

OPINION 6

HUMANITY NEEDS
TO GO VEGETARIAN!

WORLD 8

RUSSIA TO EVACUATE KHERSON
RESIDENTS AS UKRAINE ADVANCES

MONEY 10

WPI INFLATION EASES OF 10.7%
TO 18-MONTH LOW IN SEPTEMBER

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY OCTOBER 15, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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INDIA FACE SL
IN ASIA CUP
FINAL TODAY
12 SPORTHC acquits ‘lifer’ Prof
Saibaba of Naxal linksWheelchair-bound
academic activist
was sentenced to
life in 2017

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Holding that his trial at the session court was “null and void” in the absence of valid sanction under Section 45(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday acquitted Delhi University’s former Professor GN Saibaba and three others in an alleged Maoist links case.

Allowing an appeal challenging a 2017 decision of the trial court convicting and sentencing him to life imprisonment, a HC bench of Justices Rohit Deo and Anil Pansare held the proceedings against Prof Saibaba in the trial court as “null and void”.

While acquitting Prof Saibaba and three others, the HC bench noted, “In view of the findings recorded by us, we hold that the proceedings in Sessions Trials 30/2014 and 130/2015 are null and void in the absence of valid sanction under Section 45(1) of the UAPA, and the common judgment impugned is liable to be set aside, which we do order.”

The three others who were



Former Delhi University professor GN Saibaba is seen with his wife Vasantha Kumari outside the Nagpur Central Jail on April 7, 2016
File photo I PTI

acquitted are: Mahesh K Tirki, Hem Keshawdatt Mishra, Prashant Rahi and Vijay Nan Tirki. In the case of another accused Pandur Pora Narote, who died during the pendency of his appeal, the HC held that the appeal preferred by did not abate.

Saibaba, who is currently lodged in Nagpur Central Jail, suffers from a polio-related paralysis and is bound to a wheelchair. He had previously filed a plea seeking suspension of his sentence on medical grounds, saying he is also suffering from multiple ailments,

but it was rejected.

The Nagpur bench has ordered that Saibaba and other accused shall execute a bond of ₹50,000 each along with surety of the like amount and that they be released forthwith “unless the are required in any other case”.

The Maharashtra Government moved the Supreme Court challenging the HC order, but the SC refused to stay the acquittal. However, the SC website said the matter was listed for hearing on Saturday.

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Saibaba’s reinstatement
may be considered by
college governing body,
says College principal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University’s (DU) Ram Lal Anand College on Friday said its governing body will take up the matter of GN Saibaba’s reinstatement as a faculty member if there is a representation in this regard. The college had terminated the services of Saibaba

Himachal poll on Nov 12,
EC mum on Gujarat dateAs Congress
cries foul, poll
panel claims
rules followed

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Polling for the 68-seat Himachal Pradesh Assembly will be held on November 12, and the counting of votes will be on December 8. The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule of the HP polls, but it did not announce the poll schedule for the Gujarat Assembly, prompting the Congress to allege that it was to facilitate Prime Minister Narendra Modi more time to make “mega promises and inaugurations”.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar justified the decision saying the poll body followed past convention in keeping the announcement for the Gujarat Assembly poll schedule in abeyance. Kumar also cited the weather of Himachal Pradesh as a reason behind announcing the elections for the hill State first.

“There are a number of factors, such as weather. We want to hold the Himachal elections before the onset of snow, especially in the upper reaches where snowing takes place... There is a gap of 40 days between the ends of the Assemblies of the two States. According to the rules, it



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar during a press conference for the announcement of schedule of Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh, in New Delhi on Friday
PTI

should be at least 30 days so that one result doesn’t impact the other,” Kumar added.

Both Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat were set to go to polls together as well in 2017. The Assembly polls were held together in both the States since 1998 barring 2002-2003 after the Godhra riots, when the Gujarat Assembly was dissolved prematurely.

The CEC said that the announcement of multiple State polls together leads to longer wait time for declaration of results for some. The convention holds that the EC normally holds elections together in States where the incumbent governments are completing their five-year term within six months. The term of the Gujarat Assembly ends on February 18, 2023, while the term of the Himachal Assembly will end on January 8, 2023. In 2017, the polls in the two

States were announced on different dates but the counting took place together on December 18.

Some Opposition leaders pointed out that announcing Gujarat election later could allow the incumbent Government to roll out more welfare schemes before the model code of conduct kicks in. The Congress, the leading Opposition party in Gujarat, alleged that the BJP had pushed the EC to delay the announcement.

“Obviously this has been done to give more time to the PM to make some mega promises & carry out more inaugurations. Not at all surprising,” AICC General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said. The Congress, BJP and AAP also welcomed the assembly elections announcement by the poll body.

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CAPSULE

STUDENT STABBED IN AUS;
INDIA DEMANDS ACTION

Sydney: A 28-year-old Indian student has been stabbed multiple times in the face, chest and abdomen in Australia by a man who allegedly demanded cash, the US officials said with Indian authorities expecting that the matter to be dealt with seriously and action is taken against the perpetrators. P4

REBELS PLOT TO REPLACE
LIZ TRUSS WITH SUNAK

London: Rebels on the backbenches of the UK’s governing Conservative Party are on Friday said to be plotting to replace Liz Truss as party leader and prime minister with a so-called “unity” joint ticket team involving former leadership rival Rishi Sunak. P9

WON’T REJOIN BJP TILL I
AM ALIVE: NITISH KUMAR

Samastipur: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday declared that he will not realign with the BJP till he is alive, accusing the former ally of using investigating agencies for targeting political opponents like RJD president Lalu Prasad.

MAHA LOGS 477 NEW
COVID CASES, 4 DEATHS

Mumbai: Maharashtra on Friday reported 477 new Covid-19 cases and 4 fresh deaths linked to the infection, taking the overall tally to 81,26,797 and the toll to 1,48,371, said the State health department.

MORE AREAS INUNDATED
AS FLOOD GRIM IN ASSAM

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam continued to remain grim on Friday with heavy rain inundating more areas, an official bulletin said. Several areas of the State received heavy rainfall.

INS Arihant testfire
adds to N-prowessPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

While K-4 has a range of more than 3,000 km, K-15 has a hitting range of 750 km.

The country has now joined the elite league of nations having the capacity to launch a submarine launched ballistic missile (SLBM) with nuclear weapons. The other countries are the US, France, China, the United Kingdom and Russia.

INS Arihant, weighing nearly 6,000 tons, is the first nuclear-powered indigenously designed and built submarine. It was inducted into service in 2016. India will have another three such submarines in the next few years.

These submarines can now fire ballistic missiles K-4 and K-15 with nuclear weapons.

Giving details of the latest test, the Defence Ministry said INS Arihant carried out a successful launch of a SLBM.

The missile was tested to a predetermined range and impacted the target area in the Bay of Bengal with very high accuracy.

Continued on Page 2

No carbon dating of Gyanvapi
‘Shivling’, court rejects pleaPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
VARANASI

In a major decision, District Judge Ajay Krishna Vishvesh, on Friday, rejected the demand of a Hindu group of petitioners for carbon dating of the “Shivling-like” structure found on the Gyanvapi mosque premises here.

The judge gave the verdict after the completion of arguments on carbon dating and scientific test of the alleged “Shivling”. Judge Vishvesh cited Supreme Court directives for the safekeeping of the Shivling-like structure so that no tampering can be done, said Government counsel Rana Sanjiv Singh.

The court said in view of the SC rulings and keeping public sentiments in mind, the carbon dating cannot be allowed and the “wazookhana” will remain sealed, said Shivam Gaur, lawyer from the Hindu side.

Vishnu Shankar Jain, advo-

cate of the four Hindu petitioners seeking carbon dating of the “Shivling”, said they would now approach the apex court with their demand.

Four of the five Hindu parties had sought carbon dating of the “Shivling” found during a court-mandated videography survey of the mosque premises close to the “wazookhana”, a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering namaz.

The mosque management committee claims that the structure is not a “Shivling” but a part of the “wazookhana” reservoir system.

Judge Vishvesha said, “The petitioners from number 2 to 5 had prayed that carbon dating or any other scientific technique like ground penetrating

radar be used and the composition, nature and age of the ‘Shiva Lingam’ found during the work of court commissioner on May 16 be determined.”

After the completion of the hearing of the Hindu side and the mosque committee on Tuesday, the district court had decided to pronounce its verdict on October 14.

Emerging from the court, Jain told reporters, “Our struggle will continue. This fight is for truth... I want to say that we are those people who do not get over excited in victory, and do not become too sad in defeat. This is our struggle and it will continue.”

“The struggle is for justice and truth. We are firm on our demand for scientific survey, and we will go to the Supreme Court with that demand. I know this much that our struggle for our God and for those who we worship will continue and with enthusiasm.”

Continued on Page 2

30,000 NOCs in just 3 months
in Chhattisgarh coal scam: ED‘Cartel of babus,
leaders extorted
illegal levy on
coal transport’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday made damning revelations in the case of multi-city raids in Chhattisgarh in a money laundering case. The ED termed the illegal coal levy collection “cartel” as a “massive scam” and alleged that that the “proceeds of crime” was also “used by or on behalf of political executives of the State.”

The State Government arbitrarily tweaked the norms for issuance of e-permits for transporting coal and as many as 30,000 NOCs were issued in just three months since July 15 to favour the transporters and sustain the cartel of illegal levy of around ₹1-2 crore daily.

“The kingpin of the scam Suryakant Tiwari and his associates entered into a criminal conspiracy to run a parallel system of extorting illegal levy on coal and were doing illegal and unaccounted cash movement. The proceeds of crime were being used for investing in benami assets, bribing officials to influence senior officers and also used by or on behalf of political executives of the State,” the agency said.

The ED seized unaccounted cash amounting to ₹4.5 crore, gold jewellery, bullion and other valuables worth around ₹2 crore approximately. ₹1.5 crore cash found with suspect Laxmikant Tiwari was seized.

He has admitted that he handled ₹1-2 crore of the extorted money on a daily

basis. Sameer Vishnoi, IAS officer of 2009 batch, and his wife and Raigarh collector Ranu Sahu were found to be in possession of ₹47 lakh of unaccounted cash and four kg gold jewellery worth ₹2 crore.

The ED investigation revealed that the extortion of illegal coal levy became “rampant” when the Director, Geology and Mining Department, issued a notification on July 15, 2020, modifying the earlier online process of e-permit for transporting the coals from mines to users into issuance of manual NOC. No SOP or procedure was circulated in this regard.

“The new notification forced the mining companies to apply to the Mining officer/ DDM for NOC for issuance of e-permit. Without NOC, the e-permit for transportation of the coal cannot be issued by the Mining Officer leading to the non-execution of CDO (Coal Delivery Order issued by the Mining Company after auction). Continued on Page 2

Rags-to-riches seducer
‘inspires’ movie script

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR



Hailing from a poor family in Kalahandi district, once dubbed as the hunger zone of Odisha, Archana Nag now owns a palatial house with imported interior decorations, luxury cars, four high-breed dogs and a white horse.

The rags to riches story of Archana, who was arrested last week on the charge of extortion, was so intriguing that an Odia filmmaker has planned to make a movie on her life.

In the police records, however, the 26-year-old woman is a blackmailer who allegedly extorted money from rich and influential people such as politicians, businessmen and film producers with threats of making public photos and

videos of their intimate moments.

Born in Lanjigarh in Kalahandi, Archana was brought up in Kesinga, a non-descript town in the same district, where her mother was working, before she came to Bhubaneswar in 2015.

Police sources said that Archana initially worked for a private security firm and later

joined a beauty parlour where she met Jagabandhu Chand of Balasore district and married him in 2018.

It is alleged that she ran a sex racket while working in the beauty parlour. Jagabandhu operated a used car showroom and knew monied people like politicians, builders, businessmen and others. His and Archana’s photographs with influential persons, including some MLAs, have gone viral on social media creating a statewide hue and cry.

Archana also befriended rich and influential people and is alleged to have provided them with feminine company. Police claimed that she then took intimate pictures of these powerful persons and later blackmailed them for money.

Continued on Page 2

You are polluting
minds: SC raps
Ekta Kapoor for
web series ‘XXX’PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday slammed producer Ekta Kapoor over “objectionable content” in her web series “XXX” saying she was polluting the minds of the young generation.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by Kapoor challenging the arrest warrants issued against her for allegedly insulting soldiers and hurting the sentiments of their families in the web series aired on her OTT platform ALT Balaji.

“Something has to be done. You are polluting the minds of the young generation of this country. It is available to all. OTT (Over The Top) content is available to all.”

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One-time Govt aid
to set up plants to
prevent farm firePIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As stubble burning is back in the northern States posing a major public health hazard, the Centre on Friday prepared a one-time financial aid to individuals and companies to set up torrefaction (to dry by subjection to intense heat) and pelletisation (the act of shaping into pellets) plants to ensure a regular supply of paddy straw for co-firing in thermal power plants and industries.

These plants will help resolve the problem of stubble burning and generate income for farmers, Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav said at a workshop on “Guidelines for

grant of one-time financial support for establishment of pelletisation and torrefaction plants to promote utilisation of paddy straw.”

The Minister said ₹50 crore has been earmarked for the scheme which is generated from the environment protection charge being collected by the Central Pollution Control Board.

“It’s perhaps partly our action and god’s blessing that Delhi’s air quality is still in acceptable category this season. Now we are trying to see how can waste be converted to wealth. I have held a number of meetings on air pollution control in winter,” said the Union Environment Minister.

Continued on Page 2

One more POCSO
case slapped on
Karnataka seer

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A fresh case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was slapped on Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, pontiff of a Lingayat math, following a complaint that he raped four girls, police said on Friday.

Ruling out “pressure to save” the pontiff, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said that investigation has begun on the fresh case. He denied pressure on him over the matter. “There is no pressure at all. No one is big or small before the law,” Jnanendra said.

Besides Sharanaru, who is now in jail in connection with an earlier POCSO case for sexual harassment of two girls, six others have also been named in this fresh FIR, according to police.

Continued on Page 2

Cleric held for
sodomising
madrasa minor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An 11-year-old boy was allegedly sodomised multiple times by a cleric of a madrasa in Delhi’s Karawal Nagar area. The police said they have nabbed the 24-year-old accused, who has confessed to his sexual perversion.

According to a senior police official, the victim’s mother, a resident of Gurugram, filed a complaint at Karwal Nagar police station in which she stated that her boy studies at madrasa and was sexually abused by a cleric in the month of August.

“Based on the complaint, an FIR under section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 6/8 POCSO Act was registered and investigation was taken up,” said the senior police official. Detailed report on P3

NCR-PULSE

COURT DISMISSES PLAINT FOR FIR AGAINST KEJRIWAL
New Delhi: A city court has dismissed a complaint seeking directions to the police to register an FIR against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and two other AAP leaders, alleging that a party MLA had contested the last assembly polls by furnishing a fake caste certificate. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1,000 on complainant Dal Chand Kapil and said it cannot direct the police to register an FIR as there is no disclosure of a cognisable offence.

SISODIA ATTENDS MEETING OF ENERGY MINISTERS
New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia attended the meeting of State Power and Energy Ministers from all over the country in Udaipur on Friday. Electricity ministers of all states, officers of the electricity department, and electricity commissions participated in this meeting called by the central government. Various important issues like the financial condition of power companies operating in different states, installation of smart electricity meters, and increasing production of renewable energy like solar energy, wind power, etc. were discussed during the meeting.

AAP LASHES OUT AT BJP OVER NGT’S FINE OF ₹900 CR
New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday lashed out at the BJP after the NGT imposed a Rs 900 crore fine over BJP’s failure in managing the three garbage mountains of Delhi. The AAP MCD In-charge and MLA, Durgesh Pathak said that BJP ruled MCD is to be blamed for the NGT’s reprimand, but this fine won’t be paid out of any BJP leader’s pocket. “The honest hardworking taxpayers of Delhi will have to suffer,” said Pathak.

KCCI KICKS OFF 2 DAY FEST TO MARK 10TH ANNIVERSARY
New Delhi: To celebrate its 10th anniversary, the Korean Cultural Centre India (KCCI) is kicking off the two days fest ‘Rang De Korea’, from October 15 at DLF Avenue Saket, offering a string of cultural activities including traditional Korean wedding ceremony, performances of K-Pop girl group ‘BugAboo’ and boy group ‘Kingdom’, ‘ID’ Korean fusion music band that combines the traditional Korean music with the rhythm and modes of the Western music and K-Tigers performance who are globalizing Taekwondo (Korean Traditional Martial Arts & Sports) to enthrall the visitors.

No carbon dating of...

From Page 1
He added, “Mohammad Ghori had invaded India 17 times, and emerged victorious in his 18th attempt.”

Asked if there was a division in the Hindu side over the carbon dating demand, Jain said the objections raised by Rakhi Singh’s lawyer were clarified. Of the five Hindu petitioners in the case, Singh had not called for carbon dating.

Advocate Mumtaz Ahmed, who appeared for the Muslim side, had earlier said they have told the court that carbon dating cannot be done. If the object gets damaged in the name of carbon dating, it amounts to defiance of the Supreme Court order, he had said.

The Muslim side had also contended that the SC had asked the Varanasi district magistrate to keep the structure safe and in such a situation, getting it examined cannot be justified.

The Muslim side had also opined that the original case is about the worship of Shringar Gauri while the structure in the mosque has nothing to do with it.

In such a condition, neither any investigation can be done by the Archaeological department nor a legal report be called after

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my client Aasid Khan is the owner of Property Bearing No. 198/2, Gauri (Spot House), Super Area Measuring 1300 Sq. Ft., Out of Khass No. 13, of Village Jhania Marla New Delhi-110059. The said property is being sold below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim of the following 3 original deeds pertaining to the said property, FIR has already been lodged in lieu of that dated 14/10/2022: 1. Sale Deed dated 16.07.1997 executed by Pushpa Yadav in favour of M/s New Video Ltd. (of first floor) 2. Copy of Sale Deed dated 25.04.1996 executed by Pushpa Yadav in favour of M/s New Video Ltd. (of second floor) 3. Copy of Sale Deed dated 13.09.1996 executed by Pushpa Yadav in favour of M/s New Video Ltd. (of third floor with roof rights) All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise however, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
E-713, Karkardooma Court,
Delhi-81, Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE
Through this notice, the concerned and general public at large are hereby informed that the following persons mentioned below, mentioned personnel/staff members of MAA JHANEWALI CO-OPERATIVE URBAN AND THRIFT SOCIETY LTD. Office at - 157, 1st Floor, DDA Office Complex, Cycle Market, Jhandewalan Extension, Delhi- 110053 have been terminated unanimously by the Annual General Body Meeting held on 24/09/2022 and the Management Board. It has been found that the mentioned staff were involved in malpractices and have defrauded the Society. A Police Complaint has also been filed against them. Society members and general public is hereby cautioned that they are no authority of whatsoever nature to transact any business or to receive any financial transactions on behalf of the Society.

TN women selling lottery tickets leave Kerala after human sacrifice

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Hundreds of women from Tamil Nadu who were earning their livelihood by selling the Kerala Government’s Lottery Tickets in Ernakulam district have returned to their native places since the “human sacrifices” in Pathanamthitta district was unveiled by the police.

A senior police officer told *The Pioneer* that they do not have the exact number of Tamil Nadu women who were working as lottery ticket sellers in the State.

“But there is likelihood that there are thousands of them in Kerala. Many reach Kerala as domestic helps and gradually take up lottery ticket selling,” said the police officer who did not want his name to be quoted because of

his inability to provide the exact figures.

Meanwhile S Sasidharan, assistant commissioner of police, Ernakulam who emerged as the super cop of the State by uncovering the gruesome murders of Padma and Roseli and arresting the trio Muhammed Shafi, Bhagwal Singh and Laila who are the prime accused in the “human sacrifices” told *The Pioneer* that the Special Investigation Team of Kochi City Police were probing all angles associated with the murders. “We are trying to find out whether these murders have anything to do with human organs trade. But we need some time to find out the truth, Our team is working 24X7 to unveil all mysteries and possibilities,” Sasidharan told *The Pioneer*.

The State has registered



7408 missing person cases till September 2022, according to the senior police officer. “Many of the missing persons were women. The phone calls made by Mohammed Shafi, the master brain behind the “sorcery” are being investigated to find out the people with whom he had links,” said the officer.

By Thursday night, the cyber wing of the Kerala Police

succeeded in retrieving the social media account of Shafi, which he was operating in the name of Sreedevi. “He had told the people through the social media that he has the capability to resolve all financial woes and this has led many people to contact him. We are sure that we will be able to identify the people with whom Shafi was in regular contact,” said the officer.

You are...

From Page 1

What kind of choice are you providing to the people?...On the contrary you are polluting the minds of youngsters,” a bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and C T Ravikumar said.

The court made the observation after senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Kapoor, submitted that a petition has been filed before the Patna high court but there is no hope the matter will be listed for hearing soon. He said the top court had earlier granted protection to Kapoor in a similar matter.

Rohatgi said the content is subscription based and that there is freedom of choice in this country. The court, which stopped short of imposing costs, then wondered what kind of choice was being given to people.

Himachal poll on Nov 12, EC...

From Page 1

Announcing the poll dates for assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh, Kumar said more than 55 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise for 68 assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh on November 12. There are 1.86 lakh first-time voters, 1.22 lakh aged 80-plus and 1,184 voters who are above 100 years of age.

“The elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure maximum participation of voters in the “festival of democracy,” Kumar said. There are over 55 lakh electors across the hill state, of which 67,000 are service voters, 56,000 are persons with disabilities and 1,184 voters are 100+.

As a consequence of the commission allowing 17+ voters to apply in advance for a voter ID card, Himachal Pradesh will also have 43,173

new voters. According to the poll schedule for Himachal Pradesh on Friday, the notification for the election will be issued on October 17 and the last date for filing of nominations will be October 25. The scrutiny of nominations will be held on October 27 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations will be October 29.

The state has 68 assembly constituencies, with 17 reserved for schedule castes, and three for scheduled tribes.

The Jairam Thakur-led BJP government in Shimla is seeking to return to power riding on the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has already held several rallies and announced projects worth over Rs 6,000 crore in the last two weeks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Himachal Pradesh almost every month.

HC acquits ‘lifer’ Prof Saibaba of Naxal...

From Page 1

The apex court ordered that the case be listed before an appropriate bench after the Chief Justice of India provided his administrative approval.

The bench said the State Government could move an application seeking an earlier hearing on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, the HC bench of Justices Deo and Pansare observed, “We are inclined to hold that every safeguard, however miniscule, legislatively provided to the accused, must be zealously protected. In interpreting the

provisions of Section 45 of the UAPA, we deem it safer to be guided by the authoritative enunciation of the Supreme Court while considering para materia provisions of the TADA.”

