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RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

Established 1864

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

Late City Vol.32 Issue 283
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

OPINION 6
VISHWAGURU NEEDS HIGH HEI RANKING

WORLD 9
CHINA'S TECH AIMS 'THREAT TO US ALL', SAYS UK SPY CHIEF

MONEY 10
₹ RISES 19 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 82.21 AGAINST US DOLLAR

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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INDIA CLINCH ODI SERIES AGAINST SA
11 SPORT

India has broken shackles of colonialism, says Modi

PM opens Mahakal Lok corridor at Mahakaleshwar

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India has now broken the "shackles of colonialism" and cultural destinations across the country are seeing overall development.

The PM was speaking after dedicating to the nation the first phase of the "Shri Mahakal Lok" corridor at Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, amid chanting of "mantras" and performing of pujas. The project is being developed at a cost of ₹856 crore.

"Blessed to have got the opportunity to dedicate #ShriMahakalLok to the nation. This is an important endeavour that will deepen the connection of our citizens with our rich history and glorious culture," Modi tweeted.

The PM unveiled a large "shivaling" covered in strands of sacred red threads placed below the grand gateway — Nandi Dwar — of "Mahakal Lok" to mark the inauguration of the mega corridor in Ujjain.

The PM unveiled the shivaling by pressing a remote-control button from a short distance from the gateway in the presence of a large number of seers in the background.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at the Mahakal Temple before inaugurating the first phase of the Mahakaleshwar Temple corridor development project in Ujjain on Tuesday PTI

Speaking at a public function afterward, Modi said the corridor project will add to Ujjain's vibrancy.

"Spirituality is contained in every particle and divine energy is being transmitted in every corner of Ujjain," he said, adding, "Ujjain has led India's prosperity, knowledge, dignity and literature for thousands of years."

"Innovation comes with renovation. India is renovating what it had lost in the era of slavery. India is renovating it and restoring its glory," he said. The country has now broken the "shackles of colonialism" and cultural destinations across India are seeing all-around development, the PM said.

The project, making an elaborate makeover around the Mahakal temple, aims to decongest the entire area and also to put special emphasis on conservation and restoration of heritage structures. The first phase of "Mahakal Lok" has been developed at ₹351 crore.

The 900 metre-long Mahakal Lok corridor built at the Mahakaleshwar temple at Ujjain. The corridor now has around 108 aesthetically ornate pillars made of intricately carved sandstones that depict the Anand Tandav Swaroop (Lord Shiva's dance form), 200 statues and murals of Lord Shiva and goddess Shakti. Modi offered prayers at the temple before he inaugurated the corridor project. The world-class modern amenities would enliven the experience of the pilgrims visiting the temple, top officials said. Under the project, the temple precinct will be expanded nearly seven times.

Modi took a round of the corridor on foot as also on battery-operated vehicles along with Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangu Bhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Ahead of dedicating to the nation the first phase of the Shri Mahakal Lok corridor, the PM performed puja at Lord Mahakal temple in Ujjain.

Modi, attired in traditional dhoti and gamcha (stole), entered the sanctum sanctorum of the Lord Mahakal temple around 6 pm.

Continued on Page 2

CBI charges DMK's Raja in ₹5.5 cr DA case

Chargesheet says Raja got ₹4.56 cr in quid pro quo

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against former Telecom Minister and DMK leader A Raja for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹5.53 crore during his tenure as a Cabinet Minister in the UPA I and UPA II.

In its chargesheet filed before a Special CBI court in Chennai, the agency has alleged that a close associate of Raja, C Krishnamurthy, had set up a company Kovai Shelters Promoters in January, 2007 in which a payment of ₹4.56 crore was received in February that year from a Gurugram-based real estate company as commission for purchase of land in Kanchipuram, officials said.

It is alleged that the payment was not for the land deal but a quid pro quo for giving the real estate firm the status of an infrastructure company by Raja during his tenure as Union Minister, they said.

In the chargesheet filed in August this year, the CBI has alleged that the company had not "undertaken any other real estate activity" other than the purported land deal for the real estate firm.

The company had later bought agricultural land in Coimbatore.

The agency has alleged that as Minister Raja had garnered assets worth ₹5.53 crore, including the payment of ₹4.56 crore to the company in which Raja's close relatives were directors, which he could not satisfactorily account for, they said.

The CBI has alleged assets in question were disproportionate to the tune of 579 per cent from his known sources of income, they said.

The agency had registered the case in 2015 against Raja and 16 others, including his nephew Parmesh, wife Parameswari, his associate Krishnamurthy who is also director of Kovai Shelters Pvt Limited, wife of Sadiq Bacha, an alleged associate of Raja who had committed suicide, and Reha Banu, a director in Greenhouse Promoters which was earlier owned by Bacha among others.

The CBI had booked Raja in connection with the 2G spectrum allocation case but he was acquitted by a court as the CBI failed to prove any charges of corruption against him.

4-month cap for nod to sue public servants must, authority liable for delay: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held the four-month statutory provision for granting sanction to prosecute government officials in criminal cases is "mandatory", saying delay in prosecuting the corrupt "breeds a culture of impunity" and leads to "systemic resignation" to the corruption in public life.

"The competent authority shall be accountable for the delay and be subject to judicial review and administrative action by the Central Vigilance Commission."

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and PS Narasimha, in its 30-page verdict, however, said though the delay in granting the sanction to prosecute can be assailed in the high courts and the top court, it would not be a ground for quashing the criminal cases against government officials.

It said the sanctioning authority must bear in mind that public confidence in the maintenance of the rule of law, which is fundamental in the administration of justice, is at stake here. "By causing delay in considering the request for sanction, the sanctioning authority stultifies judicial scrutiny, thereby vitiating the process of determination of the allegations against the corrupt official," it said.

Continued on Page 2

India rejects Russia's 'secret' plea on UN resolution against annexation

India among 100 nations calls for public vote

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India has voted against Russian demand in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for a secret ballot on a draft resolution condemning Moscow's annexation of four regions of Ukraine.

Over 100 countries, including India, called for a public vote on the resolution while Russia appealed against the ruling of the president of the General Assembly.

The voting late on Monday took place hours after Russia carried out multiple strikes in Ukraine, including capital Kyiv, killing ten people there and injuring more than 60 across the war-ravaged country.

Members of a forensic team carry a plastic bag with a body inside as they work in an exhumation in a mass grave in Lyman, Ukraine, on Tuesday AP

The latest round of voting in the UNGA was conducted on a motion moved by Albania.

The motion said voting on the draft resolution condemning Russia's "illegal so-called referendums" and "attempted illegal annexation" of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine, should be taken by a recorded vote.

Continued on Page 2

IMF warns of global slump, cuts India's growth forecast

PNS/AP ■ WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday projected a grim outlook for the global economy even as it cut its projection of India's GDP growth in 2022 to 6.8 per cent and warned that the "risks of recession are rising" around the world and that the world economy is facing a "period of historic fragility."

The IMF is downgrading its outlook for the world economy for 2023, citing a long list of threats that include Russia's war against Ukraine, chronic inflation pressures, punishing interest rates and the lingering consequences of the global pandemic.

The 190-country lending agency forecast that the global economy would eke out growth of just 2.7 per cent next year, down from the 2.9 per cent it had estimated in July. The IMF left unchanged its forecast for international growth this year — a modest 3.2 per cent, a sharp deceleration from last year's 6 per cent expansion.

In July, the IMF projected a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.4 per cent for India in the fiscal year that started in April 2022. Even that forecast was lower than 8.2 per cent projected in January this year. India had grown at 8.7 per cent in 2021-22 fiscal (April 2021 to March 2022).

In its annual World Economic Outlook report released on Tuesday, the IMF said outlook for India is growth of 6.8 per cent in 2022 — a 0.6 percentage point downgrade since the July forecast, reflecting a weaker-than-expected outturn in the second quarter and more subdued external demand.

Meanwhile, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned that the "risks of recession are rising" around the world and that the global economy is facing a "period of historic fragility."

In its latest estimates, the IMF slashed its outlook for growth in the United States to 1.6 per cent this year, down from a July forecast of 2.3 per cent. It expects meagre 1 per cent US growth next year.

The fund foresees China's economy growing just 3.2 per cent this year, down drastically from 8.1 per cent last year.

Beijing has instituted draconian zero-Covid policy and has cracked down on excessive real estate lending, disrupting business activity. China's growth is forecast to accelerate to 4.4 per cent next year.

Continued on Page 2

SC agrees to hear plea challenging constitutional validity of talaq-e-hasan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday admitted the pleas seeking "talaq-e-hasan" and all other forms of "unilateral extra-judicial divorce" to be declared unconstitutional. "Talaq-e-Hasan" is a form of divorce among Muslims by which a man can dissolve the marriage by pronouncing the word "talaq" once every month over a three-month period.

A three-judge bench headed by Justices SK Kaul asked the Centre, National Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission and others to file their responses within four weeks.

"Counsel for the private respondent (husband) has entered appearance and seeks to affirm that he is not agreeable to settlement even on issue of further alimony. List in the third week of January for final hearing," said the bench, also comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Vikram Nath. The apex court was hearing three separate petitions, including the one filed by Ghaziabad resident Benazeer Heena, who claimed to be victims of unilateral extrajudicial Talaq-e-Hasan.

They have also sought a direction to the Centre to frame the guidelines for gender and religion-neutral and uniform grounds of divorce and procedure for all citizens. The top court had earlier impeached the husbands of the petitioners and sought their response to the pleas filed by them.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

2 WOMEN KILLED IN HUMAN SACRIFICE

Kochi/ Pathanamthitta: Two women were allegedly sacrificed as part of black magic in a village in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala and three people, including a couple were arrested in this connection, police said here on Tuesday.

CJI BACKS CHANDRACHUD AS HIS SUCCESSOR

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India UU Lalit on Tuesday set in motion the process of appointment of his successor by recommending to the Centre the name of senior-most SC judge Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud. The CJI handed over the copy of his letter of recommendation to Justice Chandrachud, who is set to become the 50th Chief Justice of India on November 9.

25% POSTS OF INFO COMMISSIONERS VACANT

New Delhi: While one fourth of the Information Commissioners posts are vacant, there are only 5 per cent (only 8) women Information Commissioners in the country.

Child star of India's Oscar pick Rahul dies

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Rahul Koli was very much excited to see "Chhello Show", India's official entry to Oscars 2023, on screen, but days before its release the teenage actor who played the character of the friend of the protagonist in the Gujarati film died of leukemia.

He was 17.

"Chhello Show" (Last Film Show), directed by Pan Nalin, is slated for October 14 release.

Rahul, who hails from Hapa town in Gujarat's Jamnagar district, died of leukemia on October 2, nearly four months after he was hospitalised at the cancer hospital in Ahmedabad, his father Ramu Koli said on Tuesday.

Rahul has played the role of the friend of the nine-year-old protagonist Samay (Bhavin Rabari) in the Gujarati coming-of-age drama "Chhello Show".

The film was nominated as India's official entry for the 95th Academy Awards.

"Rahul was looking forward to watching the movie on the big screen. He used to say that the release of the movie would launch his future, little knowing that he would die before October 14," Koli, an autorickshaw driver, told PTI over the phone.

Rahul was diagnosed with leukaemia- the cancer of the body's blood-forming tissues- this year. He was initially treated at a Jamnagar hospital. After remaining in the hospital for two weeks, he was admitted to the Ahmedabad cancer hospital four months ago.

"He was undergoing treatment and breathed his last on October 2," Koli said.

Continued on Page 2

Malaria-hit Pak to buy 60L mosquito nets from India

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Health Ministry has approved the purchase of over 6 million mosquito nets from India, as the country scrambles to contain the spread of malaria and other vector-borne diseases due to the unprecedented floods, according to a media report.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is using financial resources provided by Global Fund to acquire the nets for Pakistan, Geo.Tv report said. The WHO officials said they are planning to obtain mosquito nets as early as possible and are hopeful that these would be obtained by next month via the Wagah rout.

Over 1,700 people were killed, 33 million displaced and a third of the country was submerged under water in the worst floods to hit Pakistan, brought about by unprecedented rain since mid-June.

In September, the WHO warned that a surge in diseases like malaria can cause a "second disaster." Last week, the WHO warned of 2.7 million malaria cases in 32 districts in Pakistan by January 2023.

"Malaria is spreading at a rapid pace in 32 flood-affected districts of the country where thousands of children are infected with the mosquito-borne disease," officials said.

Pakistan's Health Ministry had sought permission to procure mosquito nets from India last month, the report said.

The official said they had requested the Global Fund for the arrangement of mosquito nets for the 26 most-affected districts of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan, where Plasmodium Falciparum cases were reported.

Sea of humanity walks with Mulayam on his last journey

PNS ■ SAIFAI/ETAWAH

Amid the chants of "Netaji amar rahe", Saifai bid a final goodbye to Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav on Tuesday. Netaji was cremated with full State honours at this native village. His son and party chief Akhilesh Yadav lit the sandalwood funeral pyre. A sea of humanity turned up for the last glimpse of the man who dominated the UP politics for more than three decades.

Mulayam turned Saifai from a village to a Tehsil (sub division) in 1994 when he headed a Samajwadi party-led coalition Government with the Bahujan Samaj party (BSP).

The former Uttar Pradesh CM died aged 82 at a private hospital in Haryana's Gurugram on Monday. His body was brought to Saifai on Monday evening.

A large number of people and political dignitaries turned up for his cremation in Saifai on Tuesday. The Yogi Adityanath Government declared State mourning for three days on Monday to condole the death of Mulayam, with hundreds queued up for the final darshan amid the drizzle, Yadav's body was moved around 10 am Tuesday from his "kothi" to a bigger hall on the Mela Ground premises to allow people to pay their last respects. Over a lakh people descended to Saifai to pay their last respects to their "Netaji", as he was fondly called.

A huge crowd of Samajwadi Party workers and supporters during party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav's funeral procession in Saifai on Tuesday PTI

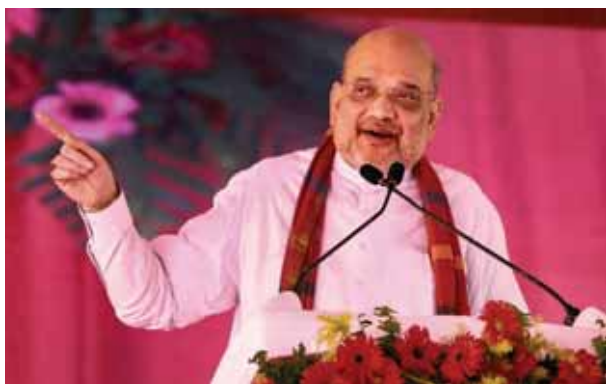
Akhilesh, Mulayam's brother Shivpal Yadav and other family members were onboard a truck decked up with garlands of flowers. A large number of people marched along the vehicle.

Continued on Page 2

'Disciples' of JP sacrificed his ideology, says Shah

Joined hands with Congress, says Shah

PTI ■ SITAB DIARA



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a public meeting after unveiling a statue of Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan, in Sitab Diara, Bihar on Tuesday PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in an apparent dig at the Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar on Tuesday said that those who claim themselves to be disciples of Jayaprakash Narayan have sacrificed his socialist ideology to sit in the "lap" of Congress for power.

Addressing a rally here at the birthplace of the hero of the anti-Emergency movement, popularly known as JP, in Saran district after unveiling a 15-feet high statue of the socialist icon, Shah also targeted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

"JP fought for ideology and no power. But those who do politics in his name have changed sides five times for power and are sitting in the lap of the same Congress against which he fought for all his life. He is power hungry and for power, he sacrificed JP's ideologies and joined hands with the Congress," the home minister said.

"He has nothing to do with the ideologies of JP," Shah said, in an apparent reference to Kumar who dumped BJP to form a new seven-party coalition government.

He said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working for the poor and the weaker sections of the society, for whom JP was concerned.

PM Modi greets Amitabh Bachchan on 80th birthday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday greeted megastar Amitabh Bachchan on his 80th birthday.

The prime minister on Twitter said Bachchan is "one of India's most remarkable film personalities".

"A very happy 80th birthday to Amitabh Bachchan Ji. He is one of India's most remarkable film personalities who has enthralled and entertained audiences across generations. May he lead a long and healthy life. @SrBachchan," wrote Modi.

Bachchan thanked the prime minister for his wishes.

"Shri Narendra Modi ji, I thank you for your wishes. Your blessings will always be a source of inspiration for me," the screen icon said. Bachchan is one of the busiest actors of Indian cinema.

Sea of humanity walks with...

From Page 1

Frequent chants of "Netaji amar rahe" by lakhs of people rent the air. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar were among those who paid tributes to the leader.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel, Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao, former Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath, Telugu Desam Party chief N Chandrababu Naidu, NCP leader Praful Patel, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, CPI (M) general secretary Prakash Karat and the Left leader Sitaram Yechury were among the other dignitaries who paid their tributes to the leader.

Businessman Anil Ambani, senior Uttar Pradesh Congress leader Pramod Tiwari, NCP leader Supriya Sule, Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait and Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh were present as the three-time Chief Minister was to consigned to flames. Actor and Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan also marked his presence along with her actor son Abhishek Bachchan.

Speaking to reporters, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recalled his relationship with the SP patriarch and said Mulayam was connected to the roots. "If there was any leader who was connected to the people at the grass root level it was Mulayam Singh Yadav, Rajnath said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said, "As a 'samajwadi' (socialist) personality, he advocated the cause of the poor and the farmers. His death is an irreparable loss." Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu termed Mulayam's demise a "loss for Uttar Pradesh".

BJP MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi, who was one of those leaders who arrived early, said Mulayam never considered his political opponents as enemies and that he shared a personal bond with every leader. Yoga guru Baba Ramdev was seen accompanying Akhilesh at the ceremony as a sea of people descended on Mela Ground to pay tributes to the leader.

"Mulayam Singh Yadav needs no introduction. Today, he is not with us. We (Hemant Soren and Akhilesh Yadav) are the second generation. Our fathers paired well, and we are following the path shown by them," Hemant Soren, son of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha founder Shibu Soren, told reporters.

BJP MP Varun Gandhi, who also turned up to pay his tributes to Mulayam, was seen hugging Akhilesh Azam Khan, Abu Azmi, Ramgopal Yadav, Dharmendra Yadav, Swami Prasad Maurya, Ram Gobind Chaudhary, Kiranmoy Nanda, and Om Prakash Singh were among the SP leaders who were seen since morning at the pandal where their party patron's coffin was kept.

The SP cadres and common people had thronged to Saifai from all over the State, including from far east Ghazipur and Ballia districts. The huge turnout of the people was an affirmation of the fact that Mulayam in his over five decade long political career had created political space for the masses in UP politics dominated by the elitist feudal upper castes. Akhilesh, successor of "Netaji" face tough challenge of retaining this spirit and sentiment of the common people and keeping their hope alive.

NCR PULSE

2 JUVENILES APPREHENDED FOR KILLING MAN

New Delhi: Two men have been arrested and two juveniles apprehended for allegedly killing a 23-year-old person in south Delhi's Neb Sarai area. The accused have been identified as Ajay (20) and Aamir (18), both residents of Sangam Vihar. The deceased had thrashed one of the juveniles earlier following which the four attacked him to take revenge. The police received information about the stabbing incident on Sunday. The injured, Faraz, a resident of Sangam Vihar, was taken to AIIMS where he was declared brought dead.

DCW FOR FREE SEX SURGERIES TO TRANSGENDERS

New Delhi: Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal has recommended the city government to provide free sex reassignment surgeries for transgenders in its hospitals. She said lack of such a procedure was one of the most common complaints among the community. In this connection, the DCW had sought to know from government hospitals whether they were equipped to carry out the medical procedure that would help the community transition to their self-identified gender. In response, the Delhi government's Department of Health and Family Welfare informed the commission that its hospitals were not offering any surgery to reassign one's sex.

IGNCA INKS PACT TO ENHANCE ACADEMIC COOP

New Delhi: Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA) has signed MoUs with four major Mongolian institutions, National University of Mongolia, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Ganden Technical Monastery and Zanabazar Buddhist University of Mongolia, with the aim of enhancing mutual academic cooperation, in the national capital. Dr. Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts signed the memorandum of understanding.

INDIAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY HOLDS SYMPOSIUM

New Delhi: Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), presented its technical paper on 'Reliability Improvement Journey' at the first-ever Quality Symposium, organised by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ) at RV College of Engineering. The Quality Symposium by ISQ primarily focused on 'Driving excellence through quality management' presented by worldwide Academicians and Practitioners.

DDC SUBMITS BLUEPRINT FOR DELHI'S ELECTRONIC CITY

New Delhi: The Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi on Tuesday submitted a detailed blueprint for Delhi's Electronic City to the Deputy Chief Minister, Manish Sisodia. Officials said that the blueprint makes detailed recommendations for developing a world-class electronic city at Baprola in South-West Delhi and proposes a dedicated Delhi Electronics System Design, Manufacturing, and Refurbishment (ESDMR) Policy 2022–27 to make Delhi a preferred destination for top electronics design, manufacturing, and refurbishment companies in India and globally.

20L HOUSEHOLDS TOUCHED IN DRIVE AGAINST MCD: AAP

New Delhi: The AAP on Tuesday said that in the party's door-to-door against rampant BJP-ruled MCD's maladministration and garbage mismanagement, over 20 lakhs households have been touched so far in the national Capital by the AAP volunteers. "Feedback received shows that the people of Delhi are extremely angry with BJP and offering overwhelming support to the AAP. 90 to 95 per cent Delhiites have made up their mind that they want to give one chance to CM Arvind Kejriwal in MCD, said Durgesh Pathak, the AAP MLA.

MIN VISITS PEOPLE INJURED IN HOUSE COLLAPSE

New Delhi: Delhi Food and Supplies Minister and MLA Ballimaran, Imran Hussain on Tuesday visited the LNJP Hospital to meet the victims who were injured in an unfortunate incident where a two storey building collapsed in Farash Khana area resulting in loss of three lives and injuries to nine persons.

KEJRIWAL GOVT STANDS ON LIES: VIJENDER GUPTA

New Delhi: The senior BJP leader and MLA from Rohini Vijender Gupta on Tuesday alleged that the Kejriwal Government stands on the foundation stone of only lies and information given by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in his tweet is false and misleading as the fact is that out of these 7320 buses in DTC, 4000 buses (cluster) are of private contract.

'KEJRIWAL FAILED TO ABIDE BY AMBEDKAR'S IDEOLOGY'

New Delhi: The All India Students' Association (AISA) has written an open letter to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, accusing his government of "failing" to abide by B R Ambedkar's ideologies and remaining silent on the issues of minorities.

