 2015 and 2017 about 20,000 were seized by the security forces.

"If this huge number of cattle was seized by the BSF then you can easily imagine the number of cattle transported across the border. A cow purchased for around Rs 35-40 thousand in this part of the border fetches about Rs 1.5 lakh or more in Bangladesh.

India, UK want to ink FTA soon

ANI ■ NEW DELHI

India and UK are interested to conclude the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at the earliest as intensive discussions are underway keeping in view that it proves to be a win-win situation for both sides, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday.

Responding to a question on the status of the FTA, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi in a weekly presser said, "There is interest in both sides to conclude the FTA at the earliest. Diwali has been set as a goal. Intensive discussions are underway towards this and

they are continuing."

There are reports that UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman in an interview has talked about "reservations" over the proposed FTA and has linked it to illegal immigration.

Speaking about the reports, Bagchi said, "Migration mobility is an important element and there's understanding about it. Whenever there is an Indian citizen abroad we strongly encourage legal migration.

"We will expect the UK side to show demonstrable action on it"

Earlier, UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly had said that UK is "working

intensely" with India to achieve FTAs soon.

"We have signed Free Trade Agreements with Australia and New Zealand - and we are working intensely to agree one with India soon", the foreign secretary Cleverly said.

In a keynote speech at the 9th Annual Milken Asia Summit, the UK foreign secretary noted, "We were the first European country to secure a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with India. And we intend to be the first European country to accede to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership."

Girl abducted, raped in UP

Family, says cops initially refused to register the case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Another 19-year-old girl was allegedly abducted, held hostage and gang-raped in Mahoba. She was later found lying in an unconscious state by the family members who shifted her to hospital and informed the police about the incident.

Later the local police registered a case in this regard and

launched a hunt for the rapists.

According to the family members of the victim, the girl went to purchase household articles from the local market on Thursday but did not return home till the late evening. Her brother, who went for her search, claimed that as he reached near the water tank built outside the village, a local villager, identified as Lalu Verma, started running after seeing him. This made him suspicious and after a while he saw his sister's slippers lying on the ground. When he went further he was shocked to see his sister lying in an unconscious state. The girl was taken to a

nearby hospital where after regaining her senses, she unfolded her trauma before the family members. She revealed that Lalu Verma and two others forcibly pulled her to the place, held her hostage and raped her turn by turn.

The victim's brother lodged a report with the local police station and demanded strict action against the accused. Surprisingly, the family alleged that the local police initially refused to register a case and told them that it would only bring embarrassment for the family so they better return home and forget the incident.

CORRIGENDUM

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

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. A/c No:- **LBDEL00003442545, LBDEL00005314217, LBDEL00003957823.** Name of the Borrower **VINOD KUMAR SHARMA, SUKRITI SHARMA,** were published as Demand Notice under section 13(2), dated **September 30, 2022** respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and Outstanding Amount was mentioned as **Rs.3723516/- Rs.605201.05/-** instead of **Rs.3723516/- Rs.605201.05/- Rs.600994.05/-** We therefore, request you to please read the same as **Rs.3723516/- Rs.605201.05/- Rs.600994.05/-**

Date : October 07, 2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place : Delhi/ NCR ICICI Bank Limited

CORRIGENDUM

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

Notices under SARFAESI Act for Loan Account No. **LBDEL00005680801 & LBDEL00005680802,** Name of the Borrower **SURENDRA RAO MALWAY, DURGA MALWAY** were published as Demand Notice under section 13(2), dated **September 30, 2022** respectively. We wish to mention that inadvertently and unintentionally a typographical error has occurred in the said notices and Outstanding Amount was mentioned as **Rs.3009950/- Rs.1332068/- Rs.600994.05/-** instead of **Rs.3009950/- , Rs.1332068/-** We therefore, request you to please read the same as **Rs.3009950/-, Rs.1332068/-**

Date : October 07, 2022 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place : Delhi/ NCR ICICI Bank Limited

Scavengers to take final bow as 'Bandicoots' do the job

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Manual Scavenging, a job that claims hundreds of lives across the country every year, is coming to an end and that too soon. The profession looked down by the society and categorized the workers into untouchables would soon be buried for ever and the present day manual scavengers are all set to take a new avatar as technology professionals thanks to Bandicoot, an innovation developed by a group of young engineers based in Thiruvananthapuram.

True to its name, the Bandicoot itself would go into manholes and clean the entire sewage clogged in the area while its "masters" manipulate and manoeuvre the system with robotic arms and instruments. "Bandicoot is a robot developed by a start-up in Thiruvananthapuram's Technopark and it would do away with manual scavenging once and for ever. Bandicoots, designed and manufactured by us are in use in cities like Indore, Surat, Vadodara etc," said Afsal Muttikkal, the young chief marketing officer of Genrobotics, the start-up firm and one of the founders of the company.

He said the robot is capable of cleaning ten manholes in day compared to three or four by human beings. "The Bandicoot



has an edge over the humans in all sectors of the process. They will tackle solid waste clogging in sewers effectively than any other machines or humans. You can take it from us, the days of manual scavenging are coming to an end and for ever," Afsal told The Pioneer.

The fact that Bandicoot walked away with the top honours in the Swachhata Start-Up Challenge underscores the observation by Afsal. What makes it distinct is its capability to warn the users of any hazardous emissions from below. "These machines are fitted with gas sensors to provide warning about any kind of hazardous emissions," he said.

When Afsal and his colleagues in the engineering college, M K Vimal Govind, K Rashid, Arun George, and N P Nikhil set out for the long journey of life, they decided to do something revolutionary and the age-old scavenging is coming to an end because of this silent revolution. "We are indebted to the Union Ministry

of Housing and Urban Affairs for the support given to us. It was at their initiative the Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and 14 other States chose Bandicoots and the result is there to see," said Afsal.

Bandicoot could be one of the reason behind Indore emerging as the cleanest city in the country by topping the survey Swachh Survekhan 2022 held by the Union Government. The second and third prize winners, Vadodara, Navi Mumbai and even Ulhas Nagar in Maharashtra too have deployed Bandicoots for scavenging jobs.

According to Afsal, more than 1700 sanitary workers have been shifted to higher levels of their jobs and the process was on to eliminate the manual work at the earliest.

Aziz Shaikh, the young municipal commissioner of Ulhas Nagar says his corporation made considerable savings through the deployment of Bandicoot as part of eliminating manual scavenging.

Gujarat police chief orders probe into Kheda flogging incident

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat police chief has ordered a probe into an incident where cops were caught on camera allegedly publicly flogging a few Muslim community members accused of hurling stones at garba dance participants in Kheda district, while a voluntary group has sent legal notices to the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) over the issue. DGP Ashish Bhatia ordered the probe after videos of the flogging incident surfaced on social media and the authorities took cognisance of the widely circulated clips, officials said on Friday. Kapadvanj Deputy Superintendent of Police V N Solanki has been asked to conduct the inquiry and submit a report.

"Late last night, I was given the responsibility of conducting the inquiry into the incident. I will submit my report as soon as possible," Solanki told PTI. However, he declined to provide details about the policemen allegedly involved in the flogging incident earlier this week. Seven persons, including a policeman, were injured after a mob comprising members of the Muslim community allegedly hurled stones at a garba dance event organised as part of Navratri celebrations at Undhela village of Kheda district on Monday night.

The attackers objected to the event being organised near a mosque.

The next day, videos surfaced purportedly showing police personnel publicly flogging three of the 13 accused arrested in the stone pelting case with a baton by holding them against an electric pole at an intersection in Undhela village. Of the 13 alleged attackers arrested for stone pelting, police had sought the remand of three. A court in Kheda on Wednesday sent them to two-day police remand, while 10 others were sent to jail under judicial custody.

According to the public prosecutor, two of the accused complained to the judge regarding the police action, following which the judge ordered their medical examination.

The viral video clips purportedly showed three men being brought out of a police van near the event venue on Tuesday before being taken towards an electric pole and held against it by a policeman, who pulled their hands. Another policeman can be seen hitting them below the waist with a baton. The images showed the alleged attackers apologising to the people gathered at the spot with folded hands after policemen asked them to do so. People present in a large number at the site cheered the police action.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दतिया जिला दतिया (म.प्र.)					दिनांक 23.09.2022
क्रमांक/निर्माण/तकनीकी/2022/3086					
॥ निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ॥					
एतद द्वारा लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन के अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारो से अधोलिखित विवरण अनुसार नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग के दिनांक 02.08.2021 से प्रभावशाली ISSR से कम अथवा अधिक प्रतिशत दर पर ऑनलाईन पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।					
टेण्डर क्र.	कार्य का नाम एवं विवरण	अनु. प्रा. राशि (लाख)	अमानत राशि (रूपये)	निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि (रूपये)	समयावधि (वर्षाकाल सहित)
2022_UAD_224103_1	1. मोटा की चक्की का नाला निर्माण कार्य। 2. सरस्वती स्कूल से श्याम बाबू त्रिपाठी बुन्देला कॉलोनी तक नाला निर्माण कार्य।	238.86	119500	15000/-	18 माह
2022_UAD_224204_1	अशोक कुमार के मकान के पीछे करन सागर तक नाला निर्माण कार्य।	77.59	58200	10000/-	06 माह
2022_UAD_224105_1	1. रिक्षा फाटक का नाला निर्माण कार्य। 2. रतन रॉयल होटल से सीता सागर तक नाला निर्माण कार्य। 3. राजघाट चौराहा से पुरानी कचहरी तक नाला निर्माण कार्य।	265.99	133000	15000/-	18 माह
2022_UAD_224106_1	1. मामा का डेरा फिक्टर प्लांट से दुबे जी दुकान तक नाला निर्माण कार्य। 2. दुबे जी की दुकान से रतन रॉयल होटल तक नाला निर्माण कार्य। 3. शंकर जी मंदिर का उन्नाव रोड पॉपिंग स्टेशन के सामने नाला निर्माण कार्य। 4. पॉपिंग स्टेशन के सामने से अशोक कुमार के मकान के पीछे तक झोरी बायपास तक नाला निर्माण कार्य। 5. भाण्डेरी फाटक का नाला निर्माण कार्य।	250.02	125000	15000/-	18 माह
1. इच्छुक एवं पात्र निविदादाता विस्तृत निविदा एवं अन्य समस्त जानकारी https://www.mptenders.gov.in में विभाग का नाम- नगरीय प्रशासन एवं विकास विभाग पर देखी जा सकती है।					
2. ऑनलाईन निविदा दिनांक 26.09.2022 समय 10.30 बजे से दिनांक 26.10.2022 समय 17.30 बजे तक ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।					
3. ऑनलाईन बिड दिनांक 26.09.2022 समय 10.30 बजे से दिनांक 26.10.2022 समय 17.30 बजे तक जमा की जा सकती है।					
4. ऑनलाईन प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 28.10.2022 समय 11.00 बजे खोली जावेगी।					
5. PWD Registration, PAN Number, GST Number, Payment Slip, Rs. 100 Affidavit आदि ऑनलाईन जमा करना अनिवार्य है। अन्यथा टेण्डर निरस्त माना जावेगा।					
6. निविदा को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार का अधिकार मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।					
7. निविदा में किये जाने वाले संभावित संशोधन की सूचना समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नही किये जावेगें, संशोधन ऑनलाईन वेबसाइट पर देखे जावे।					
8. उक्त कार्य से संबंधित डिजाइन/ड्राइन निविदाकार द्वारा की जावेगी।					
9. उक्त सभी नालों के पानी के बहाव को ड्रायवर्ड की व्यवस्था ठेकेदार की होगी।					
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर पालिका परिषद दतिया					

FIRST COLUMN

DEMANDS FOR BAN ON RSS ARE OUTRAGEOUS

The Sangh espouses Hindu causes to build national character



BIJU DHARMAPALAN


The recent crackdown by the National Intelligence Agency and subsequent banning of the Popular Front of India (PFI) have largely been appreciated by society. Even Muslim community members supported the action. Yet, a few fringe political parties and a few mainstream media have time and again raked the issue of banning the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

One cannot understand how these political parties weigh these two organisations on a single platform. The unruly act of PFI has been observed during the recent hartal organised in Kerala.