“The Prosecution did submit that if the appeal is decided, not on merits, but only on the point of sanction, we may grant liberty to the prosecution to obtain proper sanction and try the accused. In view of the well entrenched position of law, that the rule against double jeopardy has no application if the trial is held vitiated due

to invalidity or absence of sanction, we see no reason to dilate any further on the said submission,” the HC bench noted.

“While the war against terror must be waged by the State with unwavering resolve, and every legitimate weapon in the armoury must be deployed in the fight against terror, a civil democratic society can ill afford sacrificing the procedural safeguards legislatively provided, and which is an integral facet of the due process of law, at the altar of perceived peril to national security,” the

Rags-to-riches seducer ‘inspires’ movie...

From Page 1

In a complaint made at Nayapally police station, a film producer alleged that Archana demanded Rs 3 crore from him after showing him his photos with other girls.

She was arrested on October 6 on the basis of another complaint by a girl who accused Archana of using her in this racket.

Odia filmmaker Sridhar Martha said he has planned to make a feature film on the life of Archana.

The police have urged the Economic Offence Wing to probe into the financial issues related to the Archana blackmailing case.

“An internal assessment made by the police revealed that the couple has acquired properties worth Rs 30 crore in a

Have ‘zero tolerance’ towards distribution of any kind of inducement: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday said it has “zero tolerance” towards distribution of inducement to voters in the Himachal Pradesh polls and bodies including the GST will ensure that freebies are not given out to influence voters. The EC may soon reach out to you with a plea to cast your precious vote in the next round of elections.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar also said the poll panel is awaiting response from political parties on its proposal to introduce a fresh proforma where they can explain how they propose the election promises made to voters. Parties have been asked on how will they manage the required finances. The EC plans to tweak the model code by making the proforma part of it.

“Political parties, candi-

dates have an undisputed right to announce or make a promise which they feel is feasible. Voters also have a right to know how will it be fulfilled. So this consultative process will be governed by the existing extant legislative framework ...The political parties are to come back to us by October 19 and thereafter we will decide on what needs to be done,” Kumar said.

Responding to questions on attempts to induce voters by distributing freebies, the CEC said the poll panel has “zero tolerance” towards distribution of any kind of inducement and it has energised the entire machinery.

“GST will look at all the e-ways and goods which are going to the poll-bound states, even the nearby states. They have mapped all the godowns, warehouses ... Sarees, mixers ... All this so that nothing is used (as an inducement),” he said.

One more POCSO case...

From Page 1

The new POCSO case was registered at Nazarbada police station in Mysuru on Thursday following a complaint by a 38-year old woman. In her plaint, she alleged that four girls, including her two daughters, now aged 12 and 15 years, were sexually assaulted by Sharanaru.

Six other people -- woman hostel warden, three inmates of the math and two men belonging to Mysuru -- have also been named in the FIR in connection with rape and abetment of the crime.

The complainant alleged that the pontiff of the Murugha math, Sharanaru, raped four girls at his ashram in Chitradurga, about 200 kilometers from here.

alleged Maoist links and for indulging in activities amounting to waging war against the country.

The Sessions Court had held that Saibaba, along with two other accused, possessed naxal literature with the intent and purpose of circulation amongst underground naxalites in Gadchiroli and residents of the district with the aim to incite the people to resort to violence. The court had negated the submission that the absence of sanction to prosecute Saibaba was fatal to the case of the prosecution.

The Sessions Judge had observed that no leniency could be shown to Saibaba in view of his 90 per cent disability since he was mentally fit and was part of a think tank of the banned organisation which had brought the industrial and other development in the naxal affected areas to a grinding halt.

During the arguments before the High Court, Saibaba’s counsel had contended that the absence of sanction at the time of framing charge and recording evidence rendered the proceedings null and void.

INS Arihant testfire adds to N...

From Page 1
All operational and technological parameters of the weapon system have been validated.

The successful user training launch of the SLBM by INS Arihant is significant to prove crew competency and validate the sub-surface ballistic nuclear(SSBN) programme, a key element of India’s nuclear deterrence capability.

A robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability

is in keeping with India’s policy to have “Credible Minimum Deterrence” that underpins its “No First Use” commitment, it said. The SSBN capability means a nuclear powered submarine carrying and firing ballistic missiles with nuclear weapons.

In November 2018, India formally declared its nuclear triad, stated in its nuclear doctrine, operational after INS Arihant completed its first deterrence patrol.

30,000 NOCs in just 3 months in Chhattisgarh coal scam...

and November. Farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue before cultivating wheat and potato.

The Punjab Pollution Control Department’s latest data shows that a total of 650 field fire incidents were reported between September 15 and October 6 this year, more than double the cases (320) recorded during the same period last year. This year, the border district of Amritsar reported 419 cases followed by 109 cases in Taran Taran. In Haryana too, 48 cases of field fires have been reported so far, against 24 last year.

The cases are set to spike after October 15, said the officials. According to Government data, Punjab and Haryana generate around 27 million tonnes of paddy straw a year, of which around 6.4 million tonnes is not managed.

Though there is a demand for biomass by power plants, “the supply is on the lower side ... Due to slow/limited growth of aggregators/suppliers”, the Government noted.

“Therefore, there is a need to facilitate setting up of pelletisation plants so that paddy straw is utilised and the issue of crop burning and pollution is further addressed,” read the guidelines prepared by the Union Environment Ministry.

Financial support of Rs 14 lakh per tonne per hour plant production capacity (subject to

a maximum of Rs 70 lakh per proposal) will be given for setting up new pelletisation units, according to the guidelines.

Similarly, Rs 28 lakh per tonne per hour plant production capacity will be provided for torrefaction plants, subject to a total financial support of Rs 1.4 crore per proposal. The government has earmarked Rs 50 crore for utilisation under the guidelines.

The financial assistance can be availed by individuals and companies setting up new plants and units using only paddy straw generated in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana, and NCR districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

To address the issue of air

pollution and to reduce the carbon footprint of thermal power plants and industries, the Government has been offering various measures, like providing money for in-situ machines, setting up ethanol plants and even mandating firing of 5 to 10 per cent of biomass along with coal.

In 2021, the average contribution of stubble burning to Delhi’s PM2.5 level in November was 14.6 per cent, according to data from the Government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research). This could come down drastically if stringent measures are taken, say the officials.

The ED had conducted search operations and made arrests under Prevention of Money Laundering Act relating to the scam in which illegal levy of ₹25 per tonne was being extorted from every tonne of coal transported in Chhattisgarh by a cartel involving senior bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and middlemen.

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The ED initiated a money laundering investigation based on the FIR lodged by the Income Tax Department against this conspiracy for the

illegal extortion and for destruction of evidence.

The ED is investigating the entire gamut of this conspiracy including the main kingpin, the role of senior officials who facilitated this scam with impunity and the beneficiaries of the illegal proceeds of crime. On October 11, the ED conducted simultaneous searches at multiple locations in Chhattisgarh and seized incriminating evidence and unaccounted cash and jewellery from various suspects.

While the kingpin of the scam Suryakant Tiwari is

absconding, IAS officer and Raigarh Collector Ranu Sahu was also found to be missing from her official residence.

Coal Delivery order (CDO) is issued in favour of the buyer by the mining company and the buyers are required to deposit an EMD of Rs. 500 per metric tonnes with the mining company and are also required to lift the coal within 45 days.

The cartel led by Suryakant Tiwari with the assistance of senior officers created a network of extortion, by which each buyer/transporter of Coal

had to first pay Rs 25 per tonne before getting the NOC from the DM’s office. They kept men who would collect and move money and share the exploits between the kingpins, workers, Senior IAS/IPS officers and politicians. It is estimated that around Rs 2-3 crore was generated on a daily basis, according to the agency.

Suspect Sunil Kumar Agrawal of Indramani Group, a big coal businessman was found to be involved in this racket and is seen as a major business partner of Suryakant Tiwari, it alleged.

DU issues simulated list of ranks

Will help candidates assess chances of seats in colleges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With days left for the announcement of first seat allocation list, the Delhi University on Friday issued a "simulated" list of ranks of candidates seeking admission to undergraduate programmes. The varsity said it will help them assess their probability of allocations in a particular programme and college.

The ranks are determined based on the scores and preferences submitted by the candidates till Thursday, October 13. The simulated ranks are featured on the dashboard of the candidates.

The list comes a day after the university closed the first (submission of the application form) and second (filling of college-course preferences) phases of the admission process.

According to data provided by the university, 2,17,653 aspirants have registered for its undergraduate courses till



Thursday, the last day for applying. Out of this, more than 1.5 lakh have marked their college and course preferences. "The University of Delhi has added another feature on the dashboards of the candidates, simulated ranks referring to which the candidates will be able to know their tentative ranks," the varsity said in a statement.

"Through this facility, the candidates will be able to assess the probability of allocations in a particular programme and college," the statement read.

Subsequently, the candidates will also be provided with a two-day window from October 14 to October 16 to change their preferences. The "Preference-Change" window can also be used to add or delete programmes and option of selected colleges.

"After sequencing their

preferences under the "Selected Preferences", the candidates must ensure that their updated preferences are saved.

Use the "Save Changes" tab to save the updated preferences. They must also preview the "Preference Selection" window to confirm their saved preferences have been submitted successfully," the statement mentioned.

Upon reaching the deadline of the "Preference-Change" window on October 16, the last saved preferences will be automatically locked and these will become the basis for determining the allocation lists.

"It must also be noted that in no way should the Simulated Ranks be construed as a warranty, express or implied, or creation of a legitimate expectation, for admission or final ranks and/or allocations of programme of study or college

whatsoever," it said.

On October 18, the varsity will announce the first list of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) and the candidates will be given a three-day window from October 19 to October 21 to "accept" the allocated seat. The colleges will be able to verify and approve the online applications from October 19 to October 22.

For the first round of CSAS allocation and admission, the last date for online payment of admission fees by the candidates will be October 24.

On October 25, the university will display vacant seats. Then the students will be given a three-day window to reorder higher preferences from October 25 to 27. The second allocation list will be announced on October 30.

The students will be given a two-day window from October 31 to November 1 to accept the allocated seat, the varsity said.

The college will verify and approve the online application from October 31 to November 2.

The last date for online payment of admission fees by the candidates is November 3.

AAP, BJP lock horns over Chhath spending

Delhi Govt to spend ₹25cr on 1,100 chhath puja ghats: Kejriwal; Provide list of all ghats, asks Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the occasion of Chhath Puja approaches, the Delhi Government has started preparations to make sure the festival is celebrated without any inconvenience.

Addressing a press conference, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced that the AAP Government would spend Rs 25 crore on 1100 chhath puja ghats for the festival, a festival popular largely among people purvanchali. Chhath puja celebrations would be held on October 30 and 31.

Reacting on the Kejriwal's announcement, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri has asked the AAP Government to provide a list of 1100 ghats in the national Capital. Citing a case of Badarpur, Bidhuri said



that around 100 colonies are in his constituency where only 23 temporary ghats are available for Chhath puja. Bidhuri further said that its revenue department responsibilities to provide basic amenities and connect it to public transport for Chhath.

"For the last two years, the festivities were affected by the pandemic," Kejriwal said while addressing a digital press conference. The Delhi chief minister also urged people to wear masks and observe all safety protocols while celebrating.

Kejriwal said Chhath would be celebrated on a grand scale after people were stuck at home for two years due to COVID-19. "Before we came to power, Chhath was a mere formality for the government. In 2014, there were barely 69 sites where Chhath was cele-

brated here in Delhi.

The government back then spent a mere 2.5 crores on it," said Kejriwal. "But, now, we will celebrate Chhath at a very large scale across 1,100 sites in Delhi. The Delhi Government will be bearing all the costs of this celebration, we have earmarked a budget of 25 crores for this purpose.

We know how people were desperate to worship Chhathi Maiyya with their community for the last two years. We have taken care of their emotions and made some special preparations to add to the celebrations," said Kejriwal.

"Among our core responsibilities, we have prioritised safety and security of every citizen. To make this possible, we will be raking in the help of Delhi Police and installing CCTVs all around our Chhath

Ghats. Besides this, like usual, we will be arranging for drinking water, sanitation, toilets, ambulances, first-aid, tents, furniture, sound systems, lighting, LED screens, among others," said Kejriwal. "Even though Delhi enjoys a 24x7 power supply, we will be arranging for power backup at all sites to ensure there's not a single hiccup in the festivities due to any fault or error," said Kejriwal.

"I take this moment to extend my advance greetings for Diwali, Chhath and all other festivals to the citizens of the country. I pray to Chhati Maiyya to bless us all. I appeal to all the citizens as well to not just seek blessings for their own selves and their families this time, but also keep the nation and the society in your prayers," said Kejriwal.

"At the same time please remember that even though the intensity of COVID-spread has decreased and fines have been withdrawn, COVID is still out there, please wear a mask when you set out to celebrate.

Our health is our own responsibility as well. We must all ensure that we don't fall sick due to any oversight," Kejriwal added.

'College to take up reinstatement of Saibaba on representation'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University's (DU) Ram Lal Anand College on Friday said its governing body will take up the matter of G N Saibaba's reinstatement as a faculty member, if there is a representation in this regard.

Saibaba was acquitted in a Maoist-links case by the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday. The court also ordered his immediate release from jail. The Supreme Court refused to stay the former DU professor's acquittal, while allowing the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to move an application for urgent listing.

The college terminated the services of Saibaba, who is wheelchair-bound, last year.

His wife, A S Vasantha Kumari, had described the college's decision as "witch-hunt" and alleged that it was a violation of an employee's rights. Asked whether Saibaba would be reinstated after his acquittal by the court, principal Rakesh Kumar Gupta said the college cannot take up the matter on its own.

"If we receive any representation, the matter will be presented to the governing body for discussions. Moreover, the matter regarding his termination is already in court," Gupta told PTI over the phone.

Saibaba, an assistant professor of English, was suspended after his arrest by the Maharashtra Police in 2014. His wife and daughter were receiving half the amount of his salary since his arrest. In March

2017, a sessions court in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district convicted Saibaba and others, including a journalist and a Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student, for their alleged Maoist links and indulging in activities amounting to waging war against the country.

The court had held Saibaba and the others guilty under various provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Overtaking the verdict, the high court noted that the trial court proceedings were "null and void" in the absence of a valid sanction under the UAPA and hence, its judgment was liable to be set aside and quashed.

Kejriwal should remove Italia, apologise to countrymen: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP leaders and workers including its Mahila Morcha activists staged a protest outside Aam Aadmi Party headquarters here on Friday, asking for removal of the AAP's Gujarat chief Gopal Italia. The AAP leaders have crossed all limits of decency as was exemplified by Italia through his "abusive" language targeting the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleged Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri.

"AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal should remove such leaders from the party and apologise to the countrymen for their foul language," Bidhuri said. The BJP leader said that Kejriwal did not once express resentment over the discourtesy of his workers and did not



stop them from doing so. On the contrary, he is promoting Gopal Italia on social media. "Kejriwal should expel Gopal

Italia and all other leaders like him from the party and apologise to the whole country for such comments. The people of

Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh will express their anger against the AAP in the upcoming elections," said LoP. On Friday, the

BJP sharpened its attack on the AAP and Kejriwal after Italia was heard purportedly mocking the prime minister's mother in a video, and said people of the state will make it pay for "abusing" her.

The video was shared from the official Twitter handle of Gujarat BJP and Union minister Smriti Irani, where Italia can be heard calling the PM 'neech aadmi' (a lowly person).

Hitting out at 'gutter mouth Gopal Italia', Irani said he has been "judged" and that "people will deliver justice".

"Arvind Kejriwal, gutter mouth Gopal Italia now abuse Hira Ba with your blessings. I proffer no outrage, I don't want to show how indignant Gujaratis are but know this you have been judged & your party shall be decimated electorally in Gujarat. Now the people will deliver justice," she tweeted.

FIR against IP varsity professor for impersonating LG

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered First Information Report (FIR) against an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department of the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU), for impersonating as the Lieutenant Governor (L-G), Vinai Kumar Saxena, for the appointment of a particular candidate in the university.

A call recommending appointment of a particular candidate in the university's English department was made to GGSIPU vice chancellor Mahesh Verma on September 30 by an unidentified person

impersonating the Lieutenant Governor. The VC contacted the L-G secretariat to ascertain the veracity of the call. He found that no such call was made following which the matter was reported to the police. An FIR was registered for impersonation at the Dwarka police station on October 2, Officials at Raj Niwas said. The recruitment exercise was later cancelled.

"To ascertain the veracity of the call, the verma contacted the Raj Niwas, which denied having made any such call and asked for the matter to be reported to Police immediately," official said.

Saxena has taken an

extremely serious view in this matter of impersonation and emphasized that it has never been his style of functioning to make calls or entertain any request whatsoever that involved out of turn favors, benefits or unethical practices, they stated. Accordingly, an FIR under Section 419 Indian Penal Code (IPC) for impersonation was registered at Police Station, Dwarka, North on October 2, 2022, they said.

The police investigation revealed that the impersonator identified as Rohit Singh, an Assistant Professor, had made the call, posing as the L-G, for the appointment of his sister Manvi Singh in the English

Department of the University, they informed.

"From the Call Detail Record (CDR) of the Vice Chancellor's landline number, it was revealed that the call was made from a United Kingdom (UK) based number. It was further established that the said UK number also had call interactions with mobile numbers belonging to the candidate, Manvi Singh and her father Rajpal Singh," sources said.

After the interrogation of the candidate and her father, it was confessed that the UK based number belonged to their brother/son Rohit Singh, who had proceeded to the UK on September 27, 2022.

MCD set to commission 9 multi-level parking

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is all set to commission nine multi levels parking lots having capacity of 4094 cars in the national Capital.

As per details shared by the civic body, six storey puzzle parking at Nizamuddin Basti with the capacity to park 86 cars and is likely to be completed in October 2022, while nine storey Shuttle Parking for 399 cars at M-Block Market Greater Kailash-1 is likely to be completed by June 2023. "Six Storey Puzzle parking for 81 cars at Amar Colony Lajpat

Nagar is likely to be completed by December 2022, six storeys Puzzle Parking at Punjabi Bagh Cremation Ground for 225 cars is expected to be completed by April 2023," the MCD said. "However, parking for 500 cars at Shiva Market Pritampura is likely to be completed by December 2022, Parking at Gandhi Maidan Chandni Chowk for 2338 cars is likely to be completed by Dec 2022, Parking at Qutub Road for 174 Cars is anticipated to be completed by November 2022," he said. SR

Govt to make Delhi pothole-free: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said that the city Government will make all roads under PWD pothole-free in the national Capital, within a week.

Incessant rains in the past two weeks have caused much damage to the roads in the capital, with potholes at several parts if the city posing a danger to people and commuters.

Sisodia said that to avoid any inconvenience to the commuters in Delhi, the Government has decided to get all the roads free from potholes soon. Sisodia has also directed the top officials of PWD to inspect all the roads under their jurisdiction immediately and get them repaired as soon as possible.

"Along with this, the PWD Minister has also directed the officials to submit the status report of the road maintenance works within a week," said a senior PWD official.

"Delhi has witnessed heavy rainfall in the past two weeks, which has caused much dam-



age to the roads across the capital. This is leading to inconvenience to the commuters. Taking cognizance of the situation, the government has directed the PWD officials to get the roads under their jurisdiction repaired and pothole free within a week," said Sisodia.

"About 1400 km of roads in Delhi are under PWD, whereas other roads are with MCD/ DDA/ NDMC/ NHAI etc. Thus, it is the responsibility of PWD to strengthen and maintain these 1400 km of roads regularly. The Delhi Government is committed to providing pothole-free roads to the people of Delhi with regular maintenance work," said Sisodia.

IGIA tension eases as call about bomb in flight proves hoax

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tensions' prevailed at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport after the Delhi Police received a call from international number about bomb on the flight coming from Moscow on Thursday night. However, the call was found to be hoax as no bomb

was found on the plane after it was searched thoroughly by the security agencies.

According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) call was received at around 11:15 PM that a flight which is coming from Moscow and scheduled to land at 3:20 AM, had a bomb in it. According to the police, the

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) received an e-mail warning of bombs on the flight on Thursday night. This comes after the Indian Air Force (IAF) had to scramble Su-30MKI fighter jets to shadow an Iranian Mahan Air flight following inputs from Lahore's Air Traffic Control (ATC) about a possible bomb threat, which

turned out to be false. The Mahan Air flight W581 was on its way from Tehran to Guangzhou in China when an alert was triggered. "Acting on the call, police team alerted the airport authorities, security agencies including bomb squad and reached the spot with all the necessary equipments to detect bomb," said a senior

police official. "At around 3:20 AM, the flight SU 232 (Moscow to Delhi) landed at runway number 29 and all 386 passengers and 16 crew members in it were evacuated safely," said the senior police official. "The plane was taken to a safe place at airport where security agencies along with the bomb squad check it. However, after check-

ing flight no bomb was found on it," said the official. "It was an International call which alerted them about bomb. Meanwhile police teams had also checked baggage of the passengers but there was no bomb," said the official adding that further investigation is going on and relevant authorities have been informed.

Tactical Urbanism trial launched at Signature Bridge to curb road crashes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to cut down road accidents in the city, Tactical Urbanism (TU) trial has been launched at the iconic Signature Bridge by the SaveLIFE Foundation (SLF) along with various local agencies in the national Capital.

The trial will end by November 6. Once the interventions are proven, they will be made permanent at the bridge which has reported 53 road crashes and 17 fatalities in the past three years since 2018.

TU trials test out urban design, transportation planning and infrastructural changes for improving road safety for all road users, especially the most vulnerable, like pedestrians, cyclists and other

non-motorised transport users, said CEO of SLF, Piyush Tewari.

He explained that as part of its Zero Fatality Corridor (ZFC) initiative, the foundation tests temporary urban design interventions to improve safety of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.

An essential component of these trials is road space redistribution to ensure modal equity, road geometrics modification, traffic channelisation, vehicular speed reduction, and the addition of pedestrian and cyclist safety infrastructure.

"The TU trial undertaken at the Signature Bridge includes the introduction of nine sets of Transverse Bar Markings (TBM) along the main carriageway of the bridge as a

speed calming measure. Made of thermoplastic markings, TBMs force motorists to reduce speed through a rumbling effect felt while they drive over them. Each set of TBMs comprise six bars that are 150 mm wide, 300 mm apart, and 5 to 7.5 mm high," Tewari added.

"In addition to the TBMs to reduce the speeds at the Approach/or Interchange Ends of the Signature Bridge, the TU trials also include the narrowing of merging and diverging angles and approach lanes, for the reduction of conflict points at the site. This month-long trial will end on November 6," he said.

Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairperson of the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, said, "Road

safety is a critical public safety issue and the Delhi Government is committed to continuously finding unique, innovative solutions for the same. The 'Tactical Urbanism' trials have been envisaged by DDC under its Delhi@2047 initiative, which leverages deep, sustained collaborations between government, civil society and private sector to realize Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's vision of making Delhi the no. 1 city in the world by 2047.

"The trials so far have proven that such low-cost solutions can have a significant impact by reducing the number of road crash fatalities on target sites and stretches to zero." Chandra Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner of

Police (DCP), Traffic (North and Central District), pinned hope on the trial as he said, "Ever since its inauguration, the Signature Bridge has experienced a high level of over speeding, especially of goods/ commercial vehicles and two-wheelers.

The speed limit in this section is 40 km/hr for HCVs and 60 km/hr for cars. This unsafe road practice is being witnessed round the clock, leading to multiple road crashes as per our data."

"The reduction of speed through the additional speed calming measures put in place during this trial will help reduce over-speeding and make the stretch safer for all road users visiting the Bridge," said the police official.



Centre rushes team to UP to curb dengue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of a sharp spike in dengue cases in Uttar Pradesh, particularly Firozabad, Agra and Etawah districts, the Centre on Friday rushed a six-member team to the northern State to help the authorities control and manage the vector-borne disease.

"Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to depute a high-level multi-disciplinary team to Uttar Pradesh to collaborate with the State Health Authorities in instituting public health measures for Dengue management in Firozabad, Agra and Etawah districts," said an official from the Ministry.

The six-member Central team comprises experts drawn from the National Centre for Disease Control, National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control and Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi, the official said.

The team shall work closely with the state health departments, take a stock of on ground situation and recom-



mend necessary public health interventions to manage the increasing cases of dengue being reported by the State.

In fact, dengue cases are on the rise in various parts of the country with 30,627 cases and 12 deaths this year until the end of August, according to the latest data by the union health ministry.

The burden is the highest in Karnataka (5,392), Tamil Nadu (3,396), Telangana (2,960), Maharashtra (2,927), Andhra Pradesh (2,309), Kerala (2,007), Odisha (1,745), Chhattisgarh (1,448) and Gujarat (1,212).

More than 1,455 cases of swine flu with 30 deaths have been reported this year in India. Maharashtra reported

the highest number (512 cases, 16 deaths), followed by Karnataka (283), Gujarat (205), Rajasthan (125), West Bengal (81), Goa (61) Telangana (38) and Delhi (12).

Noida-based consultant physician and family doctor Raman Kumar said that in recent times, he has been getting lots of dengue cases from the NCR region. "Those experiencing high fever, severe headaches, vomiting, nausea, and muscle and joint aches, must seek medical attention immediately.

When someone contracts dengue, their platelet count could drop below 50,000. This could lead to significant risks. Hence, the symptoms should not be ignored," he added.

Electoral bond plea needs detailed hearing: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday argued before the Supreme Court that the electoral bonds scheme is an absolutely transparent mode of political funding and it is impossible to get any black or unaccounted money through it.

"The methodology of receiving money has been so transparent. We will explain step by step. Now it is impossible to get any black or unaccounted money. It is the most transparent system. To say it affects democracy does not hold water," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, told a bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna.

The top court was hearing PILs by NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other petitioners. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for NGO, said this is a very interconnected issue which affects democracy. He said the matter should be heard urgently as electoral bonds are being issued just before every state election. Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of petitioners, said issue should be heard by a larger bench. The court said it would examine on December 6 whether a batch of

pleas challenging laws permitting funding of political parties through the electoral bond scheme should be referred to a larger bench.

The apex court said this is an important matter which requires detailed hearing and sought assistance of the Attorney General and Solicitor General in the matter.

Earlier, Bhushan had sought an urgent listing of PIL from the apex court on October 4 last year seeking a direction to the Centre not to open any further window for sale of electoral bonds during pendency of a case pertaining to funding of political parties and alleged lack of transparency in their accounts.

The NGO, in its fresh application filed in pending petition, had claimed that there is a serious apprehension that any further sale of electoral bonds before upcoming Assembly elections, including in West Bengal and Assam, would further increase illegal and illicit funding of political parties through shell companies.

On January 20 last year, the apex court had refused to grant interim stay on the 2018 Electoral Bonds Scheme and sought responses of Centre and poll body on an interim application by NGO seeking stay on the scheme.

Compensate children orphaned by Covid in 2 weeks: SC to Raj Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Rajasthan Government to pay compensation to children orphaned by Covid-19 within two weeks. A bench of Justices MR Shah and Sudhanshu Dhulia also ordered the State Government to furnish particulars to the State legal service authority with respect to rejected applications of the payment of ex-gratia assistance within two weeks.

The bench asked the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority to look into these applications and take appropriate decisions within four weeks thereafter.

"In so far as pending applications for compensation to orphans are concerned, we direct the state to make the payment to remaining applicants whose parents have died due to Covid within two weeks," the bench said. The Rajasthan Government informed the top court that 191 children, who

became orphans due to Covid, have been paid ex-gratia out of a total number of 718. On the issue of suicidal deaths, the counsel for the State Government also apprised the bench that at district level, 9,077 applications were received out of which 551 are pending, 8047 are sanctioned and 479 have been rejected.

The top court had earlier rapped the Rajasthan Government over its "unsatisfactory" affidavit enumerating steps on payment of ex-gratia to family members of those who died of COVID-19, and said it was not doing any charity.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal alleging Rajasthan is not adhering to the 2021 order directing states to pay ex-gratia of Rs 50,000 to the families of those who succumbed to the pandemic.

Bansal also sought directions to call for status reports from the State Legal Services Authorities with respect to enforcement of its orders.

IN SHORTS

MODI TO CHAIR CSIR SOCIETY MEETING

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Society here on Saturday. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said this is the third year of the CSIR Society and the meeting is of special significance as it marks 80 years of the establishment of the council.

ARMY CHIEF ANNOUNCES 'CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE'

New Delhi: Army Chief General Manoj Pande on Friday announced the setting up of a 'Chair of Excellence' at the United Service Institution of India (USI) in memory of Lt General P S Bhagat, who was the first Indian officer to have won the coveted Victoria Cross during the World War II.

DEFEXPO 2022: DRDO TO DISPLAY 430 PRODUCTS

New Delhi: The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) will display a wide range of 430 products encompassing the strategic and tactical weapon systems, defence equipment and technologies in DefExpo 2022 being organised in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from October 18-22, 2022.

India demands action after student stabbed in Australia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/SYDNEY

India has taken note of an incident of stabbing of one of its student in Australia in an alleged racial attack and is in touch with local authorities there, the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Friday. The student was identified as Shubham Garg, a native of Agra.

The suspect was arrested and India expects action taken against the perpetrators, ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said here. The Indian High Commission in Canberra and the consulate in Sydney are in close touch with the local authorities and a suspect is in custody, he said adding "It is a sad incident. He (Garg) is in a hospital and treatment is being done," Bagchi said.

"We expect that the matter is dealt with seriously and action is taken against the perpetrators," Bagchi said and

informed the Indian mission is also in touch with Garg's family members. It is also providing help in expediting their travel to Australia. Asked if it was a racial attack, the MEA spokesperson said, "I do not want to speculate, the focus is on his treatment."

The 28-year-old Indian student was stabbed multiple times in the face, chest and abdomen in Australia by a man who allegedly demanded cash, according to local media reports.

The incident took place at about 10.30 pm on October 6 as Garg walked along the Pacific Highway, the NSW Police Force said in a statement on Monday. The student was stabbed multiple times in the face, chest and abdomen. Police have arrested Daniel Norwood and the 27-year-old suspect is charged with attempted murder. Garg sought assistance from a nearby house before being taken to Royal North Shore Hospital. He

underwent surgery and remains there in a serious but stable condition, the NSW Police Force statement said. The emergency services were called. The North Shore Police Area Command attended and located the injured man and established a crime scene. Officers attached to North Shore Police Area Command have been investigating the stabbing and formed Strike Force Prosy, it said.

Following extensive inquiries by Strike Force Prosy detectives, a search warrant was executed on a home on the Pacific Highway at Greenwich at about 3.40 pm on Sunday.

Norwood, of Gosford, was arrested at the scene and was taken to Chatswood Police Station, where he was charged with one count of attempted murder after the alleged stabbing, the statement said.

A number of items were seized from the home and have been taken for forensic examination, it said.

SCO-RATS meet resolves to take joint measures to counter terror

New Delhi: Member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Friday decided on joint measures to meet the challenges posed by international terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan.

This resolve was undertaken at a council meeting here of the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) of the SCO. The meeting was attended by senior officials of all the member nations, including China and Pakistan.

India's Deputy National Security Advisor Dattatray Padsalgikar said the meeting also decided to organise a military exercise called "Solidarity-2023" next year.

It is likely to take place in China. Joint measures of the competent authorities of the member states of the SCO to

counter the challenges and threats posed by international terrorist organisations from the territory of Afghanistan were approved, Padsalgikar said at a media briefing. India hosted the meeting in its capacity as the chair of SCO-RATS. He said the meeting also considered the course of implementation of earlier decisions of SCO-RATS.

"The work plans of the SCO-RATS Executive Committee, as well as the activities of the group of technical experts of the competent authorities of the SCO member states, expert groups in the areas of border cooperation and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist, separatist and extremist purposes were approved," Padsalgikar said. PNS

'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' launched for public to donate for martyrs' kin

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched a website "Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot" (MBKS) to enable the public to contribute for the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (AFBCWF).

Amittabh Bachchan, who is the Goodwill Ambassador, expressed his gratitude towards the families of our fallen heroes and exhorted citizens to come forward and contribute to the fund.

Rajnath launched the website during a function organized here at the National War Memorial Complex. "This program is dedicated to our heroes. Our country is safe because of their sacrifice. Whether it is to win wars or fight for India's integrity or counter terrorist activities from across the border, our armed forces have responded to challenges with great enthusiasm.



"We cannot repay what soldiers have done; it is our moral and national duty to help families of martyrs, injured bravehearts. In the journey of India's growth, people should not think of them as free riders, but responsible riders," Singh said.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), three Services chiefs, Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (retired), Honorary Captain Yoginder Singh Yadav, Param Vir Chakra

(Retired), Honorary Captain Sanjay Kumar, Param Vir Chakra and Olympic Gold medal winner Subedar Neeraj Chopra were among the participants at the function.

The AFBCWF is a tri-service fund utilised for grant of immediate financial assistance of ex-gratia to the families of our soldiers who lay down their lives or get grievously injured in active military operations. PNS

2 Indians, including Balaji Telefilms' ex-COO, go missing in Kenya in July

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said that it is in continuous touch with the Kenyan authorities after two Indian nationals, including Balaji Telefilms's ex-COO, went missing in the country in mid July. "I am afraid they are still missing," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

"The two Indian nationals - Zulfiqar Ahmad Khan (ex-COO) and Zaid Sami Kidwai - have been missing in Kenya since mid-July. A police complaint was filed there soon after that.

Subsequently, a habeas corpus petition was filed in Kenyan court," Bagchi told the

media. "The issue is now sub-judice in the high court of Kenya, a number of hearings have taken place. Our High Commission has been in continuous touch with the Kenyan authorities. We are also in touch with some family members. We are keeping a close eye, I'm afraid they're still missing," he added.

Khan stepped down as the COO in May this year. Described by his family as an avid traveller and explorer, he went on a holiday to Kenya and was due to return on July 24. However, his family lost contact with him from July 21 and he hasn't been seen or heard since then. PNS

Medicines must show cost price and MRP: ADEH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Alleging rampant malpractices in the existing pricing system of the medicines that leaves patients high and dry, a group of health experts from the Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare (ADEH) has suggested that all medicines must bear the cost price and minimum retail price (MRP) so as to make the profit margin transparent and help reduce out of pocket expenditure.

"All the chemicals which are labeled as medicines should be included in the list of essential medicines because medicines are not a choice of the patient. They are decided by



the doctors as per the requirement of a particular patient," said Dr G S Grewal, former president of Punjab Medical Council (PMC) and member of the ADEH.

The ADEH members recently met Kamlesh Kumar Pant, Chairman of the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing

Authority (NPPA) in this regard and expressed concern that "as out of pocket expenditure on drugs is a major spending on the healthcare, it is important that the prices of medicines/medical devices are streamlined and exorbitant trade margin is taken off."

They also brought to the notice of the NPPA head about the recent concerns of the Supreme Court, "as highlighted in the case of pricing of 'Dolo' that has affirmed the seriousness of the issue. "The issues in concern are trade margins in drugs, price of Generic Vs Branded drugs and MRP vs basic price," pointed out Dr Arun Mitra from ADEH and former chairman of

the ethical committee of the PMC. In some cases the same salt is sold at much different prices under different trade names. There is an exorbitant difference between the basic price of the drug and MRP in the case of generic (branded generics)," Dr Mitra added. "This is totally unjustified and promotes malpractice.

The generics sold in our country are in fact branded generics, Dr Grewal chipped in, adding that all the branded medicines should be sold with the chemical/pharmacological name only. "The name of the company is mentioned on the cover separately. There should be no trade names," asserted Dr Grewal.



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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Notice for sale of immovable asset

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Pooja Tiwari (Borrower), Shivam Tiwari (Co-Borrower) LBGHZ00005051413	Flat No 1093, 3rd Floor, New LIG Flats Kondli Gharoli Mayur Vihar Phase- III Delhi. Area 301.38 Sq.Ft	Rs. 25.01, 870.07 (as on 12th Oct, 2022)	Rs. 21,60,000/- Rs. 2,16,000/-	Oct 27, 2022 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM	November 7, 2022 from 11 AM to 12 Noon

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexSen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>)** The Mortgages/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **November 5, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at: **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005** on or before **November 5, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **November 5, 2022 before 05:00 P.M** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at: **ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005** on or before **November 5, 2022 before 05:00 P.M**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited On 9372730494/ 7304914763**

Please note that Marketing agencies **1. M/s NexSen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augoe Asset Management Pvt Ltd** have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **www.icicibank.com/n4p4s**

Date : October 15, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

INDIAN INSTITUTIONS EARNING GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Many nations approaching India for setting up IITs: Pradhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Friday said many developing and developed nations are approaching the Indian Government for setting up IIT campuses in their countries. Asserting that the institutions are earning global recognition, Pradhan said these are no longer just Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) but have become instruments of transformation.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the two-day research fair InvenTiv at IIT-Delhi being collectively organised by 23 IITs, Pradhan said, "Many developing and developed nations are approaching the Indian government for setting up IIT campuses in their countries at their own cost. I feel proud that India's collective wisdom in experimenting with IITs is earning global recogni-

tion." "We have to stop benchmarking IITs based on placement packages. IITs should redefine parameters and benchmark on the number of innovations brought in the market, innovations monetised, and the number of job creators created," the Minister said. The event was also attended by Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairperson Bharti Enterprises, as the Guest

of Honour, accompanied by Dr. Pawan Goenka, Chairman, Steering Committee InvenTiv; Dr. BVR Mohan Reddy, Co-Chairman, Steering Committee InvenTiv; and Dr. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director IIT Bombay, and Convener, Steering Committee InvenTiv.

Stressing that technology will drive the next phase of growth and development with Information Technology and

communications technology among the frontrunners, the minister said the world today will invest more vigorously on India. "India's talent, digital-first attitude, market size, emerging purchasing power and growing aspirations is a heady mix to take India forward at an unprecedented speed and scale. Our IITs should seize this opportunity," he added.

Pradhan highlighted that the Covid pandemic has shown us what happens when technology-driven research commits itself to service of human race. Citing development of Indian vaccines within a short period to stress that it not only benefitted Indians but millions of people around world, Pradhan told conference, "It has all been possible because of brilliant minds like yours."

These are the signs of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', he noted, adding there is a need to encourage the relationship of

Academic research and development, new-age technology, the industry and society, even more, to take research and innovation to the zenith so that no one is left behind.

Pradhan said in the 'Amrit Kaal', the 25 years identified by the government till the centenary of India's Independence, the country would be propelled by innovations at the grassroots level and it would seek the participation of all, especially the rural sector. "InvenTiv shall be the start of such a revolution and emerge as a key forum which will provide solutions to complex global problems," he stressed.

The fair is being organized in commemoration of the 75th year of India's Independence in line with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative. It has brought over 300 representatives from industry, including startups, along with government, and embassy officials, and IIT alumni.

60 madrasas took foreign aid flouting FCRA: UP survey

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Instances of unregulated foreign funding to private madrasas have been detected during the State-wide survey. In Prayagraj district, 60 private madrasas are running without obtaining permission/approval from the competent authority. These madrasas are also the beneficiary of donations from off-shore sources in flagrant violation of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 (FCRA) amended in 2020. The madrasas in Prayagraj

received Rs 9.68 crore from foreign sources. The Supreme Court has upheld the amendment made to the act in 2020. The FCRA amendment introduces changes on how non-Governmental organisations/institutions can receive and process foreign funding. The amendment prohibits the transfer of foreign contributions from recipient organisations to other persons or organisations. The apex court upheld the requirement that FCRA accounts must be opened in the State Bank of India, New Delhi

as this would ensure more effective monitoring by the government and transparency and accountability on the part of the beneficiary of the foreign contribution. A total of 6,436 unrecognised madrasas have been identified in the state so far, and the survey has been completed in 5,170 madrasas, according to UP Minority Welfare Minister Dharampal Singh. The minister also said that the time period for the survey of unrecognised madrasas of the state had been extended till October 20. "The data of the survey will



be made available to the government by November 15 by the district magistrates. The last date has been extended as some reports were not received," the minister said and added, "The survey work

magistrates after which the ADMs will present the consolidated statements to the district magistrates. As a political row has erupted over the survey, Dharampal Singh clarified that this survey is being conducted to ensure the quality and better education for the children of minority communities. Earlier, the UP government had declared to conduct a survey of unrecognised madrasas to ascertain information on the number of students, teachers, curriculum and affiliation with any non-government organisation.

The survey is being conducted to ensure basic facilities for the students of madrasas. Minister of State for Minority Welfare and Waqf, Danish Azad Ansari, had said earlier that the survey order also holds to give maternity leave and child care leave to women employees of madrasas in the light of the rules applicable in the Secondary Education and Basic Education departments. The Uttar Pradesh government's decision to survey unrecognised madrasas received pushback from Muslim organisations such as

All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi who labeled it a "mini NRC (National Register of Citizens). Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has also criticised the Government's move. But the Samajwadi Party, one of whose main vote base is the Muslim community, has been conspicuous by its silence while the Congress called for the survey to also include Shishu Mandirs and montessori schools.

Andheri Assembly bypoll: BJP's Patel, Uddhav-led Sena's Latke file papers

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



With the Eknath Shinde-led by "Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena" backing out the electoral fray, its ruling ally BJP fielded Murji Patel as its candidate against Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's candidate Rutuja Latke, wife of late Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke, for the November 3 Andheri East Assembly by-poll. Despite having waged a battle before the Election Commission over the party's name and its symbol for the by-poll, Shinde-led Shiv Sena let its ally BJP field Murji Patel -- who had contested the 2019 Assembly polls as an independent against Ramesh Latke in the 2019 Assembly polls and lost-- as its candidate. A day after the Bombay

High Court directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to accept the resignation tendered by its employee Rutuja, the BMC relieved her from job as a clerk at around 11 am on Friday, prompting the latter to file her nomination for the Andheri (east) by-polls. Similarly, BJP's Murji Patel filed his nomination for the by-poll. Both the Shiv Sena-led MVA and BJP- Shinde-led Sena took out morchas in the city before filing their respective nominations. Today was the last day for filing of nominations. The Andheri (East) by-

poll has been necessitated by sitting Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke's death. Rutuja Latke is the widow of Ramesh Latke who passed away on May 11, 2022. Latke was a Shiv Sena MLA before the party split in June this year in the wake of rebellion by the MLAs led by current chief minister Eknath Shinde. Informed sources in the Shinde-led "Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena" said that new party backed out of the electoral race as it did not have adequate party base in Andheri (East) constituency, that it feared whether it would be able to reach out its new party symbol to the electorate, that being the widow of sitting Ramesh Latke, Rutuja enjoyed sympathy among others and that it did not want to lose its maiden elections.

UP Min's nephew held for trying to ram car into workers for refusing to serve him

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The nephew of an Uttar Pradesh Minister was finally arrested, allegedly for trying to ram his car into a group of restaurant workers for refusing to serve him, police said on Friday. The Minister's nephew was earlier booked for making an attempt on the lives of hotel staff besides damaging the hotel's property. Bareilly's Superintendent of Police (City) Rahul Bhatti, on Friday, confirmed to media persons that during the probe into the incident, they arrested the accused, Amit Kumar Saxena, on Thursday evening. While Saxena was arrested, his two aides have been detained, he added.

TMC terms Adhikari remark 'Didi trying to drive Hindus out of State' communal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Fresh war of words ensued between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP with the former slamming Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari for "making communal statements," after he alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was trying to drive Hindus away from certain parts of Kolkata in order to pursue her votebank politics. "The whole world knows how BJP introduced communalism in India... They are a party which is trying to divide Bengal on the line of communal politics... They tried to do so in the last year's Assembly elections but suffered a humiliating defeat ... Now they are trying to ignite

communal disturbances by taking advantage of some stray incidents," party leader Kunal Ghosh said. His comments came hours after Adhikari alleged that the CM was planning to drive away the Hindus from Mominpur, Khidderpore and Iqbalpur areas. Days after clashes broke out between two communities at Mominpur-Iqbalpur area when several houses and other properties were vandalised Adhikari alleged police inaction saying "Mamata wants to remove the Hindus from Mominpur, Iqbalpur and Khidderpore because they

vote for the BJP ... This is why no action is being taken on the miscreants who destroyed their properties." This was a part of Banerjee's votebank politics where she appealed a particular community at the cost of the other, he said. The TMC leadership hit back saying, "Adhikari has been a powerful TMC minister and a leader since 2007 till 2021 when he joined the BJP to save ED, CBI glare ... Does it mean that he had been pursuing the same policy of minority appeasement." Meanwhile, in a related development Mamata warned the BJP Government against using the agencies against the Opposition leaders saying, "You will not be in power for ever... Today you are using the agencies against your opponents ..."