IMF...

From Page 1

In the IMF's view, the collective economy of the 19 European countries that share the euro currency, reeling from crushingly high energy prices caused by Russia's attack on Ukraine and Western sanctions against Moscow, will grow just 0.5% in 2023.

The world economy has endured a wild ride since COVID-19 hit in early 2020. First, the pandemic and the lockdowns it generated brought the world economy to a standstill in the spring of 2020.

Then, vast infusions of government spending and ultra-low borrowing rates engineered by the Federal Reserve and other central banks fuelled an unexpectedly strong and speedy recovery from the pandemic recession.

But the stimulus came at a high cost. Factories, ports and freight yards were overwhelmed by powerful consumer demand for manufactured goods, especially in the United States, resulting in delays, shortages and higher prices.(The IMF expects worldwide consumer prices to rise 8.8% this year, up from 4.7% in 2021.) In response, the Fed and other central banks have reversed course and begun raising rates dramatically, risking a sharp slowdown and potentially a recession.

The Fed has raised its benchmark short-term rate five times this year.

Higher rates in the United States have lured investment away from other countries and strengthened the value of the dollar against other currencies.

Outside the United States, the higher dollar makes imports that are sold in the American currency, including oil, more expensive and therefore heightens global inflationary pressures.

It also forces foreign countries to raise their own rates - and burden their economies with higher borrowing costs - to defend their currencies. Maurice Obstfeld, a former IMF chief economist who now teaches at the University of California, Berkeley, has warned that an overly aggressive Fed could "drive the world economy into an unnecessarily harsh contraction.

4-month cap for nod to sue public...

From Page 1

"Delays in prosecuting the corrupt breeds a culture of impunity and leads to systemic resignation to the existence of corruption in public life. Such inaction is fraught with the risk of making future generations getting accustomed to corruption as a way of life. Viewed in this context, the duty to take an early decision inheres in the power vested in the appointing authority to grant or not to grant sanction," it said.

Three months period, extended by one more month for legal consultation, is available to the appointing authorities for granting sanction to CBI and other probe agencies to prosecute public servants in criminal cases under section 197 of Code of Criminal Procedure and under Section 97 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The bench was hearing the appeal of a government official Vijay Rajamohan against a Madras High Court verdict.

The HC had allowed the appeal of CBI against an order of the trial court which had discharged Rajamohan on the ground that the sanction to prosecute was vitiated due to non-application of mind in a disproportionate assets case of Rs 79.17 lakh.

The CBI had made the application for sanction for prosecution on September 08, 2015 and it was granted on July 24, 2017 after a delay of a year and ten months.

It dismissed the appeal and left it to the accused government official to seek appropriate remedy.

The court dealt with legal issues including whether the statutory period for the appointing authority to decide upon a request for sanction is mandatory or not.

"The ...Issue is answered by holding that the period of three months, extended by one more month for legal consultation, is mandatory. The consequence of non-compliance with this mandatory requirement shall not be quashing the criminal proceeding for that very reason. The competent authority shall be accountable for the delay and be subject to judicial review and administrative action by the CVC...," it said.

SC agrees to hear plea challenging...

From Page 1

When the hearing commenced on Tuesday, the lawyer appearing for Benazeer's husband informed the court that no settlement was possible in the dispute with his wife.

The bench then asked the parties to file their responses and said it will hear the case in the third week of January, 2023. The top court had in August said its primary focus is to provide relief to two women, who claimed to be victims of "Talaq-e-Hasan", before deciding the Constitutional validity of this form of divorce. Under Talaq-e-Hasan, a divorce gets formalised after the third utterance of the word "talaq" in the third month if cohabitation has not resumed during this period.

However, if cohabitation resumes after the first or second utterance of talaq, the parties are assumed to have reconciled.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 48/2022-2023 dated 23.09.2022 (i). Tender No.08215268A due on 25.10.2022 (S.No.01) In reference to above tenders, description of **PL No 5652N1 has been revised and document (I)** uploaded for additional technical information. Other terms and conditions remain unchanged. More details are available on website. The corrigendum has been published on website **www.ireps.gov.in** 2701/22

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NO. SB/Store/2022-25 (281), Bhopal, Dated 10-10-2022

"ONLINE E-TENDER NOTICE"

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

S. NO.	Name of Item (s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Tender No.
			Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in		
1	Under Vehicle Search Mirror (UVSM)	16	1,000/-	6,000/-	1st Tender
2	Extension Search Mirror	36	1,000/-	5,000/-	
3	Prodder	48	1,000/-	2,000/-	
4	LED Torch	60	1,000/-	5,000/-	
5	Remote Operated Wire Cutter (ROWC)	10	1,000/-	10,000/-	
6	RSP Tool Kit	14	3,000/-	1,00,000/-	
7	Car Remote Opening Tool (CROT)	10	3,000/-	1,00,000/-	
8	Hook & Line Set	10	3,000/-	1,00,000/-	
9	Explosive Vapour Detector (EVD)	10	10,000/-	5,00,000/-	
10	Contra Band Detector	7	10,000/-	2,00,000/-	
11	Fiber Optical Scope System	11	5,000/-	2,00,000/-	
12	Water Jet Disrupter	10	10,000/-	3,00,000/-	
13	Bomb Suit	7	10,000/-	3,00,000/-	
14	Bomb Trolley	10	10,000/-	2,50,000/-	
15	Real Time Viewing System (RTVS)	4	10,000/-	7,00,000/-	
16	De-Bugging Equipment	1	10,000/-	10,00,000/-	

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.
2. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in)
3. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
4. **Tender Schedule :**

No.	Tender Activity	Tentative Date & Time
i	Submission of written queries - through e-mail: sec24-sb@mppolice.gov.in	17/10/2022 up to 1700 hrs.
ii	Pre Bid Meeting along with written queries	
	1. For Item No. 1 to 8	18/10/2022 at 11.00 hrs.
	2. For Item No. 9 to 16	19/10/2022 at 11.00 hrs.
iii	Bid Submission Start Date	31/10/2022 at 10.00 hrs.
iv	Last date of online e-Tender submission	16/11/2022 up to 16.00 hrs.
v	Bid will be opened on	17/11/2022 up to 16.00 hrs.
vi	Demonstration from	
	1. For item No. 1 to 8	24/11/2022 at 11.00 hrs.
	2. For item No. 9 to 11	25/11/2022 at 11.00 hrs.
	3. For Item No. 12 to 16	29/11/2022 at 11.00 hrs.

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

G-18024/22

Child star of India's Oscar pick...

From Page 1

Rahul had only seen the trailer of the movie. He was very keen to watch it in the theatre, the grieving father recalled.

Koli said the makers of the movie helped them a lot with Rahul's treatment.

"When he (director Nalin) came to know about it, he extended all possible help to us. He was even planning to shift Rahul to Mumbai," said Koli.

Rahul was selected for the role through an audition conducted in Jamnagar.

"He was picked for an audition from a government school at Hapa where he lived with his family," said Lalit Joshi, a Jamnagar-based theatre artist. The movie is inspired by Nalin's own memories of falling in love with movies as a child in rural Gujarat and is set in a remote rural village of Saurashtra.

The film portrays the story of a nine-year-old boy and his lifelong love affair with cinema when he bribes his way into a rundown movie palace and spends a summer watching movies from the projection booth.

"Chhello Show", which features Bhavin Rabari, Bhavesh Shrimali, Richa Meena, Dipen Raval and Paresh Mehta, had its world premiere as the opening film at the Tribeca Film Festival in June last year.

It won multiple awards during its festival run, including the Golden Spike at the 66th Valladolid Film Festival in Spain where it also enjoyed commercial success during its theatrical run.

India...

From Page 1

The 'Mahakal Lok' corridor, built as one of the largest such corridors in the country, spreads around the old Rudrasagar Lake which has also been revived as part of the redevelopment project around the famous Mahakaleshwar Temple, one of the 12 'jyotirlingas' in the country which attracts a large number of devotees.

Two majestic gateways — Nandi Dwar and Pinaki Dwar — separated by a short distance, have been erected near the starting point of the corridor, which winds its way to the temple's entrance and offers an aesthetic view along the way, he said. A majestic colonnade of 108 ornate pillars made of intricately carved sandstones, gushing fountains and a running panel of more than 50 murals depicting stories from the 'Shiv Puran' are among the major highlights of the Mahakal Lok in Ujjain, the official said.

The pedestrian corridor is dotted with 108 murals and 93 statues depicting stories related to Lord Shiva, such as Shiv Vivah, Tripurasur Vadh, Shiv Puran, and Shiv Tandav Swaroop. There are also 128 convenience points, eateries and shopping joints, florists, handicraft stores, etc. along this pedestrian corridor.

The second phase, pegged at Rs 310.22 crore, includes expansion of the eastern and northern fronts of the temple. It also provides for the development of various areas of Ujjain city, such as Maharajwada, Mahal Gate, Hari Phatak Bridge, Ramghat façade, and Begam Bagh Road. Buildings in Maharajwada will be redeveloped and connected to the Mahakal temple campus, while a heritage dharamshala and Kumbh museum will be built.

Earlier, the PM arrived at Indore airport from Ahmedabad where he was welcomed by Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra, Water Resources Minister Tulsi Silawat, former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijaywargiya.

India rejects Russia's 'secret' plea on UN...

From Page 1

Russia demanded that the resolution be voted upon by secret ballot. It was rejected after 107 UN member states, including India, voted in favour of a recorded vote.

Only 13 nations voted in favour of Russia's call for a secret ballot while 39 abstained. Russia and China were among the countries that did not vote.

After the motion to hold a recorded vote was adopted, Russia appealed against the ruling of the president of the General Assembly. A recorded vote on Russia's appeal was held and India was among the 100 nations who voted against the challenge made by Moscow.

Russia then sought reconsideration of the decision to adopt the motion submitted by Albania for a recorded vote. The General Assembly decided not to reconsider the motion after 104 nations, including India, voted against such reconsideration, while 16 voted in favour and 34 abstained.

Russia's Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia said the UN membership had "become witnesses to an outrageous fraud in which the President of the general assembly, unfortunately, played a key role".

"We were not given the floor to make a point of order (the indicator light at our seat is still on), our statement was distorted, and now UN member states are being robbed of their right to express their opinion freely.

"This is an unprecedented manipulation undermining the authority of the general assembly and the United Nations as a whole. Of course, in such circumstances we opted to not take part in the vote," he said.

India last month abstained while Russia vetoed a draft UN Security Council resolution tabled by the US and Albania to condemn Moscow's "illegal referenda" and declared the annexation of four Ukrainian territories as invalid.

The 15-nation UN Security Council had voted on the draft resolution on "illegal so-called referenda in Ukraine", hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin in a ceremony in the Kremlin signed treaties to annex the Ukrainian regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia.

The resolution failed to get adopted as permanent UNSC member Russia vetoed it. Of the 15-nation council, 10 nations voted for the resolution and China, Gabon, India, as well as Brazil abstained.

India has so far not condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and maintained that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. Moreover, India has abstained on votes on the Ukraine conflict in the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

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HEAVY RAIN TAKES A TOLL ON CAPITAL'S ROADS

Potholed roads at various locations in the national Capital. The city has recorded 128.2 mm rainfall so far this month, the highest for October since 1956. Ranjan Dimri/ Pioneer

Work underway to fix the potholes in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri/ Pioneer

L-G asks Chief Secretary to look into CIC's plaint

Mahurkar flags Govt's dismal RTI record, AAP says letter written at BJP's behest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena has directed Chief Secretary (CS) Naresh Kumar to take corrective actions as per rules at the earliest after receiving a letter from the Central Information Commission (CIC) over the "failure" of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in implementing the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

In his letter, CIC Uday Mahurkar pointed out that the RTI Act had been reduced to a "lame duck Act", especially in departments such as Revenue, Public Works Department (PWD), health, power and bodies like the Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) and Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) which directly deal with citizens.

In the letter, Mahurkar said that departments refuse to give information or give "misinformation" to people and information relating to irregularities and corruption is held back. The letter from Mahurkar attached specific replies from the above-mentioned departments, pointing out stonewalling and false, misleading information.

Responding to the CIC's letter, the AAP Government said that Mahurkar has written this letter at the BJP's behest. "It is painful to see that a body like the CIC is indulging in dirty politics. The Delhi Government takes pride in the fact that we implement RTI Act in its true letter and spirit," the Delhi Government said in a statement.

In the letter, Mahurkar said that it was a matter of concern that in more than 60 per cent of the cases concerning the Revenue department the Public Information Officers (PIOS) do not remain present citing official duty and depute clerks and junior personnel to attend the hearing. In many cases there is a clear intent on their part to stonewall the information because of their questionable nexus. This is more than evident in cases where huge properties including ancestral lands are involved and clearly indicate high level corruption.

"Serious issues of misgovernance marked by corruption and nepotism remain unaddressed at public and individual levels in Delhi as these departments/entities show disregard for the principles of transparency and accountability as enshrined in the RTI Act, 2005, and run roughshod over the quest for crucial information from genuine, needy appellants that often impacts their property and life as they battle with a section of allegedly corrupt and lethargic officials of these departments/entities", read the letter.

Mahurkar's stated that in many cases the RTI applicants seeking information are in a miserable condition as genuine information regarding corruption and irregularity in Government functioning is being held back with alleged ulterior motives. The PIOS either refuse to share legitimate information or serve appellants with misinformation.

"In view of the seriousness of issues highlighted by the CIC, the L-G's Secretariat has directed the CS to take requisite corrective action as per rules in place to address the matter at the earliest," a source from the L-G's office said.

Key departments defeating RTI Act's very purpose: CIC

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Coming out hard against the Delhi Government for not addressing "serious issues of misgovernance marked by corruption and nepotism", the Central Information Commission (CIC) in a letter to Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena accused several key departments of having failed to implement the Right To Information (RTI) Act thereby defeating the legislation's very purpose of "transparency and accountability".

The CIC, Uday Mahurkar enlisted the information watchdog's decisions in several cases to back his allegations.

"One RTI filed by Rahul Sharma, seeks information regarding the tenders of DSDIIC concerning public works in unauthorised colonies which have been regularised and therefore are connected with the progress of the lowest strata of society. In this case tenders worth Rs 100 crore as per Government estimation have been given at prices which are 40-50 per cent less than the official tender cost and show a clear nexus between the officials and the contractors," the letter cited.

The DSIIDC denied all the charges and said these are proved false by the fact that the DSIIDC had hired three 'Third Party Quality Assurance (TPQA)' agencies to ensure quality check, measurement and inspection of their works and all these TPQAs were reputed ones associated with reputed Government entities, it stated.

Taking cognisance, the Commission advised the Managing Director of DSIIDC, to investigate the matter in larger interest of transparency and accountability in Government system and take corrective action against the officials if they are found to be involved in manipulation and dishonest practices in awarding the 31 tenders in question in a span of 45 days from the date of receipt of this order.

"In another RTI filed by Kamaljeet Singh, the information is not forthcoming on tenders of the PWD and certain other Delhi Government entities which have been allegedly awarded the tenders at 30 per cent less rates as compared to the official tender price or have seen doubling of the tender cost on the other extreme side, thus raising serious issues of transparency, rather indicating a corrupt nexus between the officials and the contractors involved," the letter pointed out.

In another instance, RTI was filed by Hisamudin, seeking information regarding new electric connections under private or commercial use in unauthorized buildings and other details regarding it.

"However, Power Department, in response, said that while replying the RTI application they could not provide information according to the High Court Order, as the BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) cannot be defined as a public authority according to the RTI Act," CIC data read.

"When the issue was brought before the Commission by an applicant the BYPL officials simply told the Commission that RIL doesn't listen to their pleas on the issue. The appellant kept on insisting that the BYPL should be brought under the ambit of the RTI after the SC order to address the irregularities of the DISCOM while dealing with the common men since it was running an essential service. This issue must be addressed without delay since it is not just a serious case of failure of the Government to protect genuine public interest involving a key essential service but virtually an example of a Government stabbing its citizens in the back," the CIC stated, quoting another instance.

Kejriwal flags off 50 CNG-powered cluster buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday flagged off 50 low-floor CNG-powered cluster buses and said they will improve connectivity to the rural belts of the national Capital. He also flagged off 30 Toyota Innova cars and 36 bikes for the enforcement wing of the Transport Department.

"These vehicles will be involved in enforcing lane discipline. From April, we started the lane discipline drive," he said at the event.

According to Transport Department officials, this is the first time motorcycles have been inducted in the enforcement team. This will ensure enforcement teams can enter narrow lanes where cars cannot.

Kejriwal said there will be 1,800 electric buses on the roads of Delhi by 2023, while 80 per cent of the city's fleet will be electric by 2025.

The Government has floated a tender for 1,500 electric buses, and by November next year, 1,800 such buses will be plying on the roads of Delhi, he said.

"We have inducted 50 new low-floor CNG (air-conditioned) buses. From many years, people faced inconvenience since there were no buses. But in the last two-three years, electric, CNG, cluster buses have been inducted," he added.

The new buses will be kept at the new Bawana bus depot.

"This will help rural connectivity. There are already 360 cluster bus routes. There will be six new routes for these buses that will serve rural areas," he said.

Later, in a tweet in Hindi, Kejriwal said, "Today 50 new CNG buses and 66 new vehicles for road safety and bus lane enforcement were flagged off from the Rajghat depot. As many as 7,320 buses are on the roads of Delhi now, the highest-ever. By 2025, more than 10,000 buses will be in service of the people of Delhi, 80 per cent them will be electric buses."

Key Features of the buses:

❑Bharat Stage VI emission standard compliant

❑Intelligent Transportation system (ITS) enabled with CCTV cameras (Panic buttons with hooter) for Women Safety.

❑Live video streaming in Central Command and Control Centre (CCC)

❑Two way communication with Control room

❑GPS units for Live Tracking of buses

❑Heating Ventilation and Air conditioning (HVAC) System

❑Fire Detection and Suppression system

Deployment plan of Enforcement vehicles:

❑Two-wheelers — 11 teams/shifts deployed for bus lane enforcement on inner & outer ring road each. Remaining 14 bikes will be deployed at 6 critical stretches in 7 teams and 2 shifts.

❑Four-Wheelers — One 4W-vehicle (Innova) deployed to each team with 84 teams using 84 four-wheelers. Newly arrived 4 will be deployed at 15 critical stretches identified by the department.

Senior BJP leader alleges AAP Govt misleading public

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The senior BJP leader and MLA from Rohini Vijender Gupta on Tuesday alleged that the Kejriwal Government stands on the foundation stone of only lies and information given by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in his tweet is false and misleading as the fact is that out of these 7,320 buses in DTC, 4,000 buses (cluster) are of private contract.

After flagging off 50 new CNG buses of Cluster Scheme (Private Contract), CM Kejriwal has given information in his tweet that now 7,320 buses of Delhi Transport Corporation are running in Delhi. In a letter addressed to CM Kejriwal, Gupta also expressed his concern about poor state of the DTC.

Govt asks hospitals to keep 10-15% beds for dengue, malaria patients

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the rise in vector-borne diseases (VBD) including dengue cases, the Delhi Government has asked all hospitals to reserve 10-15 per cent of beds for VBD patients and also to ensure that no one is denied admission due to a lack of beds.

According to officials, the latest order issued by the Government's Health Department also states that all the Government and private hospitals that have beds reserved for admitting Covid-19 patients, should use those beds for VBD patients if those beds are lying vacant.

"Present weather conditions are the peak transmission period for VBD like dengue. Cases have seen a sharp rise in the last two weeks but there is no need to panic as all the arrangements have been set in place to provide treatment to patients at hospitals," said Manish Sisodia, the Deputy Chief Minister.

"The Government has put all the hospitals across the national Capital on alert and is keeping an eye on the whole situation. Hospitals have been directed to reserve 10-15 per cent of their beds for VBD patients and ensure that no patient is denied admission due to lack of beds," said Sisodia.

"Currently approximately 8,800 hospital beds have been reserved in all hospitals including Central Government, Delhi Government and private ones for Covid-19 cases, of which the occupancy is less than one per cent since the last 3-4 weeks. The Government has also advised hospitals to use these beds for accommodating VBD patients," said Sisodia.

"The vector-borne diseases are associated with climatic factors and their upsurge is often reported from the pre-monsoon onwards. Last year, Delhi faced a tough time due to a rise in dengue cases during the months of August to November but the hospitals tackled the cases diligently. Following the situation faced last year, all the hospitals and local bodies have been sent the communication to take necessary actions for preparedness to deal with vector-borne disease cases," Sisodia added.

The city logged 937 dengue cases this year till September-end and 321 cases were reported in the first five days of October, taking the tally to 1,258, according to a report released by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday.

"Hospitals and concerned authorities have been directed to continuously update the details of the cases on the unified portal to help the Government strategise better to deal with the cases," said an official.

Preventive measures

❑Keep your surroundings clean

❑let the water stagnate in your surroundings. Dedicate time to ensure this every day.

❑Wear protective clothing

❑Use mosquito nets and repellents

❑Keep your house airy and well-lit

East Delhi to get clean Ganga water after old Bhagirathi WTP pipeline change: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said the 40-year-old water pipeline of the Bhagirathi Water Treatment Plant will be replaced, a move which will help provide clean Ganga water to residents of east Delhi.

The move will also help in ensuring round-the-clock water supply to the region.

"The Delhi government has decided to replace the 40-year-old water pipeline of Bhagirathi Plant. With the replacement of this 20-km-long pipeline, as many as 130 MGD of clean Ganga water will be supplied to lakhs of people in east Delhi. It will prove to be a milestone towards providing 24x7 water to the people of Delhi," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

The Delhi government has been taking various decisions to improve the water supply across the city and also to clean River Yamuna.

Earlier this month, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had approved the construction of a new filter house at the Nangloi Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at a cost of Rs 59.7 crore to ensure round-the-clock water supply to the national capital.

With the new filter house having advanced technology, the Nangloi WTP will be able to treat 10-15 per cent more water during the peak summer season and meet the increased demand. Kejriwal on Monday said 85 million gallons of sewage from Keshopur and Najafgarh will be cleaned before it flows into the Najafgarh drain.

This, according to Kejriwal, is expected to reduce the pollution load in the River Yamuna by 30 per cent.

Women staff of Fatehpur Beri PS accuse cop of sexual harassment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All women staff of South district's Fatehpuri Beri police station have given a complaint to Special Commissioner of Vigilance against head constable Mahavir Singh for sexually harassing them. The women personnel also alleged that the head constable, who is also duty officer of the police station, was also indulged in taking bribes, misbehaving and insulting the police station staff and even involved in extortion.

