

OPINION 6
CAN NEW PRESIDENT
SALVAGE CONGRESS?**WORLD 8**
NATO BEGINS NUCLEAR EXERCISES
AMID RUSSIA WAR TENSIONS**MONEY 10**
IMPACT OF POLICY INFLATION
CURB AFTER 5-6 QTRS: MPCPublished From
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INDIA BEAT OZ
IN WARM-UP
MATCH
12 SPORT

Sisodia: Asked to quit AAP during grilling; 'lies': CBI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday questioned Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia for over nine hours in connection with a corruption case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy scam. Sisodia is the prime accused in the case.

The CBI investigators quizzed Sisodia on various aspects of the Delhi Government's Excise Policy, his relations with other accused, including businessman Vijay Nair, and documents recovered during searches in the case, officials said.

After the questioning, Sisodia alleged that this was all part of the BJP's "Operation Lotus" to pressurise him to quit the AAP. He also claimed that the post of the CM was also offered to him. "During the questioning, I was told to leave the AAP and all the cases against me would vanish in a blink of an eye, and would get the post of CM too, or else cases like these would keep getting registered against me," he claimed.

Denying Sisodia's charges, the CBI in a statement said,



Delhi Dy CM Manish Sisodia arrives at the CBI headquarters for questioning in connection with the excise policy probe in New Delhi on Monday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

"CBI strongly refutes these allegations and reiterates that examination of Shri Sisodia was carried out in a professional and legal manner strictly as per the allegations against him in the FIR. The investigation of the case will continue as per law.

"Manish Sisodia was today (17.10.2022) examined by CBI in connection with ongoing investigation in Delhi Excise Policy case. He was examined

strictly on the allegations in the FIR and the evidence collected so far during the course of investigation. His statement will be verified in due course and further action taken as per requirements of investigation."

Sisodia arrived at the agency headquarters here at 11.15 am and he was taken straight to the first floor of the building where the anti-corruption branch is located, officials said, adding, his interro-

gation continued till about 8.30 pm.

Sisodia also said that about Satyender Jain, the AAP leader who is behind bars for the past few months, they told me, "Jain par konsa sachha case hai, phir bhi vo jail mei hai".

"The questioning was all part of the big conspiracy to make the BJP's Operation Lotus successful in the national Capital," Sisodia said.

"During the duration of nine hours, I understood that there is no liquor scam, it is just a conspiracy against me by the BJP. It's clear to me that the saffron party is unconstitutional using agencies like the CBI and the ED to pressure the people to join them," Sisodia said.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and senior leaders of his party throughout the day defended Sisodia and claimed he would be arrested to keep him away from campaigning in Gujarat.

"Gujarat results will be out on December 8. These people will keep Manish in jail till then. So that Manish does not go for campaigning in Gujarat elections," Kejriwal tweeted.

Continued on Page 2

96% cast vote; Kharge, Tharoor's fate sealed

I have been waiting for this day, says Sonia; Assembly polls and Rajasthan crisis litmus test for new Cong president

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Voting ended on Monday in the Congress presidential poll amid a high-pitched contest between senior leaders M Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor for the top post about which the incumbent and the longest-serving president Sonia Gandhi said she had been "waiting for this day".

"I have been waiting for a long time for this day," Sonia said after voting at the AICC headquarters in Delhi.

The turnout was about 96 per cent, said the AICC office.

With the party now set to name its first non-Gandhi president in over 24 years on Wednesday, senior party leaders, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, stressed the Gandhi family's guidance will be crucial and will play an important role in the party in the days to come.

Both Kharge and Tharoor have emphasised that the Gandhis hold a special place in the party. Kharge has gone to



Congress president Sonia Gandhi casts her vote for the party's presidential election on Monday
Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

the extent of saying that he would seek the "guidance" and "suggestions" of Gandhis. Tharoor has asserted that no Congress president can function by keeping a distance from the Gandhis as their DNA runs in the party's blood.

Given the trend and the support Kharge received as compared to Tharoor, the Karnataka veteran leader is clear favourite to bag the top post. Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat polls will be the perfect challenge for Kharge to ensure Congress bucks the trend of losing Assembly elections. The new party chief will have to deal with the Rajasthan crisis.

"It's a moment of pride for the entire Congress that we're

in the democratic process to elect the party president. It's only Congress that can elect the party president. We are demonstrating real democracy. Nobody will be a rubber stamp president," said Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, who also voted at AICC HQ.

Sonia, her daughter and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh cast their votes at the party's headquarters in Lutyens Delhi, while Rahul Gandhi cast his vote in a meeting room container converted into a polling booth at the Bharat Jodo Yatra camp site in Sanganakallu in Ballari district.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

IAS OFFICER SUSPENDED AFTER RAPE ALLEGATION

New Delhi: The Government on Monday suspended senior IAS officer and former chief secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Jitendra Narain, accused of raping a woman in Port Blair. The suspension came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed immediate strict action against Narain, who is presently posted as the chairman and managing director of the Delhi Financial Corporation, according to a Union Home Ministry statement.

12TH TRANCHE OF ₹16K CR RELEASED TO KISAN

New Delhi: Ahead of Diwali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday released the 12th instalment of financial benefit worth ₹16,000 crore to eligible farmers under the flagship PM-KISAN scheme. With this, the total amount transferred to 11 crore beneficiaries is expected to cross ₹2.16 lakh crore.

CHANDRACHUD NAMED CJI, OATH ON NOV 9

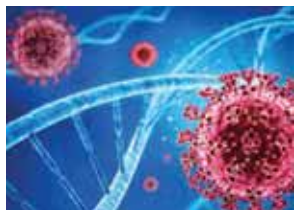
New Delhi: Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, was on Monday appointed the 50th Chief Justice of India. He will take oath on November 9.

EU SLAPS SANCTIONS ON IRAN MORALITY POLICE

Brussels: The European Union on Monday imposed sanctions on Iran's morality police and the Islamic Republic's information Minister over their roles in the security crackdown against massive anti-Government protests. They're also banned from travelling in Europe.

Corona may return with vengeance, fear experts

As India detects a case of Omicron BF.7, next 2-3 weeks crucial as festivals ahead



China has already seen the spread of highly infectious Omicron variants that include BA.5.1.7 strains.

Sore throat, congestion, fatigue, cough and runny nose continue to be the most reported symptoms of this sub-variant too.

Reports say that the case (of BF.7 variant) has been detected by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research centre and that the new sub-variant of Omicron is highly infectious and has a greater transmissibility. The World Health Organisation (WHO) had warned against the highly infectious BF.7 sub-variant.

White House chief medical adviser Dr Anthony Fauci has already warned that a new, more dangerous Covid variant is likely to emerge this upcoming winter.

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BJP withdraws candidate, paves way for Uddhav's Sena win from Andheri(E)

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Cornered by all other political parties, the ruling BJP on Monday gave into the moral pressure from various quarters and withdrew its candidate Murji Patel from the Andheri (East) bypoll fray, paving way for the election of Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena's nominee and the widow of late Sena's late sitting MLA Rutuja Latke unopposed.

Six months after it stood its ground under similar circumstances and fought against the widow of sitting Congress MLA Chandrakant Jadhav in the bypoll to Kolhapur North Assembly seat, the BJP had no alternative but to make a graceful exit from the Andheri (East) bypoll, lending a moral boost to the beleaguered Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray).

Monday was the last day for the withdrawal of nomination.

Announcing that his party had decided to withdraw its candidate from the Andheri (East) bypoll fray, Maharashtra's BJP president Chandrashekar Bawankule told the media in Nagpur: "After other parties requested us to



pull of the Andheri (East) bypoll fray, we deliberated on the issue and took a decision accordingly... The BJP had previously also not contested some of the bypolls."

The BJP's announcement to pull out of the Andheri (East) came a day after MNS chief Raj Thackeray appealed to Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnis to withdraw from the contest as a mark of "reverence" to the Sena MLA and facilitate "unopposed" election of his wife Rutuja Latke.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar had also suggested that Rutuja be elected unopposed in the bypoll as such a development would send a message to political parties across the country.

Continued on Page 2

PM to spend Diwali with jawans, 9th year in a row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As in the last eight years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will again be with the armed forces on the day of Diwali festival on October 24. He would visit Kedarnath on October 21 and then he will visit Badrinath shrine where he will review the ongoing development projects under the Badrinath master plan.

He has celebrated Diwali with soldiers every year since he was first elected in 2014. He celebrated the festival with troops in Jammu & Kashmir Rajouri twice — 2019 and 2021. Modi is expected to visit the border village of "Maana" in Uttarakhand and interact with the villagers and soldiers.

Arif's pink slip threat to Kerala Mins stokes Guv-Govt crisis

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The troubled ties between Governor Mohammed Arif Khan and the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government vitiated further on Monday with the former sending a stern message to the Council of Ministers through social media that they stand to lose their position if they continue to speak in a manner that lowers the dignity of the post of the Governor.

"The CM and Council of Ministers have every right to advise the Governor. But statements of individual Ministers that lower the dignity of the office of the Governor can invite action, including withdrawal of pleasure," says the message posted by the Public Relations Officer of Raj Bhavan in the twitter handle of the



Governor.

The Governor was referring to Article 164 of the Constitution which says "the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor".

The Governor's stern warning came amid an ongoing confrontation with the LDF Government on various issues.

According to sources close to the Governor, he was upset and hurt over the statement made by Minister for Higher Education R Bindu (spouse of

former Left Democratic Front convener Vijaya Raghavan) on Friday last.

The Minister, who herself is at the centre of a controversy for her elevation as a professor despite charges that she does not have the mandatory qualifications, has been quoted in the local media as telling: "All were bound by their Constitutional duties". Her response came in the wake of the Governor's refusal to give assent to the University Laws (Amendment) Bill.

The CPI(M) Government wants to appoint its own nominees as vice-chancellors of the universities in the State bypassing the Governor's directives and the latter has refused to sign the ordinance issued by the State Government.

Continued on Page 2

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NCR-PULSE

MCD CONDUCTS DEMOLITION DRIVE NEAR BATLA HOUSE
New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday carried out a demolition drive to remove "illegal structures" near Batla House in Jamia Nagar using bulldozers amid a heavy police presence. Commuters complained about traffic jams in the area due to the drive. According to civic officials, the demolition drive was conducted after due inspections by the ground staff where it was found that a number of "illegal structures" have come up in the area encroaching upon government land.

2 NIGERIAN ARRESTED FOR CHEATING 200 PEOPLE
New Delhi: The police have arrested two Nigerian nationals involved in allegedly cheating more than 200 people after befriending them on social media. After contacting the victims, Simon Odikpo Onuorah (34) and Koutani Arrisetes Nibaja (34) first pretended to send them gifts, police said. Later, they asked the victims to transfer money in the name of custom duty or other clearance charges, police said. The matter came to light after a woman filed a complaint alleging that she was duped of over Rs 12 lakhs.

HC SEEKS NMC'S RESPONSE TO MEDICAL PLEA
New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday sought the response of the National Medical Commission, Delhi Medical Council and two government hospitals to a plea by a woman holding several doctors liable for the medical negligence which led to the death of her 15-year-old daughter in 2019.

DENGUE CASES RISE IN DELHI, 1,572 THIS YEAR
New Delhi: The number of dengue cases in Delhi has seen a spike with 635 new infections being reported in the first 12 days of October taking the total tally to 1,572 so far this year, a civic body report said on Monday. Of the total 1,572 cases recorded this year, as many as 693 were reported in September alone. The city had logged 937 cases of dengue this year till September-end, and 635 fresh cases were reported in the first 12 days of October, taking the tally of the vector-borne disease in the city to 1,572, according to the report released by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday.

'MOVEABLE FEAST' ON ICONIC AMITABH'S 80TH BIRTHDAY
New Delhi: Sony Entertainment Talent Ventures India (SETVI), Ideographic and Theta Labs on Monday announced "A Moveable Feast", a vividly imaginative collection of artworks commissioned to mark the life and work of the cultural colossus that is Amitabh Bachchan as he turned 80 on October 11, in the year in which India celebrates its 75th year as a free nation. The exhibition will be on view till October 22 at the CCA Gallery, Bikaner House.

MAHATMA GANDHI LEGEND CUP MATCH HELD
New Delhi: VMCM (Vardman Mahavir Medical College) and Safdarjung Hospital Alumni Association recently organized Mahatma Gandhi Legend Cup Cricket Match here at the behest of Dr Rahul Tototia and Pehseen Ahmad with an aim to create awareness on mental health which is on increase in the country. "As we know suicide rate is on increase day by day, hence we need to focus focus on one's mental well being. Most of the people don't seek help because of the stigma associated with it. So risk factors should be identified and the environment is made conducive so that mental health disorders are detected early and treated in time," said RML Hospital Resident Dr Manish Jhangra.

MP cops register case against couple in actor Vaishali Thakkar's suicide

PTI ■ BHOPAL
Madhya Pradesh Police have registered a case of abetting suicide against a couple after noted TV actor Vaishali Thakkar allegedly killed herself at her house in Indore even as the preliminary investigation suggested she was depressed due to some "unknown" reason. Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Monday said the case was registered against Thakkar's neighbour Rahul Navlani and his wife Disha.

The accused couple lives in



the neighbourhood of the actor (29), known for her role in serials like 'Sasural Simar Ka'. She was found hanging from a ceiling fan with a stole in her house in Saibag Colony on Sunday, police said.

Prima facie, Thakkar had been under depression for the last few months for unknown reasons, a police official said citing the diary of the late actor.

"A case was registered under Indian Penal Code Section 306 (abetment of suicide) against Thakkar's neighbour Rahul Navlani and his wife Disha and further investigation is underway," Mishra told reporters in Bhopal.

A five-page suicide note was found at the spot in which Vaishali Thakkar named Rahul Navlani for harassing her, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Moti-ur-Rehman told PTI in Indore.

He said the actor's family members alleged Rahul Navlani was troubling her since he came to know about her plans to get married.

The accused couple was not found at their Indore home. They have gone away somewhere after locking their house, the ACP said. Thakkar and Navlani's fathers are business partners and they have known each other for a long time, he said. A case of abetment and instigation to commit suicide was registered against the couple, he said.

Indore commissioner of police Harinarayan Chari Mishra said the probe team has collected all personal belongings of Vaishali Thakkar, including her diary, laptop, iPad, iPhone and one other mobile phone.