2,070 cattle die due to Lumpy Skin Disease in Karnataka

PTI ■ BENGALURU

As many as 2,070 cattle have died due to the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Karnataka, while about 19,000 are affected, the state government said on Friday. Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has ordered releasing Rs 13 crore for the treatment and vaccination of cattle suffering from this viral disease and also to provide relief to those who lost their cattle due to it. He instructed officials to intensify the vaccination drive, especially in Haveri and Kolar districts where the prevalence is high, a government statement said. "This disease has been noticed in 4,380 villages of 160 taluks in 28 districts. Of the total 45,645 cattle afflicted by this disease, 26,135 have recovered and 2,070 have died," the statement said. It added that Rs two crore had already been released as the compensation for those who lost cattle. "An additional Rs five crore will be released towards the treatment of diseased cattle and Rs eight crore for vaccinating them," the statement said.

Make Bharat Jodo Yatra a grand success: Maha Cong

PTI ■ PALGHAR

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole urged party workers to make party leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra a grand success in Maharashtra. Speaking at a gathering at Vasai in Palghar district on

Thursday, Patole appealed to Congress workers and local leaders to come out in the open and tell people about the government's failures, and convert the Bharat Jodo Yatra into a mass movement. Over the last one month, the Congress has embarked on a 3,570 km journey across the

12 states of the country eyeing a political and electoral revival. The state Congress chief said whenever party leader Rahul Gandhi travels to one place during the yatra, local leaders and workers in other districts should simultaneously take out marches in their respective areas and tell



people about the government's failures. "The government sitting

in Delhi has triggered price rise and unemployment and forced farmers to commit suicide," Patole said, terming the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as Gabbar Singh Tax due to the fear attached to it. The Congress leader further alleged that the Maharashtra chief minister

and his deputy were not running the government in the state, but it is being run from Delhi. Speaking about the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project, Patole claimed that while the lions share was in Gujarat, the neighbouring state had invested a very small amount in it.

"Citizens need to be alert, or else their land will be grabbed for the project without due compensation. We will not allow the land of tribals and non-tribals in Palghar to be looted," he said, offering to participate in a non-violent agitation over land acquisition.

Priyanka sounds poll bugle in Himachal Pradesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SHIMLA



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Friday launched the party's election campaign in Himachal Pradesh by promising to take a decision for providing one lakh jobs and restoring the old pension scheme in the very first Cabinet meeting if the Congress was voted to power. She was addressing the 'Parivartan Pratigya Rally' in Solan just a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the hill state where he launched a slew of development projects in Una and Chamba. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Congress' Himachal unit president Pratibha Singh, Leader of Opposition in Himachal Assembly Mukesh Agnihotri, the party's election campaign committee chairperson Sukhvinder Sukhu, senior leader Rajeev Shukla and

Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly Pratap Singh Bajwa also addressed the rally. Priyanka has earlier shouldered electoral responsibilities in Uttar Pradesh and Assam is likely to lead the election campaign in Himachal as her sibling and former party chief Rahul Gandhi is engaged in his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra, which has now completed almost a month. Priyanka also alleged that 63,000 posts were lying vacant in the state but unemployed youths had not been provided jobs. She promised that five lakh jobs would be provided to unemployed youths in five years and announced a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 to women to help raise the standard of living.

Stones hurled in Kasganj after two communities clash over minor issue

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A dispute between a priest and a youth of another community led to a communal clash in which members of two communities hurled stones at each other and also damaged some shops at Yoga Marg on Lehra Road in Soron area of Kasganj on Friday afternoon. The situation was brought under control only after senior officers rushed to the spot with a heavy police force and chased away the troublemakers. Later in protest, the supporters of the priest got the local markets closed forcibly and demanded action against the opposite party. This was the third incident in this week when the members of two communities clashed with each other resulting in communal tension. Earlier, similar clashes were reported from Sultanpur and Gonda and over three dozen people were arrested in both the districts. According to the reports

from Kasganj, a priest, identified as Prashant Krishna Shastri Mahre of Chhattarpur locality in Soron area of Kasganj, had gone to visit Batuknath temple on Lehra Road by a motorcycle on Friday noon. As he passed a tractor parked on the road near Yoga Marg, splashes of dirty water accumulated on the road fell on one Shahzad of the same area.

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow- 226007
(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
SUMMONS FOR FILING & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION
O.A. No. 38/2022
Date : 10/10/2022
[Summons to defendant under section 19(3) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)]
Original Application No. 38/2022
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...Applicant
Versus
TARUN RAJ PATEL AND OTHERS ...Defendants
To, Defendants:
1. **TARUN RAJ PATEL**
S/o **RAM DULARE PATEL**
R/o Flat No. C8/19, Sr. No. 21/1, Pleasant Park-2, Off Solahpur Road, Fatima Nagar, Fun and Fame Cinema, Pune- 411013
Also At : D0602, Floor No.06, Tower D, Spring View Heights, Ghaziabad- 201001, U.P.
2. **VANDANA UMRAO W/o TARUN RAJ PATEL**
R/o Flat No. C8/19, Sr. No. 21/1, Pleasant Park-2, Off Solahpur Road, Fatima Nagar, Fun and Fame Cinema, Pune- 411013
3. **SARE SAAMAG REALTY PVT. LTD.**
Registered Office at : B-67, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi- 110076
In the above noted application, you are required to file in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorised agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 22/12/2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

FORM NO. 5 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)
Summons for Filing Reply & Appearance by Publication
O.A. No. 213/2022
Date : 22.09.2022
[Summons to defendant under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)]
ICICI BANK LTD. ...Applicant
Versus
Mr. Vinay Kumar & Others ...Defendants
To, Defendants:
1) **Mr. Vinay Kumar**, Son of Shri Sohan Lal Gupta, Resident of D-226, Ramprastha, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.)-201011.
ALSO- At Priya Prasad Abhushan Mandir Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. GC-2, Shop No.22, AIG Park Avenue Gaur City GR, Noida (U.P.)-201308.
ALSO- Plot No. 151, Block-C, Sector-122, Guatam Budhha Nagar, Noida (U.P.) 201301.
2) Mrs. Neha Gupta W/o Mr. Vinay Kumar, Resident of D-226 Ramprastha, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P.)-201011.
ALSO- Plot No. 151, Block-C, Sector-122, Guatam Budhha Nagar, Noida (U.P.) 201301.
3) Mr. Kush Gupta Resident of D-226 Ramprastha, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P.) 201011.
ALSO- Plot No. 151, Block-C, Sector-122, Guatam Budhha Nagar, Noida (U.P.) 201301.
4) Priya Prasad Abhushan Mandir Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. GC-2, Shop No.22 AIG Park Avenue Gaur City G.N., Noida (U.P.)-201308.
ALSO- Plot No. 151, Block-C, Sector-122, Guatam Budhha Nagar, Noida (U.P.) 201301.
In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly the authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 25.11.2022 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. **VEHICLES FOR SALE**

1) **MAHINDRA FURIO REG. NO. UP14HT8805-YOM 2019**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 338600
2) **TATAMOTORS TATAXENON REG. NO. HR55AG3807-YOM-2019**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 203502
3) **TATAMOTORS LPT1412 REG. NO. HR38AA1748-YOM - 2019**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 558907
4) **TATAMOTORS LPT909CH REG. NO. DL1MA3043-YOM-2019**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 382767
5) **SWRJ MAZDA SM SARTAJ REG. NO. DL1LAA6846-YOM -2018**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 274068
6) **SWRJ MAZDA SM SARTAJ REG.NO. DL1LAA6811-YOM -2018**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 274068

7) **TATAMOTORS T1518FBGD REG.NO. UP14HT4779-YOM -2018**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 497786
8) **TATAMOTORS TLPT1109CT REG. NO. UP16GT0480-YOM -2019**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 530115
9) **SML SMLSARTAJ REG. NO. DL1LAC1870-YOM-2019**
MINIMUM RESERVE PRICE 361314
10) **TATAMOTORS T1518CBGD REG. NO. UP14GT7298-YOM -2017**
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ICICI BANK LTD VS VINOD, CS No. 389/2018	Vehicle No. UP16DT5090, Make and Model- TATA MOTORS LTDSPURR ACE, Manu Year -2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS VIPUL VOHRA, CS SCJ No. 151/19	Vehicle No. DL1RTA6383, Make and Model- WAGON R LXI CNG, Manu Year -2016
ICICI BANK LTD VS MOHAN BROS NIZAMUDDIN, C.S. (COMM) 1757/19	Vehicle No. UP16DT2235 and UP16DT2232 Make and Model- TRAVELLER 26 PLUS D WB 4020, Manu Year -2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS SUCHETA SHARMA, CS.(C) 2700 OF 19	Vehicle No. DL12CK7439, Make and Model- MARUTI UDYOG LTD WAGON R, Manu Year -2016
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ICICI BANK LTD VS SUNDER, CS - 3033/17	Vehicle No. HR55W0272, Make and Model- TATA ACE, Manu Year -2015

Auction Date: October 25, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
ICICI BANK LTD VS PLANMAN HR PVT LTD, O.A.No.279 of 2020
Vehicle No. DL4CAQ9000, Make and Model- LAND ROVER, Manu Year-2011. Reserve Price: Rs. 9,00,000/-, EMD Amount: Rs. 90,000/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS AJAY DHARIWAL, O.A No. 434/2018
Vehicle No. DL1RTA6924, Make and Model- MARUTI UDYOG LTDSWIFT DZIRE, Manu Year -2016. Reserve Price: Rs.1,40,000/-, EMD Amount: Rs14,000/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS RAJNI, OA No. 131/2021
Vehicle No. DL8CAR9164, Make and Model- BMWV, Manu Year -2017. Reserve Price: Rs. 27,00,000/-, EMD Amount: Rs. 2,70,000/-

Auction Date: November 02, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec-17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
ICICI BANK LTD VS ASLAM KHA, CS (Comm) No.3444 of 2021
Vehicle No. UP14HT7751, Make and Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTD PARTNER, Manu Year -2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS RASHID ALI, CS (Comm) No 1695/2022
Vehicle No. UP14JT1112, Make and Model - TATA MOTORS LTDLPT 909, Manu Year - 2019

Auction Date: October 25, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahakal Parking yard, Kharsa No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant, Loc Ghazabad-UP, 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
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The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and EMD (wherein applicable) to participate in the auction. DD/PO of EMD amount is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi. Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the payment of remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount (wherein applicable) will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit ICICI Bank Ltd, Shal Towers, Plot No. 23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh Delhi- 110005 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

Teams will monitor social media for fake news, says EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Announcing the poll dates for Assembly seats in Himachal Pradesh, the Election Commission on Friday said its teams will constantly monitor social media platforms to check fake news in the upcoming assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh and respond immediately as it asserted it will not hesitate in taking criminal action wherever required. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said the panel has "established social media teams to keep strict vigil on fake news being spread during elections. Social media will be monitored constantly and any fake news would be acted upon immediately penal actions can be taken too".

Himachal would vote party to power again, says BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The BJP on Friday welcomed the Election Commission's announcement of Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh saying they are all geared up for the November 12 polling and hoped that the people of the State would 'bless' the party again. BJP's national president J P Nadda appealed to the people to elect a Government which contributes to the State's progress. "Election is the biggest celebration of democracy. It is a medium to keep the country and the state on the path of development and good governance," Nadda said after the announcement of the poll in his home state. In his reaction to the poll announcement Union Minister Anurag Thakur, who also hails from Himachal, said,

"Our government in Himachal Pradesh has done a lot of good work in the state. The people of the state also think that our double-engine govt (Centre & state) has done all-round development in the state. I'm confident that the people of HP will again bless BJP". Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur said that a strong election campaign would be undertaken by the party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nadda and Union home minister Amit Shah are to visit the state for campaigning and that the BJP would win the polls, he said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Siren Song

Acquittal of Saibaba shows the consequences of departure from the due process of law

The acquittal of Prof GN Saibaba, a 90 per cent disabled, wheelchair bound convict, raises several questions about policing, the justice system, and political interference in criminal investigation. The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on October 14, 2022, quashed the case against him and five others and released them. One of the convicts died of swine flu in August. The Sessions Court at Gadchiroli had punished Saibaba with life imprisonment for his alleged association with the proscribed outfit, the Communist Party of India (Maoist), under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). The remarks made by the High Court go beyond this particular case in which a group of people suffered for years because of shoddy investigation and miscarriage of justice. “The Siren Song that the end justifies the means, and the procedural safeguards are subservient to the overwhelming need to ensure that the accused is prosecuted and punished, must be muzzled by the voice of Rule of Law. Any aberration shall only be counter-productive, since empirical evidence suggests that departure from the due process of law fosters an ecosystem in which terrorism burgeons and provides fodder to vested interests whose singular agenda is to propagate false narrative,” the judgment mentions. The overwhelming need to ensure that the accused is prosecuted and punished arises when those responsible for bringing the culprit to book are more interested in pleasing their superiors than serving the cause of justice.



When that happens, the rule of law gets replaced with the rule of men and women—that is, the men and women holding high offices. This is the surest sign of descent into medieval horrors, when the law enforcers paid fealty to their feudal masters. The fealty was personal, binding the oath taker to blindly follow the orders of his lord and master. Modern times are different—at least in our country. We have a written Constitution; cops, ministers, etc., take oath to uphold the Constitution, not to protect or further the interests of any person, however powerful they may be. If that oath is not respected in letter and spirit, which might have happened in this case, there can be, in the words of the High Court, departure from the due process of law. This has other consequences as well. It is a well-known fact that Maoists are a threat to internal security; they believe in the violent ideology—political power flows from the barrel of the gun—their ideological guru, Mao Zedong, taught. They have killed thousands of security personnel and citizens over the decades. But when innocent people are victimised in the name of fighting Maoism, the war on Leftwing extremism suffers a setback. For now, action against even real Maoists may appear suspect. Just as political abuse of the Enforcement Directorate can remove the difference between the actual money launderers and political targets. It is time the political class worked to strengthen the rule of law.



Soldiers take oath after the end of their training at 39 Gorkha Training Centre in Varanasi

Reinvent or perish

The mega Bollywood films are tanking at the box office, thanks to the ‘boycott Bollywood’ campaign

Hindi cinema aka Bollywood is having one of the biggest crises ever. Its megastar movies are crashing at the box office. Despite the stardom of larger-than-life stars, its movies are unable to attract crowds to the theatre. This is worrisome for the industry which though unorganized employs lakhs of people and crores in revenue to the government. It is not of course the first time that Bollywood is facing a crisis which could be its undoing. It faced a similar crisis when television reached India’s nook and corner and showed films from Bollywood, then came VCR in the eighties that again showed Bollywood movies but outside theatres. Then came the OTT. It survived them all. But the present crisis is different, it is not technical but intrinsic. Its films are on one hand losing the sheen of storytelling and on the other, there is a boycott Bollywood campaign run by the right wing which wants to kill the industry dominated by Muslim stars and has storylines which they feel are anti-Hindu and depict Hindu gods and their customs in an unsavory manner. They resort to social media and trend hashtags boycotting the new releases.

This of course not only hurts the film but the whole industry and spells hardships of lakhs of casual labourers working day and night on creating sets, providing logistics, lighting, operating cranes, and what have you. This is axing your own feet as right-wing BJP government is already under duress to provide jobs. Low collection means lesser films and lesser employment. Prime Minister Modi once said that casual employment is a big relief for the country, a person frying pakoras is indeed employed. So are the casual workers in the film industry. Though on a separate note it is high time for Bollywood to reinvent itself and come up with stories that are appealing and treatment of the story is such that is liked by today’s generation and gets good critic ratings and claps in the cinema hall. It also needs to cut the flab and spends the budget judiciously so that the chances of recovery are better. It is not that people have lost interest in Indian cinema. South Indian cinema is doing pretty well and getting a very good response for its film like ‘KGF-2’, ‘Pusha’, dubbed in Hindi. Bollywood needs to understand the change in people’s taste and and make films that would be to their liking and then no boycott campaign would work.

Humanity needs to go vegetarian!

Nature designed humans to be vegetarian. It is healthier and environment friendly to switch to vegetarianism

Humans eating animal meat began in the miasma of time, when man had not learned how to grow the grain, vegetable, or fruit he desired. In short, when he knew no agriculture at all. Yet, in many places animals might have lived nearby and therefore, easy to catch and kill. To make his food tastier, and easily accessible, he took to meat-eating. I say, man, because it is my impression that women crave less meat than men. This is so in India and impressions gathered in Europe. This could be due to traditions that began with a man going out to hunt while the woman stayed at home.

There is no doubt that nature meant humans to be vegetarian; or else, their teeth would not be flat, unlike those of the carnivores, which have long, canine teeth, which are very helpful in tearing into the flesh of other animals. The elephant, rhinoceros, cow, horse, and buffalo all have flat teeth and have remained vegetarian, unlike many a human. It was not a question of nutrition, protein, or muscle. The vegetarian animals named above all live off the grass, leaves, and other non-meat fare. Yet, they are all strong, muscular, and healthy to the extent desired. The explanation probably would be that the digestive system of the natural vegetarian would find protein or some similar nutrient that provides the elephant and the rhino with the strength and muscle that it has. This phenomenon is demonstrated in the human world as well, where there are champion wrestlers, who are vegetarians, as well as other sportsmen and sportswomen. Yet, it is a popular belief that meat-eaters are naturally stronger and more muscular than their vegetarian counterparts. The argument is that the protein from meat is more really transferred to the human body than from the lentil or dal.

In my view, the cruelest side of meat-eating can be imagined if one were to imagine or realize that someone has killed his/her child merely to eat its meat. This



argument of mine has been countered once or twice, by posing a counter-argument that the modern way of delivering meat is to produce it from a piggery; pigs are bred, fattened, and then slaughtered for delivery to the market. My reaction has been that life is a life, no matter how it is born and bred. From the point of view of food, it must be remembered that the animal, before being slaughtered, consumes 900 kilos of vegetation and grains before delivering a hundred kilograms of meat. These figures are merely to illustrate that the ratio of meat and grain is 9:1. Fearing a possible food shortage next year, the Indian government has prohibited any export of wheat.

The caution stems from the egregious climate change, causing unpredictable changes in the sequence of seasons. In some areas of the globe, there have been flash floods, with cities and their surroundings suffering floods. There have been widespread droughts in other regions of the world. Both the phenomena, flood, and drought will be a hindrance to normal food production. This makes avoiding meat-eating vital. One either saves



THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS SET TO RISE ABOVE 9 BILLION BY THE YEAR 2050. A MEAT-EATING LIFE UNDENIABLY MEANS THAT WE ARE GOBBLING UP THE EARTH'S RESOURCES FASTER THAN WE CAN REPLENISH THEM

nine kilos of wheat by avoiding meat or consumes a disproportionately large quantity of food grain for obtaining only a kilo of meat. By voluntarily opting for a vegetarian diet instead of a palate of animal meat, human beings can drastically reduce the amount of land, water, and oil they consume and the amount of population they cause to the planet. Most estimates tell us that a vegetarian diet means 2.5 times fewer carbon emissions than a meat diet. Other examples too, serve as illustrations of this fact. By eating vegetarian food for a year, we can save roughly the same amount of emissions as a family keeping a small car off the road for six months can.

The world's population is set to rise above 9 billion by the year 2050. A meat-eating life undeniably means that we are gobbling up the earth's resources faster than we can replenish them. At our current rate of consumption, which certainly includes non-vegetarian food, we shall need three planets to be able to sustain our current levels of living. Where will we find them?

For a Hindu, his/her universe includes all living beings. To kill an animal is murder, big or small. To do so,



PRAFULL GORADIA

merely to enjoy a sumptuous meal, is considered heinous. The resulting bhagya (fate) of such a karma would be drastic. The average individual does not think things out. The crime, therefore, is beyond the average person's imagination.

In the Hindu ethos, the soul is an entity that keeps transmigrating from one living being to another through an endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. This is the reason a Hindu is not easily driven to kill another being, even birds and animals. Hinduism is arguably the only way of life that worships animals and plants. Western faiths which were born in the desert with lesser vegetarianism have lesser regard for animal life. But even the Western world is gradually realizing the karmic interconnectedness. Globally too, the realization is growing that genuine peace and a cessation of human conflict are not possible without compassion for all living beings. Turning to a vegetarian way of life is the simplest yet most effective way of achieving this goal.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS GOES TO...

Sir — The trio Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond, and Philip Dybvig won this year's Economics Nobel Prize for their research on banks and financial crisis and offer solutions to tackle the same. Taking a cue from The Great Depression of the 1930s, Ben Bernanke as Chairman of the Federal Reserve between 2006 and 2014 even bailed the U.S. out of the severe crisis by going the extra mile to try and save the banking and financial system from collapsing.

The Diamond Dyllovig model lays out the asset-liability mismatch inherent in banking with businesses needing loans well into the future and households saving on a much shorter time frame. There are some important lessons to learn from this groundbreaking research that finally won the trio the coveted Nobel Prize. An important outcome of their research was the fact that it brought center stage the Indispensability of bank regulation and why avoiding a bank collapse is vital to sustaining the economic health of the economy, especially in times of grave crisis. For a country like India, the Banking crisis can transform into a fiscal crisis. So sound and safe banking regulation can be a great asset to macroeconomic stability.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

EMBARRASSMENT FOR BMC

Sir — The Bombay High Court on Thursday, October 13 thrashed and directed the Mumbai civic body to accept the resignation of Rutuja Latke, paving the way for her to file nomination for the Anheri (East) by-election as the candidate of the Shiv Sena faction led by Uddhav Thackeray. The last date for submitting nominations is October 14. Latke had on September 2 submitted a letter to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), with which she was employed as a clerk since 2006, requesting that it relax certain service con-

The ouster of Sourav Ganguly



It is really sad that former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly has become a victim of the deceptive and muddy politics played by the BJP for his refusal to join the saffron party, which resulted in his axing as the BCCI president. Ganguly's political allegiance has been a source of media speculation ever since Home Minister Amit Shah visited him and dined at his house in Kolkata in

May this year. The BJP did all the flim-flam to rope the Prince of Kolkata for a leadership role in the party's West Bengal unit to counter chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

But Ganguly was unyielding and confined himself to the cricket administration of the BCCI, steering away from politics. One wishes that Roger Binny, the 1983 world cup winner and who is all set to succeed Ganguly, will not end with a similar fate, since the BJP can do everything it can to pull him into its fold, eyeing the Karnataka assembly elections in May 2023. The Ganguly episode is a clear example of how the corridors of political power in India can outwit a sportsman's pride and position in no time and with ease. Though the saying goes that sports and politics should never mix, regrettably in India sport is inherently political.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR | Chennai

ditions so that she can contest the November 3 by-election.