Chandan Chowdhary, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district said that an enquiry has been initiated. The complaint was given a month ago.

"Head Constable, Mahavir, posted as 'Chitta Munshi' of the Police Station misbehaves and sexually harass women police personnel for making physical relations on pretext of giving them duty post of their choice in Chitta. Mahavir post of Chitta Munshi is not appropriate as per standing order of Police Commissioner," said women staff in their complaint.

"Mahavir even takes bribes in cash and valuable items for granting leaves to certain officers.

He also tries to manipulate duty records of the police station and also officers on duty are never given women staff, if needed, saying that there is shortage of staff. Even the station house officer (SHO) believes and runs the police station according to Chitta. The HC Mahavir also asks the beat staff to allow boring and extortion," they alleged.

"We all senior officers tried to complain to SHO, he replied that he and Mahavir, both are male officers and no one will believe us as we are women," the women alleged in the complaint.

Delhi Police examining hate speeches by BJP MP, MLA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police is examining the alleged hate speeches made by BJP MP Parvesh Verma, the party's Loni MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar and others at an event here earlier this week, officials said on Tuesday. The speeches are being transcribed for analysis, they said, adding that a complaint has been received against Verma but no FIR has been registered against him.

The Congress and other Opposition parties have demanded action against the BJP lawmakers for the alleged hate speeches and several videos of the event have appeared online.

An FIR was registered on Monday against the VHP and other organisers for allegedly not taking permission for the Sunday event. VHP had rubbished the claim as "laughable" and said that police personnel were deployed during the meeting in Dilshad Garden.

On Tuesday, police officials said that all alleged hate speeches delivered during the event are being closely monitored.

"The investigation is underway. All the speeches given by those present including that of Parvesh Verma and Nand Kishore Gujjar are being examined. Their speeches are being transcribed for analysis," said a senior police officer.

An FIR has been registered against the organisers for not taking permission for the event under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

The event was organised by several Hindu right-wing outfits, including the Vishva Hindu Parishad.

"Let alone permission, we fixed the venue at Ramleela Ground in Dilshad Garden after suggestion and recommendation by senior police officers. We earlier had planned to hold the gathering near Manish's house but on the request of the police changed it to Ramlila Maidan," VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal had claimed.

Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Verma had called for a "total boycott" of a community at the event held to protest the killing of a Hindu youth in northeast Delhi. Manish (19) was stabbed to death in Sundar Nagri earlier this month.

Police have arrested all the accused in the case - Aalam, Bilal and Faizan - and have said they killed the youth in an old rivalry.

In a purported video of the event, Verma could be heard saying, "Wherever you find them, there is only one way to straighten them out -- total boycott. Do you agree with me?"

Police question Gautam over presence at conversion event

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday questioned former Minister in the AAP-led Delhi Government, Rajendra Pal Gautam for four hours at the Paharganj police station, over his presence at a mass religious conversion event where Hindu deities were denounced. Police said that Gautam reached the police station a little before 2.30 PM, hours after he was served a summons notice by the police, which called for the questioning.

"I received the notice today (Tuesday) and will cooperate with the police. We are those who follow Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Indian Constitution," Gautam, tweeted while sharing the notice on social media platform.

Terror funding: 1 held in NIA raids on AHET

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir and arrested one person in the case related to suspect funding activities of Al Huda Educational Trust (AHET) in Rajouri district of the Union Territory.

The NIA conducted searches in 18 locations in Rajouri, Poonch, Jammu, Srinagar, Bandipora, Shopian, Pulwama and Budgam districts of the Valley and arrested Md. Ameer Shamshi of Rajouri in the case related to criminal activities of AHET, the NIA said in a statement.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) Jammu and Kashmir, after being declared as an 'unlawful association' under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, has been continuing its activities through its frontal organisations. One such organisation is AHET of district Rajouri, the agency said.

"AHET has been found raising funds through various means, including donations, hawala etc purportedly for charitable purposes, but are instead using these funds to radicalise and incite the youth of J&K for unlawful activities and disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India," it said.

The NIA had suo-moto registered the case on September 3. Investigations have revealed that the arrested accused Md. Ameer Shamshi is the Chairperson (Nizam-e-Ala) of AHET and acts on the directions of the Chief Patron of the Trust. Investigations have also revealed that the ex-officio Chief Patron of AHET is the Ameer-e-Jamaat, JeI (J&K). The trust has continued to raise funds even after the declaration of JEI, J&K as an 'unlawful association'. Suspect links with other NGOs and trusts operating in the Kashmir valley have also emerged during the investigations.

During the searches, several mobile devices and documents related to funding, properties and the like have been seized. Further investigations in the case are in progress, it added.

ED raids on premises of officials, netas, bizmen in Chhattisgarh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at the premises of senior officials, including a Deputy Secretary of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, businessmen and politicians of the ruling Congress Government in Chhattisgarh, at different locations in the State on Tuesday.

The ED teams searched several locations related to Deputy Secretary to the CM, Soumya Chaurasia, in Durg, Chartered Accountant Vijay Malu in Devendra Nagar, Raipur, Raigarh Collector Ranu Sahu's residence in Raigarh, Agni Chandrakar in Mahasamund, Suryakant Tiwari in Anupam Nagar, Raipur and mining chief and IAS officer JP Maurya in Raipur. Maurya is the husband of Ranu Sahu.

In the Mahasamund district, searches were conducted at locations linked to politicians and businessmen. Those under the scanner are Vikas Nigam president and former MLA of Agni Chandrakar, Laxmikant Tiwari, Ajay Naidu, a close aide of Suryakant Tiwari, District Congress president Badal Makkad and real estate businessman Sunny Lunia, officials said. Over a dozen ED officers landed at Raigarh collector Ranu Shahu's residence in the morning for carrying out the search operation. Separate teams of the ED started conducting raids in the morning in state capital Raipur, Raigarh, Mahasamund, Korba and other districts, they said.

Dubbing the searches as an "act of intimidation", Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the opposition BJP is not able to fight directly, hence it is trying to fight through the ED, Income Tax (I-T) department and the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

Baghel said, "I have already said that they will come again and it's not the last time. Their visits will increase as the election approaches. This is just an act of intimidation and nothing else."

The state Assembly elections are due in November 2023.Last month, the I-T department had conducted raids at the premises of businessmen associated with steel and coal businesses.

Similar raids conducted by the I-T department in June-July this year covered the premises of coal businessman Suryakant Tiwari and the Deputy Secretary posted in the Chief Minister's Office.

According to an IT Department reference to the Chhattisgarh government, searches against Saumya Chaurasia, Joint Secretary Anil Tuteja and RERA chairman Vivek Dhand (1981-batch IAS officer) revealed generation of tainted wealth to the tune of crores of rupees from distilleries of country liquor.

CJI Lalit recommends Chandrachud's name as his successor to Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India UU Lalit on Tuesday recommended to the Centre the name of the senior-most Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud as his successor. Justice Chandrachud, who has been part of several Constitution benches and landmark verdicts of the top court including on matters relating to the Ayodhya land dispute, right to privacy and adultery, will become the 50th CJI on November 9 once the recommendation is accepted by the Government.

Justice Chandrachud, who was elevated to the top court on May 13, 2016, will have a tenure of two years as the CJI and is due to retire on November 10, 2024. Setting in motion the process of appointment of the next CJI, the incumbent Chief Justice handed over the copy of his letter of recommendation to Justice Chandrachud, who is the son of the longest serving CJI Y V Chandrachud. The former CJI was the head of the judiciary from February 22, 1978 to July 11, 1985.

On October 7, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had sent a letter to CJI Lalit, who is set to retire on November 8, to recommend his successor. CJI Lalit will have a short tenure of 74 days. CJI Lalit, who wrote back to Rijiju recommending the name of Justice Chandrachud, requested all the judges of the apex court to assemble at the judges' lounge at 10.15 AM. He then handed over the letter designating the successor to Justice Chandrachud, who has also played a pivotal role in digitization of the judiciary.

K'taka CM, BSY start 'Jan Sankalpa Yatra' as Cong's Bharat Jodo on

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a political counter to the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' of the Congress led by Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, along with the BJP stalwart BS Yediyurappa, on Tuesday started a 'Jana Sankalpa Yatra' in 52 Assembly constituencies in poll-bound Karnataka.

The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' , which began from Kerala, is undergoing its Karnataka leg. It would go on in the State till October 20. Karnataka will elect a new assembly in 2023. The BJP is Congress' main electoral opponent.

The BJP 'Yatra' is apparently inspired by the Congress' effort to revive itself across the country in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Bommai and Yediyurappa are scheduled to cover 52 Assembly segments till December 25, as part of the 'Jana Sankalpa Yatra'. The 'Yatra' has started from Raichur in the North-East Karnataka.

"The intention of the Jana Sankalpa Yatra is to inform the programmes, work and policies of BJP government in the state and at the Centre, and also send a message to BJP office-bearers and workers to prepare for elections with a resolve to bring BJP back to power in the state," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters ahead of leaving for Raichur, he said, "There is enthusiasm everywhere. Through the Jana Sankalpa Yatra, we hope to gain the confidence of the people and to be victorious in the 2023 assembly polls."

According to the Chief Minister, during the tour, he will be interacting with beneficiaries of various schemes and visit certain places as planned by the local party functionaries.

Responding to a question, Bommai said he and his party are not worried about Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra, and said the foot march has no impact.

"The world knows, it is 'jodoing' (uniting) whom and 'thodoing' (dividing) whom. It has no importance. We are not worried. We are doing our sankalpa (resolution) yatra to win the election by informing people about our programmes. There is no connection with it (BJP's tour with Congress' yatra)," he added.

Incidentally, BJP's tour begins from Raichur Rural assembly segment, an ST reserve seat that has a huge presence of the Valmiki community.

The state government had last week decided to hike the reservation quota for SCs from 15 per cent to 17 per cent and for STs from 3 per cent to 7 per cent. The 'Valmiki Gurupeetha' seer Prasannananda Swami has been on a hunger strike demanding the ST quota hike.

Bommai and Yediyurappa will be touring predominantly in the 'Kalyana Karnataka' region.

Of the 52 seats which they will be touring, 20 constituencies are currently represented by Congress MLAs and four by JD(S).

EC allots swords & shield symbol to Shinde faction

PNS/TN RAGHUNATHA ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday allotted 'Two Swords and A Shield' as its symbol to the Eknath Shinde faction that was given the name Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena a day ago for the Andheri East Assembly bypoll, should it decide to contest the election scheduled for November 3.

In a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Shinde, the EC said it has decided to declare 'Two Swords and A Shield' to be a free symbol and allot it to the candidate set up, if any, by the Shinde-led group in the current bye-election.

Hours after the EC's decision, the battle of nerves for the bypolls began amid uncertain uncertainty whether the Shinde faction will field its candidate against the rival Shiv Sena(Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray).

The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), which was allotted Mashaal (Flaming Torch) symbol on Monday, has announced that it would field Rutuja Latke as its candidate for the November 3 Andheri (East) Assembly by-polls. She is likely to file her nomination for the by-poll in the next couple of days.

The Andheri (East) by-poll has been necessitated by sitting Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Late's death. Rutuja Latke is the widow of Ramesh Latke.

On its part, the Eknath Shinde-led 'Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena" - which has been waging a bitter battle with the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) for the original Sena's registered symbol "Bow and Arrow" - has not officially announced as yet whether it would contest the Andheri (East) Assembly by-polls.

However, the ruling BJP - which is the senior alliance partner of the Eknath Shinde-led "Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena" in the Maharashtra government-has indicated that it may field Murji Patel as its candidate for the Assembly by-poll.

IN-SHORTS

SC NOT TO INTERFERE IN HC ORDER ON DESHMUKH BAIL

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the Bombay High Court order on grant of bail to former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in a money laundering case. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said the observations made by the high court in its order will not affect the trial in the case and dismissed the appeal filed by the Enforcement Directorate. During the nearly two hour-long hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for ED, submitted that the high court has erred in its finding and almost conducted a mini trial on a bail petition. He claimed evidence of the case was selectively discussed by the high court which resulted in perverse finding. On October 4, the court had granted bail to Deshmukh in the case observing two components of credits" in the bank account of his family trust were not the proceeds of crime.

INDIAN ARMY PARADE TO BE HELD IN BENGALURU

New Delhi: The Indian Army Day parade next year will be held in Bengaluru. It will be the first time that the parade held on January 15 will now take place outside the national Capital.

'SANJEEVANI-LIFESTYLE CLINIC' INUAGURATED

New Delhi: An integrated facility named the "Sanjeevani - Lifestyle Clinic" to provide advice on diet, exercise and behavioural counselling thereby rendering comprehensive preventive and curative care on lifestyle diseases to all serving and retired personnel and their dependents was inaugurated here on Tuesday at the Armed Forces Clinic by Archana Pande, President, Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA).

SC ASKS STATES TO RESPOND TO PIL ON HOMELESS PEOPLE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked all states and union territories (UT) to respond within three weeks to issues presented before the court in a note by senior advocate Prashant Bhushan about the number of homeless people, shelter homes and the plans they have for them for the upcoming winter season.

Jaishankar expresses concern over latest Russian military strikes on Ukraine

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/SYDNEY

External Affairs S Jaishankar on Tuesday expressed concern over latest Russian military strikes in Ukraine on Monday and said "targeting infrastructure and causing deaths is not acceptable in any part of the world."

Making this assertion, he also reiterated the need for dialogue and diplomacy to end the conflict now on for more than eight months adding the ongoing violence is not helping anyone.

Addressing an event at Lowy Institute in Sydney, Jaishankar said the world is currently grappling with three key challenges of Covid, Conflict and Climate change.

He said this conflict is hurting a large part of the world today because the daily lives of the people are impacted in a very, very damaging manner. "And these countries with whom we identify ourselves most of these countries and they are actually feeling frustrated because they feel that their problems are being neglected," the minister said.

Jaishankar's comments came a day after India voted to reject Russia's demand for a secret ballot in the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution to condemn Moscow's "illegal" annexation of four regions of Ukraine. India favoured a public vote on the text along with over 100 other nations.

On Monday, India's External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in New Delhi the escalation of hostilities was in no one's interest and noted that India stood ready to support all such efforts aimed at de-escalation of the situation.

The Indian embassy in Kyiv cautioned its citizens to avoid non-essential travel to and within Ukraine. India has not yet condemned the Russian military action and maintained that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue. India has abstained on votes on the Ukraine conflict in the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

India, Australia Defence ties ensuring free, open Indo-Pacific region, says Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/SYDNEY

Defence ties between India and Australia has contributed significantly to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday. His remarks came in the backdrop of China's growing belligerence in the region.

Japan, US, Australia and India are part of Quad grouping for the Indo-Pacific and conducted joint maritime exercises in the region in the last few years. China has objected to the formation of the Quad claiming it will lead to militarization of the Indo-Pacific.

On a two-day visit to Australia, Jaishankar said India and Australia's defence, security collaboration has contributed significantly to a free and open Indo-Pacific. He had an instructive morning with the Australian Armed Forces. Jaishankar had met Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles on Monday in Canberra.

"Spent an instructive morning with the Australian Armed Forces. Our defence and security collaboration contributes significantly to a free and open Indo-Pacific," he tweeted along with a picture.

Addressing a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong, Jaishankar on Monday said he had a "very useful, very productive and very comfortable discussion" on a range of bilateral and global issues.

Wong said Australia and India have recognised that the Indo-Pacific region is being "reshaped" both economically and strategically and underlined that the partnership with India is a "critical part" of shaping the region.

"We can only build and sustain the region we want by working with others, including by working in partnership with India and for Australia, this partnership is a critical part of shaping the region we want," Wong said.

Jaishankar received a warm 'Tiranga welcome' on his visit to Australia on Sunday as India's tricolour lit the country's old Parliament House in Canberra.

This is his second visit to Australia this year. The first visit was in February 2022 when he attended Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Melbourne.

India delivers another batch of essential medicines, medical items to Afghanistan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing its humanitarian assistance, India on Tuesday delivered another batch of aid comprising essential medicines and medical items to Afghanistan.

India has, so far, supplied 45 tons of medical assistance in 13 batches to Afghanistan in the last few months, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said here.

It said the aid was in continuation of India's "special relationship" with the people of Afghanistan and in view of the urgent appeals made by the United Nations to assist them.

"India has supplied the 13th batch of medical assistance consisting of essential medicines and medical/surgical items like Pediatric Stethoscope, Sphygmomanometer mobile type with pediatric BP cuff, infusion pump, drip chamber set, electro cautery and nylon sutures," the MEA said. The consignments were handed over to authorities of the Indira Gandhi Children Hospital in Kabul.

The ministry also said till now India has supplied almost 45 tons of medical assistance, which included essential life saving medicines, anti-TB medicines, 500,000 doses of COVID vaccine, medical and surgical items.

Congress demands action over hate speeches by BJP MP and MLA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday demanded immediate action over the alleged hate speeches by BJP MP Parvesh Verma and BJP MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar, and urged the Supreme Court to issue directives after taking cognisance of the matter.

The party sought to know why Prime Minister Narendra Modi is silent on the issue and hoped that at least Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will gather the courage to speak for the people of the city. Several purported videos of inflammatory speeches made at the 'Virat Hindu Sabha' have come up online.

An FIR has been filed against the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the other organisers of the Sunday event in Delhi, where certain speakers, including the two BJP MLAs, allegedly delivered hate speeches. The case was filed for allegedly holding the event without permission.

"Parvesh Verma has been caught on camera asking for a boycott of a certain community. He also incited hatred, so did Gurjar one of the BJP MLAs from UP, Ghaziabad. Nothing has been done, what is the police waiting for, why is PM not speaking. Why have the courts not taken cognisance, what is Mr Arvind Kejriwal doing, and if this is not hypocrisy then we wonder what is," Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said at AICC press conference.

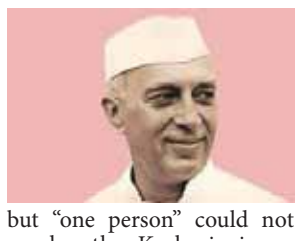
"Over 72 hours later, a citizens committee report is out on the Delhi riots of 2020 and it "nails the role played by the media, and agencies, the way police looked the other way and how perpetrators of violence have gone scot-free", Shrinate claimed.

"We hope courts will take cognisance, police will act, the PM will speak and hopefully Arvind Kejriwal will gather the courage to speak for the people of Delhi that he represents," Shrinate said.

Since hate speech is in focus, the Supreme Court must take suo-motu cognizance of the matter and issue directives, she said. Till when will the country continue to burn in this hate being spread, she asked.

Congress counters PM's claim that J&K issue not resolved by Nehru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



The Congress on Tuesday countered the claims of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir was not resolved by India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru.

Even though Modi did not mention's Nehru name in his speech, the Congress blamed Maharaja Hari Singh, the then ruler of the J&K, for not acceding to India soon after Independence and taking the decision only after invaders from Pakistan tried to take over the place.

PM Modi in a veiled attack on Nehru on Monday said Sardar Patel resolved issues of merger of other princely states, but "one person" could not resolve the Kashmir issue. While addressing a rally in Gujarat, Modi targeted the first PM without naming him, and said, "Sardar saheb managed the merger of all the princely states with India but another person handled this one issue of Kashmir," he said adding that is why it still is unresolved. Modi said he is following Patel's footsteps.

Congress General Secretary in-charge of the Communication department Jairam Ramesh cited Rajmohan Gandhi's book and said, "The PM has once again white-washed REAL history. He overlooks the following facts only to castigate Nehru on J&K. All this has been documented well in Rajmohan Gandhi's biography of Sardar Patel. These facts are also known to the PM's new man in J&K."

Jairam was referring to Ghulam Nabi Azad, who resigned from the Congress and formed a new political party. "Maharaja Hari Singh dithered on accession. There were dreams of independence. But when Pakistan invaded, Hari Singh acceded to India Sardar Patel was okay with J&K joining Pakistan till Sept 13 1947 when the Nawab of Junagadh acceded to Pakistan." Jairam said.

But Jairam pointed out that, "Sheikh Abdullah championed accession to India entirely because of his friendship with and admiration for Nehru, and his respect for Gandhi."

Jairam quoted from Rajmohan Gandhi's book — 'Patel: A Life' by Rajmohan Gandhi page 439 and page 591 (1991). "Vallabhbhai's lukewarmness about Kashmir had lasted until September 13 1947. That morning, in a letter to Baldev Singh, he had indicated that "if (Kashmir) decides to join the other Dominion," he would accept the fact. His attitude changed later that day when he heard that Pakistan had accepted Junagadh's accession".

Floods hit 33K in Assam, Arunachal

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Heavy rain in various parts of Assam and adjoining Arunachal Pradesh has led to the inundation of several areas in Assam, affecting over 33,000 people, an official bulletin said on Tuesday.

The Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati, has forecast more rain over the next two days, which may further deteriorate the situation.

An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) in its flood bulletin said Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh districts have been affected by the rain that lashed the state since Monday.

Altogether 33,836 people in 46 villages under eight revenue circles of these three districts are currently reeling under the calamity.

Though no relief camps have been opened yet, six relief distribution centres are functional in Dhemaji district.

An embankment at Naoboicha in Lakhimpur district has been affected, while roads in Lakhimpur and Dhemaji have been damaged, as per the ASDMA report.

Students wade through a waterlogged street following rains in Guwahati on Tuesday PTI

Reports of erosion from Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Morigaon and Sonitpur districts have also been received. The ASDMA bulletin also said the Brahmaputra river is flowing above the danger level at Nematighat in Jorhat district.

The Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati, said that rain with thunderstorms and lightning is likely to occur in various places in 21 districts of the state till Wednesday.

The state had witnessed one of the worst deluges earlier this year, with floods and landslides claiming 199 lives so far. Almost every year, three to four waves of flood ravage Assam.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah last week asked the Assam government to devise a long-term plan to protect the northeastern state from flood for decades so that more development can take place without the fear of flooding.

3 held for human sacrifice of 2 Kerala women for lucre

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Bhagawal Singh, a CPI(M) leader from Elanthur in Pathanamthitta district along with his wife Laila and a local goon by name Mohammed Shafi were arrested by the police on Tuesday in connection with the murder of two women as part of a sorcery ritual.

Rosely (57) and Padmam (50), two women who were lottery ticket sellers at Kaladi and Ernakulam were kidnapped by Shafi and murdered by the trio to propitiate Goddess Luck so that the couple would be blessed with all prosperity.