Police officer RD Kanwa said Thakkar's diary revealed that she was under "a state of depression for the last few months".

"More information on the reason for her depression could be received only after the statements of her family members and close friends are recorded. This will be done in a day or two," Kanwa added.

Defamation case: SC nixes Tiwari plea against summons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea of BJP leader Manoj Tiwari challenging a Delhi High Court order refusing to quash summons of a trial court here against him in a criminal defamation case filed against him by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

A Bench comprising Justices S Abdul Nazeer and V Ramasubramaniam, however, allowed the plea of BJP leader Vijender Gupta challenging the high court order.

"We have dismissed the appeal by Manoj Tiwari and allowed the appeal by Vijender Gupta on grounds that the



history of the law commission report was not properly traced," the bench said.

The private defamation complaint was filed by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia against the BJP leaders for allegedly levelling corruption charges against him.

The BJP leaders have challenged a trial court's November

28, 2019 order summoning them and others as accused in the criminal defamation case filed by Sisodia.

Sisodia had filed the complaint against BJP leaders -- Members of Parliament Tiwari, Hans Raj Hans and Pravesh Verma, MLAs Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Gupta, and BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana -- for allegedly making corruption charges against him in relation to Delhi government school classrooms.

Sisodia had stated that all the allegations made by the BJP leaders jointly and individually were false, defamatory, and derogatory with an intention to harm and damage his reputation and goodwill.

AQI of Delhi poor for 2nd day on account of stubble burning

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national Capital on Monday remained "poor" for the second consecutive day and no improvement is likely in the next six days.

According to the bulletin released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 237 at 4 pm, worsening from 232 at 4 pm on Sunday. It is 247 in Ghaziabad, 286 in Faridabad, 254 in Greater Noida, 232 in Gurugram and 254 in Noida.

As per the Decision Support System of the Indian Institute of Tropical

Meteorology (IITM), the transport sector accounted for 19 per cent of PM2.5 pollution in Delhi on Monday.

The Early Warning System of the IITM said the air quality was likely to "remain largely in the poor category" over the next six days.

The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) predicted a peak wind speed of 12 km per hour over the next three days which will lead to only moderate dispersion of pollutants. Data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute showed a spike in the incidents of stubble burning in Punjab.

The agrarian state reported 169 farm fires on Saturday,

206 on Sunday and 403 on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said that the total of 1,695 incidents of stubble burning have been reported this year so far from Delhi, its adjoining states and Punjab as against 3,431 farm fires in the corresponding period last year.

Punjab has reported 1,444 incidents of farm fires as against 2,375 incidents in the corresponding period last year, the statutory body constituted in 2021 said in a statement.

Haryana has logged 244 fire events as compared to 1,026 in 2021 and National Capital Region (NCR) districts

Teenagers thrashed by guards in G'gram society

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A teenage boy, who had come to see the Diwali fair organised in a housing society in Sector 49 here, was allegedly abused and thrashed with kicks and sticks by the guards, police said on Monday.

An FIR has been registered with relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and under the justice juvenile act at Sector 50 police station, they said. According to the police the incident happened on Saturday evening at the gate of the Orchid Petal Society in sector 49 where a Diwali fair was underway. The teenage boy was also going there to visit the fair but he was stopped at the gate and was

thrashed.

According to the complaint filed by the mother of a 15-year-old teenager, a resident of Valley View Estate Society, her son left home with his friends at around 7.30 pm on Saturday to visit the fair.

"When my son along with his friends reached the society gate, the guards posted at the gate of the society and some residents stopped them. My son and his friends waited at the gate of the society for a long time and requested the guards that uncle let us go inside, but the guard suddenly started abusing them," she said.

"When my son protested against the abuse, the guards started beating him and also

beat up two friends of my son. Apart from the guards, there were some people who were not in the guard's dress who also threatened to kill my son," she added. Police said the boy is a class 10 student of a private school who informed his parents about the incident after returning from society. His mother rushed to the police with him on Sunday.

Following the complaint an FIR was registered against unknown security guards of the society under sections 147 (riots), 149 (unlawful assembly), 323 (causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC and section 75 of the juvenile justice act at Sector 50 police station on Sunday.



around 31,700 custom hiring centres and cooperatives have been set up in Punjab, Haryana and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh and more than two lakh crop residue management machinery are available for utilisation.

Along with unfavourable meteorological conditions,

paddy straw burning in adjoining states is a major reason behind the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the national capital in October and November.

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

Corona may return with vengeance, fear...

From Page 1
"We should anticipate that we may very well get another variant that would emerge, that would elude the immune response that we've gotten from infection and/or from vaccination," Fauci said at an event in the US recently.

Emerging research suggests that some new sub-variants, including one called BA.4.6, appear to evade immunity even more effectively than BA.5, though it is unclear whether any of them will overtake BA.5 as the country's

dominant Covid strain.

Dr Jugal Kishore, Head of Community Medicine Department, Safdarjung Hospital, echoed Fauci's observation and advised precaution and Covid appropriate behaviour ahead of the upcoming festive season. "People are becoming casual and due to the waning immunity and low immunity, they are vulnerable to the virus." Meanwhile, the active caseload of the country presently stands at 26,834 cases, accounting for 0.06 per cent of the country's total positive

cases. India's daily positivity rate was reported to be 1.86 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate currently stands at 1.02 per cent on Monday.

A total of 2,060 fresh Covid cases were detected in the last 24 hours against 2,401 reported on the previous day, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday.

Fauci pointed to the summer of 2021, when the US saw similarly low pandemic trends, only for the Omicron variant to emerge and cause a record-breaking surge in cases last

winter. Since then, multiple sub-variants of Omicron have spread and become dominant in the US that includes BA.5, which currently makes up 81.3 per cent of all cases circulating, according to CDC data.

BA.5 and its predecessor BA.4 are three times less sensitive to antibodies from the original Covid vaccines than even the original Omicron strain, research suggests.

"We shouldn't be surprised" if another new, more transmissible variant emerges this winter, Fauci said.

Sisodia: Asked to quit AAP during grilling...

From Page 1

Besides Sisodia, the agency is also grilling Raghava Reddy, the son of YSRCP Lok Sabha MP Magunta Greenivasulu Reddy, in the case, they further said.

Ahead of his questioning, Sisodia dubbed as "fake" the case lodged against him by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam, and claimed that his questioning was taking place as the BJP was "scared" of the AAP's "popularity" in poll-bound Gujarat.

The Deputy CM asked the AAP volunteers to feel proud if he goes to jail, saying he was a follower of Shahid Bhagat Singh.

The BJP slammed the AAP, saying it was "insulting" freedom fighters by comparing

them with Kejriwal Government Ministers facing corruption charges.

Sisodia headed for party office at DDU Marg after taking blessings of his mother at his Mathura Road residence. He was also applied tilak by his wife before leaving for the CBI headquarters in a procession accompanied by several leaders and volunteers in cars and on bikes.

"We are followers of Bhagat Singh, we do not fear going to jail. Do not regret if I go to jail, feel proud for it," Sisodia said addressing a gathering in the AAP office.

Making two stopovers on the way, Sisodia addressed the AAP workers at the party headquarters where he asserted that he was not scared of being arrested and also visited



Police take away AAP supporters gathered near CBI office. Ranjan Dimri

Raj Ghat to seek blessings of the Father of the Nation.

"I paid tribute to Babu against whom also fake cases were registered. The BJP wants to send me to jail in a fake case. I am proud that I will be of some use to the country," Sisodia told PTI.

He also claimed that his questioning and possible arrest

were taking place as the BJP was scared of the AAP's "popularity" in Gujarat.

Sisodia is being questioned by the CBI in connection with alleged irregularities in implementation of the now-scrapped Excise Policy 2021-22.

Earlier in a series of tweets, Sisodia said, "A completely fake case has been prepared against me. Nothing was found in the raid at my residence, search of my bank lockers and inquiries made at my village. It is totally a fake case." The Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the excise portfolio in the Kejriwal Government, is one of the main accused in the FIR registered in the matter by the CBI.

Delhi Police made tight security arrangements and prohibitory orders were in place

around Sisodia's residence on Mathura Road.

The CBI had registered an FIR on August 17 against Sisodia and 14 other individuals and entities under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 477A (falsification of records), and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, which refers to taking undue advantage to influence a public servant by corrupt or illegal means, or by the exercise of personal influence.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena had recommended a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the formulation and execution of the Delhi excise policy, which was brought out in November last year, officials said.

Following the registration of the FIR, the CBI had conducted searches at the premises of Sisodia and opened his locker at a bank in Ghaziabad. The FIR has flagged payments in crores allegedly made to "close associates" of Sisodia by Sameer Mahendru -- the owner of Indospirits -- one of the liquor traders actively involved in irregularities in the framing and implementation of the excise policy.

The FIR alleged that Sisodia's "close associates" Amit Arora, the director of Buddy Retail Pvt. Limited in Gurugram, Dinesh Arora and Arjun Pandey were "actively involved in managing and diverting the undue pecuniary advantage collected from liquor licensees" for the accused public servants.

Earlier, AAP had declared district and block level units and said the oath ceremony of all the nominated office bearers will be held on October 28 and 29.



Committee.

Arif's pink slip threat to Kerala Mins stokes...

From Page 1
The Governor's message on Monday morning has stirred a hornet's nest as the CPI (M) politbureau itself has come out with a statement declaring that he was ignorant of the Indian Constitution. M V Govindan, the Kerala secretary of the CPI (M), who is also the chief ideologist of the party, said that it was a pity that the Governor does not know the basics. He can appoint or dismiss the Ministers as per the recommendations of the Chief Minister, said Govindan.

Leader of the Opposition V D Satheeshan said there is no need to give any importance to the Governor's new announcement. "It is a comedy being staged between the Raj Bhavan and the CPI (M) Government," said Satheeshan while reacting to the media.

BJP withdraws candidate, paves way for Uddhav's Sena...

From Page 1
Yet another reason for the BJP's withdrawal from the by-poll fray might be that it feared defeat in the light of the fact that the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena has a traditional base in the Andheri (East) constituency and that Rutuja enjoyed "sympathy" factor since the bypoll is being held within months after the death of her sitting MLA-husband Ramesh Latke.

Interestingly enough, senior RML from the

ruling Eknath Shinde-led led Balasahebchandi Shiv Sena Pratap Sarnaik Naik wrote to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday to ensure that Rutuja gets elected "unopposed" and asked Shinde to speak to the BJP leadership in this regard.

The Opposition NCP and the Congress, which are part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), had extended their support to Uddhav-led Shiv Sena's candidate Rutuja more than a week ago.

CBI CASE AGAINST ME FAKE, SAYS SISODIA

Grilling being done as BJP scared of AAP's popularity in poll-bound Gujarat: Deputy Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday dubbed as "fake" the case lodged against him by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the excise policy matter, and claimed that his questioning was taking place as the BJP was "scared" of the AAP's "popularity" in poll-bound Gujarat.

After nine hours of questioning, Sisodia was allowed to leave the office of the CBI, which came as a relief to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which had been bracing for his arrest. Earlier, before going to the CBI's office Sisodia took the blessings of his mother-in-law who presented him a sacred 'Basanti Chola' and his wife put a tilak on his forehead at his Mathura Road residence. Making two stopovers on the

way, Sisodia accompanied by AAP leaders like party MP Sanjay Singh and MLAs Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj, visited the Rajghat and also visited the party office at DDU Marg.

He led a roadshow before leaving for the CBI headquarters accompanied by several leaders and volunteers in cars and bikes with patriotic songs being played in the background.

"We are followers of Bhagat Singh, we do not fear going to jail. Don't regret if I go to jail, feel proud of it," Sisodia said while addressing a gathering at the AAP office. "I visited Gandhi Samadhi and took aashirwad from Babu. Babu was also arrested and stopped from doing good. They raided my house, bank locker and searched every single corner and found nothing against me," Sisodia said. Earlier, Delhi

Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal while campaigning in Gujarat said that Sisodia would be arrested in a bid to stop him from electioneering. "The results of Gujarat (polls) will be out on December 8. They will keep Manish Sisodia in jail till then so that he cannot go to Gujarat for campaigning," Kejriwal said.

The Deputy CM also claimed that his questioning was taking place as the BJP was scared of the AAP's "popularity" in Gujarat. Earlier in a series of tweets, Sisodia said, "A completely fake case has been prepared against me. Nothing was found in the raid at my residence, search of my bank lockers and inquiries made at my village." Kejriwal also termed the case against his deputy as "fake". "Nothing was found in the raid at the resi-

dence of Manish and his bank locker. The case against him is totally fake. He had to go to Gujarat for campaigning that's why he is being arrested, but the campaigning will not stop. Every person in Gujarat is campaigning for the AAP," Kejriwal tweeted.

Every person in Gujarat has awakened now and everyone there is campaigning for good schools, hospitals, jobs and electricity, Sisodia said, adding the upcoming polls in Gujarat will be a "movement". To express solidarity with Sisodia, AAP leaders held press conferences, lambasting the BJP, said that he can be arrested in the alleged liquor scam by the CBI.

The AAP leaders also said that party is fighting 'second war of independence' and compared Sisodia with Bagat Singh saying that Singh sacrificed

his life for the freedom of the country likewise, Sisodia was heading for sacrifice in the modern day freedom struggle. MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj said that they believe that Sisodia will be arrested and locked up in prison till Gujarat elections take place.

When the Gujarat poll results are announced on December 8, the BJP and its stooges would be forced to let him out. The entire family of AAP functionaries congratulates Manish; we are all standing behind him. "Jail Ke Taale Tootenge, Manish Sisodia Chhootenge!" he chanted. AAP MLA Atishi said that Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain have been blessed with a chance to sacrifice for nation. After keeping Jain in jail for four months, BJP has made an elaborate plan to put Sisodia in prison.



Photo by Ranjan Dimri

Looks like party has won World Cup of corruption: BJP on AAP rally

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at AAP over the rally carried out in support of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who was summoned by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra on Monday said the way he was raising slogans in an open car on the streets along with his supporters today, it seems as if the AAP has won the World Cup of corruption.

Dubbing the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP as the biggest corrupt party, the BJP said it's a criminalisation of politics.

Addressing a press conference Patra demanded an apology from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for insulting Bhagat Singh. "Kejriwal should apologise for comparing Bhagat Singh with a man who is distributing liquor contracts in India," he said.