After the BMC rejected her request on September 29, Latke on October 2 submitted her resignation. As per the Election Commission's rules, a government employee cannot file a nomination to contest an election until her or his resignation is accepted. A division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sharmila Deshmukh on Thursday said the use or non-use of discretion by the BMC commissioner, in this case, was "arbitrary and malafide". The bench asked the concerned BMC official to accept the resignation immediately and issue an appropriate letter. The election in suburban Mumbai was necessitated by the death of Latke's husband and sitting Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke. With this verdict, the BMC faced A huge embarrassment with the Bombay High Court directing it to accept the resignation of Rutuja Latke.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

SC'S SPLIT DECISION ON HIJAB

Sir — Due to the split decision on Hijab

by the supreme court country had to wait more time and till then status quo will be maintained and the discussion will continue on this sensitive issue by the various political parties as well as various religious organizations. This is unfortunate as pupils attend educational institutions for learning that serves as the foundation of their future careers. The prescribed uniform in colleges or schools is aimed at ushering unity and bonding among students of different backgrounds. Seeking a religious identity in schools and colleges is totally unacceptable, where the students are required to imbibe the spirit of unity and inter-religious harmony from the early stage. It is downright unethical for the Opposition parties to fish in troubled waters over a situation caused by this controversy. It must stop right now the national interest and social fabric of the country should be maintained at all costs. Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Maharaja wanted to join India in July 1947 itself. It was Nehru who rejected Hari Singh's request. Nehru conjured up some 'special' case for Kashmir & wanted 'much more' than mere accession...



Union Minister —Kiren Rijiju



I have concerns about having an open borders migration policy with India because I don't think that's what people voted for with Brexit. UK Home Secretary —Suella Braverman

My husband was at a music festival for a week and he's just come back. So, he's gonna be happy to see my face.



Actor —Deepika Padukone



I have been president of BCCI and I will go on to do bigger things. You can't be a player forever, you can't be an administrator forever. It's been great doing both" Former cricketer —Sourav Ganguly

NCW chief is threatening to put me in jail. What can the Modi government give to the Patel community? The BJP hates the Patidar community.



AAP's Gujarat chief —Gopal Italia

FIRST COLUMN

FEAR & GREED DECIDE INVESTMENT DECISIONS

Emotions of fear, greed, desire and hope are responsible for market fluctuations



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Stock exchange is known as the pulse of the economy. While in the long run the share market reflects the economy, there are various factors that contribute to wide fluctuations in the market movement in the near term.

When the long term and experienced investors analyse any movement based on fundamentals and take a call to deal with their investment, short term and new investors are perturbed by wide fluctuations in a falling market.

Markets always react to news. It may spring out of politics and elections. It may be from war among nations which may affect international trade of commodities. It may be due to excess or short rainfall. It may be a once in a century event like a tsunami or pandemic.

But ultimately the share market will settle down and be stable in the long run, based on fundamentals of the economy and the individual companies. Exceptions may be only when there is political instability in the country. The markets go up and down based on different reactions of individual investors. The sum total of investors decide to enter or exit or stay in the market as a whole or in individual stocks and that ultimately decides the market direction.



We may call the different emotions of investors which make them act or not to act under Desire, Expectation, Fear, Greed and Hope (DEFGH), as ABC of their investment basis. People invest in the stock market with an intention to make a decent return with lesser or moderate risk, which forms the basis for any investment. When an investor buys a stock or an index, he has some expectation that the price of that stock or index will go up in line with the expectation of the investors. After a purchase is made the price may go down contrary to the expectation, which may set in fear to force an exit from the market and cancel his long or short position.

It is possible that after a purchase, the price may go up. The investor feels elated and he may expect the price may go up further though fundamentally it may not be possible. But the emotion of 'Greed' sets in, and the investor continues his position, though the price has reached his target. When greed operates, he continues his position even after his target is met.

Sometimes, the price falls after his purchase. But the investor feels that he has correctly identified the stock and he 'hopes' that in future the trend will change and he will reap profit. When hope operates, an adverse position is continued.

As human emotions cannot be predicted, for any event, investors across the board may react differently. When there are lakhs of investors with varied emotional traits, it will be simply impossible to predict market movements in the near term.

It is well settled that the market will ultimately reflect the economic fundamentals in the long run. In the meanwhile, there may be a bull phase or bear phase and even the duration of the bull or bear phase cannot be predicted.

Investors who indulge in leverage are the ones who are more susceptible to panic reactions. They may be right also because when they operate with borrowed money, they have to enforce strict 'stop loss' orders, otherwise they may be ruined. Investors who invest their own money in the stock market must decide their investment based on the long term economy and use any opportunity to increase their exposure based on fundamentals. They need not operate on the basis of emotions.

Warren Buffett's statement that it is wise for investors to be "fearful when others are greedy, and greedy when others are fearful" conveys this beautifully.

(The author is a retired banker)

High fuel cost: Onus lies on Centre, states

For six months the prices of petrol, diesel have remained unchanged, resulting in heavy losses for refiners

Ever since the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022, the international price of oil has been on the boil. Considering that India imports 85 per cent of its oil requirements, this is bound to impact the domestic price of petroleum products (POL). But the Modi government has ensured that the retail price of petrol and diesel have remained unchanged for a record six months.

Around 90 per cent of the domestic fuel retail network in the country is controlled by the three Central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), which are majority owned and controlled by the Government of India (GOI).

The trio source their requirement of petrol and diesel from their own refineries (the crude oil needed for processing to make refined products - including petrol and diesel - is largely imported even as a portion or 15 per cent is drawn from domestic upstream oil & gas companies such as ONGC, Oil India Limited or OIL, etc.) as well as imports. They fix the retail price as refinery-gate price or RGP plus freight, marketing costs, marketing margin, dealers' commission and taxes and duties. RGP is arrived at by taking import parity price (IPP) and export parity price (EPP) of the fuel in the ratio of 80:20.

When the international price of oil goes up, RGP increases and vice versa. If the companies strictly follow the formula then the retail price of petrol and diesel should increase under an escalating global price environment. But this rarely happens. Prior to 2002-03, under an administered price regime (APR), the trio were required to sell petrol, diesel (besides kerosene and LPG) at prices below the cost of supply. The losses on sale of these products were cross-subsidized by surpluses generated from the sale of naphtha, fuel oil, LSHS and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to other industries at prices much higher than costs.

In 2002-03, based on recommendations of the Vijay Kelkar Committee, the then NDA government dismantled the APR. Even as it continued the sale of the products at prices lower than the cost, it vowed to reimburse the difference as a subsidy from the Union Budget. Instead, the UPA government (it took charge in 2004) directed ONGC and OIL to offer a discount on supply of crude to the refiners so that the latter could sell at a low price at the pump sans budget support. Yet, they faced a deficit which was met by oil bonds issued during 2005-2010.

Beginning 2016-17, the Modi government discontinued the policy of selling domestic crude at discount. Meanwhile, petrol was deregulated in June 2010 and



THE GOI HAS REDUCED CENTRAL EXCISE DUTY (CED) BY ₹13 PER LITRE ON PETROL AND ₹16 PER LITRE ON DIESEL. TODAY, THE CED ON THESE FUELS IS ₹20 PER LITRE AND ₹16 PER LITRE

(The author is a policy analyst)



diesel in November 2014 implying that the GOI doesn't pay any subsidy to the three refiners to make up for the losses that result from selling fuel at rates below cost.

If oil PSUs don't get compensated for selling below cost, why should they not sell at the cost-based price? After all, both petrol and diesel are decontrolled and de jure the companies are free to fix the price as per the formula. The problem lies in their public character. By virtue of this, they have to follow the orders of their bosses sitting in the ministry even if these are given verbally. In this backdrop, look at this scenario: The price for the basket of crude oil that India imports on an average basis increased from around \$90 per barrel before to Ukraine war started to \$103 per barrel in April, 2022; \$109.5 per barrel in May, 2022; \$116 per barrel in June, 2022; \$105.5 per barrel in July, 2022; \$97.4 per barrel in August, 2022 and \$90.7 in September, 2022. The average for April-September, 2022 was \$ 103.7 per barrel.

Yet, the retail price of petrol and diesel continues to be fixed using a crude benchmark of \$90 per barrel (courtesy, instructions from the political brass). Corresponding to this benchmark, the price of petrol in Delhi is ₹97 per liter much lower than it should have been on the basis of much higher crude price that pre-

vailed (for instance, with respect to crude at \$116 per barrel, the under-recovery would be ₹15 per liter). As a result, the three refiners incurred a loss of around Rs 40,000 crore during the first half of current financial year

Even as CPSUs were hoping that international price would decline thus enabling them to recuperate the above loss, their hopes have been dashed due to the decision on October 5 of the OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) - a cartel of oil producers which decides on supply quota by member countries - to cut production by two million barrels a day.

Already, the Indian crude basket has gone up from \$84 per barrel in September end, 2022 to \$92 currently and the escalation will continue. The losses will mount for the refiners, affecting their investment plans. It will further hamper the prospects of finding a good buyer for BPCL whose privatization has been deferred for want of suitors (initially planned for 2019-20, finally it was to happen during the current year)

Having allowed oil firms the freedom to set prices of petrol and diesel, in sync with international prices, the government must not interfere. As for reining in the price to consumers, there is a need to focus on four things. First, it should craft its purchase strategy to get the best price. Already, by maintaining an independent stance on the Ukraine crisis, Team Modi has managed to buy crude oil at a lower price (the share of Russian crude albeit at discount is up from a mere two per cent to 20 per cent). These efforts should be continued.

Second, during the last one year, the GOI has reduced central excise duty (CED) by ₹13 per liter on petrol and ₹16 per liter on diesel. Today, the CED on these fuels is ₹20 per liter and ₹16 per liter respectively. There is a lot more scope to reduce as in 2014, CED was ₹9.5 per liter on petrol and ₹3.6 on diesel. The States too should reduce VAT (value added tax).

Thirdly, the refiners have an in-built cushion in setting RGP. Import of petrol and diesel attract higher customs duty at 2.5 per cent against 'nil' on import of crude. As a result, they get a fortuitous gain to the extent the product is sourced from their own refineries. Depreciation of the Rupee multiplies this gain. There is an added cushion due to ocean freight, insurance and port charges which are included in the IPP but not incurred. All this can be passed on to consumers. Four, there is an urgent need to remove all bottlenecks in the way of increasing domestic production of crude to reach at least 25 per cent in the next three years and 50 per cent by 2030.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

SARDAR SAHEB PERSUADED ALL THE PRINCELY STATES TO MERGE WITH INDIA. BUT ANOTHER PERSON HANDLED THIS ONE ISSUE OF KASHMIR —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



THE PM HAS ONCE AGAIN WHITEWASHED REAL HISTORY. HE OVERLOOKS THE FACTS ONLY TO CASTIGATE NEHRU ON J&K. —CONGRESS LEADER JAIRAM RAMESH

Fertiliser diplomacy needed for nutrient security

India has done well in a volatile business environment, thanks to the proactive Government measures in fertiliser segment

As part of the agricultural value chain, fertilisers play a key role in ensuring the improvement in farm output and achieving food security goals for the nation. India is the second largest consumer of fertilisers globally after China, servicing over 190 million hectares of gross cropped area and reaching 140 million farmlands.

While India is the third largest producer of agri-nutrients globally, it is scarcely endowed with fertiliser raw material (rock phosphate, phosphoric acid sulphur, ammonia, natural gas, MOP, etc.) and depends on imports for meeting close to one-third of its fertiliser requirements.

In the past two years, pandemic-induced supply chain uncertainties, higher global



RK CHATURVEDI

(The author is a former Fertilisers Secretary)

demand in competing markets, protectionist measures, and disruption in supplies from Baltic region have impacted the raw material and finished product prices and availability, exposing vulnerabilities of an imperfect global market. The Fertilizer Index, as measured by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), surged by a whopping 201 per cent from January 2020 to July 2022, putting a major strain on importing nations like India.

However, India has sailed reasonably well in a volatile business environment, thanks to the proactive measures undertaken by the Government in the fertiliser segment. Recognising its importance to the farming community, the Government

has not only ensured timely nutrient availability but also contained the increase in fertiliser prices.

At the farm-gate level, the impact of the fertiliser price hike in the international markets has been absorbed by the Government through extending subsidy support to the farmers. Though the subsidy burden for the Government has gone up in the last two years—Rs 2.5 lakh crore estimate in FY22-23 and Rs 1.62 lakh crore in FY21-22 compared to an average annual outgo of Rs 80,000 crore—it has prioritised farmer welfare and food security goals for India. As a result, the fertiliser consumption has remained stable and India continues to do well in agri-production, not only addressing the nutrition-

al needs of the nation but also exporting to over 150 countries during last year.

India's fertiliser sector is slowly turning this adversity into opportunity through strengthening its domestic operations, building capacities, and investing in backward integration projects to improve its bargaining power. In the past six months, India, has been actively engaging with resource-rich nations for strengthening its supply tie-ups. This includes Government spearheading major industry delegations for signing MoUs with partners like Jordan (for rock phosphate, phosphoric acid, MoP, DAP), Saudi Arabia (ammonia, DAP, NPKs), Russia (DAP, NPKs), and Canada (MOP).

India engaged in Government-to-Government level negotiations with Russia for long-term supply of fertilisers that ensured DAP availability in a tight market situation. A recent instance of this has been the competitive prices at which phosphoric acid for Oct-Dec FY23 have been finalised at \$1,175/ton, down from \$1,715 that prevailed in the previous quarter. This will significantly bring down the domestic cost of manufacturing.

The Government is also encouraging industry to set up overseas joint ventures for securing raw material and there has been an active engagement at the Government level to revive the existing joint ventures. There has been an increased thrust on reviving the Single Super

Phosphate (SSP) industry, the cheapest source of phosphate providing multiple nutrients like sulphur and calcium. In the current elevated commodity cycle, SSP has emerged as a good substitute, especially for oilseeds and pulses for semi-arid and rainfed regions. The Government is promoting use of alternate fertilisers and supporting the adoption of new technology solutions like nano, liquid and bio-fertilisers. The response of nano products from the farming community is quite encouraging.

There has been an increased focus on application technologies like drone-based spraying, improving resource utilisation and driving farm efficiencies. The Government is also encouraging the adoption of aerospace and geographic information system-driven technologies in agriculture, which holds the potential of transforming farming practices and driving farm prosperity.

The participative governance approach followed by the Department of Fertilisers (DoF) has strengthened the communication and coordination between the Government and Industry. While there is still some way to go before India achieves self-sufficiency in fertilisers, the actions undertaken in the last few months have strengthened its standing in the global fertiliser supply chain. It underpins successful fertiliser diplomacy and indicates India's strong position to deal with similar commodity shocks in future.

Russia to evacuate Kherson residents as Ukraine advances

AP ■ KYIV

In a sign that continuing and sustained Ukrainian military gains along the southern front are worrying the Kremlin, Russia is promising free accommodation to residents of the partially occupied Kherson region who want to evacuate to Russia.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin made the announcement shortly after the Russia-backed leader of Kherson, one of four Ukrainian regions illegally annexed by Moscow last month, asked the Kremlin to organise an evacuation from four cities in the region.

"Cities of the Kherson region — Kherson and Nova Kakhovka, Hola Prystan and Chornobaivka — are subject to daily missile strikes," Vladimir Saldo said in a video posted online Thursday.

"These missile strikes cause

serious damage, first and foremost to the residents. Among targets missiles hit are hotels, residential buildings, markets — (places) where there are lots of civilians."

Saldo said a decision has been made to evacuate Kherson residents to the Russian regions of Rostov, Krasnodar and Stavropol, as well as the annexed Crimea.

"I would like to ask you to help organise this process. We, residents of the Kherson region, of course know that Russia doesn't abandon their own, and Russia always offers a hand," Saldo said.

His plea comes as Ukrainian forces push their counteroffensive deeper into the southern Kherson region, albeit at a slower pace.

The move comes as the Ukrainian military continues to make gains in the south. Ukrainian armed forces have reported steady territorial gains

along the southern front, including the recapture of 75 settlements in the Kherson region in the last month, the Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories said late Thursday night.

In the east, Ukraine's armed forces have recaptured 502 settlements in the Kharkiv region, 43 in the Donetsk region and seven in the Luhansk region, the ministry said.

Saldo's deputy, Kirill Stremousov, in his own statement tried to play down the announcement, saying that "no one's retreating ... No one is planning to leave the territory of the Kherson region."

Earlier on Thursday, the British military said on Twitter that "the Russian occupation authorities have likely ordered preparation for the evacuation of some civilians from Kherson."



"It is likely that they anticipate combat extending to the city of Kherson itself," the British Defense Ministry said.

Early Friday, Russia continued its targeted attacks on critical infrastructure across Ukraine, a strategy that started Monday, when a massive, coordinated attack on nearly every region in the country was said to be carried out in retaliation for the explosion on a Moscow-funded bridge linking Crimea to the Russian mainland.

Multiple Russian missile strikes shook the Zaporizhzhia region capital overnight as the city continued to be a focal point while Ukraine pushed its counteroffensive on the southern front.

Zaporizhzhia regional Governor Oleksandr Starukh said several explosions were reported in the city overnight at infrastructure facilities, causing fires. There were no victims in preliminary reports, and

further details about specific damage were unavailable.

Russian forces have struck the regional capital and surrounding area continuously in recent days and weeks, creating concerns about the safety of the nearby nuclear power plant.

The regional capital is about 100 miles from the plant, the largest nuclear power plant in Europe.

Two days ago, it was forced to revert to diesel-fuelled generator power to maintain its reactor cooling systems after an attack on a substation's communication line was lost during fighting in the area.

Missile, drone and rocket attacks on Ukraine have kept the country on edge with air raid sirens occurring more frequently and bringing a heightened sense of urgency after Monday's strike killed 19 and wounded more than 100, including many in the capital, Kyiv.

Orphan watched dad die, now awaits future in Ukraine shelter



AP ■ IZIUM (UKRAINE)

One building in the recaptured but devastated Ukrainian town of Izium is filled with those at the end of their lives. It reeks of unwashed sheets and unbathe skin and needs more heat to fend off the approaching winter.

Despair weighs on its occupants like a blanket and the sound of weeping echoes in its rooms. Now an orphan wanders the cold hallways among the elderly and infirm, his eyes firmly upon the phone in his hand. Until a few days ago, 13-year-old Bohdan had a father. Now he has no one.

Bohdan's father wasted away for weeks in the corridor room of a shelter for the injured and homeless before stomach cancer finally claimed him on October 3. During every dwindling waking moment at the end of his life, Mykola Svyryd worried about his son.

"He runs to me and says, Papa, I love you." I tell him, "Who else could you love?" said Svyryd, cheeks sunken and skin pale, in a bedside inter-

view only a few days before his death at 70. "His mother is dead, his father is old.... When his father is gone, I won't know if there is someone with him and where they will send him." The small compound in the eastern town opened in January as a rehabilitation centre for people recovering from surgeries or injury.

When the war started a month later, Russian forces quickly engulfed the town. Within a matter of weeks, airstrikes, artillery and fires had left their mark on nearly every building. Those who didn't have the means to flee the city quickly enough cowered in its basements, surviving — but only just — without electricity, gas or running water.

In early September, a Ukrainian counteroffensive swept through the Kharkiv region, sending the Russians into a disorganised retreat from Izium and other towns.

But their departure did little to lessen the deprivation in Izium. The 39 people sleeping in the rehab centre have nowhere else to go. They are

infirm and impoverished, their homes are destroyed, and the rest of their families are dead or gone.

The realisation of all that is what brings on the tears.

And this is how Mykola Svyryd and Bohdan ended up here. Svyryd was already dying when the war started, and cancer had taken Bohdan's mother two years earlier.

The boy himself was born with a brain injury that his father had hoped doctors could eventually treat with surgery. Between timid glances and shy smiles, Bohdan says little, only a few short words at a time.

"He was born disabled. He never went to school. I taught him to read a little, to write numbers and letters," Svyryd said of his son. A retired former worker in a factory that made eyeglass lenses, Svyryd sheltered with his son from the Russian assault on the town, which had blown out all the windows in their apartment. Neighbours helped where they could as his health gradually failed.

"We had to sit in a basement for three months. When we came out, my health became worse and worse. And then my legs stopped working," Svyryd said. By the time he spoke to AP reporters, he was bedridden and emaciated, his voice barely rising above a whisper.

Bohdan embraced his father tenderly and often in the older man's last days. He whispers along with Ukrainian pop music and plays small-screen video games as avidly as any teen.

EU to unveil Ukraine training mission, weapons fund support

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union is set to announce next week that it's setting up a military training mission in Europe for thousands of Ukrainian troops and will provide around half a billion more euros (dollars) to help buy weapons for the war-torn country, diplomats and officials said Friday.

The aim is to train almost 15,000 Ukrainian troops in a number of EU countries, chiefly Poland and Germany, the officials said.

It would range from standard military training to specialised instruction, based on Ukraine's needs. The EU hopes



to have it operational by mid-November. EU foreign ministers will endorse the plans at a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday.

The officials and diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details before the plans are officially announced.

Several EU and NATO nations are already helping to train the Ukraine armed forces on a bilateral basis, but diplomats said that this would be more cost effective and efficient — with a centralised command structure better able to address Ukraine's needs — when done as a collective effort.

NATO started training

military instructors in Ukraine after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. The military alliance believes that training the trainers is the most effective way of helping Ukraine's armed forces as it does not require troops needed for battle to leave the country.

At their meeting in Luxembourg, the ministers will also approve a sixth tranche of money, worth around 500 million euros (dollars), from European Peace Facility — a fund being used to reimburse member countries that provide weapons, ammunition and non-lethal military support to Ukraine.

It will bring to just around

3.1 billion euros the total EU sum in security support being made available for Ukraine. Individual countries are also spending more on top of that.

The decisions are set to be announced almost eight months after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine.

Earlier this week, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell criticised the 27-nation bloc for being too slow to come to the country's aid.

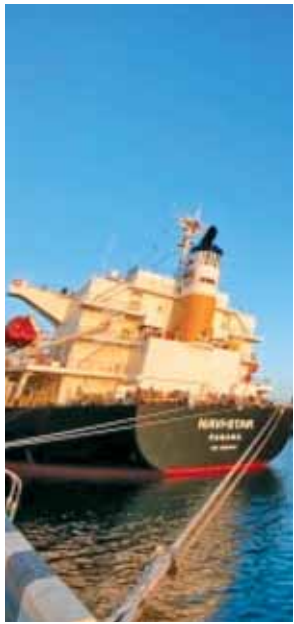
"We had been discussing about the Ukrainian training mission before the war. Before the war. For months, for months before the war," Borrell, who will chair Monday's meeting, told a conference of EU ambassadors.



People look at a display of destroyed Russian military vehicles during the Defender of Ukraine Day in Kryvyi Rih, in Ukraine, on Friday

(AP Photo)

Ukraine seeks to expand product range for exports via seaports



IANS ■ KIEV

Ukraine has considered expanding the range of goods for exports via its seaports and stands ready to discuss the issue with Turkey, state media reported.