The PFI has been banned for anti-national activities. Has RSS been booked for any anti-national activities? The RSS has often been dubbed the hyper-nationalist since the time of its formation. Anti-nationals and hyper-nationalists cannot be weighed together. The RSS evolved into an organisation from the pre-independent era to consolidate the Hindu society that is fragmented by different castes and communities. Being an organisation that focusses on the Hindu community, they need to cater to the needs of Hindu society, like any other religious organisation of the Christain or Muslim or Sikh community.

If you dub RSS a communal organisation, aren't the other similar organisations like YMCA, YWCA, Indian Catholic Youth Movement, Muslim Association Of India and many more such organisations of various religions and sects also communal?

Aren't our political parties communal? Every political party, be it national or regional, plays a communal card to win the vote banks during elections.




From time immemorial Indian society has welcomed people from other faiths and nationals. Cultural integration happened from time immemorial. Many of our Hindu spiritual gurus understand the readings of the Holy Bible or Holy Quran better than the followers of that religion. It was the Hindu kings, who gave space to establish educational institutions, hospitals, churches and masjids, as evident in many centres of archaeological significance.

Even though by birth I followed Christianity, the society I lived in and my parents always encouraged me to understand other religions and even took me to various temples, masjids and churches. Since childhood, I have had many friends who regularly went to RSS shakhas. I never felt any discrimination from these friends. They interacted with members from other communities and had friendly relations with everyone.

The Christain Sunday classes or Catechism classes and classes in Muslim madrasa's also do the same. In some places, the priests make a clarion call to boycott members of other religions in making friends, doing business, etc. To my knowledge, RSS has not made any derogatory statements against other religions. Many youngsters of the present generation want to immigrate to foreign lands, citing a lack of opportunities in our country. A mass exodus of educated youngsters has recently been observed. Unfortunately, most of these youngsters engage in menial jobs in foreign countries and are willing to tolerate racial discrimination meted out to them for a few dollars. Since pre-Independence days, many people have visited western countries for their studies, returned to the country, and participated in nation-building. Their main concern was how to develop our country to the standards of western counterparts. The facilities we enjoy today result from such sacrifices made by our forefathers. Imparting nationalist feelings and Indian values in today's youth is the need of the hour. Secularism and nationalism are the fundamental tenets we imbibed from our rich Indian heritage. People who propagate them in society should be promoted, be it RSS or any other.

(The author is an academic and columnist)

Tough triangular fight looms large in Gujarat



RK MISRA

At best, the Aam Aadmi Party may bruise BJP, at worst sear Congress. A good showing will see AAP's stock soaring

A bitter battle lies ahead as the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) brace to take on Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its citadel of Gujarat this state Assembly election which is due in December.

For the Prime Minister, Gujarat must be convincingly retained if the 2024 electoral war for the right to rule India has to be waged handicap-free for a third stint. The Congress, which has been steadily losing ground since Modi took charge in 2001, must hold its consolidated Opposition space as a brash-bubbly challenger AAP seeks to muscle into both menacingly.

AAP, the third angle of this emerging triangular contest, has nothing to lose for it was nil in 2017. At best, it may bruise the BJP, at worst sear the Congress. A good showing, on the other hand, will see its stock soaring. Thus the Gujarat poll paradigm is pregnant with possibilities and stocked with probabilities.

The Election Commission has completed its due diligence through overlapping visits and is into the final assessment of preparedness. Speculation is rife that the elections to Gujarat as well as Himachal Pradesh may be declared in the middle of the month bringing the model code of conduct into force. This will bring to an end the rash of foundation stone laying ceremonies and inaugurations by the ruling BJP and mouth-watering promises by the respective rivals.

The BJP has been in the saddle in Gujarat for 27 years, barring a 17-month stint wherein party rebel Shantersinh Vaghela's splinter held fort with Congress support.

Now considered the home state of the Prime Minister and his Home Minister Amit Shah, the two cannot afford to take any chances. Thus, they have one foot permanently pegged in their realm, enmeshed in all manner of inaugurations and dedications from flyovers to foot bridges. More so, after Arvind Kejriwal and his AAP turned the spotlight full scale on their electoral challenge.

The Congress is waking up to the harsh reality of a triangular fight as the AAP seeks to muscle its way into Gujarat. With Rahul Gandhi pre-occupied with the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the likelihood of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra taking his place in helming the Congress challenge is being speculated in party circles, though no official confirmation is available.

A late starter in comparison to the Prime Minister and Arvind Kejriwal, Rahul Gandhi arrived in Ahmedabad on September 5 to flag off the Congress election campaign, addressing a gathering of over 50,000 booth level workers.

Party leaders are emphatic that Rahul Gandhi still remains a strong crowd puller for the party. Though the Kanyakumari-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra will give the state a miss, the traction that it has been gain-



GUJARAT MUST BE CONVINCINGLY RETAINED BY BJP IF THE 2024 ELECTORAL WAR HAS TO BE WAGED HANDICAP-FREE FOR A THIRD STINT. THE CONGRESS MUST HOLD ITS CONSOLIDATED OPPOSITION SPACE AS AAP SEEKS TO MUSCLE INTO BOTH MENACINGLY

(The author is a senior journalist)



ing in demonstrated mass support is expected to do good. Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said that the poll-bound state has been knowingly left out of the mass-contact programme which has a sacred national objective. "Electioneering is a different ball-game altogether and we are up to it," he added, though not confirming whether Priyanka Gandhi will take his place, as widely speculated here.

The Congress is not leaving anything to chance. Party general secretary KC Venugopal was in Ahmedabad on August 24 for a review of the preparedness with state leaders and senior observer Ashok Gehlot and Gujarat in-charge Raghu Sharma.

The Congress has named seven working presidents, appointed in-charges from Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhatisgarh to oversee each one of the 26 parliamentary constituencies in the state, and assigned four other leaders to assist Sharma with Gehlot overseeing things. The Rajasthan Chief Minister was the Gujarat in-charge in the 2017 state Assembly elections and is well conversant with make or break nuances.

According to present Gujarat in-charge Raghu Sharma, the Congress is targeting 125 of the total 182 seats but does not propose to announce a chief ministerial candidate. "We shall fight collectively," he adds.

Party national spokesperson Shaktisinh Gohil holds firm that the main contest is between the two traditional combatants, and AAP will not add up to much because a third party has never succeeded in Gujarat. Gohil has a point, since such veteran leaders like Chimanbhai Patel (Kisan Mazdoor Lok Paksha), Shantersinh Vaghela (Rashtriya Janata Party, Jan Vikalp and this time the Prajashakti Democratic Party), and veteran late Keshubhai Patel (Gujarat Parivartan Party) have all come a cropper.

However, the AAP's aggressive forays and the response it is beginning to elicit seem to be making enough dent for BJP to take the threat seriously. The Prime Minister is personally overseeing things and on his last two visits to the state on August 27 and September 29 had detailed discussions with those helming the party's election affairs.

The main reason for both the BJP and the AAP targeting the Congress is that the principal Opposition party had picked up 30 of the total 54 seats in Saurashtra-Kutch region, helping it bag a creditable 78 seats while bringing the BJP to 99 seats in a 182-member House, the lowest after Modi took over as chief minister in 2001. In 2012 the BJP had bagged 35 seats in Saurashtra-Kutch but was down to 23 in 2017 with one going to others.

Whether the Opposition votes

get divided and benefit the BJP, or are shared between the Congress and AAP, shall become clearer as the poll nears. In north Gujarat both the BJP and the Congress had maintained their previous seat share in 2017 with 32 and 21 seats, respectively. In south Gujarat, the BJP had faced a marginal loss winning 25 of 35 seats compared to 28 in 2012, while the Congress improved its seat share from 6 to 10.

In central Gujarat, the BJP scored with 25 of 40 seats, while the Congress was down by 5 to 13 seats in 2017. The last elections were held in the shadow of the Patidar unrest and the Congress had emerged as a beneficiary at the polls. This factor does not seem to be at play in 2022 but rising prices and agrarian dissatisfaction is evident in rural areas which the BJP is hopeful of leveling up with what it sees as its urban popularity.

If the AAP has a sackful of sops that include 300 units of free electricity every month, free education in government schools and free medical care in government hospitals, unemployment allowance, a Rs 1,000 per month allowance to women, the Congress has announced all this and more. It includes LPG cylinders for Rs 500, Rs 4 lakh compensation for Covid victims and loan waivers up to Rs 3 lakh for farmers. How much of this works remains to be seen but the Congress will need to strain a lot harder to achieve its last best.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

RAJA RAJA CHOLA WAS INDEED A HINDU KING... LET HIM(VETRIMARAN) POINT OUT TWO CHURCHES AND MOSQUES BUILT BY RAJA RAJA CHOLAN. —BJP LEADER H RAJA



THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS 'HINDU RELIGION' DURING RAJA RAJA CHOLA'S PERIOD. THERE WERE ONLY VAINAVAM, SHIVAM AND SAMANAM. —ACTOR KAMAL HAASAN



Achieving full benefits of 5G for mobile, fixed line

The rollout of 5G is a momentous occasion, for it augurs well for India to embark on a journey of technology



ATUL BHATTACHARYA

Today, India has the second largest cell phone user population in the world. At the turn of the millennium, India was at an inflection point. The initiative to connect people with mobile technology accelerated adoption exponentially and improved the quality of life across the population. The stage is now set again for India to provide super-fast broadband service to areas, including homes, villages, schools, and enterprises.

By making the spectrum available, civic leaders can provide another round of growth to improve education, healthcare, and business for all citizens.

The next phase of torrential growth will be connecting every enterprise, education

institute, industrial complex and energy grid to multi-gigabit-speed broadband, as is the case right now in digitally-connected countries. The 5G is available in two forms: the standard that connects mobile devices and the lesser-known 5G Fixed which uses the 3GPP 5G-NR protocol and frame structure to connect buildings and places over long distances. Both ends of a link are at fixed locations, allowing for the ability to create air bridges over a long distance and deliver connectivity with superior economics.

Connecting places is equally important to connecting people. Post-pandemic, the world has changed. Work is wherever you are. Education is wherever you are. Everything is media-rich with

videos, audio, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR). These applications require a new network that has low latency high throughput and is very cost-effective while providing every home and enterprise with fantastic connectivity.

The performance advantages of fixed wireless broadband, along with attractive economics, will be very crucial to bridge the digital divide in India with velocity. Fixed wireless broadband will go deep and wide into India, bridging every remote corner all across the country.

Many enterprise and industrial organizations around the world have selected 3 GHz and millimetre wave fixed wireless technology as part of their digital initiatives. For

example, mining, ports, airports and transportation applications have deployed private 5G networks to efficiently connect their operations.

Multi-gigabit fixed wireless uses the 24.25 GHz to 29.50 GHz spectrum for 5G and separately 60 GHz bands, also called V-band or millimetre wave. Today, many countries, including those neighboring Southeast Asia, have made this spectrum available for use with immediate and valuable results.

The 5G provides an opportunity to enable these results because it has adopted high-speed fixed wireless broadband as part of its definition. Fixed 5G will be ideal for locations with a lower population density and, if leveraged equally, will roll out

in smaller cities at the same time. This is crucial to grasp for a nation as vast as India with thousands of cities, lakhs of villages and varied, tough-to-connect terrain. These locations will now have access to improve education, healthcare, and robotic automation in industrial locations.

While consumers will have faster internet, the real benefits to society would be to provide education for every child and affordable remote healthcare for everyone, and training and vocational opportunities with advanced technology. These benefits will be enabled with emerging technology with the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Augmented Reality with real-time operations.

In telemedicine, a doctor

in a city could diagnose a sensitive condition for his patient in a village by combining high fidelity video and using advanced instrumentation, possibly robotics with high-speed 5G connectivity with ultra-low latency and almost providing real time experience. Sensors across the country would provide information to predict weather more precisely.

Schools and universities across the country would best prepare young people for life in a global community, where talent can come from anywhere. A 5G fixed wireless network would complement and extend mobile 5G and maximize the benefits to people and play a significant role in addressing the digital divide.

I am excited about the

prospect of pervasive connectivity in India with high-speed, fiber-like broadband performance over the air via our 28 GHz and 60 GHz solutions. The V-band products have been designed and developed mostly out of our design center in India. We feel that the Indian regulators will approve this frequency band soon.

Accelerated adoption of V-band in the last mile will provide high speed connectivity to improve education, healthcare and commerce. Recently, Secretary, DOT, K Rajaraman said, "The onset of new services (based on 5G) will also necessitate setting of new types of network equipment, especially in rural, remote and hilly areas. So, therefore, we must promote the skill of people to handle this."