"Kejriwal was part of Anna Hazare's Andolan and used to say that he will finish corruption, but now it seems AAP has itself become the most corrupt party in the country," he added.

Patra said, "When Rahul Gandhi was summoned by the ED, then the Congress started doing drama like this. It will not be an exaggeration to say that it is a celebration of cor-



ruption. First, they did corruption while giving liquor licenses in Delhi and now they are doing all this drama." "It seems a new trend has started. Before appearing for summoning, the leaders go to Rajghat in the name of Satyagraha. There is absolutely no connection between corruption and Satyagraha. It is a clear insult of Bhagat Singh and Mahatma Gandhi," he added.

BJP North East Delhi MP, Manoj Tiwari also lambasted Kejriwal for comparing Sisodia and Jain with Bhagat Singh and said that it is "shocking that how an accused in the jail on corruption charge can be a great man of the country. By making this comparison, Kejriwal has insulted all the great men of the country who were martyred for independence." Tiwari said that Delhiites will never forgive



Kejriwal for looting them by making them drink alcohol. "Let the Delhi CM celebrate as much as he wants, the people of Delhi will celebrate after throwing him out of power," he said. Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said it was a shameful and despicable act that Sisodia left his house with a tilak on his forehead as if he was going to a battlefield.

Bidhuri said the investigation into the liquor scam is not

a political battle, nor is it a question of political victory or defeat.

Bidhuri said that the person against whom investigation has been recommended by the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar of his own Government showed shamelessness by his

behavior. "This incident should have embarrassed the AAP leaders that their Deputy CM has to appear before the CBI on corruption charges but they are showing it as a big victory. There is no other example to glorify criminalization in politics," Bidhuri added.

Sisodia desecrated Gandhi Samadhi by going there before grilling by CBI: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress on Monday said that Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia 'desecrated' Mahatma Gandhi's samadhi, following his visit at Rajghat, before appearing at the CBI office for questioning, whereas Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his aides did not attend the function, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that Sisodia remembered Gandhi ji when he faced imminent arrest, after the AAP Government insulted the memory of the Mahatma by removing Gandhiji's photo from Delhi and Punjab

Government offices.

Kumar also said that Kejriwal has insulted the great men of the country who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country by comparing his corrupt Ministers Sisodia and Satyendar Jain with Bhagat Singh.

Kumar further alleged that Kejriwal who claims to be "kattar imandar" Chief Minister is protecting his corrupt Ministers, who have been arrested or about to get jailed. Over 80 per cent of Delhi Ministers have several cases registered in their name and if Kejriwal starts to dismiss the Ministers, he will be left alone to run the Government.

L-G issues notice to Jasmine Shah on allegations of misuse of public office

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor DVK Saxena on Monday issued a showcause notice to Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi Vice-Chairperson Jasmine Shah on allegations of "misuse of public office" by acting as the "official spokesperson" of the AAP. The action came following a complaint by BJP leader and West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma.

In his complaint, dated September 13, Verma has alleged that "while working as Vice Chairperson, Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDCD), Jasmine Shah has acted as official spokesperson of the Aam Aadmi Party for political gains, which is in violation of established procedures, and few alleged instances of misuse of public office by Shah has been provided...", the notice read.

The enquiry in the matter was carried out by the Delhi Government's planning department, which is the administrative department in-charge of the DDCD, the sources at Lieutenant-Governor's office said. The department after



"thoroughly analysing various video footage of Shah's presence in TV programmes, transcript of press conferences addressed by him and news reports in newspapers, news portals etc", prima-facie found he was using his Government office and other perks to "further an extremely partisan political agenda, specifically contrary to the laid down norms for conduct of a public servant", sources said. "The department found 'ample evidence' that indicated that Shah not only 'accepted and performed' the role of a 'Spokesperson of the AAP, but also referred to himself as 'WE', while identifying himself as a part of the AAP and gave unqualified politically partisan statements amounting to misuse of public resources," sources



said. The finding of the Department was sent to the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, who further referred it to the Law Department, Delhi Government for its comments. "The Law Department gave its comprehensive opinion in this matter and opined categorically that Shah was a 'Public Servant' and not working on an 'Honorary Post'," they said.

The law department noted that the position of VC, DDC used to be an 'Honorary Post' till 2015, where after Kejriwal Government through 'a Cabinet Decision restructured the DDC and categorically decided that VC, DDC shall be entitled to pay, allowances and other facilities that include a House and Office, amongst others, at par with Ministers of Delhi Government, they stated.

Miranda ruckus: Case registered, DCW notice to cops, college admin

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered a case against unknown persons who allegedly climbed the walls of Delhi University's Miranda House during an open Diwali fest on the campus. A case under IPC Section 354 (outraging the modesty of women) and Section 441 (trespassing) was filed by police.

Students of the all-women college alleged that several men climbed the college walls and gates to witness an open Diwali fest held on October 14 on the college campus and indulged in "cat-calling and sloganeering."

Miranda college principal B Nanda said the crowd was "unprecedented" and for the safety of students the gates were closed.

"This did not deter the crowd who tried to enter the college after scaling the walls. Police immediately took action and controlled the situation," Nanda said. The incident has created an uproar on social media with several expressing concern over the safety of students.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said they have booked unknown persons under sections of trespass based on the video. A team of Delhi Police also visited the campus to analyse the CCTV footage of the alleged incident to identify the culprits.

In wake of a ruckus during a fest, Miranda House on Monday formed a sub-committee to revisit the procedures of holding events and provided an emergency SOP, prohibiting open events without prior registrations.

cial B Nanda said the college has taken 'serious note' of Friday's unprecedented incident during the Diwali Mela organised by the NSS Unit of Miranda House. Nanda said that no incidents of sexual harassment have been reported from the college.

The Delhi Commission for Women has issued a notice to the city police and Delhi University's Miranda House. DCW chief Swati Maliwal questioned the security arrangements made by the college during the event.

"Men are climbing walls to forcibly enter Diwali fest at Miranda House, one of the most popular colleges of Delhi. The women have made serious allegations of molestation and harassment.

We are sending notices to Delhi Police and college administration. How did this hooliganism happen? What were the security arrangements in place?" she said in a tweet in Hindi.

Along with this, the DCW has also sought details of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of the college constituted under the Sexual Harassment of Women (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and whether the complaints have been forwarded to the ICC.

It has also sought details of the steps taken by the college and ICC to encourage the women who faced sexual harassment to come out and freely report the crime and also whether any security arrangement was sought by the college administration for the fest.

It has sought a detailed action taken report from the college as well as the police by October 20.

Minor murderer of Ryan boy to be tried as adult: JJB

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The juvenile accused of murdering a junior boy at Gurugram's Ryan International School, will be tried as an adult, the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in Gurugram said on Monday. As per reports, the trial will begin on October 31 at the session court of Gurugram.

The victim's body, with the throat slit, was found in the washroom of the school in the Bhondsi area. While the seven-year-old victim was referred to as "Prince" by the court, the juvenile accused was called "Bholu" and the school was referred to as "Vidyalaya".

On July 13 this year, the Supreme Court ordered that the juvenile accused be exam-

ined afresh to ascertain whether he should be tried as an adult or a minor for the alleged crime and remanded the case to the JJB.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) also argued before the JJB, that the juvenile accused in the murder case must be tried as an adult.

A report from the PGIMS, Rohtak, asserted that "there is no valid test or examination that can retrospectively determine the medical capacity, maturity, and ability of the accused."

Earlier, the JJB board members separately assessed the accused for a few hours to determine his mental state. Counsel for the victim side said, termed it a "turning point" in the case. "The verdict of the board that the juvenile will be

treated and tried as an adult is historic. The juvenile will now be produced before a sessions court and the judge will then assign the case to the relevant Child Sessions Court for the trial," he said.

He said the verdict meant that the juvenile if convicted, would not be set free after three years and could be sentenced to even 14 years in jail. But as per Section 21 of the JJ Act, he cannot be sentenced to death or life imprisonment."

On September 8, 2017, the body of a Class 2 student was recovered with his throat slit inside the school's toilet. For the murder, CBI apprehended a class 11 student from the same school. The accused, who was 16 at the time of the incident, turned 21 this year on April 3.

DU gets more applications from CBSE students

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A nine-member panel set up by Delhi University last year to study admission trends from various boards, had found that the number of admissions in DU from the southern boards is higher than from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab State boards despite them being Delhi's neighbours.

Among state boards, the percentage of students from Bihar seeking admissions at DU has doubled this year. The percentage of students from CBSE seeking admission in undergraduate programmes at Delhi University has gone up by nearly 1.5 per cent as against last year, even as applicants from other state boards including Kerala and Haryana registered a considerable dip. The



total number of applicants has declined by nearly 40 per cent this year. Students from Kerala board, who are known for scoring 100 per cent marks and bagging seats at prestigious DU colleges, have dropped from 4,824 to 1,847. The admission to several sought-after programmes in DU this year are being done through Common University Entrance

Test (CUET) scores instead of the traditional merit lists based on class 12 marks which without fail saw sky-rocketing cut offs in past years. The varsity has witnessed a decline of a total of 1,12,078 paid registrations this year compared to the previous year. As many as 1,75,149 students have registered for this academic session against 2,87,227 students in

2021, according to the data provided by the university. Last year, registration was open from August 2 to August 31. However, this year registration portal was opened on September 12 and closed on October 13. The DU began admissions for over 70,000 seats last month.

Like the previous year, the maximum applications are from CBSE students. This year, the total number of applicants from the board is 1,42,473. Last year, the number of applicants was 2,29,264.

If the ratio of students from CBSE board with respect to the total number of applications is compared, the number has gone up by 1.43 per cent. Last year, CBSE students accounted for over 79.8 per cent of the total applicants. In

2022, CBSE students account for 81.34 of the total applicants. This implies that though the number of applicants at Delhi University has declined, the percentage of CBSE applicants have increased.

Among state boards, the applicants from Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) have increased from 4,470 in 2021 to 5,305 in 2022. These students account for three per cent of the total applicants this year, as compared to 1.5 per cent the previous year. Meanwhile, the number of applicants from Haryana board has come down drastically from 9,918 (2021) to 1895 (2022). Last year, Haryana stood second after CBSE in terms of the number of applicants among all boards. This year, it has come down to sixth

on the list. The percentage of Haryana applicants has dropped from 3.4 per cent to 1.08 per cent.

After CBSE, the maximum number of applicants are from Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) with 6,774, which is 2,885 less than the previous year. As many as 2,430 students from Boards of Secondary Education, Rajasthan have applied for undergraduate programmes at the varsity.

This is nearly half the number of applicants (4789) from the board in 2021. Following a steady trend, only 958 students from Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education filled out the applications for Delhi University this year. Last year, the number of applicants was 1,806.



Nov 3 bypolls to test ruling parties' hold on voters

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The by-elections slated for November 3 in six Assembly seats in six States would include “three political turncoats” in Haryana and Telangana and would test the hold of the ruling parties vis-à-vis the ‘rising Opposition’ in the respective states.

Four bypolls have been caused by the death of the sitting MLAs and in as many segments tickets are allotted to the close relatives of the deceased MLAs.

The bypoll in Andheri East in Maharashtra, which was set to be a litmus test of influence between Udhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the BJP-Eknath Shinde (Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena) faction is now a settled affair in favour of the former with the BJP withdrawing its nominee.

The six bypolls would be held in Mokama and Gopalganj (Bihar); Adampur (Haryana); Munogode (Telangana); Gola Gokarannath (UP) and Dhamnagar (Odisha). In the two Assembly constituencies of Haryana and Telangana,



bypolls are being held as the elected MLAs had defected to the other parties. Notorious for defections, Haryana's Adampur is a clear representation of the old 'Aya ram, Gaya ram' mantra of the jati state.

In Adampur constituency, the byelection was necessitated due to the resignation of former MLA Kuldeep Singh Bishnoi, who had won the seat by contesting from his own party Haryana Janhit Congress.

He joined the BJP in August, after being expelled from the Congress for cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha polls held that month. He had joined the Congress in 2017.

Another turncoat in the fray from Adampur is the AAP

candidate Satender Singh, who joined the party last month from the BJP. Singh has earlier had an innings with the Congress too from 1996 to 1997. Another defection-forced bypoll is taking place in Telangana's Munugode assembly seat which is emerging to be a prestigious triangular contest between the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi, rival Congress, which had won the seat in 2018, and its MLA K. Rajagopal Reddy, who resigned from the party and is now in the race as the BJP candidate.

It is set to be a fiery testing contest with assembly elections due in about a year's time in Telangana.

The Mokama bypoll in Bihar was necessitated after its sitting Rashtriya Janata Dal MLA and strongman Anant Kumar Singh was disqualified in July this year by the Bihar Vidhan Sabha following his conviction in a case related to the recovery of arms including an AK-47 assault rifle, from his residence in 2019.

RJD has put up his wife Neelam Devi. She will contest against BJP's Sonam Devi, the

wife of another strongman Lalan Singh. Another bye-election in Bihar's Gopalganj has been necessitated following the demise of sitting BJP MLA and former minister Subhash Prasad Singh this year.

His wife Kusum Devi as the BJP nominee will contest against the RJD candidate Mohan Prasad Gupta. In Odisha's Dhamnagar assembly constituency too the byelection has been caused by the death of the sitting BJP MLA whose son Suryabanshi Suraj will be pitted against the BJD nominee.

The third bypoll to be caused by the death of a sitting MLA is from Gokarannath seat in UP and again a member of the family of the late MLA being has been given ticket to contest by the BJP.

The BJP has announced 26-year-old Aman Giri as its candidate for the bypoll from Gola Gokarannath Assembly seat following death of his father, Arvind Giri, after a cardiac arrest last month. Aman will be pitted against former MLA Vinay Tiwari, 52, the Samajwadi Party candidate, in bypoll slated for November 3.

Centre suspends MD of DFC on rape accusations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday suspended with immediate effect senior IAS officer and former Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Jitendra Narain, who has been accused of raping a woman in Port Blair.

The suspension came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed immediate strict action against the officer concerned as per the law. Accordingly, Narain has been placed under suspension with immediate effect and disciplinary proceedings have been ordered against him, the statement said. An FIR has been registered and action in the criminal case is being taken separately by the Special Investigation Team of the Andaman and Nicobar Police.