"We are raising a question about the possibility of expanding the range of export of goods from Ukraine in the future," Ukraine's Ambassador to Turkey Vasyl Bodnar was cited by the state media as saying.

Currently, the "green corridor" from the Ukrainian ports is working smoothly under the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Xinhua news agency quoted the envoy as saying.

Soon Ukraine and Turkey are due to hold talks over the extension of the deal, Bodnar said.

Amid the raging war, Ukraine and Russia on July 22 separately signed a deal with Turkey and the UN in Istanbul to resume food and fertilizer shipments from Ukrainian ports to international markets via the Black Sea.

Since the deal came into effect, a total of 331 vessels carrying 7.38 million tonnes of agricultural products have departed from the Ukrainian ports to the countries in Asia, Europe and Africa, according to the Infrastructure Ministry in Kyiv.

The agreement is due to expire on November 19.

Call-up of Russian reservists to finish in 2 weeks, says Putin

AP ■ KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday he expects a mobilisation of army reservists he ordered to bolster his country's troops in Ukraine to reach the targeted number of recruits in two weeks, a milestone that would allow him to end the hugely unpopular call-up.

Putin told reporters after attending a summit in Kazakhstan that 222,000 of the 300,000 reservists the Russian Defence Ministry set as a goal have been mobilised.

A total of 33,000 of them are already in military units and 16,000 are involved in combat, he said.

The call-up, announced by Putin in September as his forces lost occupied ground to a Ukrainian counteroffensive, has aroused public discontent in Russia, where almost all men under the age of 65 are registered as reservists.

At the same time, Russian nationalists have criticised the Kremlin's handling of the war, increasing pressure on Putin to do more to turn the tide in Russia's favour.

Despite Putin and other top officials stating the mobilisation would affect some 300,000 people, the decree the president signed to get the draft going did not mention a specific number.

Russian media reports have suggested the actual number could be as high as 1.2 million reservists.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has implied that a classified clause of the decree contained the number of people the authorities intend to be mobilised, among other details.

Putin initially described the mobilisation as "partial" and said only those with combat or service experience would be drafted.

However, Russian media reports have described attempts to round up men without the relevant experience or who were ineligible for service for medical reasons.

In the wake of Putin's order, tens of thousands of men left



Russia. Reports have surfaced since then of recruits getting deployed to the front lines in Ukraine with little training and inadequate equipment.

Several mobilised reservists were reported to have died in combat in Ukraine this week, several days after they were drafted.

Putin said all activated recruits should receive adequate training and that he would assign Russia's Security Council "to conduct an inspection of how mobilised citizens are being trained."

Putin also said Friday there was no need for more widespread attacks against Ukraine, such as those Russia launched Monday in retaliation for an Oct. 8 truck bomb explosion on a prized bridge linking Russia to

Crimea, which Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014.

The Kerch Bridge explosion followed Ukraine's recapturing of occupied areas in the country's east and south in continuing counteroffensives that have restored Ukrainian confidence and embarrassed Russia's military.

Russia has promised free accommodation to residents of Ukraine's partially occupied Kherson region who want to evacuate to Russia, a sign that Ukrainian military gains along the war's southern front are worrying the Kremlin.

The Moscow-installed leader of Kherson, one of four regions illegally annexed by Putin last month, asked the Kremlin to organise an evacuation from four cities, citing incessant shelling by Ukrainian forces.

Vladimir Saldo, the head of the Moscow-appointed regional administration, said a decision was made to evacuate Kherson residents to the Russian regions of Rostov, Krasnodar and Stavropol, as well as to the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

"We, residents of the Kherson region, of course know that Russia doesn't abandon their own, and Russia always offers a hand," Saldo said on Thursday.

UK PM Truss appoints Hunt to replace sacked Chancellor Kwasi

PTI ■ LONDON

Embattled British Prime Minister Liz Truss on Friday appointed former Cabinet minister and party leadership contender Jeremy Hunt as her new Chancellor, after she sacked close friend Kwasi Kwarteng in an effort to stem the economic turmoil unleashed by his mini-budget.

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP has been appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer," Downing Street tweeted.

Hunt was himself in the race for the top job after Boris Johnson resigned in July, but threw his weight behind former Chancellor Rishi Sunak after he did not get enough Conservative Party members backing him in the leadership election. His appointment is seen as Truss' attempt at closing the widening divide within the Tories, with many of Sunak loyalists in open rebellion against her policies. In her letter to Kwarteng released on Twitter, Truss said she was sorry to lose him and indicates that she still believes in the broader economic vision laid out in the controversial mini-budget.

"We share the same vision for our country and the same firm conviction to go for growth. You have been Chancellor in extraordinarily challenging times in the face of severe global headwinds," she writes.

It came in the course of a day of high political drama at



the heart of Downing Street with the exit of Kwarteng — in office at the UK Treasury for only 38 days. He took to Twitter soon after to confirm that he had been asked to "step aside" as Chancellor.

"As I have said many times in the past weeks, following the status quo was simply not an option. For too long this country has been dogged by low growth rates and high taxation — that must still change if this country is to succeed," his resignation letter reads.

"It is important that we now move forward to emphasise your government's commitment to fiscal discipline. The Medium-Term Fiscal Plan is crucial to this end, and I look forward to supporting you and my successor to achieve that from the backbenches," he said, striking a conciliatory note.

Earlier, the finance minister cut short his visit to the US for

an International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting in Washington to fly back for a meeting with his boss. It had triggered speculation over his job and possible U-turns on the tax cuts he had tabled in Parliament, which had resulted in the pound plummeting against the dollar and the Bank of England stepping in to buy the country's long-term bonds to shore up the pension funds. The estimated GBP 45 billion worth of tax cuts without a detailed funding plan to back it up were seen as disastrous for the UK economy at a time when inflation has already been soaring.

Truss and Kwarteng, who have been close friends for years, had insisted that the turbulence in the UK economy was part of a global problem exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict induced energy crisis and post-pandemic recovery.

Xi's power in China grows after unforeseen rise to dominance

AP ■ BEIJING

When Xi Jinping came to power in 2012, it wasn't clear what kind of leader he would be. His low-key persona during a steady rise through the ranks of the long-ruling Communist Party gave no hint that he would evolve into one of modern China's most dominant leaders, or that he would put the economically and militarily ascendant country on a collision course with the US-led international order. Xi is all but certain to be given a third five-year term as



party leader at the end of a major party congress that opens Sunday — a break with an unofficial two-term limit that other recent leaders had followed. What's not clear is how long he will remain in power, and what that means for China and the world.

"I see Xi having his way at the 20th congress, mostly. It is a question of how much more powerful he will be coming out of it," said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at the London University School of Oriental and African Studies. "He is not coming out looking weaker."

He has already amassed and centralized power over the past 10 years in ways that far surpass his immediate predecessors, Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, and even rival the Communist Party's two other dominating leaders — Mao Zedong, who led the country

until his death in 1976, and Deng Xiaoping, who launched China in 1978 on its rise from poverty to become the world's second largest economy.

One of Xi's signature policies has been an anti-corruption campaign that has been popular with the public and conveniently enabled him to sideline potential rivals. A former justice minister and a former deputy public security minister received suspended death sentences last month.

The continuing anti-corruption campaign, Tsang said, shows that "anyone who stands in his way will be crushed".

Rebels plot to replace Truss with Sunak amid UK crisis

PTI ■ LONDON

Rebels on the backbenches of the UK's governing Conservative Party are on Friday said to be plotting to replace Liz Truss as party leader and prime minister with a so-called "unity" joint ticket team involving former leadership rival Rishi Sunak.

It comes as a YouGov poll for the 'The Times' found that almost half of Tory party supporters believe the party chose the wrong candidate in the leadership election. The YouGov poll found that among those who voted for the Conservatives at the last election, 62 per cent said that party members had made the wrong choice when the race



was the frontrunner with his colleagues, and Leader of the Commons Penny Mordaunt, who came in third.

The government, meanwhile, is reeling from the impact of the controversial mini-budget at the end of last month, with UK Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng flying back from an International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting in Washington a day earlier than planned.

While further U-turns on the tax-cutting plans are expected following crunch meetings at 10 Downing Street, the Tory backbenchers are said to be weighing up the prospect of changing the party leader yet again.

Passenger bus hits roadside bomb in central Mali, 6 dead

AP ■ BAMAKO (MALI)

A passenger bus struck a roadside bomb in central Mali, killing at least six people and wounding many others, authorities said on Friday.

The explosion took place on Thursday in the village of Songo, 12 kilometres (7 miles) from Bandiagara, said local official Bachirou Tall.

"There were many people seriously injured who were taken to Sèvre's hospital, in Mopti region, and for the moment we don't have information on their condition," Tall told The Associated Press.

The attack has not been claimed but bears the hallmarks of al-Qaida-linked extremist groups who are known for placing mines on roads to target Malian army vehicles and UN peacekeepers.

In December 2021, an attack by gunmen identifying themselves as jihadists on a public transportation bus killed at least 30 people, most of whom burned to death in the bus.

Bandiagara was once a tourist hub for Western travellers coming to hike through Mali's Dogon country.

Teen kills 2 in neighbourhood, 3 along walking trail in US: Police

AP ■ RALEIGH (US)

A 15-year-old boy fatally shot two people in the streets of a neighbourhood in North Carolina's capital city, then fled toward a walking trail, where he opened fire, killing three more people and wounding two others, police said Friday.

Raleigh Police Chief Estella Patterson said the suspect was hospitalised in critical condition

following the shootings late Thursday afternoon.

The victims were a racially diverse group and ranged in age from 16 to their late 50s, Patterson said during a news conference. Among the dead was an off-duty Raleigh police officer, Gabriel Torres, 29, who was on his way to work when the shooting began.

Police identified the other victims as: Nicole Connors, 52;

Mary Marshall, 34; Susan Karnatz, 49; and James Roger Thompson, 16.

Marcille Lynn Gardner, 59, was wounded and remained hospitalized in critical condition Friday. A second police officer, Casey Joseph Clark, 33, was wounded and released from the hospital.

The suspect, who was not immediately identified by police, eluded officers for hours



before he was cornered in a home and arrested, police said. Officials have not said how the suspect was injured.

The shootings set off a massive police response and

manhunt, with police scouring an area of more than 3 kilometres to find and capture the suspect, Patterson said.

She said authorities have not yet determined any motive.

Gov. Roy Cooper called the shooting an "infuriating and tragic act of gun violence."

"Today we're sad, we're angry and we want to know the answers to all the questions," Cooper said.

North Korea fires missile, artillery shells, inflaming tensions

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired a ballistic missile and hundreds of artillery shells toward the sea Friday and flew warplanes near the tense border with South Korea, further raising animosities triggered by the North's recent barrage of weapons tests.

The North Korean moves suggest it is reviving an old playbook of stoking fears of war with provocative weapons tests that it seeks to win greater concessions from its rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement the short-range missile lifted off from the North's capital region at 1:49 a.m. Friday (1649 GMT



Thursday; 12:49 p.m. EDT Thursday) and flew toward its eastern waters.

It was North Korea's 15th missile launch since it resumed testing activities Sept. 25. North Korea said Monday its recent missile tests were simulations of nuclear strikes on South Korean and U.S. Targets in response to

their "dangerous" military exercises involving a U.S. Aircraft carrier. Soon after the latest missile test, North Korea fired 130 rounds of shells off its west coast and 40 rounds off its east coast.

The shells fell inside maritime buffer zones the two Koreas established under a 2018 inter-Korean agreement on reducing tensions, South Korea's military said.

On Friday afternoon, South Korea's military said North Korea fired 90 additional shells off its east coast.

It said it also spotted about 300 other North Korean artillery launches from two separate western coastal areas.

Suspect accused of killing Sikh family in US pleads not guilty

PTI ■ SAN FRANCISCO

The main suspect who kidnapped and killed four members of an Indian-origin Sikh family, including a baby girl, in California has entered a not guilty plea in court, authorities said.

The Sikh family of four, 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh, and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh were kidnapped at gunpoint and killed allegedly by Jesus Salgado, a former disgruntled employee of their trucking company.

Salgado entered a not guilty plea in court on Thursday, Merced County Chief Deputy District Attorney Matthew



Serratto was quoted as saying by CNN.

Salgado, who was arrested on October 6, is charged with four counts of first-degree murder with special circumstances for the death of the Indian-origin family. He is also charged with arson and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

Salgado was in court four days prior on Monday, but his arraignment was continued after he told the judge he needed more time to find an attorney.

Jan 6 panel subpoenas Trump, shows startling new video

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House January 6 committee voted unanimously on Thursday to subpoena former President Donald Trump, demanding his personal testimony as it unveiled startling new video of close aides describing his multi-part plan to overturn his 2020 election loss that led to his supporters' fierce assault on the U.S. Capitol.

With alarming messages from the US Secret Service warning of violence and vivid new video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other con-



gressional leaders pleading for help, the panel showed the raw desperation at the Capitol.

Using language frequently seen in criminal indictments, the panel said that Trump had acted in a "premeditated" way ahead of

January 6, 2021, despite countless aides and officials telling him he had lost.

Trump is almost certain to fight the subpoena and decline to testify. On his social media outlet he blasted members for not asking him earlier — though he didn't say he would have complied — and called the panel "a total BUST".

"We must seek the testimony under oath of January 6's central player," said Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the committee's vice chair, ahead of the vote.

2 Palestinians killed by Israel, belonged to armed groups

AP ■ JENIN REFUGEE CAMP (WEST BANK)

Israel's military on Friday carried out an arrest raid in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank and killed two Palestinians in gun battles, according to Palestinian reports.

It was the latest bloodshed in what has become the deadliest year in the territory since 2015.

Palestinian militant groups claimed


both slain men as members, though there were conflicting statements about the circumstances surrounding the death of one of them, a hospital doctor.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Dr. Abdullah al-Ahmed was on duty, attending to the wounded outside his hospital when he was shot.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, an armed offshoot of the secular Fatah party, claimed he was a member.

**King Georges Medical University U.P., Lucknow.**
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एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकास/अनुसंधान कार्यों हेतु सरकारी भिमानों/सार्वजनिक उपकरणों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/पब्लिक/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/उत्केदारों से अल्पकालीन ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	संश्लेषण (रु. में)
1.	Providing and fixing of 11 kv overhead line network allotted industrial plots No. D-38, 38/1, 38/2, 38/3, 38/4, 38/5 and 38/6 in Surajpur Site-B Industrial Area.	7.94
2.	Upgradation high mast lighting system by replacing of & non conventional HPSV/Luminaire to LED at TDS City, Ghaziabad/SEZ Moradabad and Surajpur B&C.	33.76

निविदा दिनांक 15.10.2022 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 21.10.2022 को 18:00 बजे तक अपर्याप्त की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 22.10.2022 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पर्याप्त खोला जायेगा।
नोट: 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जीएसटीआई सहित दरे अंकित करें।
अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्य हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा असेलोज करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उद्योग शासन, लखनऊ में एक श्रेणी, अनुमोदित लाइसेंस अर्जित करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी Website: www.upsidc.com पर स्वागतिक लिंक सूचीपत्र की की website: <https://elender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।
संरचित प्रबंधक, उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण, गाजियाबाद

**UJVNL Limited**
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dohradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UP2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 758 Tender Notice Dated : 14/10/2022
Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested parties.
Tender No: CH(Maint.)-21/2022-23 Up-keeping and maintenance of Chibro field hostel
Estimated cost: ₹ 7,43,072 (GST extra)
Date of availability of bid on website : 16.10.2022, 11:30 hrs.
Last date for submission of tender: 07.11.2022, 13:00 hrs
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" (Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**KAMDHENU UNIVERSITY**
Our Motto: Welfare of all living beings
(Established under Gujarat Act No. 9 of 2009)
Address: 4th Floor, Block No. 1, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector:10 A, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India - 382010

Advertisement No 3 of 2022
The Kamdhen University invites applications in the prescribed proforma for the posts mentioned below:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts
1	Principal (Veterinary Faculty)	1
2	Principal (Dairy Faculty)	1
3	Principal (Fisheries Faculty)	1

For more details please visit our website
<http://www.kamdhenuniversity.edu.in>
Date: 15/10/2022 No/INF/VPN/2022/G/1730 Registrar (I/c)

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल कर्णप्रयाग

ई-निविदा सूचना
विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, कर्णप्रयाग, उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि, के अर्न्तगत सेमी-टर्न की के आधार पर निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है, जिसका विवरण निम्नवत हैं –

ई-निविदा विवरण सं०	कार्य का विवरण	ई- निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (जीएसटीआई सहित) (रु० में)	अनुमानित लागत (रु० लाख में)	जीएसटीआई अतिरिक्त)	घरोहर राशि (रु० में)	ई-निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने एवं जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	ऑनलाइन एवं ऑफलाइन ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं समय
19/EDC(K)/2022-23	33 के०बी० लाईन श्रीकोट (श्रीनगर) से रुद्रप्रयाग (स्थान दिखोल्स से भट्टीसेरा तक) 33 के०बी० लाईन का डोंग कन्डक्टर को AAAC Covered Conductor से बदलने का कार्य।	11800.00 (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० नारायणबगड़)	169.31	3.40 लाख (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० रुद्रप्रयाग)	02/11/2022 (13:00 बजे तक)	03/11/2022 (11:00 बजे)	
20/EDC(K)/2022-23	33 के०बी० लाईन श्रीकोट (श्रीनगर) से रुद्रप्रयाग (स्थान खोखरा से नरकोटा तक) 33 के०बी० लाईन का डोंग कन्डक्टर को AAAC Covered Conductor से बदलने का कार्य।	11800.00 (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० नारायणबगड़)	173.29	3.50 लाख (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० रुद्रप्रयाग)	02/11/2022 (13:00 बजे तक)	03/11/2022 (11:15 बजे)	
21/EDC(K)/2022-23	33 के०बी० लाईन श्रीकोट (श्रीनगर) से रुद्रप्रयाग (स्थान गुलाबराय से पुनाड़ तक) 33 के०बी० लाईन का डोंग कन्डक्टर को AAAC Covered Conductor से बदलने का कार्य।	11800.00 (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० नारायणबगड़)	179.96	3.60 लाख (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० रुद्रप्रयाग)	02/11/2022 (13:00 बजे तक)	03/11/2022 (11:30 बजे)	
22/EDC(K)/2022-23	33 के०बी० लाईन श्रीकोट (श्रीनगर) से रुद्रप्रयाग (स्थान रैतोली से पुनाड़ गांव तक) 33 के०बी० लाईन का डोंग कन्डक्टर को AAAC Covered Conductor से बदलने का कार्य।	11800.00 (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० नारायणबगड़)	161.14	3.23 लाख (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० रुद्रप्रयाग)	02/11/2022 (13:00 बजे तक)	03/11/2022 (11:45 बजे)	
23/EDC(K)/2022-23	33 के०बी० लाईन श्रीकोट (श्रीनगर) से रुद्रप्रयाग (स्थान करासू से डुंगरीपथ तक) 33 के०बी० लाईन का डोंग कन्डक्टर को AAAC Covered Conductor से बदलने का कार्य।	11800.00 (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० नारायणबगड़)	162.81	3.26 लाख (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० रुद्रप्रयाग)	02/11/2022 (13:00 बजे तक)	03/11/2022 (12:00 बजे)	
24/EDC(K)/2022-23	33 के०बी० लाईन श्रीकोट (श्रीनगर) से रुद्रप्रयाग (स्थान नरकोटा से पंचबयियाखाल तक) 33 के०बी० लाईन का डोंग कन्डक्टर को AAAC Covered Conductor से बदलने का कार्य।	11800.00 (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० नारायणबगड़)	165.33	3.31 लाख (अधि०अभि० वि०वि० रुद्रप्रयाग)	02/11/2022 (13:00 बजे तक)	03/11/2022 (12:15 बजे)	

उपरोक्त निविदाओं की अधिक जानकारी/शुद्धि पत्र हेतु www.uktenders.gov.in पर देखें।
"विद्युत बिलों के 24x7 ऑनलाइन भुगतान हेतु www.upcl.org पर जायें"
पत्रांक: 1054/वि.म.क.र्ण/उपकालि दिनांक 14/10/2022 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
"राष्ट्र हित में विजली बचायें" टोल फ्री नं० 1800-419-0405

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Possession Notice					
Corporate Office: Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B.Marg Worli, Mumbai 400 018 India, Tel: +91 22 66523500 Fax: +91 22 24972741					
Regional Office: 2nd floor, Ashoka Raj Tower, Plot no. CP-162, Sector D-1, LDA Colony, Near Power House Choraha, Aashiyana, Pin-226012, Lucknow, UP Branch Office : 3rd Floor 139-141 Mangal Pandey Nagar Opposite CCS University Meerut Uttar Pradesh 250002, Branch Office: F/F, Plot No-17, Sanjay Nagar, District Centre, Near Vishal Megha Mart And Pnb Bank, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad UP 201001.					
(For Immovable Property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)					
Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as "MRHF"), Having its registered office at LUCKNOW and Branch office at GHAZIABAD, MEERUT 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 Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.					
The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein above and to the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below 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 7 day					
The borrowers mentioned herein above 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 M/S Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd. for an amount 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.					
S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession	
1.	(LC No: 579088 / XSEMMER00476266 MEERUT Branch) WASEEM (Borrower) FAREED AHMAD(Co Borrower) AMEER JAHNA (Co Borrower) KHUSHNUMA (Co Borrower)	KHASRA NO. 2156/1 FRIENDS COLONY NEAR ERA GARDEN, MEERUT 250002 EAST: PLOT OF OWNER, WEST: RASTA 20 FOOT WIDE, SOUTH: PLOT OF MOHD ARIF, NORTH : PLOT OF OWNER , AREA SQ.METER/ FIT : 675	31-05-2022 Rs. 14,35,431/-	13-10-2022 Symbolic Possession	
2.	(LC No: 754352 / XSEMMER00640558 MEERUT Branch) KAVITA (Borrower) SANTOSH KUMAR (Co Borrower)	Khasra No. 1273^ Vill- Abdullapur ^ Moh-ahmadpura^ Pargana & Tehsil & Distt Meerut Up, East: Property Of Narayan Singh & Mahendra , West: Main Abdullapur Road , South: Nill, North : Parkshitgarh Road, AREA SQ.METER/ FIT : 630	31-05-2022 Rs. 9,59,319/-	12-10-2022 Symbolic Possession	
3.	(LC No: 539103 / XSEMMER00451176 MEERUT Branch) MOHAMMD SUHAIL (Borrower) ASMA KHATOON (Co Borrower)	Khasra No 253^ Village Peelina , Sofipur Roorkee Roa, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh -250001 , East:land Of Pond , West: House Of Jakir , South: Rasta 10 Foot , North : Plot Of Others AREA SQ.METER/ FIT : 459	31-05-2022 Rs. 13,17,354/-	12-10-2022 Symbolic Possession	
4.	(LC No: 708631 / XSEMMER00591820 MEERUT Branch) DEVENDAR SINGH (Borrower) KUNTI (Co Borrower) RAMSARAN (Co Borrower)	KHASRA NO 351 NEW MULTAN NAGAR , MAZRA MALIYANA, MEERUT, UTTAR PRADESH 250002 EAST:RASTA 30 WIDE , WEST: PLOT OFOTHER , SOUTH: PLOT NO A-78 , NORTH : PLOT NO A-80 , AREA SQ.METER/ FIT : 1800	11-06-2022 Rs. 20,66,428/-	12-10-2022 Symbolic Possession	
5.	(LC No: 740121/ XSEMMER00628902 MEERUT Branch) SHAKIL (Borrower) SHADAB (Co Borrower) SHABNAM (Co Borrower)	House No. 42/137^ Moh Luhanan Abadi Khasa-pilkhuwa^ Pargana Dasna^ Tehsil Dhaulana Distt Hapur Uttar Pradesh Pin-245304 East:House Of Dalveer , West: House Of Istyar South: 3ft Wide Gali Therafter House Of Suresh , North : House Of Other, AREA SQ.METER/ FIT : 750	11-06-2022 Rs. 7,88,925/-	13-10-2022 Symbolic Possession	
6.	(LC No: 761697/ XSEMMER00656767 MEERUT Branch) SANGITA(Borrower) SURENDRA (Co Borrower)	Part Of Plot No A-46 Khasra No 304, Om Sai Vatika Mohiuddinpur, Meerut ,uttar Pradesh -250103 East:plot No. A-45 , West: Part Of Plot No. A-46 , South: Plot No. A-35 , North : Rasta 20 Ft Wide , AREA SQ.METER/ FIT : 900	30-05-2022 Rs. 13,40,240/-	13-10-2022 Symbolic Possession	
7.	(LC No: 881296/ XSEMGZB00858786 GHAZIABAD Branch) SALMAN (Borrower) SALMA (Co Borrower)	PLO NO- 14 & 14A KHASRA NO- 602, RAMGIRI, PILKHUA, HAPUR U.P 245301 EAST:DRAIN (NALA), WEST: ROAD 15 FEET WIDE , SOUTH: ROAD 15 FEET WIDE , NORTH : PLOT NO-14 , AREA SQ.METER/ FIT : 647	31-05-2022 Rs. 8,40,942/-	11-10-2022 Physical Possession	
8.	(LC No: 713999/ XSEMGZB00615689 GHAZIABAD Branch) IRFAN (Borrower) RUBINA (Co Borrower)	Resi Plot No 239, Mohalla Eidgah, Murad Nagar Jalalabad Modinagar Ghaziabad East:property Islam, West: Property Of Masjid , South: 9 Feet Road , North : Property Of Usmardeen, Area Sq.meter/ Fit : 472	13-08-2021 Rs. 5,13,430/-	11-10-2022 Physical Possession	
Place :- DELHI, NCR, MEERUT Date:-15.10.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited					

WPI inflation eases of 10.7% to 18-month low in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation declined to a 18-month low of 10.7 per cent in September, as prices of food, fuel and manufactured items softened.