Shafi, the mastermind behind this act played the role of kidnapper as well as that of a sorcerer. He hoodwinked the two hapless women as well as the couple by disguising himself as the sorcerer.

According to Police, Shafi sexually abused the two victims and Laila before the gruesome act. He also took millions of rupees from the CPI(M) leader and his wife to arrange the victims.

Shafi, hailing from Perumbavoor and a drug pusher, has been staying at Ernakulam and was involved in many criminal activities. He sweettalked Rosely who was staying away from her family into believing that she stands to make millions by acting in pornographic films.

It was with the dream of acting in movies and earn easy money that she accompanied Shafi to Pathanamthitta in the month of June 2022. Her neighbours in Kaladi said they have not seen her since the day she left for Pathanamthitta.

Rosely was murdered and her dead body was cut into pieces and buried in the compound adjacent to Bhagawal Singh's residence in June itself.

Even after two months, the Singh -Laila couple did not get the treasure or prosperity, Shafi told them that their family was under a curse and they should conduct one more sorcery and human sacrifice. Shafi himself arranged to bring a victim and took more money from the couple.

The second victim Padma was picked up from Ernakulam and he took her to Elanthoor. Padma too was murdered, her body cut into pieces and buried adjacent to the spot where Rosely's remains were buried.

The police launched the investigation following a "missing person" complaint filed by the sister of Padma with the Kochi Police.

The police followed the mobile phone calls made and received by Padma before she disappeared.

Netaji's demise casts shadow on model of secular politics

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

The demise of Mulayam Singh Yadav has cast a shadow on the model of secular politics painstakingly crafted by him over the last three decades. Besides championing the cause of the OBCs and underprivileged class, Mulayam was also known for the important model of secular politics which went beyond lip service and involved forging of social coalition between OBCs and Muslims at the grass-roots level, fighting the inherent contradictions.

Ever since the unlocking of the Babri mosque on February 1, 1986 following the orders of the Faizabad district and session judge, Mulayam led the war of secularism from the front. Mulayam could foresee the politics of the coming years as the Congress was steadily losing ground over the unlocking of the mosque.

As expected, the Ram Janmabhoomi agitation was at its peak during Mulayam's first tenure as the chief minister (1989-1991). Police opened fire twice on the 'kar sevaks' mobilised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) in October/November 1990.

Mulayam, who was determined to protect the Babri mosque, defended the police firing. He became the cynosure of Muslims across the country, particularly Uttar Pradesh.

At the height of the mobilisation by the VHP in 1990, Mulayam was invited by the Khilafat committee for a grand reception in Mumbai (Bombay then). The committee had led the Khilafat movement in 1920 for the restoration of the Ottoman Empire in Turkey, which was defeated by the British and allied forces during the First World War.

Mulayam, labelled as "Mullah Mulayam" by the Sangh Parivar in the 1990s, provided Muslims of Uttar Pradesh a sense of security at a crucial time.

TMC jolted after ED arrests MLA Bhattacharya

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

RK and DD are the two initials that have been doing the rounds in Bengal political circles within hours of the arrest of Trinamool Congress MLA and former Bengal primary education board chairman Manik Bhattacharya.

In a major blow to the Mamata Banerjee Government the Enforcement Directorate in the wee hours of Tuesday arrested Bhattacharya after a lengthy grilling, sources said adding his replies to a number of questions were unsatisfactory.

According to sources the ED has found two initials from the chat list of Bhattacharya. In one of such chats the TMC MLA is allegedly writing to one RK about the list of finalised candidates whose names have been approved by one "DD."

Bhattacharya's arrest comes months after the arrest of former BengalEducation Minister Partha Chatterjee, and other top official sincluding North Bengal University Vice Chancellor and former StateSchool Services Commission Chairman Subires Bhattacharrya, former WestBengal Board of Secondary Education Chairman Kalyanmoy Ganguli and SP Sinha a covenor of an empowered advisory committee created by the Government to advise the SSC on questions of appointments.

Court cases that were being heard in Calcutta High Court have revealed large scale bungling in school level recruitment where thousands of posts were sold to undeserving candidates at the cost of those who had successfully cleared the selection tests.

Lakhs changed hands through an elaborately created network of "field agents, collectors, liaison persons," who collected money anywhere between ₹10 and ₹20 lakh — depending on the level of jobs — from the candidates and transported the cash upwards. In turn those candidates were required to submit blank OMR sheets. These OMR sheets were later filled up by appointed persons.

Non-bailable sexual abuse case against Kerala Cong MLA filed

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

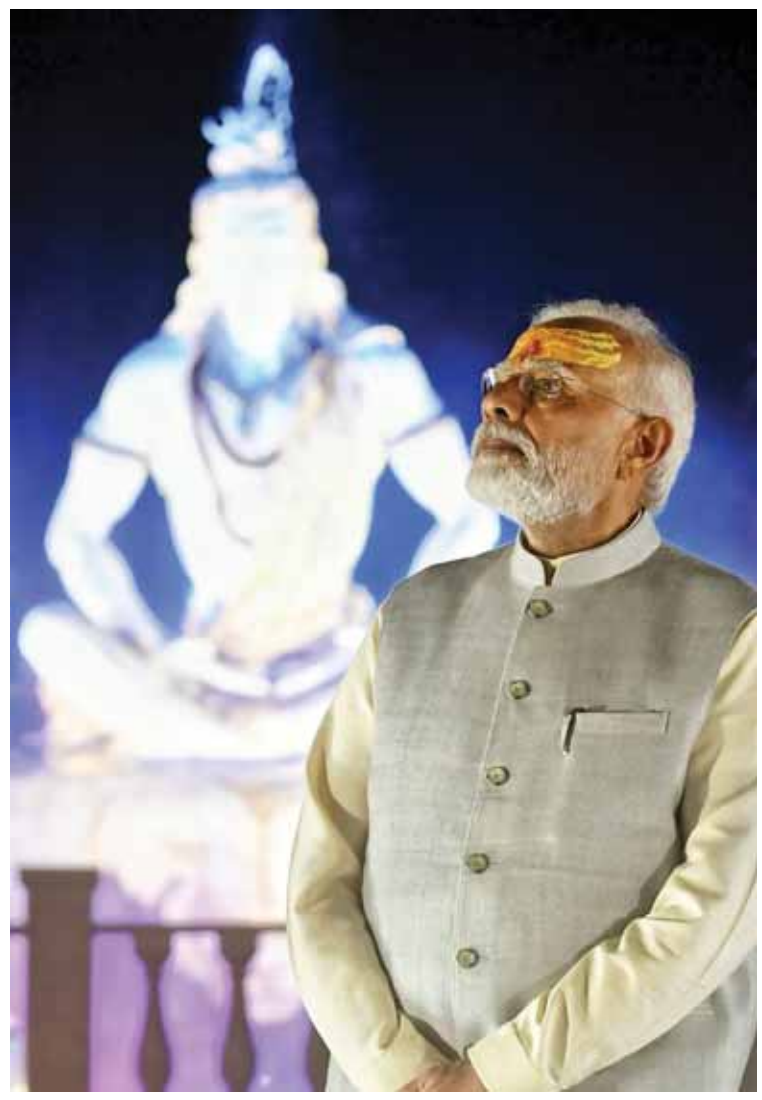
Within hours of the arrest of a local CPI(M) leader, his wife and an associate in connection with the gruesome murders of two women as part of human sacrifice, a Congress MLA in Kerala has landed himself in trouble over a case of sexual assault.

Police in Thiruvananthapuram has filed a non-bailable case against Kunnappilli under various sections of the Indian Penal Code dealing with sexual assault, violation of the modesty of women and kidnapping. According to police officials, they have taken the statement of the woman and the case would be transferred to the Crime Branch.

The incident shot into prominence when the MLA who represents Perumbavoor assembly constituency, was caught with the lady , a school teacher, in a resort in Kovalam. Both were having a wordy duel over Kunnappilli's relations with many women and the lady told him bluntly that she would file a police complaint of he continued tormenting her. It is also reported that the MLA assaulted her and threatened her with dire consequences through his personal assistant.

The lady got her complaint filed as a statement in front of a magistrate in the capital city. Her relations had filed a missing person complaint with the police as she remained untraceable for a few days. She had disclosed the reasons behind her disappearance in the Statement filed with the magistrate. She also said in the statement that Kunnappilli had offered her Rs 30 lakh if she withdraws the complaint and the statement.

Kunnappilli remained incommunicado despite several attempts to contact him for his version of the incident.


Prime Minister Narendra Modi during dedication of 'Shri Mahakal Lok' corridor, the first phase of the Mahakaleshwar Temple corridor development project, to the nation, in Ujjain on Tuesday PTI

ED arrests Sanjay Jain in money laundering case against IFFCO CEO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said it has arrested Sanjay Jain for channelizing 'proceeds of crime' from foreign shores to India in connection with a money laundering probe relating to former IFFCO CEO US Awasthi.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of a case registered by CBI on May 17, 2021 against US Awasthi, MD and CEO, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO), Pravinder Singh Gahlaut, MD, Indian Potash Ltd. (IPL),Sanjay Jain, brother of Pankaj Jain, President of Jyoti Trading Corporation and beneficial owner of other entities of Jyoti Group, Amarendra Dhari Singh alias AD Singh, senior vice president of Jyoti Trading Corporation and others, for criminal conspiracy, cheating and criminal misconduct.

The allegations include receipt of illegal commission by the accused from the overseas suppliers through a complex web of fake commercial transactions through multiple entities registered outside India (controlled by the accused persons) to camouflage the fraudulent transactions as genuine.

"It is found that US Awasthi (father of Amol Awasthi & Anupam Awasthi) and Parvinder Singh Gahlaut (father of Vivek Gahlaut) wield considerable influence in the fertilizer industry by virtue of their position as Managing Director of IFFCO & Director of IPL (US Awasthi) and Managing Director of IPL (Parvinder Singh Gahlaut).

19-20 lakh cancer cases reported in India in 2022

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

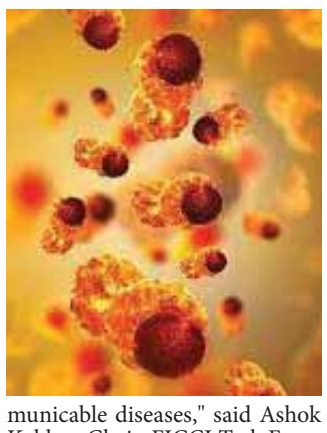
Real cancer incidence level in India is estimated to be 1.5 to three times higher than reported incidence as 51 per cent patients take more than a week to conclude diagnosis while 46 per cent take second opinion due to lack of confidence in initial diagnosis and suggested treatment, a report showed on Tuesday.

The reported cancer incidence in India in 2022 is estimated to be 19 to 20 lakh, whereas real incidence is likely to be 1.5 to 3 times higher than the reported cases, according to a study by FICCI and EY titled "Call for Action: Making quality cancer care more accessible and affordable in India".

India is faced with a sizable cancer incidence burden, which continues to grow exponentially.

The 2020 WHO ranking on cancer burden in terms of new yearly cases being reported had ranked India at the third position after China and the US, respectively.

"For cancer prevention, early diagnosis and widespread public awareness will be integral and will serve as a beacon of light to strengthen India's strategy for cancer care and other non-communicable diseases," said Ashok Kakkar, Chair, FICCI Task Force on Cancer Care.



"While some of the most cutting-edge cancer treatment methods and technology are available in our country, we still have a long way to go before we can ensure that cancer patients from every socioeconomic background receive the best possible care," added Kakkar, also Managing Director, Varian Medical Systems International India Pvt Ltd.

Cancer disease burden in India is characterized by poor detection with not more than 29 per cent, 15 per cent and 33 per cent of breast lung and cervical cancers being diagnosed in stages 1 and 2, respectively.

The cancer of the head and neck are found to be progressing at a CAGR of 23 per cent, prostate cancer at 19 per cent, ovarian cancer at 11 per cent and breast cancer at 8 per cent, which is faster than the overall growth rate of incidence.

Six states, which represent 18 per cent of India's population, have 23 per cent share of the country's reported incidence burden and have the highest crude incidence rates.

Kerala, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab, and Assam report the highest overall crude incidence rates of cancers which is greater than 130 cases per lakh population, the report mentioned.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company.

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (from)	Dist-No. (to)	Lost Shares
1	SPP0004659	Navin Jain	5818	421229	421268	40
2	SPP0003157	Archana Saran Anshumali Saran (Jt. Holder 1)	3259	122134	122220	87
3	SPP0005064	Anshumali Saran Smt Archana Saran (Jt. Holder 1)	6288	445094	445145	52

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

for **KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED**
Sd/-
EKTA MAHESHWARI
WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR,CFO & COMPANY SECRETARY

Place : Gurugram
Date : 11.10.2022

Maha to hand over Palghar case to CBI

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a reversal of the decision taken by the previous Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government to withdraw its general "consent" granted to the CBI to investigate the cases relating to Maharashtra, the Eknarth Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis Government has indicated that it would hand over the investigations into the much-discussed Palghar lying incident to the CBI.

In the Palghar lynching incident that took place on April 16, 2020, two Sadhus and their driver were killed by an irate mob near Kasa town in Palghar district of Maharashtra.

In an affidavit filed before a trial court, the Maharashtq government said: "The petitioners have sought transfer of investigation to the CBI, in as much as according to them, it is imperative for achieving an impartial and independent investigation in the matter…..The state of Maharashtra is ready and willing to hand over the investigation to the CBI and would have no objection for the same".

Welcoming the Shinde-Fadnavis government's readiness to hand over the probe to the CBI, state BJP spokesperson Ram Kadam said: . "The Palghar incident was brutal and barbaric. The sadhus did not get justice from the Thackeray-government. Thackeray spoke of Hindutva, however, he kept mum. Now, the government has decided to give it to the CBI. The Hindutva samaj is very happy today with the decision. We are committed to give justice to the sadhus".

Thanking Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendsra Fadnavis, who holds the Home portfolio, Maharashtra-BJP Spiritual Front chief AcharyabTushar Bhosale, said: "What the previous government could not do, Fadnavis has done. The country is witnessing what has happened to former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray and the then Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16 2020, three persons were lynched by a 200-strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district on suspicion that they were thieves. The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle. Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadhchinchale village on Dabhadi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

The deceased —identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70), Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and driver Nilesh Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivli in north Mumbai. The place where the incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

As many as 251 adults and 16 juveniles are being tried on various charges of rioting, attempt to murder and murder in connection with the April 16, 2020 Palghar lynching incident which created public outrage across the country.

Till date, a total of 176 accused and 11 juveniles have been granted bail while the bail applications of 36 more have been rejected.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kunal Gupta/ Neelabh Gupta- LBJAI00003429103/ LBJAI00003459574	Plot No S 106, S 107, 1st Floor, Pink Pride, Khasra No.9, Village Jaisinghpura Bass Bhankrota, Tehsil Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Jaipur- 303902/ October 07, 2022	May 30, 2022 Rs. 22,63,882.00/-	Jaipur/ Bundi/ Faridabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : October 12, 2022
Place: Faridabad

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 12, 2022

the pioneer

pinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Monsoon woes

Our cities are drowning but our politicians indulge only in crass demagoguery and reckless populism

Withdrawal of the south-west monsoon has not just brought heavy rainfall in north India but also exposed the tall claims made by various governmental authorities that they are creating 'world class infrastructure.' Waterlogged roads (even arterial ones) and massive traffic jams plague not just Delhi-NCR but also other parts; continuous drizzle has been going on for several days. Plus, there have been reports about roads caving in. In the last week of September, a major part of the road at the Iffco Chowk in Gurugram caved in. Similar cave-ins were reported at Palam Vihar, Basai Chowk, Laxmi Garden, and the Khandsa Road, bringing the so-called Millennium City to a standstill. Incessant rain in the last few days in north India, including the NCR, has resulted in waterlogging in several parts. Mobility in Delhi and the adjoining areas suffered badly because of urban flooding. Schools and many offices were shut. There was an incidence of road cave-in at Noida Extension in Uttar Pradesh. Other parts of the country have also suffered a similar fate. Hyderabad got choked because of rains and the attendant problems. Continuous downpour was witnessed in the sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, resulting in landslides at some places in Sikkim and road blockades.

Whatever happened to the world class infrastructure and the 'smart cities' programme. One is reminded of the infamous quote, "Let them eat cake," attributed to Marie-Antoinette, the queen of France during the French Revolution, as her response to the news that peasants didn't have bread. The powers that be of our country seem to have a similar attitude towards urban problems: 'Let them have slogans.' Choked roads, massive water-logging, and chaos are witnessed every year during the rainy season in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, and smaller cities. But politicians of all parties, instead of addressing the real issues, continue to offer speeches, promises, and fantastic projects. The Smart Cities Mission is an example. A government website describes the vision as "Smart Cities focus on their most pressing needs and on the greatest opportunities to improve lives. They tap a range of approaches—digital and information technologies, urban planning best practices, public-private partnerships, and policy change—to make a difference. They always put people first." It went on to add that the objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of 'smart' solutions. That's very nice, but where are the solutions—smart or otherwise? The problems that Delhi, Hyderabad, and other cities are facing today are the ones that they faced last year, and before that every year. But politicians are concerned about such matters as the portrayal of Lord Hanuman in the teaser of a movie and the freebie of free travel to Ayodhya. Crass demagoguery and reckless populism are no substitutes for governance.

PICTALK

Players of Brazil celebrate after scoring a goal against Morocco in FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Bhubaneswar. PTI

Parakkum Kerala

Kerala has become one of the biggest hotbed of drugs and situation is deteriorating

The seizure of heroin and hashish oil costing more than Rs 2,000 crore off the coast of Kochi and from different places in Kerala during the last week shows how fast the menace of drugs has swallowed Kerala. Information from various de-addiction centers run by the State Government says that more than 4,000 youth have been admitted to these clinics to treat them from the octopus-like hold of narcotics. Last week a joint operation by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Narcotics Control Bureau led to theseizure of 200 kg heroin from an Iranian dhow off the Kochi coast. It is reported that the stuff was seized from the periphery of Lakshadweep islands though the authorities are tight-lipped about the exact location. Initial investigation has proved that the drug reached Indian shores from Afghanistan via Pakistan.

Immediately after the seizure of this heroin and the arrest of six Iranians who were the crew members, another network of drug trafficking was exposed by the NCB which seized narcotics worth Rs 2000 crore meant to be distributed in Kerala. Two Keralites have been arrested and their modus operandi was to smuggle the drugs as vegetables and fruits. The material originated from South Africa and was labeled as green apples, a favorite with Kerala people.The last two weeks saw 16 gruesome murders in Kerala and all the killings were related to turf wars between junkies and drug pushers. It has been nearly a year since Ansi Kabeer, the 2019 Miss Kerala, and her colleague Anjana Shajan was found dead under mysterious circumstances after a late-night party in a hotel in Fort Kochi. The police are yet to make any breakthrough in the investigation while drug-related murders and deaths continue unabated in the State. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who unveiled a grandiose plan to tackle drug trafficking in early September is watching helplessly from the sidelines as the drug mafia-politicians-police cabal is getting flourished. The land is fertile for any kind of illegal activity. The State has the dubious distinction of being the pioneer in using radio pagers for the thriving flesh trade. B V Kumar, the former head of DRI had warned as early as 1989 that the dense forests in the Western Ghats are being used for cultivating cannabis. After Udta Punjab, it is the turn of Parakkum Kerala (Flying Kerala). Does anybody care?

Vishwaguru needs high HEI ranking

VK KARTHIKA

To make India 'Vishwaguru', Indian institutes must think global and gear up to compete with the best for higher global index (HEI)

Global rankings of Indian Higher Education Institutions trigger discussions that propel towards critiquing the system of ranking ascribing many negative impacts that it generates. The teacher-student ratio and the potential issues with inclusivity in the Indian context and the negative implications of the inefficient teacher-student ratio on the research publications of course problematise the notion of such global-level competition. However, these should not be excuses for academicians to seek relaxation or exemption from their professional development practices.

By bringing in the idea of inclusivity, ranting and raving about the need to focus on 'local' issues rather than on the 'global' competitive market, academicians/educationists are actually misjudging the needs of their 'customers'. Further, projecting education as a noble profession that creates "organic individuals" as argued by Patnaik and Laxminarayan in their commentary is bizarre because it assumes that education is unaffected and distanced from the worldly at the very time when the education system has to prepare student consumers to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.

Going global by enabling students to be global citizens is emphasised multiple times in the National Education Policy 2020. To ensure this global citizenship, the facilitators of education at all levels must function competitively. By forging ill-framed equations between academically privileged and underprivileged students and by neglecting the faculty's responsibility in enabling every student to compete in the global scenario, such educationists defending the local are in fact ignoring student needs. The student needs are not local, and neither are the solutions, opportunities, and prospects which are now irreversibly global.

The fear of being challenged by a minority of high-performance peers, as rightly pointed out by the renowned academic Pramod K. Nayar, should not be the reason for evading the academic competition. A responsible academician must provide the students with valuable insights into the global-level challenges that they have to encounter once they walk out of the comfort zones of their HEIs. The competitive world that awaits the young graduates embodies the dictum: 'Survival of the fittest. If the educationists themselves are not fit to survive, how will they enable the students to contest and win?Addressing the student needs is a mandate of any HEI. As part of the consumerist educational structure, if students look for institutions that are high in international or national ranking and if they focus on a subject-specific shortlisting of institutions, it signifies the responsibility of individual institutions to raise their standards which in turn demands that its faculty members compete with peers both locally and globally.

It is wrong if the faculty/teacher assumes that the institutions should focus only on local-level engagements and not entertain global-level competitions in the name of ensuring inclusivity and catering to the demands of those less privileged students.

> RANKINGS SERVE AS A TOOL TO MEASURE THE ACADEMIC REPUTATION OF ANY INSTITUTION. HEALTHY AND MEANINGFUL ACADEMIC CONTESTS CAN HELP ANY INSTITUTE AND ITS FACULTY TO NAVIGATE TOWARD EXCELLENCE

Apprehensions about raising the level of academic challenge among students are pointed out as an issue. We underrate the students' abilities to cope with novelty. We must understand that the young generation is part of a knowledge revolution. Blanketing out these possibilities and giving them the impression that they need to meet only the local challenges is an incongruous notion that hinders the academic and economic progress of the young generation.

Many Indian institutions receive global-level funding. If this is not for enabling global citizenship, why should any agency fund these HEIs? There are many instances of students and academicians seeking international funding for their local-level projects. Would those preaching about the going local refuse global funding, visits, and collaborations even if such funding requires that they sell the local to the global academic marketplace like an ethnic product?