As per the allegation of the woman, she was gang-raped by two officials, including the former chief secretary, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands at his official residence.

A Special Investigation Team, headed by a Senior Superintendent of Police, was subsequently constituted for investigation and a case has been registered at the Aberdeen police station.

The woman alleged that the other officer who was involved in the rape was Labour R L Rishi and they indulged in the alleged crime on two occasions. When contacted, Narain told PTI last week that he cannot comment on the issue as "the matter is sub judice".

Narain, an IAS of the AGMUT cadre of the 1990 batch, Shah directed immediate strict action against the officer concerned as per the law. Accordingly, Narain has been placed under suspension with immediate effect and disciplinary proceedings have been ordered against him, the statement said. An FIR has been registered and action in the criminal case is being taken separately by the Special Investigation Team of the Andaman and Nicobar Police.

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The woman lodged the complaint with the police on August 21 in which she gave a detailed account of the alleged sexual attack on her twice — in April and May — and requested for preserving the CCTV footage of the then Chief Secretary's residence for evidence.

She has also requested a Test Identification Parade (TIP) of the employees present at the residence of the official. The complainant has also recorded her statement under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the chief metropolitan magistrate detailing the allegation.

The woman claimed that she was in search of a job and was introduced to Rishi through a hotel owner who allegedly took her to the residence of Narain.

At Narain's residence, the woman claimed, she was offered liquor which she refused. She claimed that they assured her of a government job but, subsequently, she was brutally sexually abused by the two men.

The woman also alleged that two weeks later she was called to the Chief Secretary's residence again and the assault was repeated.

Army issues tenders for 363 UAVs, drones



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

To provide more teeth to its surveillance and logistics capabilities along the border with China, the Army has issued a tender or Request for Proposal (RFP) for more than 360 logistics drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).

These drones will provide the Army with the much-needed logistical backup for delivering goods to front line troops in remote and high altitude areas, sources said here on Monday.

The tenders were issued for a total of 363 drones on Monday to Indian manufacturers and they will have to respond within a month, they said.

While 163 drones will be deployed for high altitude areas the remaining 200 UAVs are meant for medium altitude, they said adding all the drones will come through the fast track procedure.

The RFP for buying 200 medium-altitude drones says the platforms should be capable of withstanding strong winds.

The document says each medium-altitude logistics drone should be able to carry at least 20 kgs of payload and the overall weight of each platform would be around 100 kg.

The weight of the payload for high-altitude logistics drones has been kept at not less than 15 kg. Both medium-altitude and high-altitude drones would also have a range of 10 km for delivering payloads, officials said.

ED attaches assets worth ₹80.65 cr of TRS leader Nama Nageshwar Rao

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached 28 immovable properties and other assets worth Rs 80.65 crore belonging to TRS leader Nama Nageshwar Rao and his family members in an ongoing money laundering case against Ranchi Expressway Ltd, Madhucon Projects Limited (MPL) and others.

Rao is promoter and director of Madhucon group of companies and a personal guarantor to the bank loan defaulted by the company. The ED has also attached the registered office of Madhucon group of companies and residential property at Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad.

The ED has identified and attached immovable assets of Rs 67.08 crore at Hyderabad, Khammam and at Prakasam district and movable assets of Rs 13.57 crore including shareholding of Nama Nageshwar Rao and his family members in Madhucon Projects Ltd, Madhucon Granites Ltd. and in other Madhucon group of companies, totalling to Rs 80.65 crore.

Earlier in July, the ED had also provisionally attached 105 immovable properties and other assets worth Rs 73.74 crore belonging to Madhucon Group of companies, and its

directors and promoters, which included the properties of Madhucon Projects Limited and group companies, Nama Nageshwar Rao and other promoter and director of company.

“The ED investigation has revealed that the Madhucon Group promoters siphoned off the loan funds of this project by taking the entire EPC Contract from its SPV, and then taking huge mobilisation and material advances, but instead of using those advances for the work, used it in their other projects.

Also, a direct cash amount of Rs 75.50 crore was generated by paying money and then receiving back the amount through 6 Shell Entities which were completely under the control of their Chairman Nama Nageshwara Rao and Nama Seethaiah,” the agency said in a statement.

“These sub-contractors did no work, had no sufficient expertise, were based in AP/Telangana, whereas the project was in North India, and they took large advances from MPL from the loan funds and then paid back huge amounts to Madhucon Group on the pretext of using the equipment and labour of Madhucon Group. So the funds came back to the Madhucon Group,” it said.

The ED has identified

direct diversion of Rs 361.29 crore from the bank loan obtained by Ranchi Expressways Limited.

Himanshu Verma arrested on charges of ₹1.25 crore bank loan fraud

New Delhi: In another development, the ED has arrested Himanshu Verma accused in a money laundering case related to Rs 1.257 crore Syndicate Bank loan fraud perpetrated by Udaipur-based chartered accountant Bharat Bomb. Verma has been remanded by PMLA Court, Jaipur, to the ED custody for 10 days till October 25.

The ED probe revealed that Verma, resident of Chandigarh, was a key associate of Bharat Bomb and he received approximately Rs. 85 crore “proceeds of crime” generated out of the fraud.

“Himanshu Verma is a hard core criminal, multiple criminal FIRs are registered against him and his family members in various Police Stations of Punjab and Chandigarh. He is wanted by Punjab Police, CBI and ED,” it added. **PNS**

India to host 3-day meet on use of new tech for terror

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The ever increasing threat of use of new and emerging technologies for terrorism is a major concern for all the countries and India will host a three-day meet this month end on this issue under the aegis of the United Nations.

The Counter Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) will hold a special meeting in Mumbai and New Delhi on October 28-30, sources said here on Monday.

Highlighting the importance of the topic, they said with the growing prevalence of technology and the rapid rise in digitization, addressing the use of new and emerging technologies for both terrorist purposes and for countering terrorism is an issue of increasing concern for Member States, policymakers and researchers.

The United Nations Security Council has given focus to this issue in a number of counter-terrorism related resolutions, most recently its resolution 2617 (2021), which specifically refers to “emerging technologies”.

Mindful of the increasing threat posed by misuse of new and emerging technologies, as well as the many positive uses of technologies for countering terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee will hold a special meeting. It is open to all Member States and including the participation of relevant

operational partners, including United Nations organizations, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), private-sector entities, and members of the Global Research Network (GRN) of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The Special Meeting will focus specifically on three significant areas in which emerging technologies are experiencing rapid development, growing use by Member States (including for security and counter-terrorism purposes), and an increasing threat of abuse for terrorism purposes: (i) use of the Internet and social media; (ii) terrorism financing; and (iii) unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

The objectives of the Special Meeting are to provide an overview of the ways in which Member States are deploying new technological developments to prevent and counter terrorist narratives and acts and to bring terrorists to justice, consistent with their human rights obligations.

Secondly, to update Member States on recent developments and the latest evidence-based research regarding the threats posed by terrorist use of new and emerging technologies, they said. Thirdly, the meet will identify continuing challenges and fourthly to share existing good practices in legislative, policy, and regulatory responses,

UN Secretary General on three day visit to India

New Delhi: United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Antonio Guterres will discuss global issues with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during the former's three-day visit beginning Tuesday. The Secretary General will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Giving details of his visit, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Monday, it will be his first official visit since he commenced his second term in office in January 2022. He had earlier visited India (in his first term) in 2018.

The UNSG will commence his visit to India, by paying tributes to the victims of the 26/11 terror attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai. He will also deliver a public address at IIT Mumbai on the subject - "India @75: UN-India Partnership: Strengthening South-South Cooperation".

On October 20 in Gujarat (Ekta Nagar, Kevadiya), the UNSG will join Modi at the launch of the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) booklet, logo and tagline. The concept of LiFE was introduced by Modi during



Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 at Glasgow in November 2021. The Prime Minister had then urged the global community of individuals and institutions to drive LiFE as an international mass movement towards "mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption" to protect and preserve the environment.

Mission LiFE will be India's signature initiative at the United Nations and other international platforms for showcasing climate action and early achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Its central idea reflects India's ethos of respect for Mother Nature and aims at piloting a focussed program that will mobilise 1 billion Indians to become pro-planet people (3P).

industry activities, public-private partnerships, and compliance with international human rights law.

SC nixes Kerala Govt plea against leasing int'l airport to Adani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the plea filed by Kerala Government challenging Central Government's decision to privatise Thiruvananthapuram International Airport and handing over to Adani Group.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India U Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi also rejected the plea filed by Airport Authority Employees Union (AAEU) on this regard.

The Court said that in view of the fact the private entity has been managing the operations of the airport since October 2021, there is no reason to interfere at this stage.

"Considering the fact that the private entity has been in operation since October 2021, we see no reason to entertain the special leave petition. Thus, appeal dismissed," the Court ordered.

However, the Court clarified that the question regarding ownership of land on which the airport is situated, would remain open.

The plea filed by the State challenged the action of the Airports Authority of India to prefer Adani over the State Government for management of the Thiruvananthapuram Airport. The plea said that the decision was not in public interest and that the entire



proceedings including tender process was vitiated by malafides and also in violation of the provisions of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994.

It was contended that grant of concession to Adani was in violation of an earlier undertaking by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation rejecting the proposal of the State Government to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to take over and run the Airport on a revenue-sharing basis.

It was also contended that granting concession to Adani, who has "no previous experience in managing airports", was violative of the provisions of the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 as well as proprietary rights of State Government as regards land on which Thiruvananthapuram Airport is situated. The Kerala High Court had, in October 2020, rejected the challenge to the Central government's decision to lease out Thiruvananthapuram Airport to Adani Enterprises.

SC notice to RBI on Swamy plea for probe into role in loan frauds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to CBI and RBI on a petition by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy seeking probe into the role of RBI officials in various bank loan scams.

Swamy in his petition pointed out that in many big loan defaults since 1997, the CBI probe is not looking into the aspect of the RBI officials who first approved these loans. The bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna issued notice to CBI and RBI seeking their response.

He cited a series of bank loan scams like Kingfisher scam, Bank of Maharashtra scam, Uttar Pradesh-based Private sugar organisation scam, Nirav Modi/ Punjab National Bank scam, IL&FS scam, PMC bank scam, Yes Bank scam, Lakshmi Vilas Bank scam, Rotomac Global Private Ltd scam, First Leasing Company of India Ltd scam etc. "Number and value of



banking frauds detected by the RBI and other agencies during the last couple of years showed that despite enjoying wide, the RBI failed to protect the interests of various stakeholders including depositors, investors and shareholders. This has led to a loss in faith in the entire banking system in India.

The regulator (RBI) is being supinely indifferent to the series of bank frauds with questions now being raised about it," argued Swamy, stressing the need for a probe in the role of RBI officials who approved such high value loans which later turned out to be a scam. Subramanian Swamy was assisted by lawyers MR Venkatesh and Satya Sabharwal. **PNS**

2 weeks granted to UP Govt to respond on bail plea filed in Lakhimpur killings

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday granted two weeks to the Uttar Pradesh Government to file its response on a plea filed by Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, seeking bail in a case related to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court had on July 26 rejected the bail plea of Mishra. A bench of Justices BR Gavai and BV Nagarathna said it will hear the matter on November 7.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ashish Mishra, told the court that notice was already issued in the matter. On October 3 last year, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV, in which Ashish Mishra was seated, according to Uttar Pradesh Police FIR. Following the incident, the driver and two BJP workers were allegedly lynched by angry farmers. **PNS**

NMCG: Panel to help contain froth in Yamuna River set up

New Delhi: Even as it has set up a panel to oversee and coordinate efforts to minimize froth formation downstream of Okhla Barrage in River Yamuna ahead of Chhat Puja, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is hoping that at least around 1300 MLD of waste water will stop flowing in the tributary of Ganga once three sewage treatment plants — Rithala, Kondli and Okhla — are completed by this year-end.

Setting up the panel to contain the problem of froth in the river during the festive season is an additional effort going on towards sewerage interventions and monitoring discharge of industrial effluents under Namami Gange programme, central schemes and state plan.

"These efforts have brought about different scales of changes in river water quality during different seasons. In view of the festive season, it has been felt to coordinate efforts of different departments/agencies in the efforts to try and contain the problem of froth in River Yamuna downstream of Okhla Barrage," said an official from the NMCG.

It has been decided that eco-friendly anti-surfactant shall be sprayed from October 25 onwards till Chhat Puja from boat mounted sprayers. Other measures to control froth formation would include oper-

ations of barrage gates to avoid/minimize free fall at Okhla Barrage, he added.

The Joint Committee comprises Executive Director, Technical, NMCG (Chairman), Member Secretary, UYRB (Member), Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee DPCC (Member), Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control, I&FC, Delhi (Member), Chief Engineer, SDW NW, DJB (Member), Executive Engineer, Okhla, UP Irrigation Department (Member).

The NMCG is under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. "Cleaning of tributaries of River Ganga, especially, Yamuna, has been one of the focus areas of Namami Gange Programme, wherein a 318 MLD STP at Coronation Pillar has already been commissioned in March 2022, 3 other main STPs on Yamuna funded by NMCG are targeted to be completed by December 2022, which include Rithala, Kondli and Okhla.

Okhla will be Asia's biggest STP. After completion of these projects, there will be a considerable improvement in quality of water of River Yamuna as around 1300 MLD of waste-water will stop flowing into river," the official added.

SC ASKS NAGALAND TO CHOOSE NEW DGP

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday reprimanded the Nagaland Government for extending the tenure of the DGP after his superannuation and asked the state to put its house in order by recommending a fresh panel of names of eligible IPS officers from the state cadre to the UPSC for the appointment of a new police chief.

KISHORE RE-EMPLOYED AS CHAIRMAN OF SSC

New Delhi: IAS officer of 1989 batch of West Bengal cadre, S Kishore, has been re-employed as the chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC) for a period of one-year beyond his retirement in January next year to January 31, 2024, a Personnel Ministry order said on Monday.

Freed Bilkis rapists for good conduct: Guj in SC

Affidavit: Many objections against release were ignored

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Gujarat Government has told the Supreme Court that it decided to release the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case as “their behaviours was found to be good” after their completion of 14 years in jail and that the State Government got approval from the Central Government for the same. The affidavit filed by the Gujarat Government shows that CBI’s Mumbai Unit and Trial Judge in Mumbai had objected to the premature release of the convicts, while the Gujarat Government and Union Home Ministry approved the release of the convicts.