Missiles, drones hit Zaporizhzhia again as death toll rises

AP ■ KIV

The death toll from a missile attack on apartment buildings in a southern Ukrainian city rose to 11 as more Russian missiles and — for the first time — explosive packed drones targeted Ukrainian-held Zaporizhzhia on Friday.

As the war sparked by Russia's February invasion of its neighbour ground on, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to human rights organisations in Russia and Ukraine, and an activist jailed in Russian ally Belarus.

Asked by a reporter whether the prize shared by Belarus rights activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and the Ukrainian organization Center for Civil Liberties should be seen as a "birthday gift" to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who turned 70 on Friday, committee chair Berit Reiss-Andersen said no.

"The prize is not addressing President Putin, not for his birthday or in any other sense, except that his government, as

the government in Belarus, is representing an authoritarian government that is suppressing human rights activists," Reiss-Andersen said.

Putin this week illegally claimed four regions of Ukraine as Russian territory, including the Zaporizhzhia region that is home to a sprawling nuclear power plant under Russian occupation; the city of the same name remains under Ukrainian control.

With its army losing ground to a Ukrainian counteroffensive in the country's south and east, Russia has deployed Iranian-made drones to attack Ukrainian targets. The unmanned, disposable "kamikaze drones" are cheaper and less sophisticated than missiles but have proved effective at causing damage to targets on the ground.

The regional governor, Oleksandr Starukh, said Iranian-made Shahed-136 drones damaged two infrastructure facilities in the city of Zaporizhzhia, the first time they were used there. He said missiles also struck the city again, injuring one person.

The Emergency Services of



Ukraine said the toll of Russian S-300 missile strikes on the city a day earlier rose to 11 and another 21 people were res-

cued from the rubble of destroyed apartments. "This was not a random hit, but a series of missiles

aimed at multi-story buildings," Starukh wrote on his Telegram channel. Russia was reported to

have converted the S-300 from its original use as a long-range anti-aircraft weapon into a missile for ground attacks because of a shortage of other, more suitable weapons.

The Ukrainian military said most of the drones it shot down Thursday and into Friday were the Iranian-made Shahed-136. The weapons are unlikely to significantly affect the course of the war, however, the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War said.

"They have used many drones against civilian targets in rear areas, likely hoping to generate nonlinear effects through terror. Such efforts are not succeeding," analysts at the think tank wrote.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's ability to capture and put back into service Russian tanks and other equipment continues to be an important factor in its forces' push to repel the invasion.

Ukrainian forces have captured at least 440 tanks and about 650 armored vehicles since the start of the war, Britain's Ministry of Defense said Friday.

"The failure of Russian crews to destroy intact equipment before withdrawing or surrendering highlights their poor state of training and low levels of battle discipline," the British said.

"With Russian formations under sever strain in several sectors and increasingly demoralized troops, Russia will likely continue to lose heavy weaponry."

The Ukrainian military also said Friday that 500 former criminals have been mobilized to reinforce Russian ranks in the eastern Donetsk region, where Ukrainian forces have retaken some territory. The new units are commanded by officers drawn from law enforcement, the military said.

US President Joe Biden warned Thursday that Putin has driven the risk of nuclear "Armageddon" to the highest level since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Russian officials have spoken of the possibility of using tactical nuclear weapons to defend Russia's territory, including the newly annexed regions of Ukraine.

Speaking at a fundraiser for the Democratic Senatorial

Campaign Committee, Biden said Putin was "not joking when he talks about the use of tactical nuclear weapons or biological or chemical weapons."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held another telephone call with Putin on Friday to discuss bilateral ties and the war in Ukraine.

Erdogan told Putin that Turkey was ready to fulfil its part for a "peaceful resolution of the Ukraine issue in a manner that would be to the benefit of everyone," according to a statement from the Turkish leader's office.

In the Czech capital, European Union leaders converged on Prague Castle to try to bridge significant differences over a natural gas price cap as winter approaches and Russia's war on Ukraine fuels a major energy crisis.

As the Europeans bolster their support for Ukraine in the form of weapons, money and aid, Russia has reduced or cut off natural gas to 13 member nations, leading to surging gas and electricity prices that could climb higher as demand peaks during the cold months.

Putin's path: From pledges of stability to nuclear threats

AP ■ MOSCOW

As he turns 70, Russian President Vladimir Putin finds himself in the eye of a storm of his own making: His army is suffering humiliating defeats in Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of Russians are fleeing his mobilisation order, and his top lieutenants are publicly insulting military leaders.

With his room for maneuvering narrowing, Putin has repeatedly signalled that he could resort to nuclear weapons to protect the Russian gains in Ukraine — a harrowing threat that shatters the claims of stability he has repeated throughout his 22-year rule.

"This is really a hard moment for him, but he can't accuse anyone else. He did it himself," said Andrei Kolesnikov, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment. "And he is going straight ahead to big, big problems."

By unleashing the disastrous war in Ukraine, Europe's largest military conflict since World War II, Putin has broken an unwritten social contract in which Russians tacitly agreed to forgo post-Soviet political freedoms in exchange for relative prosperity and internal stability.

Mikhail Zygar, a journalist who has had extensive contacts among the Kremlin elite and



published a bestselling book about Putin and his entourage, noted that the invasion came as a complete surprise not only for the public but for Putin's closest associates.

"All of them are in shock," Zygar said. "None of them wanted to see the developments unfold in such a way just because they are going to lose everything. Now they are all stained by blood, and they all understand they have nowhere to run."

Stanislav Belkovsky, a long-time political consultant with extensive contacts among the ruling class, described the invasion as a mechanism of "self-destruction for Putin, his regime and the Russian Federation."

With the Russian army retreating under the blows of Ukrainian forces armed with Western weapons, Putin raised the stakes by annexing four Ukrainian regions and declaring a partial mobilisation of up to 300,000 reservists to buttress the crumbling front line.

The poorly organised call-up has triggered broad chaos. The military is struggling to provide supplies for new recruits, many of whom were told to buy medical kits and other basics themselves and were left to sleep on the floor while waiting to be sent to the front.

Social networks have been abuzz with discussions about how to dodge recruitment, and

hundreds of thousands of men fled the mobilisation, swarming Russia's borders with ex-Soviet neighbours.

The mobilisation, Kolesnikov noted, has eroded Putin's core support base and set the stage for potential political upheavals. "After the partial mobilisation, it's impossible to explain to anyone that he stabilized the system. He disrupted the foundation of stability," he said.

The military setbacks also drew public insults from some of Putin's top lieutenants directed toward military leaders. The Kremlin has done nothing to halt the criticism, a signal that Putin could use it to set the stage for a major shakeup of the top brass and blame them for the defeats.

"The infighting between powerful clans in Putin's entourage could destabilize the system and significantly weaken Putin's control over the situation in the country," Belkovsky said.

The widening turmoil marks a dramatic contrast with the image of stability Putin has cultivated since taking helm in 2000. He has repeatedly described the turbulent rule of his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, as a time of decay when national riches were pilfered by Kremlin-connected tycoons and the West while millions were plunged into poverty.

Europe hails united stand over Russia's war in Ukraine

AP ■ PRAGUE

Leaders across Europe hailed on Thursday their united front against Russia's war on Ukraine at a summit that also saw the heads of old foes Turkey and Armenia meet face-to-face for the first time since they agreed last year to put decades of bitterness behind them.

The inaugural summit of the European Political Community brought together the 27 European Union member countries, aspiring partners in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, as well as neighbours like Britain — the only country to have left the EU.

Russia was the one major European power not invited to the gathering at Prague Castle along with Belarus, its neighbor and supporter in the war against Ukraine; a conflict fueling an energy crisis and high inflation that are wreaking havoc on Europe's economies.

"Leaders leave this summit with greater collective resolve to stand up to Russian aggression. What we have seen in Prague is a forceful show of solidarity with Ukraine, and for the principles of freedom and democracy," said U.K. Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Her Belgian counterpart, Alexander De Croo, said "if you just look at the attendance here, you see the importance. The whole European continent



is here, except two countries: Belarus and Russia. So it shows how isolated those two countries are."

Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins said the fallout from the war is something they all have in common.

"It's affecting all of us in the security sense, and its affecting all of us through our economies, through the rising energy costs. So the only way that we can handle this is working together, and not just the European Union. All the European countries need to work together," he said.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal was in Prague for the meeting, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the leaders by video link.

"There are no representatives of Russia with us here —

a state that geographically seems to belong to Europe, but from the point of view of its values and behavior is the most anti-European state in the world," Zelenskyy said.

"We are now in a strong position to direct all possible powers of Europe to end the war and guarantee long-term peace," he said. "For Ukraine, for Europe, for the world."

The new forum is the brainchild of French President Emmanuel Macron and is backed by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. They say it should aim to boost security and prosperity across the continent.

Critics claim the new forum is an attempt to put the brakes on EU enlargement. Others fear it may become a talking shop, perhaps convening once or twice a year but devoid of any real clout or content.

Leader of Belarus gifts Putin a tractor for 70th birthday

AP ■ ST PETERSBURG

Russian President Vladimir Putin got an unusual gift for his 70th birthday on Friday: a tractor.

As the leaders of several ex-Soviet nations met at the Czarist-era Konstantin Palace in St. Petersburg, President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus presented Putin with a gift certificate for the vehicle. Tractors have been the pride of Belarusian industry since Soviet times. Lukashenko, an autocratic leader who has ruled the ex-Soviet nation with an iron hand for nearly three decades while cultivating a man of the people image, told reporters he used a model in his garden similar to the one he gifted Putin.

It wasn't clear how the Russian leader responded to the gift, which Lukashenko's office revealed.

Putin didn't mention the gift in televised remarks at the start of the meeting when he talked about the need to discuss ways of settling conflicts between ex-Soviet nations.

He also emphasised the need to exchange information to fight terrorism, illegal drugs and other crime.

The leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance of ex-Soviet nations, have another gathering to attend next week in Kazakhstan's capital of Astana.

UN rights body agrees to appoint expert to scrutinise Russia

AP ■ GENEVA

The UN's top human rights body voted Friday to appoint an independent expert to step up scrutiny of Russia's rights record at home as arbitrary arrests, a crackdown on dissenting voices and limits on free speech worsen during the war in Ukraine.

The 47-member Human Rights Council passed the proposal, presented last week by all European Union member countries except Hungary, on a 17-6 vote, with 24 abstentions. Shortly before the vote in Geneva, Russian human rights group Memorial was named a co-winner of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize.

The original proposal expressed concerns about "mass forced shutdowns" of independent media, non-governmental organisations and opposition groups in Russia.

The Human Rights Council majority agreed to name a "special rapporteur" to keep tabs on rights violations in Russia, in part by relying on help from Russian groups and activists who are both still in the country and abroad.

It's the first time the council has authorized a special rapporteur to look into human rights issues in any of the five countries that are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Russian ambassador Gennady Gatilov called the draft proposal a "despicable document" that was intended "to find yet another way of exerting leverage for bringing pressure to bear on Russia."

"This scheme by the EU and its allies is yet another attempt to punish our country for pursuing an independent foreign and domestic policy, and to entrench for the long-term the topic of Russia on the agenda of the HRC so as to unleash a stream of false allegations and accusations directed at us," Gatilov said.

Western countries provided most of the votes in favor, joined by Paraguay, Marshall Islands and Ukraine. Diplomats from Bolivia,



China, Cuba, Eritrea, Kazakhstan and Venezuela voted against the proposal.

The number of abstentions in part reflected hesitations about authorizing a special rapporteur for a country that opposed the initiative: It's unlikely that Russia will let the special rapporteur to visit the country.

The council previously appointed a Commission of Inquiry — the UN-backed body's highest form of scrutiny — that is looking into rights abuses related to Russia's war in Ukraine. The Russian government has taken a number of steps to limit domestic dissent over the war, including passing a law that criminalizes spreading "fake" news about Russia's military. British ambassador Simon Manley said "repression at home, aggression abroad" by Russian authorities had increased since Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February.

"The truth is that (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin uses repressive legislation to restrict freedom of speech and assembly. He crushes dissent through arbitrary detention and violence and has created a climate of fear and intimidation in order to deter civil society and activists from speaking out against the authorities," Manley said.

Russia was a member of the Human Rights Council until earlier this year, when it suspended its participation as the UN General Assembly was set to strip the country of its membership due to the invasion of Ukraine.