Being fearful of academic auditing, finding reasons to avoid competition with peers at local and global levels, and attributing the inefficient teacher-student ratio as the primary cause of lack of quality research and publication will not assist a nation to become a 'Vishwaguru'. In fact, it does not even augur well for ordinary gurus, if we as teachers are so scared of upskilling our game!

Rankings serve as a tool to measure the academic reputation of any institution. Healthy and meaningful academic contests can help any institute and its faculty to navigate toward excellence. Engaging only on local-level concerns and focusing only on the shortcomings of the ranking system cannot resolve any of the issues that deserve immediate attention. Rankings influence students' decisions. To pursue higher education, they rely on the benchmark set by different ranking agencies . When the Indian policy documents underline the importance of preparing every student for global-level challenges by envisaging a transformation of Indian youngsters into global citizens, the faculty should embrace the idea of challenging themselves more to strive towards eminence and excellence.

(The author is Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, at National Institute of Technology-Trichy. The views expressed are personal)

This is second part of article on HEI rankings. Concluded.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ADIEU NETAJI!

Sir — Mulayam Singh Yadav who was fondly called "Netaji", Dharti Putra, his death is a huge loss to the nation and the country has lost the most credible fighter for social justice. After the Mandal Commission report was tabled in 1990, Mulayam became the Torchbearer of the social justice movement. The entire backward community united to back him to become the CM of UP. Due to the death of Mulayam the voice of socialist ideas has fallen silent. Perhaps the last of the dhoti-wearing generation of politicians Netaji fit the unlikely description of a socialite socialist.

As CM of UP, he declared no bird would fly into Ayodhya and directed police to open fire on the hordes determined to violently raid the Babri Masjid in 1990. Years later desperate to make a bid for Prime Minister ship he sought pardon from voters. In his long career, SP Patrick Mulayam Singh Yadav served as UP CM thrice, but there were chances when he was close to becoming Prime Minister. Mulayam Singh's comments often raised controversy many times. His comments triggered outrage when he spoke against the death sentence for rapists saying "boys make mistakes ". His death is a huge loss to the nation and the political circle.

Zeeshaan | *Kazipet*

THE CATALYST OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Sir — Literature can transform the complexion of society in more than one way. This year Nobel Prize for Literature has been accorded to French author Annie Ernaux, the first French woman to receive it. She has weaved her stories and personal experiences wielded with a pen to unravel the complexities of social inequalities.

It could not have come at a better time, when Far Right forces are seeing a rising trend across the world viz in Italy, Sweden, France, etc. It is through her remarkable work about the challenges that life throws at us and one's personal experiences that she has been able to bring forth the power of verbal magic by weaving reality into words. It truly reflects the power of human memories. She has aptly called writing a knife to tear apart the veils of imagination, it has the power to open society's eyes to social inequality.

Her first novel Les Armoires Vides, written in 1974 deals with her own experiences with abortion which was then illegal in France, and the assertion of any woman's right towards her own body and the way she pleases to do it. It is a mere coincidence that nearly half a century later the apex court of India has pronounced a landmark Judgement on unmarried women,s rights to terminate their pregnancy to stop the mental agony of the tortured soul inflicted by society. She has stood the test of time and traversed a long journey of struggle not only in her personal life but also that get reflected in her writings about women,s sexual rights, sensibilities, personal freedom, and choices rightly bestowing him the title of a courageous woman by the Swedish Academy.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | *Nainital*

Dengue is back

There is an alarming increase in the dengue cases in Delhi which has become serious and dangerous resulting in Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia have given a directive to all the city hospitals to reserve 10-15 per cent beds for patients of vector-borne diseases and also to ensure that no such patient is denied admission due to a lack of beds. Seeing the low occupancy rate of the COVID-19 beds in the last few weeks, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has also asked the hospitals to use the vacant beds to accommodate dengue patients. The city logged 937 dengue cases this year till September-end and 321 more cases were reported in the first five days of October, taking the tally to 1,258, according to a report released by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday, October 10. With this, it is the welcome decision of the Delhi government.

Bhagwan Thadani | *Mumbai*

UJJAIN IS READY FOR MAHAKAL LOK

Sir — The Mahakaleshwar Temple is one of the 12 'jyotirlingas' in the country and gets devotees throughout the year. Ahead of PM Modi`s visit, Ujjain has been decked up with colourful flags on a large number of lamp posts, while many streets and flyovers have been decorated with lights, including the Hari Phatak flyover that overlooks the new corridor which has turned into a selfie point of sorts for locals. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first phase of the ₹856-crore Mahakaleshwar Temple corridor development project here on Tuesday.

The city has been decorated with fairy lights, and 'diyas' giving an appearance of an early Diwali. 'Mahakal Lok' development also includes a mid-way zone, a park, a multi-storied parking lot for cars and buses, a florist and other shops, solar lighting, a facility centre for pilgrims, a water pipeline, and a sewer line, among others.

Akshita Dhurve | *Ujjain*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Let there be no doubt, if attempts at terrorist attacks continue, the response from Russia will be severe.

Russian President
—Vladimir Putin

Former Chief Minister took everyone together. The larger danger is not just to the Thackeray family, but to the country's democracy.

Shiv Sena leader
—Aditya Thackeray

We all have good days. We all have not-so-good days. I promise to you that I will get the job done for all of you and you will be entertained.

Actor
—Vijay Deverakonda

I wish the Indian Women's Football team luck for the U-17 WWC and encourage all Indians to support them

Athlete
—Neeraj Chopra

Millions of commuters will simply be told you can't use Delhi metro if any adverse order is passed against Delhi metro at this point of time.

Attorney General of India
—R Venkataramani

FIRST COLUMN

TAKING SHELTER IS KEY TO SUCCESS IN WORLD

Life is full of miseries and solaceis God's shelter

AJIT **KUMAR BISHNOI**

The world is an impermanent place of miseries. It is not God's fault that we have been born here; we just did not qualify for higher planets. But God, munificent as He is, has made it possible for us to get over almost all imperfections. We just have to take God's shelter actively.

I was born to my parents, when they had such a desire. My Lord placed me in my mother's womb. I didn't have to do anything except nudge her a little, once in a while, and all my needs were attended to. When I grew up, I was placed in the care of my grandparents. My grandfather was a highly successful executive. My grandmother was a sincere devotee of God. Most of her time was spent in spiritual activities. Between the two of them, they took care of all my material and spiritual needs. Thanks to my grandmother, God became very much part of my life, mainly through sumptuous 'prasad'. My grandfather became a role model for material success. Between the two of them, they ensured that I had the best possible upbringing. Why? Because I was under their shelter.

I grew up more and was now ready to travel abroad for higher studies. I applied to several well-known universities. One famous university offered me admission along with an assistantship in order to help me financially. I accepted and informed them about my arrival

plans. They had a person waiting for me at the arrival point. This person drove me to a flat shared by many Indians. I was welcome to remain there till I made my own arrangements. Next morning, I was driven to the Foreign Students Office where all paperwork was completed for my studies and financial assistance. Why did all these happen? Because I had taken their shelter.

That was not the end of the entire admission procedure. I was called by the faculty for a meeting. There were several professors present there asking me questions. I was alarmed because I had not prepared for such a test. They sensed my discomfort and assured me that the exercise was simply to ascertain what all I knew and what courses should be offered. Somewhat assured, I became more forthcoming till they surprised me with their offer of changing my preferred subject of specialisation. They felt that I would be better served if I took advantage of the presence of a highly experienced professor, who had recently retired from a top company. The idea appealed to me, and I gave my consent. This is how I became a specialised dewatering engineer instead of a structural engineer. This decision changed my entire life and set me on course to return to India and do quite well professionally. This all happened because I had agreed to take shelter from their faculty.

If all these had happened by taking shelter of some excellent men and their institutions, I was absolutely amazed by what God had in store for me when I decided to take His shelter. First of all, He asked me to remain in His shelter. And if I could do that my life will move forward steadily. This was not all, my Lord then made me His 'nimitta' (instrument) and Himself took the role of 'karta' (doer).

Yes, taking shelter is the key, especially, in the case of God; He takes charge of our lives, as He thankfully did in my case.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Justice is not delayed or denied for some

VANAM JWALA **NARASIMHA RAO**

Judiciary has a duty to be seen equal in treatment to all, and some getting speedy relief needs to be debated

It remains a question if quick relief by courts as seen in several instances is available to all citizens alike or otherwise. Are all being treated equally or some are more equal than others before the law is the question that requires an answer. Do some of these reliefs have any linkage to the appellant's capacity and capability to engage a more competent advocate?

Indian judiciary is best known in the world for its unique reputation of being a role model for its impartiality, fairness and independence and also as the one which treats a commoner and first citizen on equal footing. Several examples in this regard could be cited. But, somehow, it appears that somewhere something is missing and why it is so, one is unable to comprehend.

For instance, in 1969 VV Giri was elected as President of India and a petition was filed in the Supreme Court, urging that the election be set aside. Giri as President of the country in a rare instance appeared in person in court and was examined as a witness. On June 12, 1975, the Allahabad High Court passed a historical judgment disqualifying the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from holding public office for six years which of course was later stayed partially by the Supreme Court vacation judge on June 24, allowing her to continue as Member of Lok Sabha and also as Prime Minister. Interestingly, NA Palkhivala argued her case.

On October 12, 2000, former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao was sentenced to three years' imprisonment by a trial judge but was later acquitted by the Delhi High Court in 2002. Former President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy had to resign as Chief Minister in 1964, following unfavorable observations made against him in the Bus Routes Nationalization case. Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad Yadav, J Jayalalitha were unseated following court judgements.

Indian judiciary is credited for rectifying wrongs done in its earlier judgment. For instance, the Supreme Court in January 2011 admitted that its decision during the Emergency was erroneous and violated the Fundamental Rights of the people of the people. The bench referred to the majority decision of the Constitution Bench in 1976, which became infamous as the Habeas Corpus case, in which four judges went with the then Congress Government view that even the right to life stood abrogated during Emergency. It was Justice HR Khanna who rightly gave a dissenting judgment by holding that issue of writs of Habeas Corpus by High Courts is an integral part of the Constitution and no power has been conferred upon any authority in the Constitution for suspending that power. This later resulted in Khanna being superseded to the office of the Chief Justice of India.

> INDIAN JUDICIARY IS CREDITED FOR RECTIFYING WRONGS DONE IN ITS EARLIER JUDGMENT. FOR INSTANCE, THE SUPREME COURT IN JANUARY 2011 ADMITTED THAT ITS DECISION DURING THE EMERGENCY WAS ERRONEOUS AND VIOLATED THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE

(The author is a policy analyst)

The Constitution is the law of the land and the supreme law in India. If any law passed violates the basic structure of the Constitution, the Indian judiciary has the power to nullify that law. This goes without saying that all citizens are equal before the law. But a critical observation gives rise to a doubt as to why the justice is quick and on fast track in few select cases whereas by and large it is slow, notwithstanding the reputation of the courts that they treat a commoner and first citizen on the same equilibrium.

From one side we hear about the huge pendency of the cases and from the other side we see disposals in the courts within hours of filing either in the form of a stay order or an interim relief or reversing the government orders or granting a bail etc. No doubt, the law has obviously provided for various forms of relief like Lunch motions, House motions, Habeas Corpus petitions, etc. However, the concept of restraining order is still underdeveloped and unclear under Indian law.

Why cases that were initiated decades ago on some individuals for which in numerous instances they were kept in jails as undertrials for a long period and were released on bail after rejecting several times in lower courts and higher courts are kept pending is not known. There are instances where some of these individuals on bail, contest elections and even occupy very high constitutional positions. Why such cases are not decided either way is a million dollar question. As far as the civil disputes are concerned it is anybody's guess of their disposal. Quite often the judgement passed in a lower court, with several options provided for appeal is stayed in no time. The disputes at times take longer than the life of the petitioners. This reminds me of the proverb, 'Justice delayed is justice denied' which was taught for social studies' students.

The Indian Judiciary is a system of courts that interpret and apply the law in the Republic of India. India uses a common law system, first introduced by the British East India Company and with influence from other colonial powers and Indian princely states, as well as practices from ancient and medieval times. The Constitution provides for a single unified judiciary in India.

The judicial system is structured in three levels with subsidiary parts. The Supreme Court, also known as the Apex Court, is the top court and the ultimate appellate court in India. The Chief Justice of India leads that court. High Courts are the top judicial bodies in individual states, controlled and managed by state Chief Justices. Below the High Courts are District Courts, also known as subordinate courts, which are controlled and managed by District and Sessions Judges. The lower subordinate courts are Civil Court and the District Munsif Court, headed by a Sub-Judge. The higher subordinate Criminal Court is headed by Chief Judicial or Metropolitan Magistrate. This gives abundant scope for the aggrieved in seeking justice.

There are five writ petition types in the Indian Constitution, which a citizen can file either before the High Court or Supreme Court. They are: Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Certiorari, Quo Warranto, and Prohibition. The Constitution gives an extensive original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court in regard to enforcement of Fundamental Rights. It is empowered to issue directions, orders or writs.

A writ petition can be filed by any individual in the Supreme Court when Fundamental Rights have been violated by the State whereas a writ petition can be filed in the High Court when Fundamental Rights or any other rights have been violated by the State. Appeals in civil and criminal cases are made to the High Court against the decision of the subordinate courts. Supreme Court entertains matters in which interest of the public at large is involved popularly known as 'Public Interest Litigation' and several matters of public importance have become landmark cases.

The Indian judicial system undoubtedly is so greatly structured with several kinds of reliefs to the citizen giving him or her plentiful opportunity for redressal of any kind of injustice done. But something is missing is the feeling of a common man.

POINT COUNTER POINT

DUE TO BABAR AZAM-LED SIDE'S RECENT WINS OVER INDIA IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, THE MEN IN BLUE HAVE BEGUN TO RESPECT THEIR ARCH RIVALS.
—PCP CHAIRMAN
RAMIZ RAJA

RESPECT TO OPPOSITION DOESN'T COME WITH WINS AND DEFEATS WE DEFINITELY RESPECT THE PAKISTAN SIDE AND SO DO THEY.
—INDIAN CRICKETER
ASHWIN RAMCHANDRAN

RTI rules need changes to make it more effective

Many irritants have cropped up in the RTI with visible unwillingness from some states to share information

SUBHASH **CHANDRA AGRAWAL**

(The author is a RTI consultant holding Guinness World record for most letters published in newspapers)

RTI Act implemented on October 12, 2005 in initial years of its implementation had done wonders not only by exposing scams and scandals, but also resulted in systemic reforms. However, experience reveals that RTI rules (and not the RTI Act) need important modifications mainly to prevent misuse of the Act and minimising challenge to CIC verdicts in courts.

Precious time of Central Information Commission and courts should be saved through notification issued by central government to declare all public-private-partnerships, sports-bodies, cooperative-societies and other such bodies, public-authorities under RTI Act. Land and Building Departments of central and state governments should study all cases of allotment of land or government-accommodations at subsidised rates or lease, and declare all these as public-authorities under RTI Act. For future, land or government-accommodations should be provided at subsidised rates on pre-condition of beneficiaries coming under purview of RTI Act.

Effective steps should be taken to prevent misuse of RTI Act, which will be a boon to genuine information-seekers by drastically reducing pendency at Information Commissions apart from saving man-hours and expenses for both the public-authorities and the petitioners.

Section 27 and 28 of RTI Act give power to Competent Authorities and state-governments to draft their own rules which include fixing of RTI fees and mode of payment of RTI fees. Several Competent Authorities and states misused their power by having RTI fees as high as rupees 500. Several states fixed RTI fees for filing First Appeals also. However, the Supreme Court in its verdict dated March 20, 2018 on a petition filed by Common Cause imposed a capping of Rs 50 to be maximum RTI fees.

India should be governed with the principle 'One Nation–One Rule' in respect of RTI fees and its mode of payment by clubby copying charges of first 20 copied with basis RTI fees of Rs 10 (for Central public-authorities), thus making Rs 50 as uniform RTI fees throughout the country inclusive of charges of first 20 copied pages. Making basic RTI fees at Rs 50 will largely prevent misuse of RTI Act just for sake of fun or publicity. There must not be any fees for filing First or Second Appeals.

Handling a postal order of value Rs 10 costs the postal department about Rs 50 with the cost of handling of postal orders by a public authority and bank clearing even extra. Most public authorities require postal orders in different names even though DoPT in its various circulars has required postal orders towards RTI payments to be in the name of Accounts Officer only. These RTI stamps should be conveniently available at all post-offices and counters of public-authorities and other convenient sale-points.

Post-free RTI applications addressed to central public-authorities should be extended to all about 1,60,000 post offices rather than just about 4500 post offices presently. It is not difficult because every post-office, however small it may be, daily sends a post-bag to the Head Post Office with registered post, cash and unsold revenue-articles. This post-bag can carry post-free RTI applications received at the post-office.

Portal for filing online RTI applications should be modified so that RTI responses and orders of First Appellate Authorities may also be auto-emailed rather than RTI applicants required to go to the portal for viewing of RTI responses.

DoPT should issue a circular in tune with para 23 of verdict dated November 2, 2012 in the matter "Fruit and Vegetable Union versus Unknown" (CWP 4787 of 2011) which requires ID proof compulsory to be attached with every RTI application, First Appeal and petitions filed with Information Commissions. Already the aspect has been adopted in Odisha apart from Punjab and Haryana.

Only websites uniformly designed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) should be mandatory for all states. This has become necessary for states like Odisha have made online filing of RTI applications merely a mockery when it is compulsory to download online-filled RTI applications and then send it by post to concerned department.

Delhi High Court in its order dated August 8, 2018 in WPC 8278 of 2018 in the matter "Anil Dutt Sharma versus Government of NCT Delhi and others" mentioned – This Court is of the prima facie view that the Right To Information Act, 2005, would now override the Delhi Right To Information Act, 2001 as it would occupy the entire legislative field. DRTI Act has lost all relevance with RTI Act in existence.

More missiles, drones strike Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces strafed Ukraine with a fresh barrage of missiles and munition-carrying drones Tuesday, a day after widespread strikes killed at least 19 people in what the UN human rights office described as a "particularly shocking" attack that could amount to war crimes.

Air raid warnings extended throughout the country in the morning, sending some residents back into shelters after months of relative calm in Kyiv and many other cities. The earlier lull had led many Ukrainians to ignore the regular sirens, but Monday's attacks in the capital and 12 other regions gave them new urgency.

"It brings anger, not fear," Kyiv resident Volodymyr Vasylenko, 67, said as crews worked to restore traffic lights and clear debris from the city's streets.

"We already got used to this. And we will keep fighting."

The Russian bombardment Tuesday struck both power plants and civilian areas, just as they did Monday.

One person was killed when 12 missiles slammed into public facilities in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, setting off a large fire, the State Emergency Service said.

A local official said the missiles hit a school, residential buildings and medical facilities.

Energy facilities in the western Lviv and Vinnitsya regions also took hits.

Although officials said Ukrainian forces shot down an inbound Russian missile before it reached Kyiv, the capital region experienced rolling power outages as a result of the previous day's deadly strikes.

The governor of the Mykolaiv region, Vitaliy Kim, urged residents to remain in bomb shelters as "there are enough missiles still in the air."

The State Emergency Service said 19 people died and 105 people were wounded in Monday's strikes. At least five of the victims were in Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. More than 300 cities and towns lost power, from the capital to Lviv on the border with Poland.

Beside the usual sirens, a new type of loud alarm that blared automatically from mobile phones jolted Kyiv residents early Tuesday.

A text message warning of the possibility of missile strikes accompanied the caustic-sounding alert. Russia's widespread attacks came in retaliation for a weekend explosion that damaged a bridge linking Russia to the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

A spokesperson for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights said Tuesday that strikes on "civilian objects," including infrastructure such as power plants, could qualify as a war crime. "Damage to key power stations and lines ahead of the upcoming winter raises further concerns for the protection of civilians and in particular the impact on vulnerable populations," Ravina Shamdasani told reporters at a U.N. Briefing in Geneva. "Attacks targeting civilians and objects indispensable to the survival of civilians are prohibited under international humanitarian law."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was due to address the leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers by videoconference Tuesday.

Germany, which currently chairs the G-7, announced the meeting after Monday's missile strikes.

As Ukrainian forces grew increasingly bold following a series of counteroffensive successes, a cornered Kremlin ratcheted up Cold War-era rhetoric and fanned concerns it might resort to using nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov addressed the issue Tuesday, saying Moscow would only resort to that if the Russian state faced imminent destruction. Speaking on state TV, he accused the West of encouraging false speculation about the Kremlin's intentions.

Russia's nuclear doctrine envisages "exclusively retaliatory measures intended to prevent the destruction of the Russian Federation as a result of direct nuclear strikes or the use of other weapons that raise the threat for the very existence of the Russian state," Lavrov said.

The director of British cyber-intelligence service GCHQ, Jeremy Fleming, told urged other officials to use caution about discussing the potential for such an escalation.

Speaking to the BBC, Fleming suggested his agency hadn't seen any indications so far of Russia inching closer to using nuclear weapons.

Kremlin war hawks seek more devastating strikes on Ukraine

AP ■ TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Moscow's barrage of missile strikes on cities all across Ukraine has elicited celebratory comments from Russian officials and pro-Kremlin pundits, who in recent weeks have actively criticized the Russian military for a series of embarrassing setbacks on the battlefield.

Russian nationalist commentators and state media's war correspondents lauded Monday's attack as an appropriate, and long-awaited, response to Ukraine's successful counteroffensive in the northeast and the south and a weekend attack on a key bridge between Russia and Crimea, the prized Black Sea peninsula Russia annexed in 2014.

Many argued, however, that Moscow should keep up the intensity of Monday's missile strikes in order to win the war now. Some analysts suggested that Russian President Vladimir Putin is becoming a hostage of his own supporters' views on how the campaign in Ukraine should unfold.

"Putin's initiative is weakening and he is becoming more

dependent on circumstances and those who are forging the victory' (in Ukraine) for him," Tatyana Stanovaya, founder of the independent R.Politik think-tank, wrote in an online commentary Monday.

Putin's supporters have been calling for drastic steps on the Ukraine battlefield for weeks. These calls intensified over the weekend, shortly after an explosion on the Kerch Bridge linking Crimea to Russia sent shock waves around the globe. The bridge, Europe's longest, is a prominent symbol of Russian military might and was opened by Putin himself in 2018.