According to the State Government, the release of the convicts was not based on the circular regarding giving remis-



sion to prisoners as part of celebration of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”. The State Government opposed the petitions filed against the remission saying that all the petitioners were third parties and PIL can’t be entertained in the criminal cases. The petitioners have no locus standi as they are third parties, said the Gujarat Government justifying the premature release of the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case.

CPI(M) leader Subhashini



Ali, TMC MP Mahua Moitra, activists Revati Laul, Roop Rekha Verma had moved the apex court against the premature release. Urging the Supreme Court to reject the their plea against the premature release, the Gujarat Government told the SC that “the petitioners are third parties.. mere busybody which has political machinations”, and urged the court not to entertain the PIL in the criminal matter.

Targeted killings won’t stop until justice is served: Farooq

Why situation not better post-Art 370, he asks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah Monday sparked fresh controversy by claiming that targeted killings won’t stop in the valley ‘until justice is served’.

Dr Abdullah, however, stopped short of explaining what ‘justice’ he was talking about.

Speaking to reporters after paying a visit to the residence of a party worker in Reasi, Dr Abdullah also asked a pointed question, why the situation has not improved despite the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, which the BJP earlier blamed for the targeted killings.

Referring to the prevailing situation, Member Parliament



from Srinagar, Dr Abdullah said had the situation been improved on the ground, another innocent Kashmiri pandit would not have been killed.

“It (killings) will never stop as long as justice is not served,” he told reporters in a brief interaction when asked about his reaction to the latest target killing of a Kashmiri pandit by terrorists in Shopian.

Puran Krishan Bhat was gunned down by terrorists on Saturday outside his ancestral house in the Chowdhari Gund area of the south Kashmir’s district, where he had gone to look

after his apple orchards.

“They were making noises that this (terrorism) was the result of Article 370. Today, there is no Article 370 but why are such killings taking place and who is responsible?” Abdullah, a former J-K chief minister, said.

Meanwhile, a committee formed by opposition parties against the inclusion of non-locals in the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday decided to hold protests to mobilise public support on the issue.

The panel, which included all the five constituents of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and several other political parties like the Congress and the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) met at the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah in Jammu

for the first time since it was constituted on October 8.

“After discussions, we have decided to go to the people and inform them about the dangers posed by the inclusion of non-locals as voters in J&K.”

“Our protests on the roads will be peaceful and in accordance with our constitutional rights,” senior National Conference leader and MP Hasnain Masoodi told reporters after the meeting at the residence of Dr Abdullah.

Flanked by members of the committee including former minister Lal Singh of DSSP, Awami National Conference president Muzaffar Ahmad Shah, and former MP Sheikh Abdul Rehman, Masoodi said the final decision to start the public outreach programme will be taken after consultation with senior leaders.

Hampi to Siliguri: India to put spotlight on heritage, scenic sites during G20 meetings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

From big metros to smaller cities, including those rich in history and scenic beauty such as Hampi and Khajuraho, India has planned to host the G20 meetings at 55 locations across the country during its yearlong Presidency.

Top officials of the tourism ministry have said that the idea behind choosing historic cites, among other places, to host meetings, is to put a “spotlight on heritage sites”.

India is expected to host over 200 G20 meetings during its yearlong Presidency of the influential group, which will culminate with an annual summit on September 9 and 10 next year.

“These meetings are planned to be held at 55 locations across the length and breadth of the country spanning various states. We will cover metros, state capitals, important tourist destinations, among other places,” a senior official told PTI.

If not BCCI, make Sourav ICC chief: Didi bats for Dada

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday came out directly in support of outgoing Board of Control for Cricket in India president Sourav Ganguly wondering why he was not being renominated as the BCCI chief.

Requesting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to back the former stylish left-hand batsman’s candidature for the International Cricket Council chief, Banerjee said, “I want to know why Sourav axed like this ... When other persons were retained.”

His unfair removal could “only be compensated by sending him to the ICC,” the Chief Minister said requesting “the honourable Prime Minister ... to allow him to contest for the ICC,” as “he has been deprived.”

Earlier TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh had asked why Ganguly had to be



removed when the remaining office bearers like Jay Shah, the son of Home Minister Amit Shah was being renominated as the BCCI secretary.

She further asked, “Is Sourav being deprived because he is a popular figure,” urging the BJP government not take her statement politically. “Please consider my words for the benefit of sports.”

The Chief Minister made her statements before leaving for North Bengal where she met the relatives of the victims of recent flash flood at Malbazaar in Jalpaiguri district.

Banerjee is presently in a four-day trip to North Bengal where she was likely to hold administrative and party meetings.



A customer looks at a decorative item displayed for sale at a shop, ahead of the Diwali festival, in Amritsar on Monday. PTI

Crowd attacks Hurriyat office in anger over Pandit’s killings

Signboard in front of Hurriyat Conference office uprooted, India painted on main gate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SRINAGAR

The signboards installed in front of the office of Hurriyat Conference in the Rajbagh area Srinagar were uprooted and later thrown away by the angry members of the Kashmir civil society to register their anger against the targeted killings of members belonging to the minority Hindu community on Monday.

A Kashmiri Pandit, Puran Krishan Bhat, who stayed back in Kashmir even at the peak of militancy, was killed in cold blood in the Chowdhari Gund area of Shopian on Saturday. He arrived there from Jammu last week to supervise the packing of apples at his ancestral orchard.

According to reports, a large number of people, including social activists, municipal corpora-



tors and a handful of members of the minority community, assembled outside the office of Hurriyat Conference and few among them climbed the front door and uprooted the signboard. Some of the protesters were seen holding placards and national flags in their hands.

In the absence of any one present in the office complex these protestors faced no resistance. Post Abrogation of Article 370, the Hurriyat

Conference leaders were not allowed to step out and attend meetings in their Rajbagh office. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was also not permitted to attend religious gatherings and offer Friday prayers during the period. The protesters also painted “India” in bold letters on the main gate of the Hurriyat’s central building.

Candlelight marches were held on Sunday evening across the valley against the killing of a Kashmiri pandit.

Kerala’s total literacy claim is hogwash, says former Mizoram Guv

Human sacrifice is just one face, there are many cruel rituals in Kerala, says Rajsekharan

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The April 18, 1991 declaration by the Government of Kerala that the State has become fully literate was a fraud committed on the people, according to Kummanam Rajasekharan, former Governor of Mizoram.

“By total literacy, what we understand is that the entire population in the State has the capacity to read and write the mother tongue Malayalam. But a major portion of Keralaites are still illiterate and the declaration of the State as fully literate was a ‘publicity stunt’ by the then Government,” the former Governor told The Pioneer. He said the subsequent governments failed to expose this folly and hence they too are part of this fraud.

“Had the entire population

been literate, the State would not have fallen prey to the evil designs of sorcerers like Mohammed Shafi who is the master brain behind the recent ‘human sacrifice’ in Pathanamthitta district. Suddenly the police have woken up to the reality that there was widespread sorcery and black magic prevailing in Kerala. Newspapers in the State publish frequent advertisements issued by the sorcerers and black magicians promising prosperity, well being and elimination of enemies,” said Rajasekharan.

Suresh Gopinath, a volunteer who had worked in the literacy mission of the then Kerala Government in 1987-1991 agreed that the project was a publicity unleashed by the ruling party. “It is true that we held evening classes to educate the illiterates to write their names in Malayalam and

affix the signature. There was no attempt to teach them Malayalam alphabets. People aged 60 and above were the targeted groups. The claim that the State had achieved total literacy was a hoax,” said Gopinath, a financial consultant who had worked as a volunteer teaching the aged people to write their names.

According to Rajasekharan, Mizoram, where he was the Governor was much ahead of Kerala in preserving and sustaining the culture of the region. “There are no cases of sexual molestations, abuse of girl children and young girls. Though I was freely accessible to the citizens of the State, no one has come to me with this kind of grievances during my entire tenure,” said the former Governor.

He pointed out that Kerala failed to preserve and sustain its culture and heritage and



that is the root cause of all these human sacrifice and sorcery. The former Governor is credited with leading an agitation demanding the ban of the ritual of “Thookkam” (hanging) at Elavoor. Devi Temple in Ernakulam district. Flesh of men would be pierced with iron hooks and they would be lifted up with pulley and rope and taken around the temple with a crane-like contraption. It was a gruesome site,” said Kanchana Menon, a septuagenarian homemaker who has seen it personally. The ritual came to an end only in the 1980s but it is continued as a symbolic style. Rajasekharan says Kerala has still a long way to go before attaining total literacy. “Statistics and indexes are not the indicators of literacy and culture,” signed off Rajasekharan.

DGCA directs SpiceJet to thoroughly inspect engines after repeated snags

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Following repeated snags in SpiceJet’s Bombardier Q400 fleet in recent months, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday directed the airline to carry out an analysis of engine oil samples from its Q400 fleet and other inspections. The DGCA has also asked the airline to conduct an inspection of the bleed-off valve screen and housing for evidence of oil witness.

Boroscopic inspection of all operational engines of all Q400 engines within one week, immediate inspection of Magnetic Chip Detectors (MCD), drawing of engine oil samples every 15 days for analysis and inspection of bleed-off valve screen and

housing for evidence of oil witness in weekly check, are among the other directions.

The airline has a fleet of 14 operational Q400 planes and they have 28 PW 150A engines. The latest directions also come at a time when SpiceJet is already under the enhanced surveillance of DGCA. Following a spate of incidents involving the airline’s planes, the regulator, on July 27, capped the maximum flights that can be operated by it to 50 per cent. Last month, the curbs were extended till October 29.

PM Modi to inaugurate 90th general assembly of Interpol

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wil inaugurate the 90th General Assembly of the global police body Interpol on Tuesday during which policing issues like cyber, organised and crypto crimes besides financial frauds through the dark web and online child sexual abuse will be discussed threadbare.

The Assembly will be held from Tuesday to Friday and will be attended by delegations from 195 Interpol member countries, including ministers, police chiefs of countries, heads of National Central Bureaus (NCBs) and senior police officers.

The General Assembly of the Interpol is the supreme governing body and meets once a year to take key decisions related to its functioning.

The Assembly meeting is taking place in India after a gap of about 25 years, it was last held in 1997.

“India’s proposal to host the INTERPOL General Assembly in 2022 at New Delhi coinciding with celebrations for the 75th year of India’s independence was accepted by the General Assembly with overwhelming majority. The event provides an opportunity to showcase best practices in India’s law and order system to the entire world,” CBI Special Director Praveen Sinha said at a Press conference that was also addressed by the Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock.

Besides Stock, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Interpol president Ahmed Naser Al Raisi and the CBI Director will also attend the event.


LJP (Ram Vilas) demands President Rule in Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) on Monday demanded the imposition of President’s Rule in Bihar owing to the deteriorating law and order situation even as it announced to contest the upcoming Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assembly polls.

A resolution demanding that the Centre impose President’s Rule in Bihar was “unanimously” passed at the national executive meeting of his party. Bihar and Biharis have suffered a lot due to the personal ambitions and wrong policies of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. As a result, crime and corruption are at their peak in the state,” Paswan read out from the resolution passed at the national executive meeting of his party.

PUBLIC NOTICE



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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.


Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Tara Chand/ Geeta.- LBAWR00003338698 / LBAWR00004215214- G 19, Near Auto Stand, Khudanpuri, Alwar, Rajasthan- 301001	Plot No. G 19, In Kharsa No. 297, Village Khudanpuri, Alwar, Rajasthan - 301001	September 17, 2022 Rs. 19,23,989.00/-	11/01/ 2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : October 18, 2022
Place : Gurgaon

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE



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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Varun Mittal, Shakuntala Mittal, Vijay Mittal, Varun Mittal, E 111 Shiv Vihar Nilothi Extension West Delhi. A/c No:- 028805005310	Plot No. 138, First Floor, Block- 3, Sunder Vihar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087	12-Aug-2022 Rs. 13,68,547/-	29-12- 2021
2.	Foremart Travels Pvt Ltd, Amit Chauhan, Sumit Chauhan, Plot No-272 Phase-IV Udyog Vihar Gurgaon Haryana. A/C No:- 114505000884	Plot No-272 Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar Gurgaon Haryana	23-Aug-2022 Rs.2,14,72, 939.73/-	30-06- 2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : October 18, 2022
Place : Delhi (Gurgaon)

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE



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

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sham Sher Ali/ Parveen/ LBMAT00003772647/ LBMAT00002172205	Flat Built Over On Second Floor On Plot No 3, Kharsa No 51, Kishan Vatika Colony, Mauza Azampur, District Mathura, Uttar Pradesh/ October 14, 2022	May 27, 2022/ Rs. 18,28,448/-	Mathura/ Ghaziabad

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

Date : October 18, 2022
Place: Ghaziabad

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Learn, not nitpick

Instead of trashing Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022, Govt should draw some lessons from its findings

An international agency comes up with a report which exposes some unpleasant fact about India, the Government and the Bharatiya Janata Party slam it on one pretext or the other, and Opposition leaders slam both the Government and the BJP for having failed the nation—this is the pattern that all of us have discerned for quite some time. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022, which showed India slipping six notches, is no exception. The Congress has said that the BJP Government is “living in denial” after GHI 2022 showed that India was ranked at 107 out of 121 countries, lagging behind all South Asian countries except Afghanistan. European NGOs Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, which brought out the index, have called the level of hunger in India as serious. Typically, the Government trashed the GHI 2022, claiming that it is an effort to taint the country’s image and questioning the “serious methodological issues” the index suffers from. The Women and Child Development



Ministry said that three out of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator estimate of Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3,000. Last year too, the Government had rejected GHI 2021. Women & Child Development Minister Zubin Irani said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on December 3 that the index did not reflect India’s true picture as it was a flawed measure of hunger.