UK offers new North Sea oil, gas licenses despite opposition

AP ■ LONDON

The British government opened a new licensing round for North Sea oil and gas exploration Friday despite criticism from environmentalists and scientists who say the move undermines the country's commitment to fighting climate change.

The Conservative government argues that extracting more fossil fuels from the North Sea will create jobs and strengthen UK energy security, and is less environmentally harmful than importing gas and oil from abroad.

"I know it sounds contradictory — but it's actually good

for the environment," Climate Minister Graham Stuart said.

"When we burn our own gas, it's got lower emissions around its production than foreign gas ... as well as supporting British jobs," he told the BBC.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed gas and electricity prices higher and squeezed energy supplies across Europe, prompting countries to focus urgently on securing new sources.

The organisation that oversees the UK's electricity grid has said that planned blackouts might be needed this winter if the gas-fired power plants that produce 43% of Britain's elec-



tricity can't get enough gas to continue operating.

The UK last saw planned blackouts in the 1970s, during an international oil crisis and a series of coal miners' strikes.

The North Sea Transition Authority, or NSTA, said

almost 900 new exploration blocks and partial blocks of the North Sea are available, with up to 100 licenses likely to be issued. Priority will be given to four areas off the east coast of England that are known to contain hydrocarbons and are close to existing infrastructure.

The government and fossil fuel industry say drilling for more oil and gas would not undermine Britain's pledge to cut its carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.

"Security of supply and net zero should not be in conflict," NSTA chief executive Andy Samuel said. "The industry has committed to halving

upstream emissions by 2030 and investing heavily in electrification, carbon storage and hydrogen."

Environmentalists say the only way to limit global warming to the internationally approved target of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels is to stop extracting fossil fuels.

"The government's claim that burning ever more fossil fuels from the North Sea will help the UK meet its international obligations to become net-zero by 2050 has no connection to reality," UK Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay said.

EU leaders struggle to bridge gas price cap divide

AP ■ PRAGUE

European Union leaders struggled on Friday to bridge significant differences over a natural gas price cap as winter approaches and Russia's war in Ukraine fuels a major energy crisis, driving up prices for consumers and businesses.

The price cap is one of several measures the 27-nation bloc is preparing to contain an energy crisis in Europe that some fear could lead to rolling blackouts, factory shutdowns and a deep

recession over the winter in economies already weakened by the coronavirus pandemic.

Russia has reduced or cut off natural gas supplies to 13 EU member nations as European governments bolster their support for Ukraine in the form of weapons, money, aid and sanctions on Moscow.

The potential for shortages has led to surging gas and electricity prices that could climb higher as demand peaks during the cold months.

Standing in the way of an agreement was the simple fact

that each member country depends on different energy sources and suppliers, and they're struggling to see eye-to-eye on the best way ahead.

Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins summed up the challenge for the EU as it considers a possible gas-price ceiling.

"A price cap on gas, if that could be achieved, would be grand — with the caveat that we cannot endanger security of supply," Karins said. "So we cannot set the price so that no one would sell gas into Europe."

Macron at Europe's centre stage with new summit initiative

AP ■ PRAGUE

Smile flashing, giving a thumbs-up, Emmanuel Macron appears at Europe's centre stage again — literally.

The photo of over 40 European leaders surrounding the French president on Thursday ensured a symbolic image of unity of the continent faced with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, making the inaugural summit of the European Political Community an initial success for Macron, who launched the idea a few months ago.

"It's a great day for you," Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala told Macron when welcoming

him for the meeting at the Prague castle in the Czech Republic.

The forum aimed at boosting security and prosperity across the continent brought together existing EU members, aspiring partners in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, as well as Britain and Turkey.

Russia was the one major European power not invited, along with its neighbour and supporter in the war in Belarus.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who made a speech via video-conference, said: "We have received not just another format of cooperation in Europe."

‘Suspect in killing of Sikh family in California once worked for them’



PTI ■ SAN FRANCISCO

The suspect in the killing of an Indian-origin Sikh family, including an eight-month-old baby girl, had once worked for the family's trucking business and had a longstanding dispute with them that got 'pretty nasty' and culminated in an act of senseless killing, authorities and a relative said.

Merced County 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 after they were kidnapped on Monday.

The family, originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California.

"The primary suspect in the kidnapping and murder, Jesus Manuel Salgado, is a former employee who used to drive for the victim's trucking company. They had a disagreement and parted ways," a relative of the deceased family



ly was quoted as saying by the NBC Bay area.

The relative also revealed that baby Aroohi Dheri was left for dead and died from exposure, the report said.

Warnke also said that he believes there might be a second person involved in the kidnapping and killings, but investigators are still collecting evidence.

"If that person is watching, might as well turn yourself in," Warnke was quoted as saying by NBC Bay area.

"Our detectives are like bulldogs. They're not going to give up. Once we find or determine that there was in fact a second person, they're going to go after and go after hard," he said.

The longstanding dispute between Salgado and the victims "got pretty nasty," Warnke was quoted as saying by KTVU television station.

Relatives told investigators that Salgado had sent angry text messages or emails about a year ago after working with a trucking business, Warnke said.

Family members said nothing was stolen from the trucking company but that their relatives were all wearing jewellery. Warnke had said that after the kidnappings, an ATM card belonging to one of the victims was used in Atwater. Public records show the family owns Unison Trucking Inc. And family members said they had recently opened an office for it in a parking lot the Singh brothers also operated, the report added.

Salgado was officially booked into the Merced County Jail on four counts of kidnapping and four counts of murder on Thursday evening. Deputies say he tried killing

himself before being taken into custody on Tuesday.

The report added that Amandeep, the baby's uncle, is survived by his wife and two kids in their teens.

The city of Merced has organised a candlelight vigil for the family every night at 7 pm from October 6 to October 9. On Monday, the family members were kidnapped from a business at the intersection of Dickenson Ferry Road and South Highway 59 in Merced County.

Warnke said that a farm worker near the orchard found the bodies and immediately contacted authorities.

All of the bodies were found close together, he said.

"There are no words to describe the anger I feel," Warnke said.

"There's a special place in hell for this guy," he said about the suspect, who attempted to

kill himself.

"It's horribly, horribly senseless," he said.

Warnke did not say how the family was killed, adding that it appears they were killed before they were reported missing on Monday.

Salgado, already a convicted robber, was previously convicted of first-degree robbery with the use of a firearm in Merced County, as well as attempted false imprisonment and an attempt to prevent or dissuade a victim or witness. He was sentenced to 11 years in state prison in that case, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

He was released from prison in 2015 and discharged from parole three years later. He also has a conviction for possession of a controlled substance, the corrections agency said.

Lanka's top court allows economic crisis case against Rajapaksas

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Friday allowed proceedings of a case filed by a rights group against the Rajapaksa clan, alleging that the members of the erstwhile powerful family were directly responsible for the country's foreign debt and the worst economic crisis.

Transparency International Sri Lanka on June 17 filed a public interest petition, claiming that former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, his brothers Mahinda Rajapaksa and Basil Rajapaksa, former central bank governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal and top finance ministry bureaucrat S R Attygalle were directly responsible for the economic crisis.

The rights group claimed that the respondents named in the petition were directly responsible for the unsustainability of Sri Lanka's foreign debt, its debt default and the current economic crisis.

The lawyers for the petitioner had argued that the failure to take timely action by the Rajapaksa leadership caused Sri Lanka to go bankrupt and declare that the country was unable to meet its international debt commitments.

The Rajapaksa family had dominated Sri Lanka's political scene for nearly two decades before all the brothers were forced to quit following unprecedented anti-government protests.

The top court's permission came a day after the UN Human Rights Council in



Geneva incorporated Sri Lanka's economic crimes and corruption in its latest resolution calling for accountability for alleged rights abuses coming from 2009.

The resolution has called to investigate the on-going economic crisis and prosecute those responsible.

It also "calls upon the government of Sri Lanka to address the ongoing economic crisis including by investigating and where warranted prosecuting corruption including where committed by public and former public officials and stands ready to assist and support independent impartial and transparent efforts in this regard".

India abstained on the draft resolution on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka which was adopted.

While abstaining, India stressed that it will work with Sri Lanka and the international community to attain the

related objectives of legitimate aspirations of Tamils of Sri Lanka and prosperity for all Sri Lankans.

The draft resolution on 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted at the 51st Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva, with 20 nations voting in favour in the 47-member Council, seven against, including China and Pakistan, and 20 abstentions, including by India, Japan, Nepal and Qatar.

Sri Lanka had expressed opposition to the resolution as a violation of its sovereignty other than in 2015 when they co-sponsored the resolution.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ousted mid July in a popular public uprising against him for bungling in the economic crisis.

Sri Lanka is nearly bankrupt and has suspended repaying its USD 51 billion foreign debt, of which it must repay USD 28 billion by 2027.

Thailand mourns children, others slain by ex-police officer

AP ■ UTHAI SAWAN (THAILAND)

Relatives grieving staggering loss on Friday laid flowers at a day care centre in rural northeastern Thailand where a fired police officer slaughtered dozens of people, including children as young as 2 who were napping.

The entire country reeled in the wake of Thursday's grisly attack in a small town nestled among rice paddies in one of the nation's poorest regions.

At least 24 of the 36 people killed in the assault, Thailand's deadliest shooting rampage, were children.

"I cried until I had no more tears coming out of my eyes. They are running through my heart," said Seksan Sriraj, 28, who lost his pregnant wife due to give birth this month in the attack at the Young Children's Development



Centre in Uthai Sawan.

"My wife and my child have gone to a peaceful place. I am alive and will have to live. If I can't go on, my wife and my child will be worried about me, and they won't be reborn in the next life," he said.

Royal and government representatives in white uniforms laid wreaths at ceremonial tables in front of the centre's main door on Friday morning, as a faded Thai flag flew at half staff above.

Europe praises, Belarus scorns Nobel for rights defenders

AP ■ BERLIN

Officials in Europe praised the awarding of this year's Nobel Peace Prize to activists standing up for human rights and democracy in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine while authorities in Belarus scorned the move.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine earlier this year has pushed Moscow's relationship with its Western neighbours to a new low. Even before that, ties had been fraught over Russian President Vladimir Putin's backing for pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine, his support for authoritarian Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and Syrian leader Bashar Assad, and his repression of political opponents such as dissident Alexei Navalny at home.

"I hope the Russian authorities read the justification for the peace prize and take it to heart," Norwegian Prime Minister



Jonas Gahr Store said after the Nobel Committee awarded the 2022 prize to imprisoned Belarus rights activist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian rights group Memorial and the Ukrainian Center for Civil Liberties, which is focusing on documenting war crimes. "It sends a signal that keeping civil society down is protecting one's own power. It is seen from the outside and it is criticized," he said.

French President

Emmanuel Macron was among the world leaders who quickly hailed the laureates, tweeting that their prize "pays homage to unwavering defenders of human rights in Europe."

"Artisans of peace, they know they can count on France's support," the French leader said.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg congratulated the winners, tweeting that "the right to speak truth to power is fundamental to free and open soci-

eties." Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod said the award needs to be seen against the backdrop of the conflict in Ukraine. "There is war in Europe. Your work for peace and human rights is therefore more important than ever before," he said to the winners. "Thank you for that."

In Paris, exiled Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya told The Associated Press that the award was "recognition of all the people who are sacrificing their freedom and lives for the sake of (Belarus)."

Over the last two years, the government of Belarus has waged a violent crackdown on journalists and protesters who say that the 2020 presidential election there was rigged, beating thousands, detaining tens of thousands, charging rights defenders with cases that the opposition calls politically motivated. Many have fled the country for their own safety.

California man charged with hate crimes after targeting saree-clad Hindu women

PTI ■ SAN FRANCISCO

At least 14 Hindu women in the US state of California have been attacked by a man who also ripped their jewellery in a spate of hate crimes, authorities said.

According to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, 37-year-old Lathan Johnson reportedly targeted older Hindu women and tore necklaces off their necks during a two-month crime spree that began in June.

Johnson, a Palo Alto resident, stole necklaces from his victims before making off in a getaway vehicle. He also hurt the women in the process, particularly those between 50 and 73, reported ABC7 News.

He was accused of forcefully removing jewellery from the necks of the women. In one such instance, he reportedly pushed a woman to the

ground before punching her husband in the face, ripping off her necklace, and jumping inside a getaway car. In another such case, a woman's wrist was broken during the attack, the report added.