Although the wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation declined for the fourth consecutive month, it continued to remain in double digit for the 18th month since April 2021.

“Inflation in September, 2022 is primarily contributed by rise in prices of mineral oils, food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals & chemical products, basic metals, electricity, textiles etc. As compared to the corresponding month of the previous year,” an official statement said.

The wholesale inflation was 12.41 per cent in August and 11.80 per cent in September last year. This year, WPI touched a record high of



15.88 per cent in May.

Economists say the gradual month-on-month decline in WPI is mainly due to moderation in commodity prices and pegged inflation to come down further with overall recovery momentum and weaker outlook on commodity prices.

Inflation in food articles in September eased to 11.03 per cent, against 12.37 per cent in August. However, inflation in vegetables rose to 39.66 per cent during the month under review, as against 22.29 per cent in August.

Acuité Ratings & Research, Chief Analytical Officer, Suman Chowdhury

said the share of food on a consolidated basis in WPI stands much lower at 24.3 per cent, as compared to 45.9 per cent weightage in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) construct.

“Therefore, the impact of higher food prices continues to be modest in the WPI trajectory with inflation in food articles at 0.28 per cent only on a sequential basis,” Chowdhury said.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation came in lower at 32.61 per cent in September, against 33.67 per cent in August. In manufactured products and oil seeds it was 6.34 per cent and (-) 16.55 per cent, respectively.

“What is driving the downward trajectory in the WPI inflation is the moderation in the fuel prices and the sequential contraction in manufactured products inflation though it is partly offset by the increase in power tariff in some regions.

Sensex zooms amid global rebound, closes slightly lower for the week



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ratcheted higher on Friday, boosted by heavy buying in Infosys, banking and finance stocks amid a rally in global stock markets.

After soaring nearly 1,200 points intra-day, the 30-share BSE Sensex gave up some gains to close 684.64 points or 1.20 per cent higher at 57,919.97.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 171.35 points or 1.01 per cent to end at 17,185.70.

Infosys topped the Sensex gainers' chart, spurting 3.82 per cent, a day after the country's second largest IT services firm posted a better-than-expected 11 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 6,021 crore for the September quarter and announced buyback of shares worth ₹9,300 crore.

HDFC Bank, HDFC, HCL Technologies, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Bajaj Finance were among the other prominent winners. In contrast, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Reliance Industries, Wipro, Bharti Airtel, PowerGrid and Maruti featured among the laggards, shedding up to 1.40 per cent.

“Due to profit-booking in the late afternoon session, Indian equity markets reduced some of their gains but kept trading in the green. Stocks in the banking and IT sectors saw purchasing activity,” said Mohit Nigam, Fund manager & Head - PMS, Hem Securities.

On the global market front, Asian equities ended in the green after US stocks pulled off an amazing reversal to close significantly higher overnight, Nigam added.

India to be among fastest growing economies despite global challenges, says RBI Guv

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India is expected to be among the fastest growing major economies this fiscal, geopolitical turbulence notwithstanding, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das opined at last month's meeting of the rate setting panel MPC while going with the majority to raise the repo rate by 50 basis points to tame inflation.

On September 30, the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Das, had raised the short-term lending rate for the third consecutive time by 50 basis points to take the repo rate to 5.9 per cent. In May, the repo rate was hiked by 40 basis points.

Except for Ashima Goyal, who favoured a 35 basis points hike, the other five members had voted for 50 basis points increase in the repo rate.

As per the minutes of the MPC meeting released by the RBI on Friday, Governor Das had said that economic activity was steadily improving, though there were mixed signals.

“While high frequency indicators are showing contin-



ued momentum in activity, global factors are putting pressure on external demand.

“The growth projection of 7.0 per cent for 2022-23, therefore, carries risks which are broadly balanced. Whatever be the unfolding scenario, India is expected to be among the fastest growing major economies in the world,” the minutes quoted him as saying.

RBI Deputy Governor and MPC Member Michael Debabrata Patra had stressed that monetary policy has to perform the role of nominal anchor for the economy as it charts a new growth trajectory.

The focus, he said, should be on being time consistent in aligning inflation with the target.

“In this context, front-loading of monetary policy actions can keep inflation expectations firmly anchored and balance demand against supply so that core inflation pressures ease,” Patra said.

The RBI, which has been tasked to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent (with margin of 2 per cent on either side), has failed to meet the target for three consecutive quarters, and now will have to submit a report in this regard to the government.

Rupee falls 8 paise to close at 82.32 against US dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 8 paise to close at 82.32 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as a firm American currency and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.26 and finally settled at 82.32 against the American currency, registering a decline of 8 paise over its previous close.

During the day, the local unit witnessed a high of 82.12 and a low of 82.43 against the greenback.

On Thursday, the local currency had settled at 82.24 against the US dollar.

“Rupee weakened a bit against the dollar in the wake of a hotter-than-expected inflation number that was released on Thursday,” said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal

Financial Services.

The US CPI was reported at 8.2 per cent against expectations of 8.3 per cent, whereas Core CPI was higher at 6.6 per cent.

ECB officials mentioned that they see the need for fewer rate hikes than expected to calm the inflationary pressure, Somaiya said, adding that “we expect the USD/INR (Spot) to quote in the range of 82.10 and 82.6”.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.56 per cent to 112.99.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.75 per cent to USD 93.86 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 684.64 points or 1.20 per cent to end at 57,919.97, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 171.35 points or 1.01 per cent to 17,185.70.

Gold falls ₹261; silver declines ₹692

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price fell by Rs 261 to Rs 51,098 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid a decline in the prices of yellow metal in the international market, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 51,359 per 10 grams.

Silver also declined by Rs 692 to Rs 57,477 per kilogram from Rs 58,169 per kg.

“The precious metal could continue to be pressured by the rising yields and expensive dollar,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1,665.2 per ounce while silver was down at USD 18.95 per ounce.

“COMEX gold is headed for a weekly loss after a hot inflation reading signalled more aggressive interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve, Parmar added.



Infosys shares jump 4% on strong quarterly earnings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Infosys climbed 4 per cent on Friday after the company posted better-than-expected 11 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the September quarter and announced buyback of shares.

Shares of the company went higher by 3.82 per cent to settle at ₹1,474.05 on the BSE. During the day, it jumped 5.22 per cent to ₹1,494.

On the NSE, it climbed 4.02 per cent to end at ₹1,477.

It was the biggest gainer among the Sensex and Nifty components.

The company's market valuation jumped ₹22,878.82 crore to ₹6,20,254.82 crore.

In traded volume terms, 5.20 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 1.49 crore shares on the NSE during the day.

Other IT stocks like HCL Technologies and Tech Mahindra also ended higher.

Forex reserves rise \$ 204 mln to \$532.868 bln

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's forex reserves rose by USD 204 million to USD 532.868 billion for the week ended October 7 on an increase in the value of gold holdings, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 4.854 billion to USD 532.664 billion. The reserves had been falling for many weeks now as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion.

Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, saw a drop of USD 1.311 billion to USD 471.496 billion during the week ended October 7, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

Working on second phase of single window approval system for existing businesses: DPIIT Secy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce and industry ministry is working on the second phase of the single window system for giving all approvals to existing businesses, a top government official said on Friday.

Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Anurag Jain said that the department is targeting to roll out this system by December 2023.

“Right now, the single window is positioned for new investments. You can get your approvals to start a business, if you are making a new investment...For phase-II, we have started working and it is for existing businesses.

“For them, it will become

a single window. All your returns will be on the single window...We had an inter-ministerial consultation (on this). By and large, everybody is on board....This will make life of existing business simple,” he said.

Jain was speaking at a CII's national conference on MNCs.

The secretary also said that the government is working on further improvement in ease of doing business.

Earlier, India was ranked low in the parameter of starting a business, he said, adding, the international average for starting a business is 15 days and in India, it was 22 days.

In New Zealand, it is just one day and after taking steps by the government here, “now it is possible to start a business in India in one day,” he added.

Tata Steel says actively engaged with UK govt for financial support for biz

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Homegrown steel major Tata Steel is actively engaged with the UK government for financial support for its business there, a company spokesperson said on Friday, amid reports of the Tatas looking to divest their steel business in the UK.

“Tata Steel is seeking support from the UK government in two forms. In policy terms by encouraging the transition to green steel and ensuring a cost competitive landscape, and partnership in financing of the project given the size of investment and the financially constrained position of our UK business,” the spokesperson told PTI.



The company at present is in active and detailed discussions with the UK government with relation to the future of the business. Currently, it is not in discussions with any potential buyers for the UK business, the spokesperson added.

Tata Steel owns the UK's largest steelworks at Port Talbot in South Wales and employs

around 8,000 people across all its operations in the country. The company is seeking 1.5 billion pounds from the UK government to execute its decarbonisation plans.

As part of the UK's decarbonisation move and rising carbon costs in the country, it is necessary for Port Talbot to transition to alternative technologies to remain viable.

Tata Steel CEO and MD T V Narendran had earlier told PTI his company plans to invest Rs 8,500 crore in India and Rs 3,500 crore on operations in Europe in 2022-23 to increase product mix and transition to low CO2 technologies, in line with the company's goal to produce CO2-neutral steel by 2050 in Europe.

Singapore Airlines to launch Airbus A350-900 services to Hyderabad

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Singapore Airlines (SIA) on Friday announced the introduction of its A350-900 medium haul wide-body aircraft services from Hyderabad to Singapore.

The SIA will operate daily flights between Hyderabad and Singapore, with the A350 services operating every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The inaugural service SQ 523 will depart from Hyderabad international airport at 2310 hours on October 30.

The airline will continue to operate its B737-8 narrow-body services through the remainder of the week, a Singapore Airlines release said.

“We are delighted to enhance our services to

Hyderabad with our wide-body A350 aircraft. This is a significant milestone for us as it reinforces our commitment to the market, more so after SilkAir's integration with Singapore Airlines a year ago,” said Sy Yen Chen, General Manager India for Singapore Airlines.

“In line with the company's commitment to product and service excellence, the Airbus A350 medium haul aircraft, combined with our award-winning inflight service, will provide enhanced comfort to travellers from Hyderabad.

Furthermore, the introduction of a wide-body aircraft on this sector also opens up a wider range of opportunities and capabilities for SIA Cargo,” he said.

Shree Cement Q2 net profit falls 67.5 pc to ₹183.24 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shree Cement Ltd on Friday reported a 67.5 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 183.24 crore in the second quarter ended September 2022, impacted by higher power and fuel cost.

The company, which had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 563.94 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, also said its long-serving Chairman Benu Gopal Bangur has stepped down from the post due to his “advanced age” and will now become Chairman Emeritus.

Gross revenue from operations stood at Rs 5,081.75 crore against Rs 4,219.8 crore in the year-ago period, Shree Cement said in a regulatory fil-



ing. Total expenses were higher at Rs 3,956.9 crore compared to Rs 2,798.3 crore with power and fuel cost at Rs 1,377.79 crore, up from Rs 726.75 crore a year ago, the company said.

In a separate filing, Shree Cement said its board has accepted the resignation of its long-serving Chairman Benu Gopal Bangur due to his “advanced age” and will now become Chairman Emeritus with effect from October 15, 2022.

The company further said its board has also approved the

elevation of Managing Director Hari Mohan Bangur as its chairman, effective October 15, 2022, for the remaining period of his current tenure up to March 31, 2026, subject to shareholders' approval.

Further, Joint Managing Director Prashant Bangur will be redesignated as Vice Chairman from October 14, 2022, for the remaining period of his current tenure up to March 31, 2027.

Shree Cement said its board has also approved the appointment of Neeraj Akhoury as its Managing Director with effect from October 14, 2022, for a five-year term, subject to the approval of the members of the company.

Bajaj Auto Q2 net profit falls 16% to ₹1,719 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Auto on Friday reported a 16 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,719 crore for the September quarter, hit by a 25 per cent dip in overseas shipments.

The Pune-based company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,040 crore in the July-September quarter of the previous fiscal.

Total revenue from operations, however, rose to Rs 10,203 crore in the September quarter against Rs 8,762 crore in the year-ago period, Bajaj



Auto said in a regulatory filing.

On a standalone basis, the company posted a net profit of Rs 1,530 crore in the second quarter compared to Rs 1,275 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

The company said its total

sales during the second quarter rose 1 per cent to 11,51,012 units from 11,44,407 units in the same period last fiscal.

The domestic sales of two and three-wheelers stood at 6,94,375 units in the September quarter, up 30 per cent from 5,32,216 units a year ago.

Exports fell 25 per cent to 4,56,637 units in the second quarter against 6,12,191 units in the year-ago period.

Macroeconomic challenges in select overseas markets subdued export billing volumes.

Offer to enjoy up to 12% pa returns

New Delhi: MobiKwik, a fintech firm, on Friday announced the launch of a futuristic and flexible alternative investment product “Xtra”. With zero lock-in, interest credited daily, at 12 per cent annually, and a minimum deposit of just Rs 1000, Xtra is a fresh take on Investments designed to suit the investment needs of millennials. Xtra is super flexible, enabling users to invest and earn for short bursts or extended time periods, said Mukul Saxena, CEO, Financial Services, MobiKwik.

Discoms' aggregate loss rises 66% to ₹50,281 crore in 2020-21: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Aggregate losses of power distribution utilities or discoms increased by 66 per cent to Rs 50,281 crore in 2020-21 as compared to the previous year, a report by state-run Power Finance Corporation said.

The Report on Performance of Power Utilities in 2020-21 unveiled at state power ministers' conference in Udaipur also stated that

overall AT&C (aggregate technical & commercial) losses of discoms deteriorated from 20.73 per cent in 2019-20 to 22.32 per cent in 2020-21.

For 2020-21, the report covers 117 utilities comprising 68 discoms, 23 power generation utilities, 22 power transmission utilities and 4 power trading utilities.

Aggregate losses of discoms increased from Rs 30,203 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 50,281 crore in 2020-21, the report



stated adding that aggregate losses on tariff subsidy received, excluding Regulatory Income and Revenue Grant under UDAY (discoms revival scheme) for loan takeover

increased from Rs 63,949 crore in 2019-20 to Rs 88,500 crore in 2020-21.

The Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) was launched by the Centre in November 2015 for operational and financial turnaround of state-owned discoms.

The scheme was aimed at reducing the interest burden, the cost of power, power losses in distribution sector, and improve operational efficiency of discoms.

INDIA OUT OF FIFA U-17 WWC

AP ■ BHUBANESWAR

Hosts India conceded three goals in the second half to suffer a humiliating 0-3 defeat to Morocco in their second Group A match and crash out of the FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup here on Friday.

Debutants Morocco scored through El Madani (50th minute), Yasmine Zouhir (61st) and Cherif Djennah (90+1) to script their maiden win in the tournament.

India, who were also making their debut as automatic qualifiers as hosts, had lost to USA 0-8 in the opening match on Tuesday. They take on Brazil in their last group match on October 17, which will only be of academic interest.

Morocco still remained in contention for a quarterfinal berth with three points after title contenders Brazil and USA played out a 1-1 draw in another Group A match here earlier in the day.

Brazil and USA now have four points each after two matches. Morocco, who had lost to Brazil 0-1 on Tuesday, play against USA on October 17.

It was a much improved Indian side after their humbling 0-8 defeat against USA and they dominated briefly in the early part of the first half which was largely evenly-contested. But the hosts lost the plot in the second half, conceding three goals to lose the match to the African team.

Goalkeeper Melody



Keisham, who replaced Anjali Munda after the USA match, had a forgettable game as her mistake led to Morocco's second goal.

In the eight minute of the match, India put pressure on the opposition defence. Nitu Linda collected the ball in Morocco box and she tried to set up Anita Kumari but a defender cleared the ball. Nothing came out of the Indian corner.

Four minutes later, it was Nitu again who won the ball after pressing her marker but her pass towards Anita was blocked by a Moroccan player.

After that brief domination by the Indians, Morocco were on ascendancy and they were unlucky not to have taken the lead with the crossbar saving India in the 18th minute.

Melody failed to collect

the ball cleanly after a Hajar Said attempt. El Madani then sent a cross but two Moroccan players could not connect it but captain Zouhir was there to fire in a powerful shot but only to hit the crossbar.

Another Morocco chance came right at the half-time whistle when Melody again failed to collect the ball but India survived as both the sides were locked 0-0 at half time.

Five minutes into the second half, Naketa handled the ball inside the Indian box and the referee had no hesitation to point to the dreaded spot and El Madani stepped up to score from the penalty.

Morocco doubled the lead after Melody fumbled while trying to collect a cross from the right and captain Yasmine Zouhir slotted the ball home with a left footer in the 61st minute.

Morocco then added salt to India's injury as Cherif Djennah outran Indian markers on the left before scoring a clinical goal in the first minute of the added time.

"We fought hard but lost the match. We will try to give our best against Brazil," said captain Astam Oraon after the match.

"It was a much improved performance by the team (than the match against USA). But we made mistakes including by the goalkeeper (second goal)," head coach Thomas Dennerby said.

BRAZIL AND USA PLAY OUT 1-1 DRAW

Title contenders Brazil and the USA played out a 1-1 draw in a fast-paced Group A match as both teams closed in on quarterfinal berths of the FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup here on Friday.

Both the goals were scored in the first half, in the space of four minutes. Nicolette Kiorpes gave USA the lead in the 33rd minute but Carol restored parity in the 37th minute.

The drawn result meant

that both hosts India and Morocco, who face each other later in the day, will find it difficult to remain in the reckoning for a quarterfinal berth.

Both Brazil and the USA have four points after their respective wins against Morocco and India. India face Brazil and the USA take on Morocco in final Group matches on Monday.

India lost 0-8 to the USA while Brazil beat Morocco 1-0 on the opening day on Tuesday.

It was an evenly contested match between Brazil and the USA who had more ball possession as well as more shots on opposition goal.

Concacaf champions USA had 57 per cent ball possession and 19 shots, out of which seven were on target. Brazil, the South American champions, had 15 shots in the match out of which four were on target.

The South Americans pressed hard for a winning goal towards the closing stages of the match but the USA defenders did a great job in defending their citadel.

In Margao, African champions Nigeria thrashed New Zealand 4-0 in a Group B match.

Amina Bello (16th), Miracle Usani (34th), Taiwo Afolabi (75th) and Edidiong Etim (90+5) scored for Nigeria.

This was New Zealand's second defeat in the tournament as they had lost 1-3 to Chile on Tuesday. Nigeria had also lost to Germany 1-2 in their opening match.



Third Aus-Eng T20I abandoned due to rain

AP ■ CANBERRA

England were denied a clean sweep of their T20 series against Australia when persistent rain forced the third match to be abandoned in Canberra on Friday.

Needing 130 to win from 12 overs, Australia were 30-3 from 3.5 overs when rain forced the players from the field for the third and final time.

England captain Jos Buttler said his team was building up well to the T20 World Cup, after winning the three-match series 2-0.

After being sent in by Australian captain Aaron Finch, Buttler smashed 65 from only 41 balls as England reached 112-2 in their 12 overs.

Australia, already 2-0 down in the three-match series, then needed 130 to win based on the Duckworth-Lewis method.

And they got the worst possible start when Chris Woakes had Finch and number three Mitchell Marsh caught with the

first two balls of the match to stun the home side.

He then dismissed Glenn Maxwell in the third over to leave the Australians in huge trouble at 17-3, before rain forced an early end.

Finch earlier won the toss and chose to field, with Australia getting away to the perfect start themselves, as Josh Hazlewood had Alex Hales caught at first slip in the second over.