"And?" Margarita Simonyan, head of the state-funded RT television, wondered on social media about Moscow's response to the attack on the bridge.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. RS(POL)/58/0506/2023 **New Delhi, dt. 11.10.2022**

Executive Director, Railway Stores (RS), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Government of India, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender as per details given hereunder:-

1.	**E-Tender No.**	2023 BGTC
2.	**Name of Work**	Branded greases conforming to relevant specifications for the following brands/types of grades of products or equivalent brands/ grades as approved by RDSO for regular and unrestricted use: **1. Grease for Application on Axle Box Cylindrical Roller Bearing of ALCO Diesel Locos:** SERVOGEM RR-3 (IOC)/BALMEROL MULTI-GREASE 'LL-3' (BL) MAK RR GREASE-3 (BPC) Lithon - RR 3 (HPC) Conforming to RDSO specification No.WD-17-misc.-92 **Quantity : 15,26,670 Kgs.** **2. Grease for Application on Traction Motor Gear Case (Plain Suspension Bearing type))of ALCO Diesel Locos:** SERVOCOAT 170-T (IOC)/ BLUE COAT —'3' (BL) / MAK CAMEX COMPOUND- G (BPC) **Quantity : 8,52,228 Kgs.** **3. Grease for Application on traction motor gear case (Roller suspension bearing type) :** Balmerol prototrac Lube (BL) / IOC **Quantity : 84,550 Kgs.**
3.	**Earnest Money**	Rs. 50 Lakh
5.	**Last date and time for submission of e-tender**	03.11.2022 at 14.30 hrs.
6.	**Website for complete details and e-tendering**	http://www.ireps.gov.in
7.	**Allocation Head**	Grant No.01

Director, Railway Stores (M)
2699/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Hong Kong nixes US sanctions on Russian-owned superyacht

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's leader John Lee said Tuesday he will only implement United Nations sanctions, after the U.S. Warned the territory's status as a financial center could be affected if it acts as a safe haven for sanctioned individuals.

Lee's statement Tuesday came days after a luxury yacht connected to Russian tycoon Alexey Mordashov docked in the city. Mordashov, who is believed to have close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, was sanctioned by the U.S., U.K. And the European Union in February after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Hong Kong authorities have said that they do not implement unilateral sanctions imposed by other governments.

"We cannot do anything that has no legal basis," Lee told reporters. "We will comply with United Nations sanctions, that is our system, that is our rule of law," he said. A U.S. State Department spokesperson said in a statement Monday that "the possible use of Hong Kong as a safe haven by individuals evading sanctions from multiple

jurisdictions further calls into question the transparency of the business environment."

The State Department spokesperson also said the city's reputation as a financial center "depends on its adherence to international laws and standards." The $500-million superyacht Nord, allegedly owned by Mordashov, moored in Hong Kong's harbor on Wednesday following a week-long journey from the Russian city of Vladivostok.

Mordashov is one of Russia's richest men, with an estimated wealth of about $18 billion. He also is the main shareholder and chairman of Severstal, Russia's largest steel and mining company. Mordashov has tried to challenge the sanctions against him in European courts.

US and European authorities have seized over a dozen yachts belonging to sanctioned Russian tycoons to prevent them from sailing to other ports that are not affected by the sanctions. Russian oligarchs have begun docking their yachts at ports in places like Turkey, which has maintained diplomatic ties with Russia since the war began.

The Nord measures 141.6 meters (464.6 feet), has two helipads, a swimming pool and 20 cabins. The yacht is currently sailing under a Russian flag.

Ukraine war may be 'blessing' for climate, says weather chief

AP ■ GENEVA

The head of the UN weather agency says the war in Ukraine "may be seen as a blessing" from a climate perspective because it is accelerating the development of and investment in green energies over the longer term — even though fossil fuels are being used at a time of high demand now.

The comments from Petteri Taalas, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organisation, came as the world is facing a shortfall in energy needs — prompted in part by economic sanctions against key oil and natural gas producer Russia — and prices for fossil fuels have risen.

That has led some countries to turn quickly to alternatives like coal. But rising prices for carbon-spewing fuels like oil, gas and coal have also made higher-priced renewable energies like solar, wind and hydrothermal more competitive in the energy marketplace.

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency,
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun.

Ref. No. 1745/I1-02(xix)-2/ITCO/URRDA/22 Dated : 11.10.2022

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

e-Procurement Notice-13/2022-23

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of **Nainital & Pithoragarh** for 02 number of packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 4.58 Crore** including their maintenance for Five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 12.10.2022.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, only up to or before the time and date of the submission of the Bids (for World Bank funded works) and on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid (for Regular PMGSY Works)**, eighter by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-Procurement: 19.10.2022 01:00 PM

For further details please log on to **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

Worried UN meets on Ukraine hours after Russian strikes

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN General Assembly started debating on Monday whether to demand that Russia reverse course on annexing four regions of Ukraine — a discussion that came as Moscow's most extensive missile strikes in months alarmed much of the international community anew.

The assembly's special session was planned before Monday's barrage, but countries spoke out on the widespread, Monday morning rush-hour attacks that killed at least 14 people and wounded scores.

Ukrainian Ambassador Sergey Kyslytsya said some of his own close relatives were imperiled in a residential building, unable to take cover in a bomb shelter.

"By launching missile attacks on civilians sleeping in their homes or rushing toward children going to schools, Russia has proven once again that it is a terrorist state that must be deterred in the strongest possible ways," he said.

Russia said it targeted military and energy facilities. But some of the missiles smashed into civilian areas: a park, a commuter minibus, and more.

Russia has said it was retaliating for what it called a Ukrainian "terrorist" attack on Saturday on an important bridge, and Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the assembly that Moscow had warned that there wouldn't be impunity for such an act.

The bridge was "civilian infrastructure, critical infrastructure", he told reporters outside the chamber.

Ukrainian officials haven't confirmed that Kyiv was behind the bridge attack or other incidents of apparent sabotage but have said they welcome setbacks for Russia in all territory that it has

claimed to annex.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres was "deeply shocked" by the Russian attacks and spoke Monday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric.

Various nations also deplored the bombardment. Turkish UN Ambassador Feridun Sinirlioglu, whose country helped the UN broker a July deal to get Ukrainian and Russian grain exports flowing, called Monday's attacks "deeply worrying and unacceptable".

Costa Rican Ambassador Maritza Chan Valverde said the strikes showed "continued and complete disdain for human rights, humanitarian law and international norms".

Hours after the missiles flew, the UN assembly gathered to consider responding to Russia's purported absorption last month of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

The move followed Kremlin-orchestrated "referendums" that the Ukrainian government and the West have dismissed as sham votes conducted on occupied land amid warfare and displacement.

A proposed assembly resolution would demand that Moscow "immediately and unconditionally" scrap its supposed annexations and call on all countries not to recognise them.

The measure, spearheaded by the European Union, also would insist upon the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces from all of Ukraine's internationally recognised territory.

Russia's ambassador decried the debate as a one-sided exercise in pushing an anti-Russian narrative.

"Such cynicism, confrontation and dangerous polarization as today we have never seen in the history of the UN," Nebenzia said.

He reiterated his country's claim that the "referendums" were valid and that Moscow is endeavouring to "protect" people in the regions against what the Kremlin views as a hostile Ukrainian government.

HSBC

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable property)
(Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is a Banking Company having it's office at 25 Barakhamba Road New Delhi and branch office at K-14-18, Sector 18 NOIDA U. P under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices dated 10.06.2021 under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the borrowers Mr. Gaurav Panwar, and Ms. Sakshi Gandas to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices being Rs.17,05,358.73 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Five Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Eight and Paisa Seventy Three Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned hereinabove and to the public in general that undersigned has taken physical possession of the property described herein below with the help of Court Receiver i.e., Naib Tehsildar, Manesar appointed by Ld. District Magistrate, District Gurgaon, Haryana vide order dated 25.05.2022 amended on 05.09.2022, in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 7th day of October the year 2022.

The borrowers mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited for an amount of Rs.17,05,358.73 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Five Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Eight and Paisa Seventy Three Only) due as on 02.06.2021 and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

"Apartment K-801, admeasuring about 1226 Square Feet Super area alongwith open parking No. 241 in Umang Monsoon Breeze (Earlier Known as Canary Residency), Sector 78 Gurgaon, Haryana"

Rohit Dutt Tyagi
Authorized Officer
(The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited)

DATE: 7th October 2022

Crimean Bridge blast: Experts assess damage

THE CONVERSATION
MELBOURNE

Early on Saturday, local time, a massive blast shook the Crimean Bridge (also known as the Kerch Bridge). Shocking images of the burnt rail bridge and collapsed road bridge have been shown around the world.

But Russia has moved quickly to return the bridge to operations, even though it appears to be significantly damaged.

Observers have been left wondering: what was the effect of the blast and fire on the surviving bridge elements, what repairs could be required, and when is it safe to re-open a bridge after such an event?

As experts in bridge safety and blast engineering, we have (some) answers.

The bridge

Built by Russia at a cost of some US$3.7 billion after the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the Crimean Bridge is Europe's longest, linking Russia to Crimea across the Kerch Strait.

The 19-kilometre connection is a vital artery for economic and social links, and since Russia's invasion of Ukraine it has also become a critical military asset for Russian supplies and telecommunications.

Despite the name, the Crimean Bridge is actually two bridges: one for road and one for rail. The road bridge is itself two independent bridge structures, while the rail bridge is a single bridge structure supporting two ballasted rail tracks.

Some general drawings and information on the bridge are available online.

The attack

The attacked section lies between Tuzla Island and Kerch, Crimea, on an east-west heading, and is midway between the island and the main arch span over the navigable waterway.

At this point the rail and road bridges are of a similar form of construction, known as a "composite slab orthotropic deck steel plate girder bridge", spanning about 64 metres. This means there is a 20 centimetre concrete slab cast onto flat steel plates, stiffened with steel ribs, all supported by about 3.2 metre deep steel plate girders.

China's tech aims 'threat to us all', says UK spy chief

AP ■ LONDON

The head of Britain's cyber-intelligence agency is accusing China of using its economic and technological clout to clamp down at home and exert control abroad, saying Beijing's aggressive stance is driven by fear and poses "a huge threat to us all".

Jeremy Fleming, director of GCHQ, says Beijing's Communist authorities are seeking to "shape the global tech ecosystem," using technologies such as digital currencies and satellite systems to control China's population and increase its influence around the world.

In a rare public speech later on Tuesday to the Royal United Services Institute think tank, Fleming plans to say that the one-party system in Beijing seeks to control China's population and sees other countries "as either potential adversaries or potential client states, to be threatened, bribed or coerced."

He will say that "underlying that belief is a sense of fear."

"And we're seeing that fear play out through the manipulation of the technological ecosystems which underpin our everyday lives — from monitoring its own citizens and restricting free speech to influencing financial systems and new domains," Fleming will say, according to extracts of the speech released in advance.

Relations between Britain and China have grown increasingly frosty in recent years, with UK officials accusing Beijing of economic subterfuge and human rights abuses.

British spies have given increasingly negative assessments of Beijing's influence and intentions. Last year the head of the MI6 overseas intelligence agency, Richard Moore, called China one of the biggest threats to Britain and its allies.

Fleming will warn that China is seeking to fragment the infrastructure of the internet to exert greater control. He will also say China is seeking to use digital currencies used by central banks to snoop on users' transactions and as a way of avoiding future international sanctions of the sort imposed on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

Fleming also argues that China's BeiDou satellite system — an alternative to the widely used GPS navigation technology — could contain "a powerful anti-satellite capability, with a doctrine of denying other nations access to space in the event of a conflict."

GCHQ said Fleming will warn that the world is approaching a "sliding doors moment in history" — a reference to the 1998 Gwyneth Paltrow film in which a woman's fate hinges on a seemingly trivial moment.

He'll call on Western firms and researchers to toughen intellectual property protections and for Western countries to work harder to develop alternatives to Chinese technology, which Fleming says brings "hidden costs."

The US has banned Chinese tech firm Huawei as a security risk, and in 2020, then-British Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered Huawei to be stripped out of the UK's 5G telecoms network by 2027.

Fleming will also address the war in Ukraine, saying Russia is running short of weapons and Ukraine's "courageous action on the battlefield and in cyberspace is turning the tide."

"Russia's forces are exhausted," he will say. "The use of prisoners to reinforce, and now the mobilisation of tens of thousands of inexperienced conscripts, speaks of a desperate situation."

GCHQ, formally known as the Government Communications Headquarters, is one of Britain's three main intelligence agencies, alongside MI5 and MI6.

Iran's crackdown on protests intensifies in Kurdish region

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran intensified its crackdown Tuesday on Kurdish areas in the country's west amid protests sparked by the death of a 22-year-old woman detained by the morality police, activists said.

Riot police fired into at least one neighbourhood in Sanandaj, the capital of Iran's Kurdistan province, as Amnesty International and the White House's national security adviser criticised the violence targeting demonstrators angered by the death of Mahsa Amini.

Meanwhile, some oil workers Monday joined the protests at two key refinery complexes, for the first time linking an industry key to Iran's theocracy to the unrest. Workers claimed another protest Tuesday in the crucial oil city of Abadan, with others calling for protests on Wednesday as well. Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating.

Subsequent videos have shown security forces beating and shoving female protesters, including women who have torn off their mandatory headscarf, or hijab. From the capital, Tehran, and elsewhere, videos have emerged online despite authorities disrupting the internet.

Videos on Monday showed university and high school students demonstrating and chanting, with some women and girls marching through the streets without headscarves as the protests continue into a fourth week. The demonstrations represent one of the biggest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the 2009 Green Movement protests.

One video posted online by a Kurdish group called the Hengaw Organisation for Human Rights showed darkened streets with apparent gunfire going off and a bonfire burning in Sanandaj, some 400 kilometers west of Tehran.

Another showed riot police carrying shotguns moving in formation with a vehicle, apparently firing at homes.

A video posted later Tuesday purportedly showed a massive bullet hole inside the home of one Sanandaj resident, a hole that Hengaw alleged came from a heavy .50-caliber machine gun — the type often mounted to armoured vehicles.

Another video purportedly showed security forces randomly firing in the air while arresting someone there on Monday.

The New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran posted another video showing what it described as a phalanx of motorcycle-riding security forces moving through Sanandaj.

Israel announces sea deal with Lebanon, but doubts remain

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's prime minister said on Tuesday the country has reached a "historic agreement" with neighbouring Lebanon over their shared maritime border after US-brokered negotiations.

The agreement would mark a major breakthrough in relations with the two countries, which formally have been at war since Israel's establishment in 1948. But the deal still faces some obstacles, including key legal and political challenges in Israel. There was no immediate confirmation by Lebanon that a deal had been reached. At stake are rights over exploiting undersea natural gas reserves in areas of the eastern Mediterranean that the two countries — which do not have diplomatic relations — claim.

Premier Yair Lapid called the deal an "historic achievement that will strengthen Israel's security, inject billions into Israel's economy, and ensure the stability of our northern border."

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Ref. No.: 744 Dated : 11.10.2022

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer, PCM(GV), Mayapur, Haridwar invites sealed & separate tender from interested bidders. Brief summary of tender is given below:-

1. **Tender Notice Reference:** NIT No.- 15/2022-23/EE/PCM(GV)/ Mayapur :- Providing Manpower Services for a period of One Year on Outsource basis.
2. **Estimated Value of Tender:-** Rs. 10,49,375.00 only.
3. **Date of availability of bid document on website:-** 12.10.2022 from 11:00 Hrs.
4. **Last date for submission of bids on website:-** 02.11.2022 upto 15:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer, PCM (GV)

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

Accused in US Sikh family's killing could face lifetime in jail

IANS ■ NEW YORK

Jesus Salgado, the 48 year-old involved in the kidnapping and killing of an Indian-origin Sikh family, has been charged with four counts of first-degree murder, one for each life lost, the Merced County Sheriff's Office said.

Jesus Manuel Salgado was booked for kidnapping and murdering four members of an Indian-origin family, including an eight month-old child, in California on October 3, and was sent to the county jail on October 6.

The Merced County district attorney's office said in a news release that it would not make a determination this year on whether to pursue the death penalty in the case of Jesus Manuel Salgado, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Salgado is said to have had a long-standing feud with the family and was a former employee in their trucking business. In a mindless act of revenge, Salgado murdered the family.

Salgado is currently undergoing medical treatment after he attempted to kill himself before officials arrived to arrest him on October 4.

Relatives of the family told investigators that Salgado had sent angry text messages or e-mails about a year ago after working with the trucking business, Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said.

He was also arrested 17 years ago for robbing a family he then used to work for, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Salgado's younger brother Alberto Salgado, 41, was also taken into custody last week and has been accused of criminal conspiracy, accessory, and destroying evidence.

The bodies of 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her parents Jasleen Kaur, 27, and Jasdeep Singh, 36, and her uncle Amandeep Singh, 39 were located in an "extremely remote" area near the intersection of Indiana and Hutchins roads.

Poll: Majority in US see relations with adversaries souring

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A majority of U.S. Adults expect America's relations with foreign adversaries like Russia and North Korea to grow more hostile, according to a new poll, a major shift in public opinion from four years ago under President Donald Trump.

Two years into the Biden administration, 60% of U.S. Adults say relations with adversaries will get worse, up from 26% four years ago at the same point in the Trump administration, according to the poll from the Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Just 21% say relationships with allies will deteriorate, down from 46% then.

In general, 39% expect the country's global standing to worsen, compared with 48% who said that in 2018.

Crucially, the United States' own sharply divided domestic politics influences views of the country's standing abroad.

"Those results really, clearly show that it's hyperpartisanship" affecting how confidently or bleakly, respectively, Democrats and Republicans see the U.S. Standing abroad, said Sheila Kohanteb, a political scientist and executive director of the Global Forum at the Chicago-based Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts.

In terms of the opinions that people in the U.S. Are expressing on U.S. Dealings abroad, the key factor is "political bloc sticking with political bloc," Kohanteb said. Four years ago, three-quarters of Democrats expected U.S. Global standing to suffer.

S Korea says it has ability to intercept North's missiles

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea said Tuesday it's capable of detecting and intercepting the variety of missiles North Korea launched in a barrage of recent simulated nuclear attacks on its rivals, though it maintains the North's advancing nuclear program poses a grave security threat.

North Korea said Monday its two weeks of firing drills involved nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, warplanes and other assets to practice possible attacks on South Korean and U.S. Targets. North Korea said the drills were meant to issue a warning to Seoul and Washington, which staged provocative joint naval drills involving a U.S. Aircraft carrier.

The North Korean launches, part of its record-breaking run of weapons tests this year, were seen as an attempt by leader Kim Jong Un to acquire a more intimidating arsenal to pressure its rivals to accept the North as a legitimate nuclear state and lift economic sanctions on the North.

Moon Hong Sik, acting spokesperson at the South Korean Defense Ministry, described North Korean nuclear threats as "very grave and serious." But he told reporters that the South Korean missile defense system is capable of detecting and intercepting the weapons systems that North Korea said it mobilized in its drills.

सर्व हरियाणा ग्रामीण बैंक
प्रायोजक : पंजाब नेशनल बैंक Sponsored by: Punjab National Bank
Head Office, SHGB Bhawan, Plot No. 1, Sector-3, Rohtak-124001 Haryana

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited from the reputed Private Security Agencies (PSA) registered with Director General Resettlement (DGR) for deployment of Security Guards (with arms & without arms) at various locations of our Branches/Offices under our all 10 Regional Offices viz. Ambala, Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Gurugram, Kaithal, Hisar, Nuh, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak, Head Office at Rohtak, Currency Chests located at Gurugram & Rohtak, Cash Vans and new Branches to be opened in Haryana State at minimum rates of wages declared by Central Govt payable as per Minimum Wages Act, 1948 as amended from time to time. The proposal shall be sent to the General Manager, Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank, Head Office, SHGB House, Plot No. 1, Sector-3, Rohtak, Haryana. All the interested parties are advised to go through the detailed tender guidelines in the Bank's website before submitting their proposals. Bank reserves its right to reject any or all the Tenders without citing any reason, at any stage. Corrections/Corrigendum, if any, will be placed on Bank website only. For more details visit our website www.shgb.co.in

Last Date of submission of Tenders : 03.11.2022 upto 4.00 PM
Date of Opening of Tenders : 04.11.2022 (Tentative)

GENERAL MANAGER

सर्व हरियाणा ग्रामीण बैंक
प्रायोजक : पंजाब नेशनल बैंक Sponsored by: Punjab National Bank
Head Office, SHGB Bhawan, Plot No. 1, Sector-3, Rohtak-124001 Haryana

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from the Reputed Manpower Agencies to provide 5 Housekeeping Manpower, one Gardener and one Electrician for maintenance of our Head Office Building at Sector-3 Rohtak and provide 4 Housekeeping Manpower and one Electrician for maintenance of our Regional Office, Sector-44, Gurgaon Building at minimum rates of wages declared by Central Labour Commissioner payable as per Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and amended from time to time. The proposals are to be sent to The General Manager, Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank, SHGB House, Plot No. 1 Sector-3, Rohtak. All the interested parties are advised to go through the detailed tender guidelines available at the Bank's website before submitting their proposals. Bank reserves its right to reject any or all the tenders without citing any reason, at any stage. Corrections/Corrigendum, if any, will be placed on Bank's website only. For more details visit our website www.shgb.co.in

Last Date of submission of Tenders: 27.10.2022 upto 4.00 PM
Date of Opening of Tender : 28.10.2022 (Tentative)

GENERAL MANAGER

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, अनुरक्षण खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
लेन नं0–1, तरूण विहार, मोथरोवाला रोड, देहरादून–248001
Phone No/Fax: 0135 2671940 Mail ID- eemd-ujs-uk@nic.in, eemdujs@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक : 3048/ई– निविदा सूचना/2022–23 दिनांक : 10/10/2022

ई–निविदा संशोधन

इस कार्यालय पत्रांक सं0 2913/ई–निविदा सूचना/2022–23 दिनांक 01.10.2022 से जल जीवन मिशन के कार्यो हेतु आमंत्रित ई–निविदाओं की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र0 सं0	विवरण	अनुसूची
1	ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि।	17.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि।	18.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	प्री–बिड मीटिंग की तिथि।	22.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि।	28.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि।	02.11.2022 up to17:00 Hrs
6	ऑफ लाईन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी, स्टॉम्प पेपर एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज।	02.11.2022 upto17:00 Hrs
7	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि।	03.11.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	वित्तीय निविदा खोलने की तिथि।	सूचना पृथक से दी जायेगी।

शेष नियम एवं शर्ते निविदा के अनुसार यथावत रहेगें।

"Save Water - Save Life"

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

Nagar Nigam Dehradun
Tel : 0135-2714074 Website - www.nagarnigamdehradun.com
E-Mail : nagarnigam.ddn@gmail.com

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Source Segregation, Door to Door Collection, Secondary Collection & Transportation of Waste (C&T) for 69 wards & PMC for the same for five years.