Johnson was apprehended by the Santa Clara Police Department and the US Marshal's Office, although the Milpitas Police Department was the first to link him to the crimes. He was connected to a getaway car by them.

If convicted, Johnson will face a maximum jail term of 63 years. The next hearing in the case will take place on November 4. All of the stolen necklaces are estimated to be worth roughly USD 35,000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Smt. Anu Singh, who is a registered co-owner/ co-lessee of Residential House No. 86, situated in Block-G, Sector-A/Phase-I, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (the said property) admeasuring 60 Sq. Mtrs. vide Transfer Deed of Lease Hold rights dated 20.12.2003 executed by Sh. B.D. Anuja S/O Sh. D.F. Atwas General Power of Attorney of Sh. Neeraj Sharma S/O Sh. Ghanshyam Sharma in favour of Sh. Shalender Singh S/O Late Sh. Vasudha Singh & Mrs. Anu Singh W/o Sh. Shalender Singh via document number 8509 on 20.12.2003. Thereafter, Sh. Shalender Singh S/O Late Sh. Vasudha Singh died on 04.05.2019 and the said property was mutated solely in the name of my client. The said property is going to be mortgaged with IFL-Home Finance Limited. Any person/bank/ financial institution having any claim/ right, interest, or objection whatsoever in regard to above property, should notify to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered A/D within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim/ right or objection shall be deemed to be waived.

Vishal Mehan (Advocate)
E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092. Mobile No. 9811215161

US travel advisory: Reconsider travel to Pak due to terror

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has urged its citizens to reconsider travel to Pakistan, especially its restive provinces, due to terrorism and sectarian violence.

In a travel advisory issued on Thursday, the US State Department urged its citizens not to travel to Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) provinces, including the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), due to terrorism and kidnapping.

"Reconsider travel to Pakistan due to terrorism and sectarian violence. Some areas have increased risk," it said, putting

the advisory to Level 3.

Level 3 travel warning is issued when a long-term or serious situation puts travellers and visitors at risk, and non-essential travel to the destination should be avoided.

The advisory also recommended Americans not to travel in the immediate vicinity of the Line of Control (LoC) due to terrorism and the potential for armed conflict.

Noting that terrorist groups continue plotting attacks in Pakistan, it said a local history of terrorism and ongoing ideological aspirations of violence by extremist elements have led to indiscriminate

attacks on civilian as well as local military and police targets.

"Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting transportation hubs, markets, shopping malls, military installations, airports, universities, tourist locations, schools, hospitals, places of worship, and government facilities. Terrorists have targeted US diplomats and diplomatic facilities in the past," the advisory said.

Terrorist attacks continue to happen across Pakistan, with most occurring in Balochistan and KPK, including the former FATA. Large-scale terrorist attacks have resulted in numerous casualties, it said.

US, UK hold drone drill in Persian Gulf after Iran seizures

AP ■ DUBAI

The US Navy held a joint drone drill with the United Kingdom on Friday in the Persian Gulf, testing the same unmanned surveillance ships that Iran twice has seized in recent months in the Middle East.

The exercise comes as the US Navy separately told commercial shippers in the wider Mideast that it would continue using drones in the region

and warned against interfering with their operations.

The drone drill - and the American pledge to keep sailing them - also comes as tensions between the US and Iran on the seas remain high amid stalled negotiations over its tattered nuclear deal with world powers and as protests sweep the Islamic Republic.

Friday's drill involved two American and two British warships in the Persian Gulf, as well as three Saildrone



Explorers, said Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet.

The drones searched for a target on the seas, then sent the still images its cameras cap-

tured back to both the warships and the 5th Fleet's command center in the island kingdom of Bahrain. There, an artificial intelligence system worked through the photos.

The 5th Fleet launched its unmanned Task Force 59 last year. Drones used by the Navy include ultra-endurance aerial surveillance drones, surface ships like the Sea Hawk and the Sea Hunter and smaller underwater drones that resemble torpedoes.

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. USCL/172 Tender ID: 2022_UAD_225085_1

Date:- 30.09.2022

Ujjain Smart City Limited Invites Expression of Interested parties for "Selection of Agency to Operate and Manage the Surface Parking near Triveni Museum under Ujjain Smart City". Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in.

Earnest Money Deposit	100000/-
Cost of Document	10000/-
Pre Bid Meeting Date	13.10.2022
Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online)	20.10.2022 up to 17:00 hrs.

For more details, please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>. Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be published on this website only.

For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Notice for E-Auction

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022, invites bids for e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for leasing of parcel space of SLR compartments in following trains originating from Delhi division for a period of two years as per schedule given below:-

- 12191 (F1), 12455 (F1), 12582 (F1), 12724 (F1), 12818 (F1), 12918 (F1), 13430 (F1), 14316 (F1, F2 & R1), 15035 (F1, F2 & R1) - 21.10.2022 at 11:30 am.
- 2017 (F1), 12148 (F1, F2 & R1), 12280 (F1), 12506 (F1), 12644 (F1, F2 & R1), 14010 (F1), 14041 (F1), 22418 (F2 & R1) - 28.10.2022 at 11:30 am.
- 2284 (F1), 12432 (F1), 12780 (F1), 12782 (F1), 12986 (F1), 14021 (F1 & R1), 14521 (F1, F2 & R1), 15280 (F1), 22429 (F1), 22454 (F1, F2 & R1) - 31.10.2022 at 11:30 am.
- 12265 (F1, F2 & R1), 12428 (F1), 12562 (F1), 12584 (F1), 13258 (F1), 14014 (F1), 14152 (F1), 14553 (F1 & R1), 22401 (F1), 22414 (F1) - 01.11.2022 at 11:30 am.

Important notes:

1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html. (e-Auction leasing section).
2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit.
3. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/ discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services.

2675/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. that Mrs. Babli Devi is only surviving Member of late Mrs. Gopali Devi & Mr. Ashok Kumar, she is claiming owner of property bearing No. H-41/4, Area measuring 50 Sq. Yds, out of Khata No. 627, Situated in the Village Ghonda Gurjan Khadar, in the abedi of H Block, Gali No. 15, Jain Prakash Nagar, Ghonda, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi. Mrs. Gopali Devi and Mr. Ashok Kumar acquired the said property on the basis of G.A. Agreement, and will cited 9.12.2001. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned claiming owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Grijesh Kumar & Mr. Vijay Kumar who is taking a Loan from Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. for purchase of the said property. If any body has any objection/s upon the ownership of Mrs. Babli Devi in respect of the said property its sale Mortgage/Litigation, & any kind of dispute, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)** 201, Old 11/2527-38, Shri Mangal Park, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-2627-38, kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs Region, Delhi Northern Region

In the matter of Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/s Orient Resins Limited having its registered office at 10, Friends Colony (West) New Delhi - 110065

Applicant

Notice is hereby given in the general public that the company intending to make an application to the Central Government under Section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules, and is desirous of converting into a private limited company in terms of special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 29th August, 2022 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and ground of opposition to the concerned Regional Director within in fourteen days (14 days) from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office mention below:

Registered Office: 10, Friends Colony (West) New Delhi - 110065

For an on behalf of the Applicant
Avishshi Saras, Director
DIN: 00122648
Address: 10, Friends Colony West, Delhi, 110065
Date: 07-10-2022
Place: New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Rahul Kalsi has signed an Agreement to sale with Mrs. Rekha Kapoor/R/o C-15, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi in respect to the purchase of Plot No. 75, Udyog/Vihar, Phase - IV, Gurugram (admeasuring 890 sq.mtrs) and Civil suit "Vs. M/s Intelligent Instruments Private Limited 480rs." CS-210/2019 Gurugram (Hry) and an FIR/246/2021 P S Vasant Kunj (North) Delhi against Rekha Kapoor and its company is pending before court. Therefore, general public is cautioned not to enter into any kind of sale/purchase agreement with Mrs. Rekha Kapoor or its company in respect of aforementioned property as the same may by null and void at the cost, risk and consequences of person(s) concerned.

Shrampy Sharma Adv.
A 24 Chitrnanjan Park New Delhi

Credit guarantee scheme for startups notified: DPIIT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has notified the credit guarantee scheme for startups to provide them collateral-free loans up to a specified limit.

In a notification, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said that loan/debt facilities sanctioned to an eligible borrower on or after October 6, would be eligible for coverage under the scheme.

“The Central Government has approved the ‘Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)’ for the purpose of providing credit guarantees to loans extended by member institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers being startups,” it said.

This scheme would help provide the much needed collateral-free debt funding to startups, it added.

MIs include financial intermediaries (banks, financial institutions, NBFCs, AIFs) engaged in lending/investing and conforming to the eligibility criteria approved under the Scheme.

Recognised startups that have reached the stage of stable revenue stream, as assessed from audited monthly statements over a 12 month period, amenable to debt financing; and startups that are not in default to any lending/investing



institution and not classified as non-performing asset as per RBI guidelines, are eligible to avail benefits of this scheme.

“Maximum guarantee cover per borrower shall not exceed Rs 10 crore. The credit facility being covered here should not have been covered under any other guarantee scheme,” the Department said.

For the purpose of this scheme, a trust or fund would be set up by the government of India with the purpose of guaranteeing payment against default in loans or debt extended to eligible borrowers, managed by the Board of National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd as the Trustee of the Fund.

It also said that lending

institutions will have to evaluate credit applications by using prudent banking judgement and shall use their business discretion/due diligence in selecting commercially viable proposals and conduct the accounts of the borrowers with normal banking prudence.

These institutions should also have to closely monitor the borrower account.

Further there will be a Management Committee constituted by the DPIIT to oversee the affairs of the trust.

The committee will be responsible for reviewing, supervising and monitoring the functioning of the trust and shall provide necessary guidance to the trust on broad policy matters related to the scheme.

Sensex, Nifty close marginally down on profit booking in IT, financials

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed marginally down in volatile trade on Friday following profit booking in financials and IT shares amid a weak trend in global equity markets.

Snapping its two-day gaining streak, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 30.81 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 58,191.29. During the day, it fell 370.95 points or 0.63 per cent to 57,851.15 but later pared most of the losses.

The broader NSE Nifty dipped 17.15 points or 0.10 per cent to end at 17,314.65 as 32 of its stocks declined.

“Prior to the release of the US jobs data, the domestic market traded with cuts in line with its global counterparts. Stronger-than-anticipated job data may lead to a market decline as it could give the Fed more reasons to focus on inflation,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

Following OPEC+’s announcement of supply reductions, crude prices have continued to rise, while the rupee has dropped to a fresh low as a result of hawkish remarks from Fed officials, Nair added.

Among Sensex shares, Mahindra & Mahindra fell the most by 1.37 per cent.



UltraTech Cement declined 1.3 per cent, State Bank of India by 1.28 per cent, Tata Consultancy Services by 1.28 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 0.79 per cent and ITC by 0.77 per cent.

Titan bucked the trend and rose the most by 5.27 per cent. Power Grid, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, Maruti, HDFC and Reliance Industries also advanced, helping the index cut losses.

“Markets took a pause after the recent rebound and ended almost unchanged, in absence of any major trigger,” said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Global markets, especially the US, are still not offering indications for a sustained recovery so volatility is here to stay and participants should plan overnight positions accordingly, he added.

CBDC: RBI to soon start pilot launch of e-rupee for specific use cases

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it will soon commence the pilot launch of e-rupee for specific use cases with a view to bolstering India’s digital economy, making payment systems more efficient, and checking money laundering.

In a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency, the RBI said CBDC is aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of money and is envisaged to provide an additional payment avenue to users, not to replace the existing payment systems.

“Supported by state-of-the-art payment systems of India that are affordable, accessible, convenient, efficient, safe and secure, the Digital Rupee (e?) system will further bolster India’s digital economy, make the monetary and payment systems more efficient and contribute to furthering financial inclusion,” the paper said.

CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country’s unique requirements.

The Government of India had announced the launch of the Digital Rupee — a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) from fiscal year 2022-23 onwards in the Union



Budget placed in Parliament on February 1, 2022.

The central bank said: “The Reserve Bank will soon commence pilot launches of e? for specific use cases. As the extent and scope of such pilot launches expand, RBI will continue to communicate about the specific features and benefits of e-rupee, from time to time.”

CBDC can be classified into two broad types — general purpose or retail (CBDC-R) and wholesale (CBDC-W). Retail CBDC would be potentially available for use by all and while wholesale CBDC is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.