Buttler and Dawid Malan looked comfortable and after a slow start began to accelerate, but shortly after the first rain delay Malan miscued an attempted slog off Pat Cummins and was caught at mid-off by Marsh for 23.

A second rain delay saw the match shortened to 12 overs each, and Buttler came out firing, blasting 22 runs off the 11th over to help set a challenging total.

Woakes' brilliant opening spell made that target unlikely and an Australian defeat appeared to be saved by the rain.

McTominay rescues Man Utd, Arsenal edge Bodo/Glimt

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Arsenal maintained their perfect start to the Europa League as Bukayo Saka's goal clinched a 1-0 win at Bodo/Glimt, while Manchester United left it late to beat Omonia Nicosia.

Saka struck midway through the first half in Norway to give the Gunners a third win in as many outings in Group A.

"I'm really happy with the win against a team that has won the last 14 games here at home," Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta told BT Sport.

"We were expecting a really tough night here and we made a lot of changes again but I'm delighted to find a way to win."

Arsenal are two points clear of PSV Eindhoven, who thrashed FC Zurich 5-0. Bodo/Glimt have four points from four matches.

Scott McTominay spared United's blushes with a 93rd-minute goal in a 1-0 win over Cypriots Omonia at Old Trafford.

Omonia goalkeeper Francis Uzoho pulled off a string of fine saves to frustrate a wasteful United before the Scotland midfielder fired home in stoppage time.

Erik ten Hag's team stayed



three points behind Group E leaders Real Sociedad, who beat 10-man Sheriff Tiraspol 3-0 to record a fourth successive win.

La Real are guaranteed to advance. They host United on November 3 in a clash likely to determine which team goes directly into the last 16.

Each of the eight group runners-up will face a team that drops down from the Champions League, in a knock-

out round play-off in February. Real Betis dropped their first points of the competition after a 1-1 draw at home to Roma in Group C as they missed the chance to secure a last-16 spot.

Sergio Canales put Betis ahead on 34 minutes but Andrea Belotti equalised for Roma, who remain third in the section behind Ludogorets. The Bulgarians won 2-0 at home to HJK Helsinki.

Freiburg eased to a fourth consecutive victory in Group G, piling further misery on Nantes with a 4-0 win away to the French Cup holders.

Fenerbahce and Rennes both ensured they will progress from Group B. Fenerbahce won 2-1 at AEK Larnaca, while Rennes defeated Dynamo Kyiv 1-0 in Krakow.

Belgium's Union Saint-Gilloise must wait to make sure of a place in the last 16

despite coming from two goals down in a thrilling 3-3 draw against Braga.

Union Berlin revived their hopes in Group D as Robin Knoche's 89th-minute penalty gave the surprise Bundesliga leaders a 1-0 victory over Malmö.

All four teams in Group F are level on five points. Lazio drew 2-2 at home to Sturm Graz while Feyenoord were held by the same scoreline by Midtjylland.

Ferencváros are three points clear in Group H after beating Red Star Belgrade 2-1. Trabzonspor hammered Monaco 4-0 to climb above the Ligue 1 side into second.

Villarreal qualified for the last 16 of the Europa Conference League as winners of Group C. Senegalese midfielder Nicolas Jackson scored the only goal in their 1-0 win at Austria Vienna.

West Ham advanced from Group B following a 2-1 win over Anderlecht courtesy of goals from Said Benrahma and Jarrod Bowen. The Hammers need just a point from their final two games to wrap up top spot. Istanbul Basaksehir and Djurgarden will also continue their European adventure in the new year.

Fakhar replaces Usman in Pak T20 WC squad

PTI ■ KARACHI

Hard-hitting batter Fakhar Zaman was on Friday included in the Pakistan squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in place of leg-spinner Usman Qadir who is yet to recover from an injury.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Fakhar would be part of the official 15-member T20 World Cup squad while Qadir, who is still recovering from a fractured thumb, will join the travelling reserves.

"The change was necessary as Usman Qadir is yet to recover from a hairline fracture on his right thumb that he suffered during the 25 September T20I against England in Karachi. The leg-spinner will not be



available for selection before 22 October," the PCB said in a statement.

It said Zaman will arrive in Brisbane from London along

with Shaheen Shah Afridi on Saturday and will be available for selection for the two warm-up matches against England (October 17) and Afghanistan (October 19), during which the team management will assess the left-handed batter's fitness.

Zaman was ruled out of the recent home T20I series against England after injuring his knee during fielding in the Asia Cup final in Dubai.

He was also sent to London along with Afridi to undergo rehabilitation for the injury.

The match fitness of Afridi will also be tested during the two warm-up games. He has not played since mid-July when he injured his knee while fielding during the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle.

Super 10 League this December

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Superstar-actor Kichcha Sudeepa and West Indian Cricket legend Chris Gayle announced the first edition of 'Super Ten', a unique cricket tournament, which will bring together the Indian actors, retired international cricketers from various nations and corporate

honchos to compete in 10 over (T10) format for two days in Bengaluru in December.

We are committed to bring forth a high-octane game for the viewers, said Dinesh Kumar, CEO & Founder, Super Ten Cricket.

"I am excited to play cricket with some of noteworthy names in the Indian entertainment industry," said Gayle.

Liverpool can't afford to focus only on hotshot Haaland: Klopp

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp admits he cannot afford to focus too heavily on in-form striker Erling Haaland in Sunday's clash against Manchester City as the champions have too many threats elsewhere.

The Norway international has scored 20 times this season, including 15 Premier League goals, and will pose a huge threat at Anfield.

City and Liverpool have been the dominant forces in the English top flight in recent seasons but Klopp's side have started the current campaign slowly, winning just two of their first eight league games.

The Anfield side are languishing in 10th spot in the table, already 13 points behind second-placed City, who have smashed in 33 goals in just nine Premier League games.

Liverpool kept Haaland quiet in the FA Community Shield, the curtain-raiser to the new season, but the 22-year-old has since scored in every game for City in all competitions except one.

"Like always when you play against the best striker in the world, you have to make sure he doesn't get that many balls," Klopp said at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"That is what you have to defend before you come into the challenge with him so that is what we will try.

"But against City the problem is if you close Haaland down with too many players then you open up gaps for all the other world-class players so that will not make life easier.

"It's a challenge, a football problem but we try and find solutions."

Liverpool came up against Haaland twice in the Champions League in 2019, when he was a raw 19-year-old playing for Red Bull Salzburg,



and he scored in one of the games.

Klopp said his potential at even that tender age was "insane".

"Physically he sets new standards, the combination of being really physical and technical. His orientation on the pitch is exceptional — he knows always where the decisive gaps are and is barely offside — so many things for making a striker.

"(He has) some of the best players around him in the world in setting up goals and finding the right moments for the passes: Kevin De Bruyne, Ilkay Gundogan, Bernardo Silva, Phil Foden, (Riyad) Mahrez — they are all really good at that so it's a perfect fit, no doubt about that."

Child prodigy Niemann—a cheat or a genius?

World chess awaits FIDE report on cheating scandal

WORLD CHESS SCANDAL
BY PRAVIN THIPSAY

The cheating scandal that recently rocked world chess has lifted the lid on what has plagued competitive chess for a long time.

I'd love to cite one of the examples of such cheating which happened to me over seven years back. In 2015, the Delhi Chess Association and Government of India conducted the 1st Keshav Hedgewar Memorial Tournament for the Prakash Trophy at Delhi. In the 5th round, I played against an unknown youngster, who seemed to play quite strongly compared to his rating / known playing strength. I became suspicious of some sort of cheating with the help of a computer and lodged a complaint with the Chief Arbiter, who accepted the complaint and asked me to continue the game.

After I 'lost' the game, my opponent was taken straight for a search, during which he was found carrying two mobile phones in his shoes, a set of wireless earphones in his ears and a long extensive wiring all



over the body, which seemed to have facilitated external help (through an accomplice). When 'caught red-handed' in public, my opponent confessed to cheating. Corrective measures were taken immediately, the result of the game was reversed, I was awarded the point; my opponent was removed from the tournament. I even went on to become the Champion of the tournament.

Coming back to the game played between Magnus Carlsen and Hans Niemann in the 9th Sinquefeld Cup, Saint Louis on September 4, 2022. The world champion's loss and his subsequent act of resigning against the same opponent after just one

THIPSAY'S EXCLUSIVE 3-PART SERIES FOR THE PIONEER ON THE MASSIVE CHESS SCANDAL THAT ROCKED WORLD CHESS RECENTLY

move and withdrawing from the tournament sparked a big debate in the chess world. Tongues started wagging that it

was Carlsen's way of telling that Niemann was a cheat. The world chess federation (FIFA) set up a panel to probe the charges and the report is awaited.

Meanwhile, I decided to check the game with an intention of forming my own opinion about 'cheating' allegations with chess engine help during the said game'. As an active tournament player for over five decades, I have had opportunity to be a member of Fair Play Panels and Appeals Committee of several important tournaments, including one Chess Olympiad. I hereby put forth my observations about the game in question, a very high quality

game by the 19-year-old American. My annotations are based on two things: (1) The objective analysis of the game with engine help. (2) Is a reasonably strong Grandmaster likely to play the game in such an exemplary way?

The purpose is not to declare anyone 'Guilty' or 'Not Guilty' — but simply to place the game in the right perspective and help you make your own opinion.

Chess lovers will be surprised to know that there have been several stories of 'fake combinations' or 'arranged games', such as 'the most famous back-rank combination played by an unknown amateur against his trainer (a great Chess master) in a friendly game' (published worldwide) or even several combinations 'played' by a great 'master of brilliancy' without producing any evidence of the games actually taking place. We all enjoy these games for their artistic value and show these examples as model combinations to our students. Similarly, let us all enjoy and learn Chess from the 1 game played on September 4 between Carlsen and Niemann irrespective of the raging controversy.

To be concluded
(Pravin Thipsay is an Arjuna Awardee and International Chess Grandmaster)



INDIA AIM TO WIN 7th ASIA CUP TITLE

PTI ■ SYLHET

A ruthless Indian team would look to reassert its supremacy and aim to win an unprecedented seventh Asia Cup title when it clashes with Sri Lanka in the final here on Saturday.

The tournament brought to fore India's depth as the younger crop of players has shouldered the burden of taking the team to the final without any tangible contribution from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana.

Such has been the impact of the Indian team, that skipper Harmanpreet played only four games (81 runs) and in total faced a only 72 balls in those matches.

Even Mandhana, who led in three games, skipped one game and didn't need to contribute much.

The biggest takeaway from a tournament like this is that Indian team's junior members could react to pressure situations in a perfect manner when they were thrown at the deep end of the pool.

The most heartening aspect was how three 'seasoned' youngsters -- 18 year-old Shafali Verma (161 runs and 3 wickets), 22-year-old Jemimah Rodrigues (215 runs) and 25-year-old Deepti Sharma (94 runs and 13 wickets) put their hands up and carried the team through to the summit clash.

The only blip in an otherwise flawless campaign was a defeat against arch-rivals Pakistan due to some bizarre planning by coach Ramesh Powar and Harmanpreet.

India won't get a chance to settle scores with Pakistan at least in this edition as Sri Lanka knocked them out in the semifinals.

At least on paper, the summit clash is a complete mismatch as only one Sri Lankan batter (Oshadi Ranasinghe) has managed to scale the 100-plus strike-rate.

Asia Cup provided us platform to test our limitations & try combinations: Harman

PTI ■ SYLHET

Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Friday said the ongoing Women's Asia Cup served as a good platform to test their limitations and try out combinations ahead of next year's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

Despite the experimentation, the Indian team cruised to the summit clash without being challenged much, though it lost to Pakistan in the league stage.

India will clash with on Sri Lanka in the final on Saturday for an unprecedented seventh trophy.

"This (Asia Cup) is such a platform where you can test your limitations, what type of cricket you want to play and that's what we done in this tournament, always testing ourselves, putting us into pressure," Harmanpreet said on the eve of the title-clash.

"We tried a lot of combinations because we have to do those things as the World Cup is around the corner."

Harmanpreet said their focus after stepping on to Bangladesh soil was to unearth future match-winners.

"When we came to Bangladesh we discussed that every game we have to look for different match winners, we didn't want to depend on one or two players. We wanted everyone to step up and win the game for the team and I am really happy that we are getting different match winners," she said.

"The most important thing is to stay positive and keep thinking what you can do better for the team. I don't feel we need to think about too many things, just stay positive."

Talking about the final, the

India skipper said they won't put themselves under pressure despite the load of expectations.

"I think when you have set some standards there is lot of expectations ought from you but its very important for us to just keep playing the good cricket we have done so far in this tournament and we want to continue doing that. We have created a great instinct but we have to be positive," Harman said.

Sri Lanka have never won the Asia Cup. They finished second-best four times, the last being in 2008 and skipper Chamari Athapaththu is eager to see her team entering history books.

"The last game is very crucial game for us. For the last 14 years we have been looking to play in the Asia Cup final so now we got the opportunity, we will stick with our plans.



Raina bats for Pant, says presence of left-hander with Hardik could be X factor

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former batter Suresh Raina feels the left-handed Rishabh Pant could be the X factor for India alongside Hardik Pandya in the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup.

With all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's injury ruling him out of the tournament, Pant, who has an excellent record in Australia, could do what the likes of Yuvraj Singh and Raina once did along with former skipper MS Dhoni.

Under Dhoni, India triumphed in the inaugural World T20 in 2007, the 2011 ODI World Cup and the 2013 Champions Trophy, the last ICC tournament the team has won.

"I would say the presence of a left-handed batter would be very important in the middle," Raina said in an exclusive interview with PTI on Friday.

He added: "From No. 1-6, we don't have a left-hander and I'm sure the opponents will have two-three left-handed bowlers. We have seen it in the past -- 2007, 2011 and 2013 -- the role Gauti, Yuvi Pa and I played.

"You need to bring the X factor with Hardik and who can be the X factor? I think Rishabh being a left-hander could be better," the 35-year-old responded to a query whether India should prefer Pant over Dinesh Karthik as the wicket-keeper batter.

A member of the 2011 World Cup and 2013 Champions Trophy winning teams, Raina further said the left-right combination in the middle is needed to upset the rhythm of the rival bowlers.

"When Yuvi Pa and I played, we would scare the opponents. Now Rahul, Rohit will have to decide how they have to go about it. I'm sure they must be thinking over it, but whoever they play, we have to win."

Karthik has been the designated finisher of the team but it's unlikely that India would go for two wicketkeeper batters in the same playing XI.

"DK has got an opportunity, he has been given a role. But I'm not saying whether they should prefer Pant over DK. Whoever gets a chance, needs to take a lot of responsibility and win the game," said Raina, the first Indian to hit centuries in all the three formats of the game.

"A left-right combination can upset the rhythm, especially when the grounds in Australia are big. It's important to have a left-handed batter in the middle. Pant has done really well in Australia and won the Test series there. So we'll see."

While the top-four looks solid and needs to give a perfect start, Raina feels star all-rounder Pandya would be the key for

With all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's injury ruling him out of the tournament, Pant could do what the likes of Yuvraj Singh and Raina once did along with former skipper MS Dhoni

India.

"Remember Pandya would be the main player for Team India. He will bowl those crucial overs in the powerplay and some in the middle and his role would be most important when he comes on to bat, when we would be needing 60-70 runs off 30 balls. So his role would be very important for Team India to win the World Cup."

The Indian top-four batters have been in good touch and Raina said they need to score big to take the pressure off Hardik.

"The opening partnership between Rohit and KL will be very, very crucial, they have all the big shots in their repertoire. Then we have the likes of Virat, Surya in top-four.

"They have to score big runs as if you go deep, you don't have any other batter other than Hardik who can go for the chase."

Showing full faith in skipper Rohit, he said: "He was there when India won the first World Cup in 2007, now he's gone there as a captain. I'm sure he can bring back the trophy home.

"I feel the team is in full form, we have ticked all the boxes. It's about playing 40 overs well, and taking one game at a time. So getting a good start against Pakistan and taking the momentum will be very important.

"It won't be easy, they have to play their A game, there will be pressure, they have to work hard. Australia, England are looking strong and Pakistan and New Zealand both are doing well."

Picking veteran pacer Mohammed Shami in place of the injured Jasprit Bumrah is a perfect move, Raina said.

"Bumrah is our No. 1 bowler but we can only control the controllables and Shami is the perfect replacement for him. It's true that he has not played for a long time but his seam position and hard decks in Australia would be handy."

Raina, who has been signed as Booking.Com's brand ambassador for the upcoming World Cup, is all set to travel to Australia and Holland, and will watch the final on November 13.

BCCI puts Asia Cup in Pakistan on Indian team's roster for 2023



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket team may tour Pakistan after a gap of 15 years, the BCCI has indicated ahead of its all important Annual General meeting (AGM) on October 18 in Mumbai.

The BCCI has shared with all its state unit representatives a slowdown of the work done during the past year along with future plans and schedule of the national team's tours, which includes Asia Cup in Pakistan next year.

According to the report, the Indian team will be participating in the ICC

Women's T20 World Cup (South Africa), ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup (South Africa), Asia Cup (Pakistan) and ICC Cricket World Cup, India.

With England, Australia, West Indies and Sri Lanka having already toured Pakistan in the past few years, it will be interesting to see how things pan out as BCCI will need central government's permission to allow the team to travel to Pakistan.

"Obviously, when the time comes, it will be a government decision. But there is one aspect. The government allows India versus Pakistan contests in global and continental events. So there is a chance of India travelling but it will be too early to completely commit that a team will go to Pakistan. But putting it on report is a broad hint," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Currently, the Asian Cricket Council is headed by BCCI secretary Jay Shah and his decision will hold a lot of weight going forward.

The two neighbours last played a bilateral white-ball contest back in 2012 when the Pakistan travelled to India for three T20Is and three ODIs.

India last travelled to Pakistan in 2008 for the 50-over Asia Cup.

The political tension between the two nations resulted in halting bilateral cricket ties.

Nobody spoke a word against Ganguly: Arun Dhumal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

BCCI's outgoing treasurer and Bnext IPL chairman Arun Dhumal on Friday cleared the air over Sourav Ganguly not getting another term as board president, saying "nobody spoke a word" against the former India captain.

The next set of BCCI office bearers have filed their nomination and will be elected unopposed on October 18.

World Cup winner Roger Binny will replace Ganguly as the president, Jay Shah will remain the secretary, Rajeev Shukla will get another term as vice-president, Ashish Shelar will be the new treasurer and Devajit Saikia the new joint secretary.

Speaking to PTI, Dhumal said Ganguly was party to all the decisions made before the nominations were filed.

"There has been no BCCI president who has served for more than three years in independent India. All this media speculation about Dada being told or a few members were against him, they are all baseless," Dhumal said.

"Nobody spoke a word against him. All the Board members were



extremely happy and satisfied with the entire team and how BCCI was run in the last three years despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

"Dada has had a very distinguished career as an India captain, one of the best ever leaders. As an administrator he took the entire team along and we worked as one team," he added.

Dhumal also went on to say that he would not have been part of the new team had Ganguly

accepted the IPL chairmanship. Ganguly did not take the offer and now Dhumal will replace Brijesh Patel as the next IPL chairman.

"Dada was there along with Roger and the new set of people who went to file the nomination. Everything was discussed and Dada was also spoken to. He was offered IPL chairmanship, else Roger would never have had a chance, he is 67 (age limit being 70).

Shami replaces Bumrah in India's T20 WC squad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI on Friday named seasoned pacer Mohammed Shami as injured Jasprit Bumrah's replacement in the Indian team for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Mohammed Shami as Jasprit Bumrah's replacement in India's ICC Men's T20 World Cup squad. Shami has reached Australia and will link up with the squad in Brisbane ahead of the warm-up matches," BCCI secretary Jay Shah was quoted in a press release.

Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur have been named as backups and will travel to Australia shortly. The tournament will be held



from October 16 to November 13. Shami has last played in T20 Internationals during the

last edition of the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE. Shami has played 17 T20Is and has taken 18 wickets.

Ignored for India, Prithvi sizzles with 61-ball 134

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Repeatedly overlooked for the Indian team, Prithvi Shaw made a statement with a blistering 61-ball 134 and powered Mumbai to a 61-run victory over Assam at the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Friday.

The blazing knock came close on the heels of the batter expressing his disappointment at not being picked in India's ODI squad for the recent South Africa series at home.

In the Group A match, Mumbai put up an imposing 230 for three after being asked to bat first.

Shaw did the bulk of the scoring, striking 13 fours and as many as nine sixes at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

In reply, Assam were bowled out for 169 in 19.3 overs. Tushar Deshpande was the most successful bowler for Mumbai, picking up 3/25 while there were two wickets apiece for Shams Mulani, Aman Hakim Khan and Tanush Kotian.

Captain Mayank Agarwal hit 47



and Manish Pandey struck 42 as Karnataka thrashed Meghalaya by nine wickets in a Group C match. Electing to bat, Meghalaya could

muster only 89 for 8 in their allotted 20 overs, thanks to double digit scores from Larry Sangma (34) and Yogesh Tiwari (22).

Vijaykumar Vyshak was the pick of the bowlers for Karnataka, registering figures of 3 for 5 from his four overs.

Chasing the modest total, Devdutt Padikkal perished in the fourth ball for a duck.

But, Agarwal and Pandey joined hands and stitched match-winning 90 runs for the comfortable victory.

In another Group C match, Kerala defeated Haryana by three wickets.

Elsewhere in the group, Services crushed Arunachal Pradesh by nine wickets while Maharashtra defeated Jammu and Kashmir by three wickets.

Fancied Tamil Nadu crushed Sikkim by nine wickets in their Group E match.

Batting first, Sikkim were all out for 79, and in response, Tamil Nadu completed the formalities with more than 10 overs to spare at the Ekana Cricket Stadium B.

Former India U-19 pacer Shivam Mavi grabbed 4/14 as Delhi hit a low, getting all-out for 99 as Uttar Pradesh were back to winning ways with a eight-wicket victory in a group B match.

It was a contrasting performance from both sides as UP lifted their game after a humiliating defeat at the hands of minnows Tripura while Delhi had out-batted Punjab, courtesy Nitish Rana's 55-ball-100.

The switch from Mumbai to Goa is working well for young Arjun Tendulkar as he kept up his consistent show with a career-best figures of 4/10 but his team lost to Hyderabad by 37 runs in another group B encounter at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium.

Left-arm fast medium pacer Tendulkar's scalps included his former Mumbai Indians teammate Tilak Verma (62) as Hyderabad scored 177/6. Tanmay Agarwal, with 55, was the other significant contributor.

In reply, medium pacer Ravi Teja took 4/20 as Goa were restricted to 140 in 18.5 overs.