NND invites RFP for Source Segregation, Door to Door Collection, Secondary Collection & Transportation of Waste (C&T) for 69 wards & PMC for the same for five years from eligible bidders having experience as indicated in the RFP document. Interested bidders are requested to procure the RFP document upto 25.10.2022. The RFP can be downloaded from e-tenders portal government of Uttarakhand between the said dates. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled at 2:30 pm on 19.10.2022. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date of extension will be uploaded only on www.uktenders.gov.in. The Municipal Commissioner have right to cancel tender at any stage without giving any reason. The last date for online submission of bids is 03.11.2022 at 2:00 PM.

Letter No. 594 (H)/2022
Date : 11/10/2022

Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Dehradun

Pope marks 60th anniv of Second Vatican Council

AP ■ ROME

Pope Francis is commemorating the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, the landmark meetings that brought the 2,000-year-old Catholic Church into the modern era, amid continued disagreement about what the council taught that divides the faithful today.

Francis is celebrating a Mass on Tuesday in honour of St. John XXIII, who convened the council and presided over its opening sessions.

Tuesday's commemoration opens with a reading of John's inaugural speech and ends with a re-enactment of the candle-lit procession that lit up St. Peter's Square on the night of October 11, 1962.

On that night, the "good pope" came to the window of the Apostolic Palace and delivered his famous "moonlight speech" to the thousands of people who had gathered below. Whereas pre-Vatican II popes usually spoke in formal terms, John surprised the crowd with an impromptu, pastoral speech urging the faithful to go home to their children and give them a hug and tell them "this is the caress of the pope."

The council would last for another three years and outlive John, who died in 1963 of stomach cancer. But when it was over, council fathers had agreed to major changes in the life of the church, such as allowing Mass to be celebrated in local languages rather than Latin and strengthening the role of laity in the everyday life of the church.

The council also encouraged efforts to improve relations among Christians and revolutionised the church's relations with Jews, including the step to remove the phrase "perfidious Jews" from the liturgy.

NZ proposes to reduce agricultural emissions

IANS ■ WELLINGTON

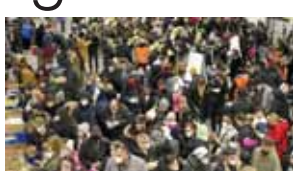
The New Zealand government has released for consultation a proposal to reduce agricultural emissions, helping give the country "a competitive advantage in green conscious global marketplace", Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Tuesday.

The proposal will also put New Zealand on track to meet Zero Carbon Act 2030 methane reduction target, Xinhua news agency quoted Ardern as saying.

The government has included many of the recommendations of the agriculture sector groups for farm-level emissions pricing, and proposed modifications in the consultation document based on advice from the Climate Change Commission.

Germany struggles to find housing for more than 1M refugees

AP ■ BERLIN



The German government pledged on Tuesday to provide more support to cities and towns struggling to house the more than 1.1 million refugees and migrants who have arrived in the country this year, mostly from war-torn Ukraine but also other countries such as Syria and Afghanistan.

After meeting with state and local officials, Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said while the government already allocated federal real estate for tens of thousands of refugees earlier this year, it would immediately provide additional property for about 4,000 refugees to ease the current housing crisis.

Faeser also promised financial support but did not give any concrete figures.

Several cities have recently started putting up tents and turned convention centres into temporary accommodation as regular migrant centres have become overcrowded.

"I don't want to downplay this, we have a tense situation," Faeser told reporters in Berlin. "That's why we discussed today how to best coordinate our assistance to refugees ... Also in view of the winter months that lie ahead."

More than 1 million people have entered Germany from Ukraine since Russia attacked the eastern European country on February 24. About a third of them are children and teenagers, and more than 70 percent of the adults are women.

Historic Portugal church sex abuse 'truly endemic' at times

AP ■ LISBON

The head of a lay committee looking into historic child sex abuse in the Portuguese Catholic Church said Tuesday the problem in the past had been "widespread" and on some occasions reached "truly endemic" proportions. Pedro Strecht, a psychiatrist who heads Portugal's Independent Committee for the Study of Child Abuse in the Catholic Church, said his panel has compiled a list of 424 alleged victims.

Before the committee started its work in January, senior church officials had claimed that only a handful of cases had occurred. The panel, which was created by the Portuguese Bishops Conference, is looking into alleged abuse cases from 1950 to the present involving minors aged two to 17. It is due to publish a report on Jan. 31.

Hardeep Puri launches Offshore Bid Round

Promises transparency, efficiency to investors

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday launched the Offshore Bid Round offering and assured transparency, efficiency and ease of doing business to investors.

In a keynote address to industry leaders in Houston, the Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister described the initiatives taken by his Ministry in accelerating the exploration and production activities in India.

Puri also gave his views on the importance of Coal Bed Methane in increasing India's domestic production and reducing the country's import burden.

He launched the Special CBM (popularly known as Coal Seam Gas) Bid Round - 2022 for International Competitive Bidding on Monday at Houston.

Simultaneously, Puri launched the Offshore Bid Round offering 26 blocks -- 18 carved out by DGH and eight as a result of expression of interests (EoI) from potential investors — covering an area of approximately 2.3 lakh Sq. Km.

Out of 26 blocks, three blocks based on EoIs are onshore covering an area of only 3,666 sq km, a media release said.

India, which is the third largest energy consumer in the world, is likely to have one of the fastest growing energy demands in coming years.

The Narendra Modi government has set a vision to make India a gas-based economy, by increasing the share of gas in the energy mix. The importance of domestic gas in the energy basket is extremely crucial considering the uptrend in gas demand, price, and rising import bills, the minister noted. A step towards meeting this demand growth and reducing the hydrocarbon import dependency, India has made "transformational reforms" during the recent years since the formulation of Policy of CBM.

These investor-friendly policy reforms have made the CBM sector an attractive investible opportunity, the official release said.

Markets extend losses for 3rd day as global risks weigh

Nifty ends below 17k

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmarks closed deep in the red on Tuesday, mirroring a negative trend overseas as tightening monetary policy globally and escalation of the war in Ukraine continued to weigh on sentiment.

Sliding for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 843.79 points or 1.46 per cent to settle at 57,147.32.

The broader NSE Nifty tumbled 257.45 points or 1.49 per cent to end at 16,983.55.

IndusInd Bank was the biggest laggard among the Sensex constituents, dropping 3.70 per cent, followed by Nestle India, Tata Steel, Infosys, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Dr Reddy's, and HUL.

Only two counters managed to close with gains — Axis Bank and Asian Paints, rising up to 1.15 per cent.

"Investors are becoming risk-averse due to rising geopolitical turmoil as well as worries about the global economic slump. Investors' caution ahead of the announcement of inflation data prevented a better-than-expected start to IT earnings from improving market mood.

"However, as compared to global counterparts, domestic selling is not as aggressive since FII selling is primarily absorbed by DIIs," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

The country's largest IT services exporter TCS on Monday reported an 8.4 per cent growth in its September quarter net profit at Rs 10,431 crore, while revenues jumped 18 per cent to Rs 55,309 crore.

"Indian markets are caught in the web of global turmoil. While domestic investors are fighting hard to come out of this web, they have been unable to do so amid high volatility with Nifty falling below its key psychological levels of 17,000.

India, UAE discuss mechanism for carrying out bilateral trade in national currencies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and the UAE have held discussions on creation of a mechanism for carrying out bilateral trade in national currencies, an official statement said on Tuesday.

It was discussed during the 10th meeting of the UAE-India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments, held in Mumbai.

It was co-chaired by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Executive Council of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Referring to the ongoing discussions between Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates on Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as a common digital payments platform, both sides agreed to continue discussions, it said.

"An important area discussed was the creation of a mechanism for carrying out bilateral trade in national currencies," the statement added.

The two delegations also reviewed the status of the negotiations of the India-UAE Bilateral Investment Treaty.

Twelve rounds of negotiations have been conducted till date. "Both sides noted that much progress could have been achieved since the commencement of the negotiations, and therefore reiterated their commitment to accelerate the process for an early conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement," it said.

Discussions also took place on ways of enhancing bilateral investments in key sectors like food security, manufacturing, infrastructure, energy and technology.

"In this context, it was agreed that the concerned authorities in both countries will explore establishment of efficient and integrated Single Window Solutions and Virtual Trade Corridors to reduce costs and time involved in trade and investment related procedures," it added.

Further, it said as a means of encouraging increased investment flows by UAE's sovereign investment entities into India, the two sides reviewed UAE's request with respect to providing tax incentives to certain sovereign investment entities under existing UAE-India Tax Treaty, and India's response to provide the same under the existing domestic tax laws.

It was agreed that the Indian side will provide the necessary support to UAE Fast Track Mechanism in India to ensure speedy resolution of pending issues and difficulties experienced by a number of UAE companies and banks operating in India.

It was also agreed that a similar India Fast Track Mechanism would be set up in the UAE immediately to resolve issues pertaining to the Indian investors in the UAE, and to assist Indian companies in market entry and expansion when investing in the country.

Rupee rises 19 paise to close at 82.21 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled 19 paise higher at 82.21 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 82.35 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 82.32 and a low of 82.41 during the session.

It finally ended at 82.21, up 19 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee slipped 10 paise to finish at a fresh lifetime low of 82.40.

"Rupee traded in a narrow range after hitting fresh all-time lows against the US dollar. Dollar has been gaining momentum in the past few sessions following better-than-expected non farm payrolls numbers from the US," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Safe haven buying also led to an upmove in the dollar after Russia rained cruise missiles on busy Ukrainian cities on Monday.

On the domestic front, the inflation number will be important to watch which will be released on Wednesday.

"We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to quote in the range of 82.20 and 82.80," Somaiya added.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.03 per cent to 113.18.

DoT, Meity to hold joint meeting of smartphone firms, telecom operators to resolve 5G issues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top officials of the DoT and IT ministry have called a joint meeting of smartphone companies, including Apple and Samsung, and telecom operators on issues related to provide smooth access to 5G services, a government official said on Tuesday.

While over 100 million subscribers in India have 5G-ready phones, many devices, including Apple, are not supporting the service at present.

"We shall be working together to ensure smooth roll-out of 5G, including smooth onboarding of consumers," an official source told PTI.

A joint meeting of smartphone companies and telecom operators will be held on Wednesday at the Department of Telecom (DoT) office.

Secretaries of both the DoT and Ministry of Electronics and IT will chair the meeting to discuss teething 5G issues.

The agenda of the meeting includes a discussion around enabling the handsets to start supporting 5G services on 5G networks in India.

Bharti Airtel is the only company to have commercially launched 5G services while Jio has started beta trials.

At the meeting, the authorities will discuss the intervention of handset manufacturers and telecom operators to release software updates for all 5G handsets and prioritise the software upgrade for the adoption of 5G in India.

According to an industry source, who did not wish to be identified, Apple is currently testing iPhone with Airtel and Jio to work on software updates that will give access to 5G services to consumers.

MFI loans decline in June qtr; NPA situation improves: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The June quarter witnessed a marginal decline in the overall microlending outstanding on a sequential basis, but there was an improvement in the asset quality, a report said on Tuesday.

There was a 0.2 per cent decline in the overall microfinance book to Rs 2.85 lakh crore during the three months to June when compared with the number as of March-end, the report by CRIF High Mark said. The micro loans were up 18 per cent when compared with the year-ago period, the report by the credit information company added.

The April-June quarter last year, which saw the devastating second wave of the pandemic, had led to a massive impact on microlenders both from loan growth as well as delinquency perspective.

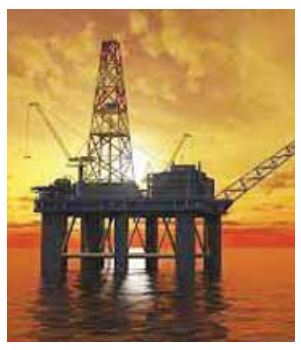
The June quarter saw Rs 49,788 crore of loans being disbursed, which was 39.2 per cent lower than what was achieved by the industry in the preceding March quarter, but 88.9 per cent higher than the year-ago period, the report said.

The value delinquency for loans overdue for over 90 days reduced by 0.5 per cent on a sequential basis to 2.2 per cent at the end of the June quarter, and was down by 1.1 per cent when compared to the year-ago period, the report said. The average balance per unique borrower declined by 1.1 per cent on a sequential basis to Rs 46,400, while the average balance per account declined 2.1 per cent.

The report suggested that the decline in the MFI book was driven largely by a 0.8 per cent decline in the urban areas, while the rural markets saw a 0.2 per cent uptick.

India offers 26 oil, gas blocks in mega offshore round

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



India is offering 26 blocks or areas for finding and producing oil and gas in a mega offshore bid round, upstream regulator DGH said on Tuesday.

Simultaneously, 16 areas for prospecting for coal-bed methane (CBM) are also being offered in a separate round.

The "government announces the offer of 26 blocks covering an area of approximately 2.23 lakh square kilometers for exploration and development through international competitive bidding," the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) said without giving timelines for bidding.

Out of the 26 blocks, 15 areas are in ultra-deepwater, 8 in shallow sea and 3 blocks are onland.

The bid rounds are being held under the 2016 policy, called the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), which was promulgated on March 30, 2016.

Since then, seven bid rounds of the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) have been concluded and 134 exploration and production blocks awarded. These blocks cover 2,07,691 square km of area across 19 sedimentary basins. An eighth round was launched in July, offering 10 areas.

Bharathi Cement sets up 2nd automated cement terminal to strengthen brand

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Cement manufacturer Bharathi Cement Corporation Pvt Ltd on Tuesday said it has inaugurated an automated cement terminal in Tamil Nadu, the second such facility in the country, as the company aims to strengthen the brand in the southern parts of the country.

The company in a statement here said it has unveiled a superior quality new generation green cement, QUICKCEM to cater to the precast and hollow block segments in Tamil Nadu and Kerala markets. According to officials, the company inaugurated its first terminal in Mumbai in 2018.

The new terminal in Coimbatore is a fully-automated packing and distribution facility having a capacity of 0.75 metric tonne per annum and would be manned by 16 employees, the company said.

The new terminal was inaugurated by VICAT Group Chairman Guy Sidos, VICAT India CEO Anoop Kumar Saxena and Director-Marketing M Ravinder Reddy.

Bharati Cement Corporation Pvt Ltd is a joint venture of France-based VICAT Group, which has 51 per cent majority stake in Indian operations of the cement manufacturer.

The terminal in Coimbatore will have dedicated container wagons and a 24-hour loading facility. The new facility is the first ever in the industry to have end-to-end logistic automation for transportation of cement in containers.

The Coimbatore facility is equipped with infrastructure for loading bags as well as bulk cement for serving Tamil Nadu and Kerala market, leading to enhanced customer service level and cost competitiveness in the region.

Reserve Bank allows SPDs to undertake all foreign exchange-related activities

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday allowed standalone primary dealers to offer all foreign exchange market-making facilities to users, a move aimed at providing broader facilities to customers for currency risk management.

At present, Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs) are permitted to undertake foreign currency business for limited purposes. Currently, there are seven SPDs and 14 bank primary dealers in the country.

SPDs will also be permitted to take up trading and self-clearing membership with Sebi-approved stock exchanges and clearing corporations for undertaking proprietary transactions in equity and equity derivatives market.

"...It has been decided to allow SPDs to offer all foreign exchange market-making facilities to users, as currently permitted to Category-I Authorised Dealers, subject to adherence to the prudential regulations and other guidelines...," the RBI said in a circular.

IDBI Bank sale: Corporates cannot be bidding consortium members due to RBI norms

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Large corporates have been disallowed from being even a minority shareholder in consortium wanting to bid for 61 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, as the current RBI norms bar industrial houses from becoming bank promoters, an official said.

Currently, RBI guidelines allow industrial houses to hold a maximum of 10 per cent stake in private sector banks, but they cannot be a promoter.

Last week, the government along with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) invited Expression of Interest (EoI) for selling 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank. However, it barred large industrial houses from participating in the strategic sale.

As per the bid document, 'large industrial/corporate houses' has been defined an industrial/ corporate group with assets of Rs 5,000 crore or more with the non-financial business of the group accounting for 40 per cent or more in terms of total assets/ gross income.

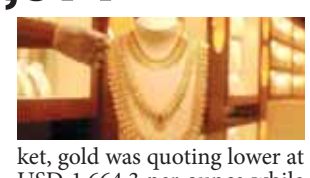
An official said that corporate houses have not been permitted to participate in the bidding process for IDBI Bank transaction as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulation clearly says that they cannot be the promoter entity in any bank.

"As per the IDBI Bank bid document, the consortium, if they emerge as the winning bidder, would be classified as the promoter. Allowing corporate houses as part of the consortium member would mean they are part of the promoter group which is not allowed as per RBI guidelines," the official said.

The RBI would be the final deciding authority on whether the interested bidder belong to a large industrial house or to a company connected to a large industrial house.

Gold falls ₹343; silver tumbles ₹1,071

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Gold price fell by ₹343 in the national capital to ₹51,105 per 10 grams on Tuesday amid a decline in the prices of the precious metal in the international market, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had settled at ₹51,448 per 10 grams.

Silver also tumbled by ₹1,071 to ₹58,652 per kilogram from ₹59,723 per kg.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,664.3 per ounce while silver was down at USD 19.34 per ounce.

"COMEX gold held near the lowest in a week on pressure from a stronger dollar and the outlook for higher interest rates," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

Bank of Baroda opens four mid-corporate cluster offices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Baroda on Tuesday announced the opening of four mid-corporate cluster offices in the national capital, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

Each mid-corporate cluster office will oversee a set of specialised branches in each zone catering exclusively to mid-sized corporates to push credit growth, the bank said in a statement.

These branches will provide a comprehensive range of solutions and will ensure a faster turnaround time in the credit decision making process, it said, adding, the bank is also in the process of hiring over 300 specialised Relationship Managers (RMs) and credit analysts to serve customers.

In a strategic move, the bank recently reorganised its corporate banking model and the corporate banking vertical has been divided into two units — large corporates and mid-corporates — to effectively serve both customer segments, it said.

Toshiba to supply rechargeable lithium-ion cells to EVage Automotive

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Toshiba India will supply rechargeable lithium-ion cells to electric commercial vehicle maker EVage Automotive. The cells will be used for the battery packs of EVage's 10,000 vehicles.

The two companies have entered into a pact in this regard. The pact guarantees availability of enough cells in 2023 to meet EVage's production ramp-up and fulfilment of the existing reservations for its delivery vans in India, according to a statement on Tuesday.

The partnership follows two years of development and joint validation to incorporate these cells into EVage's proprietary ultra-stable and rapid charging battery packs, the company said, adding that this also ensures that EVage meets its cost and margin targets.

Meet on women-owned businesses

New Delhi: WEConnect International hosted a 2-day in-person conference to provide opportunities for over 100 women-owned businesses to grow their network and connect with more than 30 large corporations, part of the "Women's Empowerment Through Economic Inclusion" 3-year project, funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.

Spinners shine as India clinch ODI series against SA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India gave a good account of their enormous depth as a young and inexperienced side stunned a strong South Africa unit by seven wickets in third ODI here on Tuesday to secure a memorable series win.

The spin trio of Washington Sundar (2/15), Shahbaz Ahmed (2/32) and Kuldeep Yadav (4/18) picked the right lengths on a slow Kotla pitch to bundle out South Africa for 99, the Proteas lowest ODI total against India.

The home team batters, led by Shubman Gill (49), chased a paltry 100-run target in 19.1 overs.

The series loss further jeopardised South Africa's chances of a direct qualification for the ODI World Cup next year.

Pacer Mohammad Siraj (2/17) too continued his good run to make a strong case for his inclusion in T20 World Cup squad.

While Washington and Shahbaz got wickets up front, left-arm spinner Kuldeep, who missed out on a hat-trick, cleaned up the tail.

The quality of the Indian white-ball squad was on full display in the series as the second-string team came from behind to clinch the three-match series 2-1.

Chasing a small total, opener Gill attacked the South African bowlers from the very first ball while skipper Shikha Dhawan played second fiddle.

The Indians, who looked in a hurry to finish the match, lost a bit of momentum after the wickets of Dhawan, whose woeful run in the series continued as he was run out for eight, and Ishan Kishan (10).

However, Shreyas Iyer (28 not out) continued his stellar run as he whacked three boundaries and two sixes including a match-winning maximum to steer India to victory after Gill was trapped leg before with three runs needed.

Earlier put in to bat, South African batters failed to impress, falling like ninepins.

Quinton de Kock (6) was the first to perish as he half-heartedly cut the ball to top-edge it to Avesh Khan at backward point, giving Washington his first wicket.

India then seemingly got their second wicket when Reeza Hendricks (3) was trapped leg before but the South African took the review to turn the umpire's decision in the seventh over.

Janneman Malan (15) smacked Siraj for three of boundaries in his consecutive overs before the pacer got rid of the opener as he tried to play the pull shot.

South African batters continued to struggle and looked off colour as Siraj claimed his second when he got Hendricks (3) next.

Aiden Makram (9), whose stay in the middle lasted 19 balls, became Shahbaz Ahmed's first victim as he nicked it through to the keeper Sanju Samson.

The visitors dallied to 50 in 17.1 overs but India were all over the visitors.

Skipper David Miller (7) and joined Heinrich Klaasen in the middle but he too couldn't make a mark as he was bowled, the ball slid in from round the wicket to clip the outside of off stump.

Brought into the attack in the 20th over, Kuldeep too joined the party as Andile Phehlukwayo failed to read his googly.

Klaasen and new-man Marco Jansen stitched a 22-run stand that included a four and a six to take South Africa closer to the 100-run mark.

First, Jansen charged down the pitch for a six over long on, a few balls later Klassen hit a boundary but he was dismissed by Shahbaz.

Kuldeep then burst with a three-wicket haul clearing up the lower order as South Africa were bowled out in 27.1 overs.

Lovlina, Jaismine, Hussamuddin, Sanjeet storm into boxing finals

PTI ■ GANDHINAGAR

Tokyo Olympics bronze winner boxer Lovlina Borgohain and Commonwealth Games medallists Mohammed Hussamuddin and Jaismine Lamboria registered dominating victories to storm into the finals of their respective weight divisions at the National Games here on Tuesday.