There may or may not be serious methodological issues, but dubbing the index as an attempt to taint India’s image smacks of self-righteousness. Instead of making statements that allude to some conspiracy theory, the Government should introspect and scrutinise GHI 2022. And if there are serious flaws with the report, it should interact with the body that prepares the index rather than just dismiss the index with disdain it does not deserve. India’s child wasting rate, at 19.3 percent, is the highest of any country in the world, the index says. It also says that child stunting rates in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan range between 35 and 38 per cent, the highest being in Afghanistan. Now Afghanistan has been a war-torn nation for decades, and Pakistan’s economy is tottering, but why is child stunting rampant in our country, the fifth largest economy with political stability, a sprightly entrepreneurial class, a vibrant middle class, and zillion welfare programmes? GHI 2022 talks about a decline in stunting in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu between 2006 and 2016. Stunting fell mainly in response to improvements in the coverage of health and nutrition interventions, household conditions, and maternal factors (such as mothers’ health and education). Perhaps the authorities at various levels can draw some lessons from findings of GHI 2022.

PICTALK



Diwali celebration in Houston

PTI

The ostrich effect

As the free fall of the rupee against the US dollar continues, the finance minister adds insult to injury.

The finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has earned the ire of social media as well as the opposition for her statement that it is not the rupee that is sliding but the dollar which is strengthening. The finance minister has drawn flak from the opposition especially NCP for her statement in which she defended the rupee rate which has gone past Rs. 82.00 against the dollar. Indeed she added insult to injury as the rupee fall has hit the Indian importers hard and led to rising in prices in the domestic market not to mention the psychological impact of the falling rupee which offsets the margin calculations of the manufacturer’s traders and importers. Besides, India’s forex reserves went down to USD 532.87 billion in the first week of October from USD 642.45 billion. The Finance minister defended the nose-diving rupee in the US after she attended IMF and World Bank meetings. The rupee has been in a free fall for a year now and went down 8 per cent against the US dollar. Rupee fell to an all-time low of 82.68 against the US dollar on Monday calling for the Reserve Bank of India’s intervention. Many experts feel that the RBI has spent over USD 100 billion in the year to stabilize and check the fall of the rupee. Had it not intervened it could have touched the 100 mark.



There is some merit in what the finance minister has said. The dollar is strong and the currencies of many other emerging countries have gone down too. Though Indian inflation is still manageable others are struggling to fight the runaway inflation which is a direct impact of their weakening currencies. Having said that it is also a fact that the government has not managed the fiscal deficit well which is also a factor. She is right when she said that the fundamentals of the Indian economy are good. But challenge she has at hand is on two counts, first to offset the losses of the importers due to high dollar cost, and second to keep the inflation within manageable limits. Right now it is single digit but there are ominous signs. The consumer price index inflation in September rose to a five-month high of 7.41 per cent from 7 per cent. She has said that the government is making efforts to bring the inflation to six per cent how that will happen, no one, including the finance minister, has a clue. The finance minister has time and again said that the rupee will eventually find its own level. The big question is what that level would be!

Can new president salvage Congress?

The congress presidential election would do little to fix the party’s leadership crisis but it is an interesting event to watch



PRAFULL GORADIA

At the time of writing this, the developments inside Congress are enough to outdo the best of television soaps. The Gandhi dynasty, realizing that it needs to present a face as its official president, put forth the octogenarian Mallikarjun Kharge as its preferred choice to act as a family retainer carrying the label of party president. The flamboyant and West-educated Shashi Tharoor, squashing talk of his having withdrawn from the race said that he is very much in what he called a “friendly contest”, but described it as a “fight to the finish”. Congress veteran and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh were reported to have thrown his hat in the ring, only to withdraw soon. Diggy sahib inadvertently let the cat out of the bag when he told a journalist that whoever becomes the Congress president will have to work with the blessings of the Gandhi family. Translated, this reads: the Gandhi dynasty was, is, and will remain the real boss, even if somebody else occasionally gets to sit on the chair.

This is why Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, whose loyalty to Sonia Gandhi was not in doubt and who was reportedly her choice to occupy the chair, had no qualms about letting her down. Gehlot’s loyal MLAs kicked off a storm in the state unit of the party, threatening to bring down the government if the CM’s rival Sachin Pilot was made the chief minister after Gehlot became Congress president. While the internal drama of the Congress may interest journalists and news-watchers, what must engage our attention is why India’s oldest political party is so bereft of any leadership outside the Gandhi family, whose political heft has dissipated to the extent that it no longer is taken seriously, leave alone command respect.

Political parties, whether in power or opposition, have a duty towards the country, and more so those parties that have a hoary history like the Congress. As it appears, Congress does not seem devoted to this idea. Its only call-



ing card is blind hatred of Prime Minister Modi, which has no place in a democracy. An opponent is an adversary, nothing more. Abuses like “chowkidarchorhai” only betray the speaker’s character and pollute the political atmosphere.

The Congress has mostly functioned on the Führer Princip or the leadership principle. From 1921, Mohandas Gandhi continued to dominate the party until 1946. Then it was the turn of Jawaharlal Nehru, especially after Sardar Patel’s passing away. He was followed by his illustrious daughter Indira Gandhi and in turn by her son Rajiv Gandhi, who knew or understood little of politics but managed somehow for five years. But he left a dent in the party. The poor man and woman ceased to think it was their party. It was now the organization of the rich who wore Gucci shoes, Rayban glasses, and so on.

However, the Congress was still not seen as an anti-Hindu outfit. After P.V. Narsimha Rao completed his term as prime minister, the party began to slide down that path. The ‘consensus’ that only a Nehru-Gandhi can hold the party together began to be spoken about more publicly. Thus,

POLITICAL PARTIES, WHETHER IN POWER OR OPPOSITION, HAVE A DUTY TOWARDS THE COUNTRY, AND MORE SO THOSE PARTIES THAT HAVE A HOARY HISTORY LIKE THE CONGRESS. AS IT APPEARS, CONGRESS DOES NOT SEEM DEVOTED TO THIS IDEA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHY SO MUCH AVERSION TO HINDI?

Sir — The continued efforts to promote Hindi at the national level fails to yield results and the Tamil Nadu government put hurdles all the time to keep the Tamilians as a frog in the well. Though the DMK MPs go to the capital and play according to the local requirements and learn Hindi.

The DMK wants “Thani Tamil Nadu. Only now things are becoming clear. Reiterating the Tamil Nadu government’s position against attempts to impose Hindi on the State, Chief Minister M K Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi contending that the continued efforts to promote Hindi in the name of ‘one nation’ would destroy the feeling of the brotherhood of the people of Tamil Nadu. Quoting the number of people speaking languages other than Hindi was numerically more than Hindi-speaking people in the Indian Union. Calling it divisive to prove his demand is not correct.

CK Suresh Ramani | Ghaziabad

NO REASON TO OUTRAGE HER MODESTY

Sir — A woman’s attire cannot be a license to outrage her modesty nor can it be a ground for absolving the accused who committed such a crime, the Kerala High Court has said. There is no reason why a woman should be judged by her clothes. Norms that categorize women based on their attire and expressions can never be tolerated. The sexually provocative dressing of a victim cannot be construed as a legal ground to absolve an accused from the charge of insulting the modesty of a woman. The right to wear any dress is a natural extension of personal freedom guaranteed by the Constitution of India. The Sessions Court in its August 12 order had observed that the offence under sexual harassment is not prima facie attracted when the woman was wearing “sexually provocative dress” and it sparked widespread controversy.

The Court observed that everyone has the freedom to wear whatever he/she wants

Earth faces an existential crisis



That our earth is in the throes of an existential crisis has been brought to light several times by researchers and scientists the world over owing to the biodiversity crisis in recent decades. This was recently revealed by WWF’s Living Planet Report 2022 which showed a massive 69% decline in wildlife population across the globe during the (1970_ to 2018) period. The climate change-induced crisis has acquired center stage and can have devastating consequences for the future of the human race. The biggest decline was seen in monitored freshwater populations which have fallen by an average

of 83 percent. India is also not immune from the such crisis as about 137 km of Sunderbans have been eroded since 1985. Rivers have swollen or have become extinct. The dwindling flora and fauna along with their habitat and ever-increasing urbanization, and rampant industrialization have thrown the people solely dependent on agriculture and allied activities into abject poverty, and difficult for them to make ends meet.

These startling revelations underline the fact that only collective efforts cutting across geographical boundaries could reverse this trend. The dream of an eco-friendly bright future cannot be realised unless we continue to ignore the rights, conservative efforts, and leadership of indigenous communities and the local populace. Recognizing their role and giving due respect to them can bring about transformative changes in our approach to how we tackle such crises. Renewed efforts on a war footing across the globe are required for arresting the downward spiral and preventing the endangered species from going extinct.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

to wear, subject to the laws of the land. Objectifying women regarding what she wears cannot be justified. There is no reason why a woman should be judged by her clothes, taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the case and the age of the accused, the Court observed that custodial interrogation will not be necessary.

Akshita Dhurve | Ujjain

SAIBABA’S BAIL IN LIMBOL

Sir — How the Supreme Court stayed the operation of a Bombay High Court judgment discharging Prof GN Saibaba and others in an alleged Maoist conspiracy case is quite unusual and has startled many. The court showed extraordinary zeal in fulfilling the Maharashtra government’s wish to have an immediate hearing. However, the

apex court could have been more restrained while entertaining an appeal against the order.

It is doubtful whether the court should have responded with such swiftness just to suspend a judgment that has given detailed reasons for discharging the accused. The hearing in GN Saibaba’s case in frantic haste will leave a question: why a special hearing for a plea to take away personal liberty granted by the High Court? And the questions stop at the Chief Justice of India as the Master of the Roster, who is so far receiving accolades from the legal fraternity and the general public because of the several brave and positive measures taken by him.

KV Chandramouli | Mysuru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

The efforts of RBI are more towards seeing that there is not too much volatility... and I have said this before that rupee will find its level

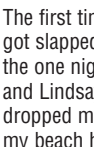


Finance Minister —Nirmala Sitharaman



We will adhere to striving for the prospect of a peaceful reunification with the greatest sincerity and greatest efforts, but will never commit to abandoning the use of force.

Chinese President — Xi Jinping



The first time I ever got slapped was the one night Paris and Lindsay dropped me off at my beach house with my babies.

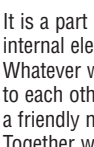


Singer —Britney Spears



I would like to request our fans to avoid such rants at any player as it can badly impact the player’s health and try to support them like you always do, regardless of the results.

Cricketer —Imam Ul Huq



It is a part of our internal election. Whatever we said to each other is on a friendly note. Together we have to build the party.

Congress leader —Mallikarjun Kharge

FIRST COLUMN

NO ONE IS SMALL
IN GOD’S SCHEME

Material gains are nothing compared to heightened state of consciousness



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

There was an American boy born with serious mental problems, which afterwards became unmanageable. He was admitted to a hospital. Doctors could only make him sleep but not cure him. As time passed, this case drew wide attention. Many expert psychiatrists, psychoanalysts, etc., were called but nothing worked. Finally, they decided that they really could not help the boy. They called his parents and in a mood of despair told that they had done all they could and now only God can help. The boy’s parents took the advice literally and sent him to a known church and entrusted his care to the Father. This priest was exceptional. Years passed and the boy began to improve. Time came when he was considered fit enough to start missionary activities locally. The boy made tremendous progress and was allowed to travel abroad to continue his noble work.

The story tells us that all of us are small intrinsically; material bodies don’t make us big. Does it mean that God has been unkind to make us so small? No, it doesn’t. The creation cannot exist if we were any bigger. God has to be big, so big that it is incomprehensible. Only then, the creation can exist for any length of time. Fortunately, God is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, and the world goes on.



Let us examine what a normal person does in this set up. I have identified five traits, which are normal to all of us. The first one is our thoughts. Most of these are related personally to us or with those linked to us closely like family members and friends. The other similarity is our desire to be given attention, appreciated, even venerated in some cases. The third commonality is our wanting to be feted through birthday parties or generally honoured publicly. Another common characteristic is to be addressed with respect, saluted, etc. And the last one is to take shelter of wealth or of some person or of some material opulence like fame, power, etc.

Lord Krishna instructs, “Develop My consciousness; become My devotee; make sacrifice for Me; and offer obeisance to Me.” Did you find similarities in what we normally do vis-à-vis ourselves and what God expects from us to do towards Him. He only expects us to change the direction of our thinking and activities. Whatever we are doing towards ourselves should now be directed towards Him. If we can do that the Lord promises, “You shall attain Me only. This I truly promise to you, because you are very dear to Me.” (18.65)

Beginning with thinking endlessly about ourselves, we only harm ourselves. What are worries, anxieties, fears, depression, etc.? How are they caused? Yes, by self-centered consciousness. And when we change our consciousness to God, we become deserving of God’s rewards. The next mistake we make is to become our own ‘bhakta’.

The third mistake we make is to celebrate our birthdays, etc. We gather a lot of people. Contrarily, if we celebrate God’s appearance days then all auspiciousness descends upon us and we qualify for God’s munificence. The fourth mistake we make is to expect and even make others salute us. Greetings are fine but ‘namaskar’ in a formal way is specially meant for God, who alone is really deserving of such respect. Remember how Arjuna began doing many namaskar to Lord Krishna after the Lord displayed His ‘Viswa-Roop to him.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Modi magic can change electoral trend in HP

The Modi model of governance and well-oiled BJP are on course to change electoral trend in Himachal Pradesh



SUMET BHASIN

Himachal Pradesh will go to the polls on November 12 and the verdict of the people will be known on December 8. It was in 1985 that the then Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh had beaten the anti-incumbency factor to retain power. That was 37 years ago. Himachal Pradesh has always elected a new government after every five years. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands against this electoral trend, as he has broken such trends in several other states.

Political pundits are still deciphering the reasons for Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party finding no obstacles in reversing the electoral history in such states. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the BJP has become a political party full of activity 365 days a year. The BJP unlike other political parties doesn’t wake up only in the states after the announcement of the dates of elections by the Election Commission. The BJP is with the people every day in times of their happiness and sorrows.

Over the years it has been well demonstrated that the BJP is the only proponent of social democracy. It must be recalled that the architect of the Indian Constitution B R Ambedkar had expounded on the relevance of social democracy. India at that time being a nation of the vast majority of the poor needed the political parties to address social causes and also find solutions to allow reforms in the society. The social democracy called upon the political parties to work against the socio-economic inequity in the country.

PM Modi in the highest commitment to social democracy, which also found expressions in the political philosophy of the BJP’s ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, has given the task to remove the socio-economic inequity in the country topmost priority.