“For CBDC to play the role as a medium of exchange, it needs to incorporate all the features that physical currency

represents including anonymity, universality, and finality,” the note said.

Across the globe, the note said more than 60 central banks have expressed interest in CBDC with a few implementations already under pilot across both Retail and Wholesale categories and many others are researching, testing, and/or launching their own CBDC framework.

The concept note presents the background, motivation, choices of design features and other policy frameworks for e-rupee system for the country.

The aim is to build an open, inclusive, interoperable and innovative CBDC system which will meet the aspirations of the modern digital economy of India, it said.

Govt invites bids for IDBI Bank privatisation; Govt, LIC to sell 60.72%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday invited bids from investors for privatising IDBI Bank by selling a total of 60.72 per cent stake in the bank.

The last date for submission of bids or Expression of Interest (EoI) is December 16. Currently, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) holds 529.41 crore shares representing 49.24 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, while the government holds 488.99 crore shares or 45.48 per cent stake.

Of this, the government will sell 30.48 per cent and LIC will sell 30.24 per cent stake, aggregating to 60.72 per cent of the equity share capital of IDBI Bank, along with transfer of management control in IDBI Bank, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said while inviting bids. Shares of IDBI Bank closed at Rs 42.70, up 0.71 per cent over previous close on the BSE.

Tata Power mulls 10K MW clean energy capacity in next 5 years in Rajasthan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power on Friday announced its plans to develop around 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity, mainly solar energy, in the next five years in Rajasthan.

“Tata Power plans to have a renewable power portfolio of 10,000 MW in the state (Rajasthan in next five years,” a company statement said.

Participating in the ongoing Invest Rajasthan summit in Jaipur, it stated that it plans to develop up to 8,000 MW of utility scale projects, 1,000 MW of solar rooftop and 1,50,000 solar pumps in next five years in the state.

Tata Power, along with its fully-owned subsidiary Tata Power Solar, will expand its presence in the state to generate clean energy through solar power.

The company employs more than 4,500 people in the state, and its expansion projects



will generate employment for more than 6,000-8,000 people in the next five years.

Dr Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power, said in the statement, “Both in terms of potential and what has been done so far, Rajasthan has today emerged as a role model to produce green energy through solar power. I am happy to be here in Invest Rajasthan summit. With its already strong footprint in the state, Tata Power is fully poised to make Rajasthan future-ready and realise its full potential and emerge as a green power house of the country.”

Titan shares climb over 5%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Titan Company on Friday climbed over 5 per cent after the company said its overall sales grew 18 per cent year-on-year in the September quarter.

The shares jumped 5.27 per cent to settle at ₹2,730.50 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 5.80 per cent to ₹2,744.30.

On the NSE, it climbed 5.29 per cent to end at ₹2,730.20 apiece.

It was the biggest gainer on both Sensex and Nifty.

The company, which operates in the segments as Jewellery, Watches & Wearables, and EyeCare has witnessed “healthy double-digit growth across most businesses,” according to a quarterly update.

Titan added 105 stores in its retail network in the second quarter of the current fiscal.

“The company witnessed healthy double-digit growth across most businesses with overall sales growing 18 per cent YoY,” Titan said.

Sebi to auction properties of 3 companies on November 10

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday said it will auction the properties of three companies — Sumangal Industries, GSHP Realtech and Infocare Infra Ltd — on November 10, to recover money that was illegally raised from investors.

A total of ten properties of three companies will be auctioned at a reserve price totalling ₹7.68 crore, according to a public notice issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Of the five properties relate to Sumangal Industries Ltd, three belong to Infocare Infra Ltd and the remaining relate to GSHP Realtech Ltd.

These properties include land parcels, single-storey buildings and a flat located in West Bengal.

Inviting bids for the sale of properties in the recovery proceedings against the three companies and their promoters and directors, Sebi said the auc-



tion will be conducted online on November 10, from 1030 hours to 1230 hours.

Procurement Technologies Limited has been appointed as the e-auction service provider.

The regulator has asked the bidders to make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on action and claims, among others, before submitting their bids.

A Sebi probe had found that GSHP Realtech mobilised money from 535 persons in 2012-13 by issuing Non-Convertible Redeemable Debentures (NCDs), without

complying with the regulatory norms, while Infocare Infra mopped-up ₹98.35 lakh by allotting non-convertible debentures to 90 investors.

Also, Sumangal Industries had collected ₹85 crore from investors through illegal collective investment schemes (CIS). The firm was running illegal ‘potato purchase’ investment schemes promising up to 100 per cent gain in just 15 months to investors.

Sebi, in 2013 and 2016, had ordered Sumangal and GSHP Realtech, Infocare Infra Projects as well as their promoters and directors, respectively to refund the money raised from investors. However, the entities failed to return investors’ money and consequently the regulator initiated recovery proceedings against them.

In August, Sebi auctioned properties of Sumangal Industries and GSHP Realtech for a reserve price totalling ₹9.8 crore.

Gold rises ₹37; silver gains ₹311

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national Capital rose ₹37 to ₹52,300 per 10 grams on Friday amid depreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had touched ₹52,263 per 10 grams.

Silver also gained ₹311 to ₹62,022 per kg from ₹61,711 per kg.

The rupee depreciated 16 paise to an all-time low of 82.33 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday as a firm American currency and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,711.16 per ounce while silver was up at USD 20.73 per ounce.

“Spot COMEX Gold last quoted at USD 1,711.16 per ounce, while the Indian gold prices trade higher amid a weaker rupee and strong physical gold demand,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

Adani announces ₹65K cr investment in Rajasthan

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Richest Asian Gautam Adani on Friday announced a ₹65,000 crore investment in Rajasthan over the next 5 to 7 years in setting up a mega 10,000 MW solar power capacity, expanding cement plant and upgrading Jaipur airport.

The investment by ports-to-energy conglomerate that Adani heads also spans city gas infrastructure for retailing CNG to automobiles and piped gas to households and industries as well as laying transmission lines to carry renewable power.

Speaking at the Invest Rajasthan 2022 Summit here, he said the Adani group already



has a sizeable presence in the state. It operates a thermal power plant, has set up a solar park and supplies coal to the state’s power-generating units.

Adani Group is investing ₹50,000 crore to add 10,000 megawatts of renewable power generation capacity.

“This will be commis-

sioned progressively over the next 5 years,” he said, adding the group just a week back achieved commercial operation of the world’s largest wind-solar hybrid power plant in Rajasthan.

Besides, it is looking to double its cement manufacturing capacity following its acquisition of Ambuja Cements and ACC.

“While we already have three cement plants and limestone mining assets, a significant part of our capacity expansion will continue to happen in Rajasthan. We anticipate investing another ₹7,000 crore to double our cement manufacturing capacity in the state,” he said.

liAS advises Ambuja shareholders to vote against raising of ₹20,000 crore from Adani family

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Institutional investor advisory firm liAS has recommended the shareholders of Ambuja Cements to vote against the proposal to raise ₹20,000 crore from the Adani family firm by issuing warrants during the company’s extraordinary general meeting. Besides, it has also advised shareholders to vote against the appointment of Amet Desai and Purvi Sheth as independent directors of the company.

Ambuja Cements, which also owns 50.05 per cent in ACC Ltd, has called an Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the shareholders on Saturday.

It has sought shareholders’ approval on 12 resolutions, which include preferential allotment of 47.74 crore warrants at a price band of ₹418.87 to Harmonia Trade and Investment Ltd, an Adani group entity, totalling ₹20,001 crore in one or more tranches. The company has also sought approvals for the appointment of Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, his son Karan Adani and two directors and four independent directors on the board. In its voting advisory, liAS has said: “Assuming full conversion of the warrants, the issue will lead to a dilution of 19.4 per cent on the expanded capital base which is high.

Balasubramanian re-elected mutual fund industry body Amfi’s chairman

New Delhi : Mutual funds industry body Amfi on Friday said Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC managing director and chief executive A Balasubramanian has been re-elected as its chairman. Besides, Radhika Gupta, managing director and chief executive of Edelweiss AMC, will continue as vice-chairperson of Amfi.

The decisions were taken by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) in its board meeting held in September, the industry body said in a statement. Both Balasubramanian and Gupta will hold office until the conclusion of next annual general meeting.

IOL gets EU regulatory nod for supply of Ethyl Acetate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IOL Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals on Thursday said it has received regulatory approval from the European Union for the supply of a chemical, ethyl acetate.

IOL started production of ethyl acetate in 1996 and exports it to more than 40 countries. Ethyl acetate is primarily used as a solvent and diluent. It is also used in nail varnish remover, circuit board cleaners, paints and perfumes.

In a statement, the company said it has received the REACH certification, which will open a window to IOL to export ethyl acetate across the European market.

The REACH is an EU regulation adopted to strengthen



the protection of human health and the environment. The law aims at boosting the competitiveness of the EU chemicals sector, it said.

IOL also announced the appointment of REACHLaw as their only representative (OR) to assist the company in broadening arms and expanding its territory in European nations.

IOL said it has the largest single-location plant of ethyl acetate in India with a production capacity of 120,000 tonnes per annum. Besides ethyl acetate, the company also produces other key speciality chemicals.

CCI orders another probe against Google

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission has ordered another detailed probe against Google for alleged unfair revenue sharing terms with respect to news content.

The case will be clubbed with two other ongoing matters against the search engine major where the allegations are substantially same, according to the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

The latest order has come on a complaint filed by the

News Broadcasters & Digital Association.

In January this year, CCI ordered a probe against Google on the complaint filed by the Digital News Publishers Association. Later, the Indian Newspaper Society also filed a similar case and that was clubbed with the first one.

Now, the regulator’s probe arm Director General (DG) will submit a consolidated investigation report, the watchdog said in an order released on Friday. The News Broadcasters & Digital Association had

alleged that its members are forced to provide their news content to Google in order to prioritise their weblinks in the Search Engine Result Page (SERP) of Google. As a result, Google free rides on the content of the members without giving them adequate compensation, as per the complaint.

Among others, it was alleged that Google exploited the dependency of the members on the search engine offered by Google for referral traffic to build services such as Google News, Google Discover

and Google Accelerated Mobile Pages (AMP).

The search engine major provides news content to user through Google Search and through news aggregator vertical, Google News.

According to the complaint, in Google Search, users can either search directly for news through News Tab or receive news through result in SERPs. Google incorporated news content in its SERPs through featured snippets including ‘Top Stories’ carousels.

CBDC: RBI to soon start pilot launch of e-rupee for specific use cases

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it will soon commence the pilot launch of e-rupee for specific use cases with a view to bolstering India’s digital economy, making payment systems more efficient, and checking money laundering.

In a concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency, the RBI said CBDC is aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of

money and is envisaged to provide an additional payment avenue to users, not to replace the existing payment systems.

“Supported by state-of-the-art payment systems of India that are affordable, accessible, convenient, efficient, safe and secure, the Digital Rupee (e?) system will further bolster India’s digital economy, make the monetary and payment systems more efficient and contribute to furthering financial inclusion,” the paper said.

CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country’s unique requirements.

The Government of India had announced the launch of the Digital Rupee — a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) from fiscal year 2022-23 onwards in the Union Budget placed in Parliament on

February 1, 2022.

The central bank said: “The Reserve Bank will soon commence pilot launches of e? for specific use cases. As the extent and scope of such pilot launches expand, RBI will continue to communicate about the specific features and benefits of e-rupee, from time to time.”

CBDC can be classified into two broad types — general purpose or retail (CBDC-R) and wholesale (CBDC-W).

India aiming for QF berth, says U-17 women's coach

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Head coach Thomas Dennerby has full faith that Indian team will give stronger nations like Brazil and USA a run for their money and qualify for the quarter-finals in the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, starting Tuesday.

India will begin their campaign against the mighty USA on October 11 and play Morocco and Brazil on October 14 and 17 respectively at the Kalinga Stadium here.

"Of course, we're up against absolute top teams, but if we have a really good day and the teams have a little bit weaker outing, there's always a chance for the team coming out like underdogs to win that game," the 63-year-old told reporters during a virtual interaction ahead of the big meet.

"If we can score an early goal against one of these teams, they may get a little bit nervous, get stressed and so on. There's always a chance and if we get a chance we'll take it."

The top two teams from each group will make the cut for the quarters and if their respective senior FIFA rankings are of any indication, then USA are the world no 1. Brazil are in top-10, while Morocco (76) are the one nation below the 58-ranked India in the senior women's rankings.