Also advancing to their respective finals were Services heavyweight boxer Sanjeet, Punjab's Simranjit Kaur and Mandeep Kaur, national championship silver medallist duo of Ankit Sharma and Minakshi of Haryana while Assam's Ankushita Boro set up an exciting summit clash against Manipur's Alena Thounaojam in the 66kg welterweight category.

Home state boxers Aasifali Asgarali Saiyed and Ruchita Rajput had to settle for bronze medals after losing their respective bouts.

In the women's 75kg middleweight category, Lovlina lit up the ring, displaying her class against local girl Ruchita, who looked good in patches before the lanky Assamese used her experience to win the bout and set up a summit clash with Haryana's Saweety Boora.

In the men's 57kg featherweight category, Gujarat's Aasifali went down by unanimous decision 5-0 to Haryana's Sachin Siwach, who will be up against two-time CWG medallist Hussamuddin of the Services in the final.

However, it was heartbreak for multiple Asian championship medallist Shiva Thapa of Assam, who went down 2-3 in a close bout against Services' Akash. His statemates, Jamuna Boro (57kg) and Pwilao Basumatary (60kg) also had to settle for the bronze medals.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra pugilist Nikhil Dubey got a great opportunity to pay his tributes to his coach Dhananjay Tiwari, who passed away in a freak road accident while travelling from Mumbai to watch his ward play the men's middleweight 75kg semifinal against Services' Sumit Kundu. Nikhil clinched the bout 4-1 to set up a title clash against Mizoram's Malsawmitluanga, who got the better of Goa's Puspender Rathee 5-0. Earlier, Asian championships bronze medallist Jasmine used her longer reach and nimble footwork to great effect against her lesser known Manipuri opponent Pravish Konthoujam to storm into the final with a 5-0 win in 60 kg category. Olympian Simranjit Kaur got rid of Assam's Pwilao in other semifinal.

Roger Binny files nomination for post of BCCI president, Shah likely to remain secretary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Roger Binny, a member of the 1983 World Cup winning team, on Tuesday filed his nomination for the post of BCCI President and is likely to get the top job unopposed, Board vice President Rajeev Shukla said.

Binny, 67, is so far the only candidate to have filed nomination for the post and if no more candidate emerges, he will replace Sourav Ganguly as BCCI chief when the Board holds its AGM in Mumbai on October 18.

After hectic parleys and back-channel discussions in the past one week, it was decided that Binny would be the 36th Board president, one of the sources familiar with the development, said.

Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has also filed nomination and will continue as BCCI Secretary for a second consecutive term if no more candidate throws his hat in the ring.

Shah is also expected to replace Ganguly as India's representative at the all powerful ICC Board.

"Roger Binny has filed nomination for president's post, myself for the vice-president's post, Jay Shah for secretary, Ashish Shelar for treasurer and Devajit Saikia has filed nomination for joint secretary's post," Shukla told reporters

"Arun Dhumal will head the IPL governing council and Abhishek Dalmiya will be part of that council. Khairul Jamal (Mamun) Majumdar will be part of the Apex council. As of now these are the nominations and all are unopposed," Shukla added.

Wednesday is last day for filing nominations. Candidates can withdraw their nomination by October 14. The final list of candidates for various positions will be published on October 15.

Binny, though, is a surprise choice to head the BCCI.

However, hints were dropped that his name will emerge for a position when Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) named him as its representative at BCCI AGM instead of secretary Santosh Menon. Binny is KSCA President and will have to leave his position in the state body.

The medium pacer was one of the architects of India's historic World Cup triumph in 1983. In eight games, he took 18 wickets, the highest in that edition of prestigious tournament.

India get 0-8 hammering from USA in FIFA Women's U-17 WC

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

India were overwhelmed by a formidable USA in their opening match of the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup as they suffered a 0-8 thrashing in a lop-sided Group A match here on Tuesday.

Reality bit the Indian team as it was toyed by a far more technically superior USA who were 4-0 up by the half-hour mark and 5-0 ahead at half time.

USA pumped in three more goals in the second session to hand a humiliating defeat on the Indians before a sizeable home crowd at the Kalinga Stadium.

Melina Rebimbas scored a brace (9th and 31st minute) while Charlotte Kohler (15th), Onyeka Gamero (23rd), Gisele Thompson (39th), Ella Emri (51st), Taylor Suarez (59th) and captain Mia Bhuta (62nd) struck a goal each for the Concacaf champions.

India head coach Thomas Dennerby had said before the match that her side would be difficult to score against, having prepared well since February but his players completely were completely clueless and lost the plot on the day. The country's first match in a women's world cup turned out to be a nightmare.

Debutants India, who made it to the age-group showpiece on the basis of being the hosts, were simply run over by USA, who were runners-up in the inaugural edition in 2008 but has not gone past the group stage in three other appearances since then.

The porous Indian defence, including captain Astam Oraon at the left wing back position, leaked goal after goal while the home side could not even stitch even a proper goal-bound move. The Americans had more than 70 per cent ball possession in the first half.

Title contenders Brazil win 1-0 against Morocco

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Title contenders Brazil began their FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup campaign on a winning note with a 1-0 victory over debutants Morocco in a Group A match here on Tuesday.

Striker Jhonson scored the all-important goal in the fifth minute of the match as the South American champions collected all three points to put themselves in a strong position to make it to the quarterfinals.

Morroco, one of the three representatives from Africa, had a good chance to score very early in the match but after that it was Brazil who dominated the match with 65 per cent ball possession.

Brazil had 17 shots at Morocco goal as against four of the African side. Brazil could have won by a big margin but their forwards missed a lot of easy chances while Morocco also defended well.

In a Group B match in Margao, Chile beat New Zealand 3-1.

New Zealand beat Pakistan by 9 wickets in Tri-series

AP ■ CHRISTSHURCH

Finn Allen and Devon Conway shared a 117-run opening partnership as New Zealand cruised to a nine-wicket win over Pakistan with almost four overs remaining on Tuesday in the Twenty20 Tri-Series.

Allen made 62 including a half century from 32 balls and Conway followed his match-winning 70 against Bangladesh on the weekend with an unbeaten 49 on Tuesday as New Zealand easily surpassed Pakistan's 130-7.

Conway underlined his importance to the Black Caps ahead of the T20 World Cup with consecutive unbeaten innings. Allen took a moment to judge the pace and bounce of the pitch at Hadley Oval, then went on to 62 from 42 balls with six sixes, marking himself as a player to watch when the world tournament starts later this month.

Pakistan and New Zealand are level in the series with two wins each from three matches, while Bangladesh is yet to win. The next match is between New Zealand and Bangladesh on Thursday.

New Zealand's win Tuesday was set up by the bowlers. Mitchell Santner conceded 11 runs from his opening over then joined with Michael Bracewell to uproot Pakistan's top order.

The pair combined to contain Pakistan's powerful batters, sharing four of the first five wickets.

Bracewell, who took 2-14 in New Zealand's eight-wicket win over Bangladesh on Sunday, bettered that with 2-11.

He claimed the first Pakistan wicket to fall, dismissing Mohammad Rizwan for 16. Rizwan fell in the manner of several Pakistan batters who made the mistake of trying to hit the ball down the ground.

With the ball turning a little and holding in the surface of a worn pitch, it was always dangerous to try and hit lofted straight shots.

"I wouldn't say there was huge amount of turn," Bracewell said.

"The ball was just holding in the wicket and bouncing a bit which creates the illusion of turn.

"It was a slightly different role today. Bowling in the power-play makes it a bit nerve-wracking against world-class batsmen. I'm really enjoying the role that I'm playing and just providing quality overs for the team."

Shan Masood gave Santner his first wicket when he was out for 14. He was enticed by a flighted delivery outside off stump to also go down the ground but couldn't clear long-on, where Bracewell took the catch.

Shadab Khan (8) fell in the same manner. Santner again tossed the ball up outside off and Shadab holed out to Tim Southee at long-on.

Bracewell then claimed the vital wicket of Pakistan captain Babar Azam. He tossed up a slower ball which floated away from the batter and Babar feathered an edge to Devon Conway behind the wicket.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi got into the act with the wicket of Haider Ali who also was deceived in flight and was caught at long-on. Pakistan was 77-5 in the 14th and under pressure to lift its scoring rate.

Southee made that difficult in the later overs, removing Iftikhar Ahmed and Mohammad Nawaz to finish with 2-31.

Pakistan was 91-5 after 15 overs but the earlier wickets made the last five overs less profitable than they might have been.

BWF Rankings: Lakshya Sen rises to career-high eighth

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commonwealth Games gold medallist shuttler Lakshya Sen climbed one spot to be at a career-high eighth place in the latest BWF men's singles world rankings.

The men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also moved closer to top-20 by jumping two spots to be at a career high 21st in the list issued on Tuesday.

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu remained at sixth in the women's singles rankings while the pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy is ranked eighth in the men's doubles section.

The 21-year-old Sen, who had won a bronze in the 2021 World Championships, has been in brilliant form, starting the year with a gold medal at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open before his runner-up finishes at the prestigious All England Open Championships and German Open.

He was also a key member of India's historic Thomas Cup triumph after 73 years.

The in-form duo of Arjun and Dhruv, on the other hand, has been making a steady rise in the rankings after they began the year in 42nd position.

T20 World Cup: INOX signs agreement with ICC, to live screen India matches in cinema halls

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading multiplex chain INOX Leisure Ltd will live screen all matches to be played by India at the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in its cinema halls across the country.

It has signed an agreement with the International Cricket Council (ICC) in this regard, INOX Leisure said in a statement.

INOX will showcase all group matches to be played by Team India, starting with their first match on October 23 against Pakistan, followed by the semi-finals and the final match.

"The live matches will be screened across INOX multiplexes in more than 25 cities," it said.

The eighth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup commences from October 16, with the Super 12 stage kicking off on October 22. The final is scheduled on November 13 in Melbourne.

INOX Leisure Chief Operating Officer Anand Vishal said, "By screening cricket in cinemas, we are bringing together the thrill of the giant screen experience and thunderous sound with the most loved sport in our country, that is cricket. The excitement and emotions of the World Cup would add to this combination, resulting into a virtual treat for cricket lovers."

INOX operates in 74 cities with 165 multiplexes, 705 screens and has a total seating capacity of 1.57 lakh seats across India.

Earlier this year in March, INOX Leisure and PVR had announced a merger to create the country's largest multiplex chain.

云南日报报业集团
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YUNNAN DAILY PRESS GROUP | The Pioneer Vol.141 | Wednesday, October 12, 2022 | 12

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COOPERATION

China joins hands with SCO member states in promoting green development

In the golden harvest season of autumn, the wind turbines standing in rows against the wind at the foot of the Tianshan Mountains in Kazakhstan make a spectacular sight. These are the first batch of generating units of the Shelek Wind Power project jointly funded by Power Construction Corporation of China and Samruk-Energy Company of Kazakhstan, and now they have officially gone into commercial operation.

This is just a microcosm of China's cooperation with SCO member states in achieving green energy transition. Uzbekistan has introduced a salt-tolerant wheat variety from China. Kazakhstan has introduced Chinese dry-cultivated rice to its Balkhash Lake region, saving more than 50 percent of water through the drip irrigation technology... In their pursuit of green development, the SCO member states are continuously increasing cooperation with China.

By the end of June 2022, China had invested more than US$37.5 billion in SCO member states. At the beginning of this year, the China Development Bank launched the second phase of the RMB30 billion (US$4.21 billion) equivalent special lending facility within the framework of the SCO Interbank Consortium to promote Belt and Road cooperation. Such lending will mainly cover projects related to modernization, connectivity, infrastructure, and green, low-carbon and sustainable development.

Syed Shakeel Shah, Director of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute, said that China and other SCO member states see broad prospects for cooperation in addressing climate change and advancing the energy transition.

Snow leopards, known as "kings of the snowy mountains," can be seen in many alpine areas of the SCO member states. China, Kyrgyzstan, and other SCO member states have jointly implemented the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Program. By 2021, the number of wild snow leopards in China had increased by 22 percent since the early 21st century.

Restoring the ecosystem of the Aral Sea is also one of the environmental issues that the SCO is most concerned about. At the invitation of the Uzbekistani Ministry of Innovation and Development, the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has set up a network of 80 automatic meteorology and water quality monitoring spots in the Aral Sea basin to provide a scientific basis for the decision-making on water resources management in the basin. The institute has also established an experimental base for restoration of saline land through revegetation in Moynaq Town on the shore of the Aral Sea, where more than 20 drought-enduring and salt-tolerant crops with economic value are planted, such as desert cistanche and sea buckthorns.

"China has provided us with all-round help, covering equipment, technology, personnel training, and more aspects." said Ganiyev, former deputy director of the Aral Sea International Innovation Center. "We highly value this cooperation platform and hope to bring our cooperation to a greater depth."

Kranina, a senior researcher of the Center for China Socio-Economic Research, the Institute of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said that China has taken a series of practical measures to develop green infrastructure, green energy, green transportation, green finance. "China's rich experience in green and sustainable development is attractive to other SCO member states," she said.

Right now, the SCO region as a whole has shown a strong development momentum, as evidenced by the 12 percent annual growth of the total GDP of SCO member states and their trade. By 2020, the aggregate economic output and total foreign trade volume of SCO member states had increased by 11 times and 8 times respectively since the early days of the SCO. In 2021, the aggregate economic output of SCO member states exceeded US$20 trillion.

(People's Daily)

To our readers

The *China • Yunnan* news page jointly run by Yunnan Daily Press Group and The Pioneer of India has come back. After an absence of more than one year, we have stayed true to our original intention and are still committed to presenting you with a true, multi-dimensional, and panoramic view of China. In the days to come, we will meet with you regularly on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. We hope that this news page will serve as a bridge of information for exchanges and cooperation between China and India in various fields and contribute media power to enhancing the friendship between the two countries.

***China• Yunnan* News Page Editorial Office**

FOCUS

A world of peace and development should embrace civilizations of various forms, and must accommodate diverse paths to modernization. Democracy is not a special right reserved to an individual country, but a right for the people of all countries to enjoy.

—An excerpt from the fourth volume of *Xi Jinping: The Governance of China*

"I expect China to create a better future together with developing countries"

"The Gabonese Democratic Party and the Communist Party of China have maintained friendly contacts for more than four decades. Both the former and incumbent leaders of the Gabonese Democratic Party have visited China to learn from the experience of the Communist Party of China in exercising state power and witnessed China's great development and changes," said Michel-Philippe Nze, Second Vice Secretary-general of the Gabonese Democratic Party, in a recent interview with reporters. He pointed out that China has achieved continuous progress because the Communist Party of China always adheres to the vision of people-centered development and puts people's interests first.

In the autumn of 2019, Nze visited Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and other places of China with a delegation of the Gabonese Democratic Party. "The Beijing Planning Exhibition Hall left a deep impression on me. A tour of it provided me with a panoramic view of the past, present, and future of Beijing's urban planning and construction and enabled me to understand Beijing's development idea and path to realization of fully protecting the style of the ancient capital while modernizing itself."

In March 2021, the first batch of Chinese-donated COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Libreville, the Gabonese capital. "Gabon immediately implemented a vaccination program across the country. The Gabonese President and his wife were the first to be vaccinated with Chinese vaccines," Nze recalled, adding that the infection and mortality rates of COVID-19 have decreased significantly in Gabon and that the epidemic is already under control in his country. "China and Gabon are acting in the spirit of solidarity in face of difficulties," he said.

Speaking of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which is scheduled to be held in Beijing in October 2002, Nze said, "I wish to express my congratulations on the development results achieved by the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China." He also expressed his hope that China will continue to work with other developing countries to create a better future.

(People's Daily)

OPENING-UP

Yunnan moves faster to build multi-level opening-up system

At Mohan railway station in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province—the first station of the China-Laos Railway on the Chinese side, the customs control area is a lively sight, with trucks going in and out, loading and unloading. "Since the opening of the China-Laos Railway last December, the number of cross-border freight trains has increased from one pair per day to five to seven pairs per day," said Wang Junfeng, deputy head of Mohan Station.

Since 2012, Yunnan has moved faster to build a multi-level opening-up system. Particularly, it has promoted the connectivity of transportation infrastructure with neighboring countries. Ten years on, the Yunnan sections of the China-Vietnam, China-Laos, and China-Myanmar expressways have been successively completed, and the China-Laos railway has gone into operation as scheduled. The international shipping in the Lancang-Mekong River has seen steady development and achieved a zero breakthrough in container transportation. Now air routes basically connect Yunnan with all capitals and key tourist cities of South and Southeast Asian countries.

In the past ten years, Yunnan has accelerated development of multiple opening-up platforms, such as the free trade pilot zone, economic and technological development zones, border and cross-border economic cooperation zones, integrated bonded areas and border ports. The province has increased the total volume of its imports and exports from US$21.01 billion in 2012 to US$48.66 billion in 2021 and cumulatively put US$12.48 billion in foreign funds into use.

Yunnan is already trading with 200 countries and regions. In 2021, the trade between Yunnan and other Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member states reached RMB140.7 billion (US$20.12 billion).

Located in southwest China, Yunnan province shares a borderline of more than 4,000 kilometers with Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam. It is a gateway of China's opening-up to South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean Rim.

(Yunnan Daily)

5th import expo to further open up China market

The fifth China International Import Expo (CIIE) , set to be held in November 5th to 10th, is in its final preparation stage with foreign companies eager to gain access to more market opportunities.

The expo, to be held in Shanghai, is on schedule despite the recurring impact of COVID-19, and will showcase the country's commitment to further opening up its massive market for shared growth.

As the fifth CIIE approaches, exhibits are arriving in Shanghai via various means. On Sept 20, the first shipment of inbound exhibits, with a declared value of 560 million yuan ($78.70 million), cleared customs at Shanghai Pudong International Airport.

(Xinhua)

IN-PICS

September 23 is the fifth Chinese Farmers' Harvest Festival. Across the country, farmers celebrated the festival in various ways amidst the happiness of harvest . Here in Danzhai County, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province, local farmers were busy harvesting and drying rice. **(Xinhua)**

ECO

Yanhanlu: I'll protect the Asian elephants all my life

Yanhanlu, leader of the Asian Elephants Observation and Protection Team in the Wild Elephants Valley Scenic Area of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province, always considers it as his lifetime career to protect the Asian elephants. "I'm so lucky to be able to protect the Asian elephants. To protect them is to protect our ecological homeland," he said.

Yanhanlu became a forest ranger in the Wild Elephants Valley Scenic Area in December 1997. In the past 25 years, he and his colleagues have devoted themselves to observing and protecting the Asian elephants. They have made great contributions to promoting harmony between humans and elephants, conserving the biological diversity, and enhancing the influence of China in protecting Asian elephants as an international brand.

"I follow the elephants in the valley and rainforest every day, searching for the traces they leave, observing their living conditions, and monitoring their range of activities. I walk more than 10 kilometers a day," said Yanhanlu, now an expert at the living habitats of wild Asian elephants.

Yanhanlu has given a name to almost every member of the wild elephants' family, such as Short Trunk, Broken Ear, and Big Naughty. "To distinguish the elephants, we name them according to their physical characteristics," Yanhanlu explained. He and his team members trek through the one-million-hectare virgin forest in the Mengyang Nature Reserve to keep track of the wild Asian elephants, giving security warnings and taking note of observation data.

Yanhanlu has participated in many operations to rescue wild elephants, but the rescue of a male adult wild elephant named Kun Six left the deepest impression on him. On February 19, 2010, Yanhanlu was about to get off work when he received a call. Having learned that Kun Six was injured, he immediately packed up tools and medicines and rushed to the rescue. In estrus and injured, Kun Six was very irritable and hard to control. It would attack the rescuers every time they tried to approach it. After three days of relentless efforts, Yanhanlu and his team members finally managed to send Kun Six to the Xishuangbanna Asian Elephants Breeding and Rescue Center for treatment.

Over the past 24 years, because of the risks involved in the job, the Asian Elephants Observation and Protection Team have had a high turnover rate, but Yanhanlu has always chosen to stay. "I'll be a guardian of wild elephants all my life, and I hope that people from all walks of life can pay more attention to wild Asian elephants," he said.

"

Wild Asian elephants are under first-grade state protection in China. They are mainly distributed in Xishuangbanna, Pu'er, and Lincang of Yunnan province. By the end of 2021, according to information released by the Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Bureau, the population of wild Asian elephants in Yunnan had increased by more than 60 to 360 from 293 in 2018.

(Xinhua)

wild Asian elephants. By Xinhua

INDUSTRY

Yunnan coffee exports surge in both volume and value

In the first half of this year, Yunnan exported 18,000 tons of coffee beans, a year-on-year increase of 2.3 times. According to insiders, as the decrease in production in the world's major coffee producing areas and the drop of international shipping prices divert international orders to China, both the export volume and unit price of Yunnan coffee beans have increased significantly from the same period last year.

Gao Mei, deputy general manager of a coffee plantation in Pu'er City, Yunnan Province, is in charge of export business. Now she browses the prices of coffee futures on the New York Stock Exchange every day.

Gao said, "We export 80 percent of our coffee to the German market. This year, we have exported 3,100 tons of first-class Simao small-grain coffee, triple that of the same period last year, and the unit prices of our products have also increased. I'm quite optimistic about this year. The average price was 23.4 yuan (US$3.28) per kilo last year, as compared to 32 yuan (US$4.49) per kilo this year."

According to Gao, coffee beans are mainly exported by sea. Their company has exported significantly more coffee beans this year over the same period last year mainly because the sea transportation price dropped.

Also, the severe drought in Brazil and other major coffee-producing countries in South America has dealt a heavy blow to the coffee planting industry and caused a sharp decrease in the global supply of coffee beans, hence the surging prices.

Liu Haifeng, executive deputy general manager of a coffee trading center in Yunnan, said, "The market has shown a huge demand for Yunnan coffee since May. Many domestic and foreign customers inquire about the quantity, quality, prices, and grades of our coffee products every day."

From January to June this year, according to Chinese customs data, Yunnan has exported 18,000 tons of coffee beans to the European Union, ASEAN states, Americas, the Middle East, and other markets.

Yunnan is the main coffee producing area in China. Its coffee acreage, production, and output value account for more than 98 percent of the national total, and the coffee variety produced here is the world's mainstream small-grain coffee Arabica. Data from the Yunnan Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs shows that Yunnan had a coffee acreage of about 92,666 hectares and produced about 110,000 tons of coffee beans in 2021. Finance Channel of China Central Television

(CCTV)