Gareeb Kalyan Agenda of the Modi government is committed to remove the socio-economic inequity in the country. The BJP has been a steady bridge between the Modi government and the party-ruled states, which has ensured that the Modi model of development has reached the villages. Now, the Modi model of development has a uniformity of implementation at the centre, the state capitals, districts and the villages with the sole mantra of improving the conditions of the people driving the officials.

In Uttarakhand, the political pundits were very loudly reminding everyone that the state never re-elects the incumbent government. At the top, they were also amplifying that the BJP had given three Chief Ministers in five years in Uttarakhand. They also claimed that Pushkar Singh Dhami, while being in the office only for a few months, would be inadequate to the task of winning a fresh-mandate. Uttarakhand also had been electing a BJP and the Congress-led government every five years. It had become a tradition that



PM MODI HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, BRINGING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO THE HILLY STATE ALONG WITH EVER EXPANDING RAILWAY NETWORKS, BESIDES BETTER FACILITIES FOR THE FARMERS

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Center)



the incumbent government would be voted out in the elections. But the BJP proved them all wrong. That was possible because the Modi model and the well-oiled machinery of the BJP acted as force multiplier to bring Dhami and the party back to power.

The people in Uttarakhand had no doubt that the credibility of the BJP to work for welfare is unquestionable. The people in the hilly state were convinced that PM Modi had geared his government to look after the interests of Uttarakhand. That was made visible on the ground as the execution of various infrastructure projects with the push of PM Modi as he took regular meetings of PRAGATI to expedite the development works. The people in Uttarakhand had also known PM Modi having worked for their welfare in times of tragedy when the natural calamity struck the hilly state in 2013 with flash floods in Kedarnath.

Uttar Pradesh had never elected the same government for over three decades. Since the 1990s, the governments changed there after five years and sometimes even midways. For almost one and a half decade the caste-based identity politics kept Uttar Pradesh in a poverty bind. The likes of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party perpetuated the worst form of caste-based identity politics. They took the state back by several decades. The factories in Kanpur were shut. The leather cottage industries in Agra also struggled. The sugarcane farmers were driven to poverty. The sugar-

cane mills refused to pay dues to farmers and the arrears ran for several years.

The people in UP did not venture out in the night, knowing that their life would be at risk. The land of the people and the state was grabbed by the Mafia with the police watching helplessly. But 2017 brought the BJP in power in Lucknow. After several decades the people in the state got a taste of good governance of the BJP. They saw that the encroachment on the public land was removed.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple complex was freed of the encroachments. The ancient city found that their roads became wide. The people who had never seen a good road in their neighbourhood saw all weather roads coming up. The overhanging cobweb of electricity wire also disappeared. Complaints of the people were responded to in quick time. Arrears of the sugarcane farmers were cleared in record time. Agra became the global hub of shoe manufacturing. The businesses in Kanpur gained full steam. Noida became the top destination for global electronics manufacturers.

Uttar Pradesh in a very short span of time became a state of hope. The people richly rewarded the BJP in the 2022 state assembly elections by re-electing the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in Lucknow. This again affirmed that the Modi model with the help of well-oiled machinery of the BJP had brought the agenda of positive incumbency at the forefront of electoral politics. People began

ignoring the noise surrounding negative politics in the BJP-ruled states.

Goa had also been a state where Congress and the BJP gained power at intervals. The BJP in Goa was without the services of its stalwart Manohar Parrikar as he unfortunately passed away after a long battle with a critical illness. Goa also had seen the full might of the Modi model and the power of the well-oiled machinery of the BJP that ensured that the party returned to power with improved strength. Now, it is seen that even the Congress workers want to join the BJP to prosper in the state, knowing well that the party is fully committed to the development of Goa and welfare of its people.

Manipur got into news only for economic blockades by the insurgents. The BJP came to power there and changed history. Manipur was back to the path of development. Manipur also found that New Delhi was far closer to Imphal. N Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, was blessed with the positive incumbency vote, as the BJP returned to power again.

PM Modi has been at the forefront of the development of Himachal Pradesh, bringing higher education institutions to the hilly state along with ever expanding railway networks, besides better facilities for the farmers. The state is showing visible signs of positive incumbency in favour of the BJP. On December 8, people will reveal their faith in good governance.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

PM MODI PROJECTS HIMSELF FROM THE EXTREMELY BACKWARD CLASS (EBC) CASTE. THERE IS NO EBC IN GUJARAT. HE IS A DUPLICATE PERSON.
—JDU NATIONAL PRESIDENT
LALAN SINGH



THERE IS NO SHAME LEFT. WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH COMMENTS? HE IS THE PRESIDENT OF A PARTY. SUCH STATEMENT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.
—BJP LEADER
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

EV adoption must address information asymmetry

Since 90 per cent charging will be at home, electric mobility is unavoidable to cut down on carbon emission

There is a native American saying, “We do not inherit the world from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children”. Our planet has seen unbelievable degradation, especially over the last 300 years after the creation of electricity, which resulted in a motorised world. Mining, manufacturing, transport and shipping all contribute to global warming through different kinds of emissions.

Transport related emissions contribute 30 per cent into all kinds of emissions. Someone might argue that 30 per cent is less and why not attack other sources of pollution like the thermal power plants or ships, and why go after the transport sector? Well, the answer is simple,



SUDHIR NAYAK



GUL PALANG

(The authors are Co-founders, Sunfuel Electric)

first of all there is a law of exponential margin harm that suggests that each percentage point increase in level of pollution beyond certain threshold years is proportionate and a reversible harm for the planet and this only increases at higher threshold.

So, if we remove all polluting vehicles from the road, while the absolute reductions and emissions from the total will only be 30 per cent, the perceptible change will be much higher because we would fall below the dangerous thresholds that we have crossed a few decades ago.

When we declared the pandemic in March and saw the first ever total lock-down of our lives in April 2020, there were press reports that suggested that people were

able to see Dhauladhar mountains from as far as Punjab, and the same for Gangotri from Saharanpur.

We all remember the blue skies that suddenly opened up for us, just a few days into the lock down. The only change we made was that we removed polluting vehicles from the road. Another factor to consider is the ease of switching to a non-polluting way of life which comes with electric mobility. While on one hand we drive fossil fuel guzzling petrol vehicles at Rs 10 per kilometre, we have electric options that are available at less than a rupee for every kilometre.

So, it can be deduced beyond doubt that the transport related emissions is what we should attack as human



race if it wants to redeem our blue skies and give the planet intact to the next generation. The fact that electric cars come with zero emission is no secret. However what people don’t know is that an electric car has got one third the carbon footprint of a fossil fuel car, even when it is powered by the dirtiest source of electricity. When powered by

renewable sources of energy, the carbon footprint of an electric car is zero.

Now, if electric cars are so cheap to drive and maintain and so beneficial for the environment, where is the adoption? Well, there are two major impediments that stand in the way of EV adoption. There is a lack of charging infrastructure, besides information asymmetry.

While most of the charging will take place at home using the EV charger supplied by the car manufacturer, there will always be range anxiety especially when you venture out of city limits.

While we’re in this business, we have no qualms in admitting that charging infrastructure is overrated and you hardly require it,

since nine out of 10 times you’ll be charging at home. So, it is really the information asymmetry that is a bigger impediment.

With destination charging, 2,000 destination chargers will ensure that monoliths will cover 1000+ destinations around these seven early adopter cities. As a result, each early adopter city will get a coverage of 140+ destination chargers in frequently travelled destinations from that city.

For highway charging, the infrastructure will have 100 highway charging parks or EV Roadhouses, strategically located on 50 Highways [Frequently travelled routes by car-users from the seven Early Adopter cities], each providing two charging bays

on Day one through one dual-gun charging solution. Community, the fourth pillar, consciously chosen, meticulously planned, and strategically important pillar of SunFuel is our community of EV Users – E-Trails.

More than the government sops or subsidies, the market forces will drive the adoption of electric medicals. It is an idea whose time has come. When you can drive a fantastic car at one rupee kilometre, why would you ever choose to drive a noise fossil fuel car at Rs 10 kilometre.

The charging infrastructure will primarily act as a secondary charging point in most use cases since 90 per cent of all charging will happen at home.

Waves of suicide drones strike Ukraine’s Capital, 4 killed

AP ■ KYIV, UKRAINE

Waves of explosives-laden suicide drones struck Ukraine's capital Monday, setting buildings ablaze and tearing a hole in one of them while sending people scurrying for shelter or trying to shoot down the kamikazes. The concentrated use of the drones was the second barrage in as many weeks — after months where air attacks had become become a rarity in central Kyiv. The assault sowed terror and frayed nerves as blasts echoed across the city. Energy facilities were struck, and one drone slammed into a residential building, killing four people, authorities said. The drones appeared to include Iranian-made Shaheds. Intense, sustained bursts of gunfire rang out as they buzzed overhead, apparently from soldiers trying to destroy them. Others headed for shelter, nervously scanning the skies. But Ukraine has become grimly accustomed to attacks nearly eight months into the Russian invasion, and city life resumed as rescuers picked through the debris. Previous Russian airstrikes on Kyiv were mostly with missiles. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said Monday's barrage came in successive waves of 28 drones — in what many fear could become a more common mode of attack as Russia seeks to avoid depleting its stockpiles of long-range precision missiles. Five drones plunged into Kyiv itself, said Prime Minister Denys

Shmyhal. In the Kyiv region, at least 13 were shot down, all of them flying in from the south, said Yurii Ihnat, a spokesman for Ukraine's air force. One strike appeared to target the city's heating network, hitting an operations center. Another slammed into a four-story residential building, ripping a large hole in it and collapsing at least three apartments on top of each other. Four bodies were recovered, including those of a woman who was 6 months pregnant and her husband, Klitschko said. An older woman and another man also were killed there. An Associated Press photographer caught one of the drones on camera, its triangle-shaped wing and pointed warhead clearly visible against the blue sky. "The whole night, and the whole morning, the enemy terrorizes the civilian population," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a social media post. "Kamikaze drones and missiles are attacking all of Ukraine." "The enemy can attack our cities, but it won't be able to break us," he wrote. Andrii Yermak, head of the presidential office, posted on social media that Shahed drones were among those used. Zelenskyy, citing Ukrainian intelligence services, has previously alleged Russia has ordered 2,400 of the Shahed drones from Iran. Russia has rebranded them as Geran-2 drones — meaning "gera-



nium" in Russian. A photo of debris from one of Monday's strikes, posted by Klitschko, showed the word Geran-2 marked on a mangled tail fin. Iran has previously denied providing Russia with weapons,

although its Revolutionary Guard chief has boasted about providing arms to the world's top powers, without elaborating. The drones pack an explosive charge and can linger over targets before nosediving into them. Their

blasts jolted people awake early Monday. They included Snizhana Kutrakova, 42, who lives close to where one of the drones came down. "I'm full of rage," she said. "Full of rage and hate."

The Russian military said it used "long-range air- and sea-based high-precision weapons" to fire at Ukrainian military and energy facilities. The strikes hit "all assigned targets," Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said. Iranian-made drones have been used elsewhere in Ukraine in recent weeks against urban centers and infrastructure, including power stations. They are comparatively cheap, costing in the region of \$20,000. Their use in swarms presents a challenge to Ukrainian air defenses, said Ihnat, the air force spokesman. Western nations have promised to bolster Ukrainian air defenses with systems that can shoot down drones but much of that weaponry has yet to arrive and, in some cases, may be months away. "The challenges are serious because the air defense forces and means are the same as they were at the beginning of the war," Ihnat said. Some air defense weaponry supplied by the West can only be used during daylight hours when targets are visible, he added. Russia forces also struck energy infrastructure elsewhere on Monday, apparently seeking to compound pressure on Kyiv's government after previous attacks that knocked out power supplies. Shmyhal, the prime minister, said hundreds of settlements were without power after missile attacks on critical infrastructure in the Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy regions.

Ukraine's nuclear operator said Russian shelling also cut off power again to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, one of the most wor-rying flashpoints of the Russian invasion. The nuclear plant, Europe's largest, needs power for critical safety systems. When shelling severs its power supply lines, the plant is forced to fall back on diesel generators — a temporary stopgap. Russian President Vladimir Putin had said Friday that there was no need for more widespread attacks against Ukraine — after a barrage of strikes earlier in the week that he said were in retaliation for the bombing of a bridge connecting the Crimean Peninsula with the Russian mainland. However, Putin also said that seven of 29 targets designated after the bridge attack were not hit "the way the Defense Ministry had planned," so Moscow's forces would continue to target them. He didn't specify the targets. After months during which strikes in central Kyiv were rare, last week's attacks put the country and its capital back on edge. The strike on Kyiv comes as fighting has intensified in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in recent days, as well as the continued Ukrainian counteroffensive in the south near Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. Zelenskyy said Sunday that there was heavy fighting around the cities of Bakhmut and Soledar in the Donetsk region.

EU to send 40 experts on Armenia, Azerbaijan border mission

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union agreed Monday to send up to 40 experts to Armenia to help watch over its border with Azerbaijan in an effort to help restore peace and build confidence between the longtime foes. The monitoring mission will be deployed for up to two months. Its aim is to restore some confidence at a time when a lack of security "is putting lives



at risk and jeopardizes the conflict resolution process," EU headquarters said in a statement. Last month, Armenia and Azerbaijan negotiated a cease-fire to end a flare-up of fighting that killed 155 soldiers from both sides. The EU mission will help with the work of border commissions set up earlier this year to address concerns over the delimitation of the two countries' common border. The ex-Soviet countries have been

locked in a decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is part of Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994. The EU monitoring mission idea was floated after the leaders of historic foes Turkey and Armenia earlier this month held their first face-to-face meeting since the two countries agreed to improve relations.

EU approves Ukraine training mission, arms funds

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union on Monday approved a military training mission in Europe for thousands of Ukrainian troops and to provide around 500 million euros (USD 486 million) in extra funds to help buy weapons for the war-torn country. The mission, which will have a headquarters in Brussels and be under the command of French naval officer Vice Adm. Herve Blejeau, will initially run for two years with a budget of almost 107 million euros (USD 104 million). EU headquarters said in a statement that the mission's aim is to allow the Ukrainian armed forces to "effectively conduct military operations," so that Ukraine can "defend its territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, effectively exercise its sovereignty and protect civilians." It said that the EU will provide "individual, collective and specialised training." Countries that aren't part of the bloc will be allowed to take



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 doesn't require troops needed for battle to leave the country. The EU also approved a sixth tranche of money, worth 500 million euros (USD 486 million), from the European Peace Facility — a fund being used to reimburse member countries that provide weapons, ammunition and non-lethal military support to Ukraine. Around 10 million euros (USD 9.7 million) from that sum will be used to provide equipment and supplies, like personal protection gear, first-aid kits and fuel. It brings to just over 3 billion euros (USD 2.9 billion) the total EU sum in security support being made available for Ukraine. Individual countries are also spending more on top of that. The decisions will come almost eight months after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine.