"Of course, we want to be in the quarters, no doubt about that, and we are going to play with all our hearts. The way to do it is only by focusing on our performances."

"For me, it's not so much



about results. We have to stick to our plan, stay calm to whatever the results (are). We are going to fight to take points from each and every opponent.

"But first of all, we are focusing on our performances and hopefully good performances will also lead to points," said the Swede, who took charge of the Blue Tigresses in November 2019 with the focus on the U-17 WWC.

Counting high on the home support at the Kalinga Stadium here, he said: "We will have the supporters on our side. Hopefully a good number of spectators in the stands will help the team to really fight and fill that gap."

"But in total, I am going to

look at performances that we can perform at the top level. If our top level is enough to beat the USA or Brazil, it's too early to say."

"Most importantly, it's about showing everyone who are looking at us with high expectations that we also have a really good team with a lot of young players who can perform at the highest level in the age group."

On his assessment of the side, Dennerby said the team has a solid organisational display with a strong defensive unit in Astam Oraon, Kajal, Naketa, Purnima Kumari, Varshika and Shilky Devi Hemam.

In Nitu Linda, they have a

deceptive mid-fielder who has a knack for finding good spaces and Dennerby said it's a team with a strong defence with quick attacks.

"I hope that you will see India with a really strong defence and well-organised team that it's hard to score on."

"Our style will have a little bit of quick attacks and counter attacks. We have a lot of speed up front and on the wings, so we have to utilise our best strengths."

About Nitu, he said: "She has super quality in deception and is always very active, fighting for her team, ready to move."

"She also has a quality to find good spaces to receive

balls to play crucial final passes. She's really doing well."

They are fresh from their Spain trip where they suffered a 1-3 defeat against Sweden in the first match of the exposure tour and returned with a 17-1 win over WSS Barcelona Club.

"We're ready and excited. We performed very well against Sweden, it was a very equal game. We have two shots on the bar and made small mistakes against a quality side like Sweden."

"The last game against the Academy team from Barcelona was not up to the mark as with their fitness level they couldn't handle the tempo of the game," he signed off.

Klopp calls for stuttering Liverpool to be 'unpredictable again'

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jurgen Klopp said Friday that Liverpool must rediscover their unpredictability after a disappointing start to the season and expressed his belief that misfiring striker Darwin Nunez has a bright future at the club.

The 2020 Premier League champions have won just two of their opening seven games in the English top flight and are already 11 points behind leaders Arsenal, their opponents on Sunday.

Liverpool manager Klopp deviated from his established 4-3-3 system to play 4-2-3-1, or 4-4-2, in Tuesday's 2-0 Champions League victory over Scottish side Rangers.

He was asked at his pre-match press conference on Friday whether that was the blueprint for the future.

"For us, it is much more important that we become unpredictable again and we need different systems for that," he said.

"This is not the only system we can play. It was now a 4-4-2. Always when you name systems, it's 'Is it 4-3-3 or is it 4-5-1? Is it 4-4-2 or 4-2-3-1?'"

"We don't want to make it more complicated than it is, but there are obviously different systems for us available and we have to choose from now on which one is the best for the next opponent, or the best for us in the moment."

"We have to be more unpredictable, definitely."

Klopp said even though some teams had worked out how to play Liverpool over the past few years, those opponents had often come up short because his own side had been "exceptional".

He said no system was without its weaknesses but he



wanted Liverpool to put doubts in the minds of opponents.

"If you prepare for (playing) us it makes sense that you just have to think twice or three times where there might be something you could use," he said.

Uruguay forward Nunez has scored just one competitive goal since arriving from Benfica for an initial fee of 75 million euros (\$73 million) in the summer transfer window.

But Klopp, whose side face in-form Arsenal at the Emirates, said he showed some positive signs in the midweek win against Rangers.

"It was down to his movement and down to the movement of the boys around," he said.

"One of the things he showed so far in all the games he played is that he brings himself quite frequently in good finishing positions, which is actually the most important thing for a striker."

"That's why everybody

Forest boss Cooper signs new deal

AP ■ NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham Forest manager Steve Cooper has signed a new contract that keeps him at the club until 2025 even though they are rooted at the bottom of the Premier League.

Cooper, 42, was reported to be facing the sack earlier this week after a run of five successive Premier League defeats but he has now tied his future to the club for the next three years.

His existing deal was due to expire in 2023.

The 42-year-old took charge of Forest in September last year and has since won 29 of his 54 matches at the helm.

The club finished fourth in the second-tier Championship last season, returning to the Premier League for the first time since 1999 after beating Huddersfield 1-0 in the play-off final at Wembley.

Forest said in a statement: "It is now important that our focus is solely on football."

"As a group we are all concentrated and will do everything we can to help the team move up the league table and once again demonstrate our qualities that led us to the Premier League."

should be, or could be, very optimistic about what's coming from him in the future. That was absolutely good."

Injured Kyrgios pulls out of Japan Open quarters

AP ■ TOKYO

Nick Kyrgios withdrew from the Japan Open just before his quarter-final on Friday with a sore left knee, calling it "heart-breaking".

The mercurial Australian tennis star had been scheduled to pay third-seeded American Taylor Fritz, who will now advance into the last four.

At a hastily announced press conference when the match was due to begin, world number 20 Kyrgios said he had "been playing amazing tennis all year" but it had been physically taxing.

"I actually was dealing with a bit of a knee issue around the US Open time, and got back home, probably didn't take enough time off, to be honest. I went straight back into training," said the 27-year-old.

"It's heart-breaking. When the body lets you down, it's not a good feeling."

Kyrgios will now head home, but said he still plans to play several events in the run-up to the Australian Open in January, and promised to return to the Japanese tournament in 2023.

Kyrgios, who beat Poland's Kamil Majchrzak 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the second round on Thursday, said his knee had "not really"



been an issue in his singles or doubles matches, but it had felt 'pretty sore' while warming up on Friday.

Earlier on Friday, a jet-lagged Frances Tiafoe flew into the semi-finals in straight sets, clinching each with an ace to beat Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic 6-0, 6-4.

The fourth-seeded US player will face unseeded Kwon Soon-woo of South Korea on

Saturday, while Fritz will play either Canada's Denis Shapovalov or Croatia's Borna Coric.

"Great tennis today," he said. "I was moving really well, I hit the ball really well from the back of the court."

Kwon beat Spain's Pedro Martinez 6-3, 6-0 and Tiafoe said it would be 'cool' to play the South Korean -- who he faced at the Tokyo Olympics.

Man United avoid humiliation

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United avoided further embarrassment after their humiliating defeat to Manchester City by coming from behind to beat Cypriots Omonia Nicosia 3-2 in the Europa League on Thursday, while Premier League leaders Arsenal eased past Bodo/Glimt.

Marcus Rashford scored twice along with Anthony Martial after both came off the bench in the second half as United recovered after Iran international Karim Ansarifard gave the hosts a shock lead on 34 minutes.

Nikolas Panagiotou pulled one back for Neil Lennon's Omonia with five minutes to play but United held on for a second win in three Group E outings.

"Job done, but we would have liked to have played better. We didn't defend badly, but we made mistakes," Rashford told BT Sport.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who was an unused substitute for United's 6-3 loss at City last weekend, played the full 90 minutes as he made just his fourth start for the club this season.

Erik ten Hag's side remain second in the group behind Real Sociedad, who made it three straight wins with a 2-0 victory against 10-man Sheriff Tiraspol in Chisinau.



Former City star David Silva broke the deadlock shortly after half-time and Ariz Elustondo doubled the lead following Moussa Kyabou's red card on the hour.

Arsenal saw off Norwegian champions Bodo/Glimt 3-0 at the Emirates Stadium courtesy of first-half goals from Eddie Nketiah and Rob Holding, and Fabio Vieira's goal six minutes from time.

The Gunners are top of Group A after back-to-back wins. Their clash with PSV Eindhoven last month was

rescheduled following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Yorbe Vertessen and Cody Gakpo both struck twice as PSV Eindhoven thumped FC Zurich 5-1 in Switzerland.

Former Paris Saint-Germain youngster Xavi Simons also scored as Ruud van Nistelrooy's team sit two points back of the Gunners.

Crowd trouble in Sweden Surprise Bundesliga leaders Union Berlin won 1-0 at Malmö in a game that was interrupted because of crowd trouble in the second half.

The referee ordered players off the pitch as fans launched smoke bombs, but play eventually resumed and Sberaldo Becker delivered the winning goal.

Gustaf Nilsson was the star for Union St Gilloise, netting twice as a late substitute in a 2-1 victory at Braga as the Belgians took control of Group D.

Monaco forward Wissam Ben Yedder bagged a pair of goals, the second from the penalty spot, in his side's 3-1 home win over Trabzonspor.

The Turkish team were

reduced to 10 men early on when Maxi Gomez lashed out at Mohamed Camara.

Ben Yedder's brace had Monaco leading 2-0 before Axel Disasi added a third, with Anastasios Bakasetas grabbing a consolation.

Monaco are second in Group H but level on points with leaders Ferencvaros, whose perfect start was ended emphatically as Red Star Belgrade beat the Hungarians 4-1 in Belgrade.

Desire Doue's late goal gave Rennes a 2-1 win over Dynamo Kyiv in Group B, while Fenerbahce defeated AEL Larnaca of Cyprus 2-0.

Guido Rodriguez and Luiz Henrique scored as Real Betis won 2-1 at Jose Mourinho's Roma, whose side had led through Paulo Dybala's penalty.

Lazio drew 0-0 at Austria's Sturm Graz and Freiburg overcame Nantes 2-0.

Italy striker Gianluca Scamacca hit a late winner for West Ham as they beat Anderlecht 1-0 in Belgium in the Europa Conference League.

David Moyes' Hammers have a maximum nine points in Group B, where Silkeborg picked up their first with a 5-0 rout of Romanians FCSB.

On-loan Arsenal forward Nicolas Pepe got the only goal for Nice in a 1-0 victory away to Czech outfit Slovacov.

Mercedes pair edge Verstappen in Japanese GP second practice

AP ■ TOKYO

George Russell and Lewis Hamilton made it a Mercedes one-two ahead of title-chasing Max Verstappen in a wet-dry second practice on Friday for the Japanese Grand Prix.

Runaway Red Bull leader Verstappen can clinch his second straight world title on Sunday if he wins the race with the fastest lap, no matter what his rivals do.

But he was beaten to the quickest time in the second practice session by the Mercedes pair, with Russell clocking a fastest lap of 1min 41.935sec. Seven-time world champion Hamilton followed his fellow Briton 0.235sec behind, with Verstappen coming in third, a sizeable 0.851sec behind Russell.

A rainy start to the session at Suzuka meant the drivers began on wet tyres but switched to intermediates once the conditions improved.

That did not satisfy Verstappen though, with the flying Dutchman telling his team "all tyres are s---, no grip", over the radio.

Dry conditions are expected for Saturday's qualifying but some rain is forecast for Sunday. "It's probably not going to be that representative for this weekend but definitely good learning for the future," Russell said of the conditions.

"Nevertheless, it's always nice to end the day top of the timesheets."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, Verstappen's nearest rival in the championship standings, finished 2.774sec behind Russell in 11th.

Harmanpreet named FIH Player of the Year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India defender Harmanpreet Singh was on Friday named the FIH Player of the Year in the men's category for the second successive time.

The 26-year-old became just the fourth player to win the Player of the Year award (men's category) in consecutive years, joining an elite list that includes Teun De Nooijer (Netherlands), Jamie Dwyer (Australia) and Arthur van Doren (Belgium).

"Harmanpreet Singh is a bona fide modern-day hockey superstar. He is a terrific defender with a knack for being at the right place at the right time to breakdown the opponent's offense," FIH said in a statement.

"He has great dribbling skills to carry the ball up the field from defense. And he scores goals, goals and more goals! To add to that impressive resume, he has now been voted the FIH Player of the Year, for



the second year running."

Harmanpreet's total points tally stood at 29.4 points, followed by Thierry Brinkmann with 23.6 points and Tom

Boon with 23.4 points.

The India vice-captain has scored an incredible 18 goals from 16 games, with two hat-tricks, in the FIH Hockey Pro

League 2021-22.

With those 18 goals, he ended the season as the top scorer for India and now holds the record for most goals scored by a player in a single season of the Pro League.

Harmanpreet was also in terrific form at the Asian Champions Trophy last year in Dhaka, where he scored 8 goals in 6 games, scoring in every single game as India finished on the podium.

His performances were also crucial to the Indian team that won a silver medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

In women's category, Felice Albers of Netherlands was named the FIH Players of the Year.

The 22-year-old became the youngest winner of the FIH Player of the Year award (women's category) since Germany's Natascha Keller (1999) and Natascha Keller ever, since the inception of the awards in 1998.

Avinash Sable headlines Delhi Half Marathon

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commonwealth Games silver medalist Avinash Sable will spearhead the Indian challenge at the 17th Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon here on October 16.

The \$268,000 prize money World Athletics Elite Label Road Race, to be flagged off from the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, will see tens of thousands of amateurs join the world's best elites in a race that has stood as a pinnacle of sporting glory.

Olympian steeple-chaser Sable will return to the venue where he became the first Indian to complete the half marathon in under 61 minutes — finishing in a sensational 60:30 for the Indian crown and 10th place overall.

The Indian elite category will also see Abhishek Pal, winner of the 2018 edition.

Pal recently clinched a silver medal in 10,000m with a

time of 28:54.98 at the ongoing National Games in Gujarat.

The Indian women's field will be headed by Sanjivani Jadhav, a former champion as well as the 2020 edition's silver medalist.

Sanjivani, who won 10,000m gold at the 2022 Federation Cup athletics, will be challenged by Monika Athare, also a former champion.

The Indian elite winners in the men's and women's categories will take home INR 3.5 lakh each and the prize fund includes the top 10 finishers in both. There is also a bonus of Rs 1 lakh for a new course record and a similar prize amount as the jackpot.

Fell short just by two strokes: Samson

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

India fell short by just two big hits in the first ODI against South Africa, said wicket-keeper batter Sanju Samson who made an unbeaten 86 in a losing cause here.

Chasing a stiff 250-run target in 40 overs in a rain-truncated game, the hosts lost by nine runs.

Besides Samson, Shreyas Iyer (50) and Shardul Thakur (33) also played good hands but couldn't take India over the finishing line.

"I love spending time at the wicket, especially in India colours. We play to win the match. I fell short by just two shots -- one four and a six. I will try to make up for that in the next match but I am happy with my contribution," Samson said in the post-match press conference.

Needing 30 runs off the last over, Samson hit Tabraiz Shamsi for one and three boundaries to garner 20 runs but it was not enough. He did not play a single ball in the 19th over, potentially proving to be the difference in the game.

"South Africa bowlers were bowling really well but Shamsi was going a little expensive so we thought we can target him. I knew he had one over left so if we needed 24 runs, I was confident that I could hit four sixes. So I was taking it deep. That was our plan," Samson said.

With the city witnessing persistent rains for the last three days, the pitch was damp initially and offered movement for the bowlers.

"If you have noticed South Africa innings, you could see it was difficult to make runs with the new ball. After 15 overs (David) Miller



NEEDING 30 RUNS OFF THE LAST OVER, SAMSON HIT TABRAIZ SHAMSI FOR ONE AND THREE BOUNDARIES TO GARNER 20 RUNS BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH

and (Heinrich) Klaasen batted really well, it became easy.

"The ball wasn't moving. Batting became easy after 15-20 overs," Samson said.

After the initial struggle, Miller (75 not out off 63 balls) and Klaasen (74 not out off 65 balls) shared 139 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket to take the visitors close to the 250-run mark.

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

"I made 80 odd runs but I also made mistakes. It was a learning lesson for us and we would look to make up for that in the next match.

"We have some space to improve but we also need to look at the batsman we are bowling at. Someone like David Miller is the best finisher in the world at the moment and bowling against him in this ground was very challenging," Samson said.

"We responded decently I think. No-a-days 50 runs in 5 overs has become easy but definitely we can improve. They are a very experienced team so we will have a very challenging series ahead."

The second ODI will be played at Ranchi on Sunday.



It's not easy to bat in these conditions: Klaasen

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

position when Miller and I came in.

"Our middle order is experienced enough and we knew we have to do the hard work, find a way to play in these conditions. We keep on reminding ourselves of our blueprint and the way we need to play in these conditions," he added.

Klaasen feels Thursday's knock was one of the best of his career.

"To score runs in these conditions and play such an innings, which I think was one of my better innings I have ever played in my life. I am very pleased. It's been a good batting performance from the squad."

The ongoing series is extremely crucial for South Africa to garner some valuable points in the ICC World Cup Super League. The Proteas are languishing at the 11th position on the table and run the risk of being knocked out of direct qualification for the marquee event next year in India.

But Klaasen said they are not thinking about the ODI showpiece just yet as their present focus is on the T20 World Cup which begins later this month in Australia.

Pak shock India for first T20I win since 2016



PTI ■ SYLHET

Indian batters bungled badly in a straightforward chase as Pakistan recorded their first win over the arch-rivals in six years with a 13-run victory in the Women's Asia Cup, here on Friday.

India, the most formidable team in Asia by some distance, batted poorly to be all out for 124 in 19.4 overs after Pakistan posted a modest 137 for six.

Pakistan scripted a remarkable turnaround less than 24 hours after their shock loss over Thailand.

At 65 for five, India were in all sorts of trouble with majority of the batters including star player Smriti Mandhana (17 off 19) throwing their wickets away.

Prior this game, India enjoyed a 10-2 record over Pakistan whose previous win

over the arch-rivals came way back in the 2016 T20 World Cup in New Delhi.

Pooja Vastrakar got herself run out after attempting a run off a misfield while Dayalan Hemalatha (20 off 22) let her team down after not capitalising on a start.

Questions were raised over Harmanpreet Kaur's fitness as she came into bat at number seven before perishing cheaply.

"I think in the middle we were trying to give other batters a chance. That cost us today. It was a chaseable target. In the middle overs, we were not able to rotate the strike," a dejected Harmanpreet said after the match.

With India needing 61 off the last six overs, Pakistan were the favourites to pull off an unexpected win.

Richa Ghosh (26 off 13),

who had been taken off the field in Pakistan's innings after suffering a heat stroke, brought India back into the game with three sixes against the spinners before getting caught in the deep in the 19th over. Her dismissal effectively ended all of India's hopes.

Earlier, Pakistan, who were shocked by Thailand on Thursday, put an improved batting performance against the Indians but it still seemed below par.

Nida Dar (56 not out off 37 balls) and skipper Bismah Maroof (32 off 35) shared a crucial 76-run stand off 58 balls to give the innings a much needed move on.

Dar was the pick of Pakistan batters as she used her feet well, especially against the spinners, to get the big hits.

Off spinner Deepti Sharma (3/27) stood out among India's bowlers with best figures. She was not afraid to give some loop to the ball, helping her deceive Pakistan opener Muneeba Ali (17) that resulted in getting stumps.

Omaima Sohail fell two balls later as she was found trapped in front of the stumps while attempting a sweep.

Bismah got lucky on 8 with the umpire turning down Rajeshwari Gayakwad's appeal for what it appeared a clear lbw dismissal.

Pakistan reached 61 for three in 10 overs. Dar then gave the innings some momentum as she stepped out to smashed Hemalatha for a four and straight six in a 15-run over.

Indian fielding was found wanting on more than one occasion with substitute Shafali Verma missing an easy stumping chance.

Pak beat B'desh by 21 runs in tri-series opener



AP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Mohammad Rizwan posted an unbeaten 78 from 50 balls to help Pakistan to a 21-run win over Bangladesh on Friday in the T20 tri-series opener in New Zealand.

The three teams are using the series to prepare for the T20 World Cup in Australia starting later this month.

Pakistan lost the toss and posted 167-5 after being sent in to bat, with Rizwan sharing a 52-run opening

RPSG name Gautam Gambhir global mentor for its multiple T20 teams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group has appointed former India opener and its IPL franchise team Lucknow Super Giants mentor Gautam Gambhir as a Global Mentor for its cricketing operations.

Gambhir, in addition to guiding LSG, will now also mentor RPSG Group's T20 team in South Africa - Durban's Super Giants.

Under Gambhir, LSG qualified for the play-offs in its debut season.

"As a Global mentor of Super Giants, I look forward to some added responsibility. My

GAMBHIR, IN ADDITION TO GUIDING LSG, WILL NOW ALSO MENTOR RPSG GROUP'S T20 TEAM IN SOUTH AFRICA - DURBAN'S SUPER GIANTS

intensity and passion to win have just got international wings. It will be a proud moment to see the Super Giants family leave a global imprint.

"I thank Super Giants family for showing that faith in me. Guess it's time for some more sleepless nights," Gambhir said.

Bumrah & Jadeja's absence opens opportunity to unearth new champions: Shastri

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Former India coach Ravi Shastri feels the absence of Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja at the T20 World Cup will affect the team but it also opens up an opportunity to "unearth a new champion".

Both Bumrah and Jadeja will miss the showpiece event Down Under later this month owing to injuries.

While Jadeja was ruled out due to a knee injury, a back injury has put Bumrah out of contention for the World Cup, dealing a major blow to India's chances at the marquee event.

"Bumrah not being there - it hampers the side - but it's an oppor-

tunity to unearth a new champion," Shastri said at the launch of Coaching Beyond, his new initiative with B Arun and R Sridhar.

"(Bumrah's injury) is unfortunate. There's so much cricket being played, and people get injured. He is injured, but it's an opportunity for somebody else. There is nothing you can do with injury," he added.

While a replacement for Bumrah has not been named yet, head coach Rahul Dravid has indicated Mohammad Shami could replace his teammate if he gains full fitness after recovering from COVID-19.

Shami, who is on the standby list for the ICC event along-



side Deepak Chahar, hasn't played competitive cricket since July and was forced to miss the six home games against

Australia and South Africa after contracting COVID-19.

But Shastri feels the veteran pacers success and experi-

ence in Australia will benefit India. "Precisely, his experience (in Australian conditions is his strength). India have been there a lot in the last six years and he has been an integral part of all those tours. So that experience (of having done well in Australia) counts."

The 60-year-old feels despite the injuries, the Indian team has enough depth to go deep into the tournament Down Under.

"I think we have got enough strength and we have a good team. If you make it to the semi-finals, it could be anyone's tournament. "So, the endeavour would be to start well, get to the semis, and then you have got enough strength to probably win the (World) Cup."

Warner, Starc star as Oz beat WI by 31 runs to clinch series

AP ■

An explosive David Warner slammed 75 and Mitchell Starc grabbed four wickets as Australia beat the West Indies by 31 runs Friday to clinch the T20I series 2-0 in the build-up to defending their World Cup title.

The home team were cruising at 95-1, but they lost three wickets for five runs, including Warner, as the visitors got back into contention.

The dangerous Tim David came to the rescue with an entertaining 42 off 20 balls, including three big sixes, to steer them to 178-7.

"It was a fantastic all round performance and well executed by the bowlers. At the halfway mark we had discussed about bowling Test match lines and lengths, and they nailed them," said man-of-the-match Warner.

Skipper Aaron Finch added: "The difference in the game was Davey and David."

The hosts clinched the first match by three wickets, and the West Indies wanted a win in what was their last game before the World Cup, where they face Scotland in the preliminary round first-up on October 17.

But they managed just 147-8 in reply, with Starc taking 4-20, his best figures in a T20.

"Tough to lose, but they played better cricket," said West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran. "We are getting accustomed to the conditions, putting our ego aside and working on the team plans."

They had few answers to



Warner, who punished anything short at the Gabba in Brisbane, hitting 10 fours and three sixes in his 41-ball blitz.

Finch was on the teamsheet to open alongside Warner after coming in at four in the first game, but after Australia were sent into bat it was Cameron Green who again strode to the crease.

And for a second match, the all-rounder failed to fire, out for one.

Finch was first drop as Australia continue to experiment ahead of the World Cup, and he was content to play second-fiddle to Warner.

After smacking two boundaries in the opening over, Warner barely put a foot wrong as he raced to his 23rd

T20 half-century, bringing up the milestone off 30 balls.

They reached 88-1 -- 68 of them from Warner -- at the halfway mark, but the visitors pounced soon after with both players falling within six balls.

Finch was caught at mid-off by Rovman Powell off Obed McCoy for 15, snapping an 85-run partnership, then Warner departed caught and bowled by Odean Smith.

Glenn Maxwell's poor run of form continued, run out for one as Australia stumbled to 100-4, losing three wickets for five runs.

But David steadied the ship with his quick-fire 42. After hitting 20 off the first four balls of a McCoy over, he was finally trapped lbw.