NATO begins nuclear exercises amid Russia war tensions

AP ■ BRUSSELS

NATO on Monday began its long-planned annual nuclear exercises in northwestern Europe as tensions simmer over the war in Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin's threat to use any means to defend Russian territory. Fourteen of NATO's 30 member countries were due to take part in the exercises, which the military alliance said would involve around 60 aircraft including fighter jets and surveillance and refueling planes. The bulk of the war games will be held at least 1,000 kilometers (625 miles) from Russia's borders. U.S. Long-range B-52 bombers

will also take part in the maneuvers, dubbed Steadfast Noon, which will run until Oct. 30. NATO is not permitting any media access. NATO said that training flights will take place over Belgium, which is hosting Steadfast Noon this year, as well as over the North Sea and the United Kingdom. The exercises involve fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads, but do not involve any live bombs. The exercises were planned before Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine in February. Russia usually holds its own annual maneuvers around the same time, and NATO is expecting Moscow to exercise its nuclear forces sometime this month.



NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN-E-TENDER NOTICE
No. No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/79/2022-23/W-3
Dated :- 17.10.2022
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1

Name of work

(1) Renewal of steel channel sleeper by H-Beam sleeper for Bridge No. 6,8,27a (DUK section) & Bridge No. 4 (SPR section) in the section of SSE/P-way/DLI under ADEN/DLI
(2) Renewal of fittings of steel channel sleeper for Bridge No. 248,249 & 250 (DL-DSA Section) of SSE/P-way/DLI under ADEN/DLI

2

Approx cost of work

Rs. 4,06,73,434.20/- (Rupees Four Crore Six Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Four & Twenty paise Only)

3

Earnest Money to be deposited

Rs. 3,53,400/- (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Four Hundred Only)

4

Cost of tender document

Rs. 0.00/-

5

Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.

11.11.2022 @15:00 Hrs.

6

Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.

www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
No manual offers are acceptable.
Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

Sr. Divl. Engineer-III N. Rly, New Delhi
2775/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Dharmender Kumar Batra, S/o Late C. M. Batra, Partner of NORTHERN ENGINEERING, 17/90, Ground Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027 declare that I am leaving the partnership from above mentioned firm with effect from 01.11.2022 at my own will and gifting my share to existing partners in equal amount.
Dharmender Kumar Batra (Partner)
Northern Engineering,
Subhash Nagar,
New Delhi-110027

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my client Mehtab Khan, R/o J4/128, First Floor, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi – 110017 along with his wife Mrs. Anjum Khan have disowned and cut-off all family ties from their son Mr. Saqib Khan aged 26 years from all the movable and immovable properties. My clients have been living separately from him and are not responsible for his actions in any manner whatsoever.
SHOAIB KHAN (Advocate), Ch. No. 308, C.K. Daphitary Block, Supreme Court of India

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
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 :-** First Floor, Asha Modern School Lane, Near Civil Court, Court Rd, opp. R G Place, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh 247001

Demand Notice

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The Undesignated is the Authorised Officer of Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited under the above said Act. In exercise of power conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, Calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them, the content of which is re-produced below.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Address of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)
1.	SAHARANPUR: Branch LAN:-1393917/ XSEMSARO1065205 NAVEEN KUMAR (Borrower) REETA DEVI (Co-Borrower)	RAM VIHAR COLONYNEAR DURGA MANDIR SAHARANPUR SAHARANPUR SAHARANPUR 70818 247001	31-Aug-22 Rs. 14,04,710/-	South Part Plot No 249 Khasara No 601mi^ Wake Gram Manakmau Dar Abadi Parkash Lok Colony Saharanpur 50 South Part Plot No 249 Khasara No 601mi Wake Gram Manakmau Dar Abadi Parkash Lok Colony Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh Saharanpur 247001, North : Plot No 249 House Of Vinay, South : Other Plot 251 Or 250, East: 25 Feet Road , West: Plot No 240 House Of Doctor

Pursuant to the above notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED, within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the amount indicated herein above, together further interest at 2% p.m. from the date(s) mentioned above till the date of payment and/or realization of the dues.
The above said Borrowers are hereby advised to make the payment to the company as aforesaid, failing which the company shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the cost and consequences.
Place :-DELHI, NCR, SAHARANPUR Date:-18.10.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

Ukrainians' resilience persists despite new Russian barrage

AP ■ KYIV

When massive, coordinated Russian bombardments shook cities and towns across Ukraine a week ago to trigger a new phase in the Kremlin's war, one strike left a huge crater in a popular Kyiv children's playground and ripped open a central intersection. The next day, traffic flowed over the newly asphalted road, and life in the capital had returned to near normal. The response to Russia's new wave of attacks was to get back to work, stroll in the warm autumn sun and tend to final harvests from summer

vegetable gardens. A similar scene played out in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro that day, where city workers repaired a road overnight after it was destroyed by shelling in that coordinated attack. "We worked all night, gritting our teeth," wrote Dnipro Mayor Borys Filatov on Facebook the day after the October 10 attack. The post included before and after photos of where the strike had hit and the completed repairs. "We will restore and rebuild everything. But our hatred will live for centuries," he said. Ukrainians' resilience in

the nearly eight-month-old war continues to be unwavering, despite an uptick in attacks that are seen as Russian President Vladimir Putin's vengeful response to an explo-

sion that damaged a Moscow-built bridge to the Kremlin-annexed Crimean Peninsula on October 8. Russian missiles and Iranian-made drones struck at

least 10 regions across the country two days later, targeting critical infrastructure such as power plants and waterworks in major urban centres. The barrage left 19 dead and more than 100 wounded in the most extensive attacks since the early days after the Russian invasion began on February 24. On Monday, explosives-laden suicide drones struck Kyiv, setting buildings ablaze and sending residents running for cover. City life quickly resumed, though hours later air raid sirens were triggered again, and metro stations filled up with worried but calm residents.

4 Russians caught taking photographs illegally in Norway

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Four Russian nationals — three men and one woman — have been arrested and held in custody after they were seen taking pictures of objects that are subject to a ban on photography in central Norway, police said on Monday. Officers found "photographic equipment and relatively extensive image material" in their possession when their car was stopped on October 11. Police didn't say what they were photographing. The four — none of whom were identified — came to Norway from Finland, police said, adding that they said there were tourists.

Brazil's da Silva, Bolsonaro clash in 1st one-on-one debate

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil's former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and incumbent Jair Bolsonaro clashed in their first one-on-one debate Sunday, two weeks before the presidential election's runoff. Debates in the election's first round featured several other candidates, none of whom garnered more than 5 per cent of the October 2 vote. During debates, they were largely distractions from the two obvious frontrunners. The two repeatedly called each other liars during an encounter lasting about 1 ½ hours. The term was used more than a dozen times by each of the candidates in the TV Band debate that, other-

wise, was less aggressive than many analysts had expected. "You are a liar. You lie every day," da Silva said during one exchange. Bolsonaro

frequently said: "You can't come here to tell people these lies." Earlier this month, da Silva, who is universally

known as Lula, won the election's first round with 48 per cent of the vote compared to Bolsonaro's 43 per cent. Polls indicate the leftist former president, who governed between 2003-2010, remains the frontrunner, though his lead has shrunk considerably. Each candidate focused on the issues that, according to polls, represent their adversary's weak points: for Bolsonaro, the COVID-19 pandemic that killed 6,80,000 Brazilians, and for da Silva, corruption scandals involving his Workers' Party. Da Silva and Bolsonaro are expected to take part in one more debate, days before the vote, on TV Globo, Brazil's most popular network.

China's party congress promises continuity, not change

AP ■ BEIJING

The overarching theme emerging from China's ongoing Communist Party congress is one of continuity, not change.

The weeklong meeting, which opened Sunday, is expected to reappoint Xi Jinping as leader, reaffirm a commitment to his policies for the next five years and possibly elevate his status even further as one of the most powerful leaders in China's modern history.

A look at what's happened so far, and what's to come:

MORE OF THE SAME

This is not an inflection point for the party. That happened 10 years ago when it named Xi as leader, though it wasn't evident at the time.

Since then, Xi has reoriented China both domestically and internationally. The military has staked claims to disputed territory while diplomats have become more assertive, saying China won't be bullied by the U.S. And others.

Xi has brought back stronger state control over the economy and society, expanding censorship and



arrest to stifle dissent. An unprecedented crackdown on corruption has brought down hundreds of senior officials, including some potential political rivals.

All of that is here to stay was the message from a one-hour and 45-minute party report that Xi delivered to the opening session on Sunday, extolling the party's efforts

toward what he calls the "rejuvenation" of the nation.

ELEVATING XI

Xi has already swept away competitors and consolidated power. The question is whether he will gain even more power — and how.

Practically, he has placed himself in charge of the military, foreign policy, the economy and most other

CPC says nearly 5 million members probed for graft

AP ■ BEIJING

China's ruling Communist Party says it has probed almost 5 million members for possible corruption over the last decade, with formal criminal cases brought against 553.

Whether that will curb an widening economic slowdown and restore faith in the authoritarian system remains unclear.

The party has 96 million members and has long run its own internal system of keeping cadres in line through a mix of offering

privileges and threatening severe punishment for taking bribes, selling offices or otherwise abusing their authority.

At a new briefing Monday on the sidelines of the party's national congress held every five years, deputy secretary of the party's Committee for Discipline and Inspection Xiao Pei said 207,000 party officials in total had been handed some form of punishment in the 10 years since party leader Xi Jinping took power.

Now seeking a third term as head of the party, government and

military, Xi has made fighting corruption a signature of his administration.

Xiao said figures show most of those caught up by anti-graft investigators had been long-term offenders and just 11% of those punished had committed their first offense in the past five years.

"The spread of graft has been resolutely contained," Xiao said, adding that "directed policies and high pressure" had persuaded 80,000 party members to voluntarily admit to violating over the past five years.

and include supporters of a more market-oriented approach.

No obvious successor was picked for the current Standing Committee in 2017, signaling that Xi was eyeing a third term. Doing so again would suggest he plans an even longer stay.

WAIT FOR THE WEEKEND

With most of this week's sessions behind closed doors, none of this is likely to be known until the weekend. Any amendment to the constitution would typically be announced at the closing session on Saturday, and the new leadership paraded out on Sunday.

ZERO-COVID BLUES

For many Chinese, weary of pandemic restrictions that have disrupted lives and the economy, the more immediate question is whether there be any easing after the party congress. The answer is probably not immediately, and changes when they do come will most likely be gradual. The Communist Party is always eager to portray the country in a positive light around the congress and avoid any societal disruptions — and a major COVID-19 outbreak would be one.



Envoy says UN to push for nationwide ceasefire in Syria

AP ■ DAMASCUS

The United Nations will push for a nationwide cease-fire in Syria even after bursts of fighting in the last rebel-held region have punctured a two-year truce there, killing hundreds, a UN envoy said on Monday.

Geir Pedersen, the UN special envoy for Syria, spoke to reporters after meeting the foreign minister in Damascus. Syria's economic situation is "extremely difficult as close to 15 million people are in need for humanitarian assistance," he said.

Syrian government forces have over the past years captured much of the country with the help of President Bashar Assad's allies Russia and Iran. A cease-fire brokered by Turkey and Russia in March 2020 stopped a Russian-backed government offensive on the last rebel stronghold in northwestern Syria.

But despite the relative calm, shelling and air strikes have killed hundreds of civilians in the past two years.

"Since March 2020, we have a cease-fire in place, we have front lines that are not shifted but still too many civilians are being killed so that's still a challenge," Pedersen said.

He added that "we will continue to work to try to see if there is a possibility for a nationwide cease-fire."

The political process has not delivered peace to the Syrian people, Pedersen added and pledged that the UN would continue to work on the humanitarian needs of all, refugees and displaced, both in and outside government-controlled areas.

More than 80 per cent of Syrians now live in poverty, leaving much of the population dependent on humanitarian assistance.

7 soldiers dead, 7 injured in truck accident in Philippines

AP ■ MANILA

Seven soldiers were killed when a tire on their truck burst in rainy weather, causing the vehicle to flip over and smash into a parked cement mixer in a central Philippine province, police said on Monday.

Seven other soldiers were injured in the accident on Sunday night in the coastal town of Uson in Masbate province while they

were on their way back to their detachment after receiving food and other supplies at an army camp, police said.

Some of the soldiers were also returning from an intelligence-gathering mission, regional army commander Maj. Gen. Alex Luna said.

Police investigator Sgt. Ladislao Jumao-as said a rear tire on the truck burst, causing the vehicle to flip over and smash into



the cement mixer parked on the side of the road. He said there was no sign of sabotage.

Nigeria races to assist flood victims; death toll tops 600

AP ■ ABUJA (NIGERIA)

The death toll from floods in Nigeria this year has increased to 603 as local authorities race to get relief items to hundreds of thousands being evacuated from their submerged homes.

More than 1.3 million people have been displaced by the disaster, which has affected people across 33 of Nigeria's 36 states, the nation's humanitarian affairs ministry said late on Sunday.

At least 340,000 hectares of land also have been affected, worsening fears of food supply disruptions.

Armed conflict already has threatened production in the northwest and central regions of Nigeria, which produce much of what the country eats.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari directed "all concerned to work for the restoration of normalcy," according to a statement issued by the presidency.

Nigeria experiences annual flooding especially in coastal areas but this year's floods are the worst in more than a decade.

Authorities blame the disaster this year on the release of excess water from Lagdo dam in neighbouring Cameroon and on unusual rainfalls.

The flooding has worsened the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria where armed violence especially in the troubled northern region has already displaced more than 3



million people, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

Sadiya Umar Farouq, Nigeria's minister of humanitarian affairs, warned that five states are still at risk of experiencing floods up till the end of November.

"We are calling on the respective state governments, local government councils and communities to prepare for more flooding by evacuating people living on flood plains to high grounds," Farouq said.

Last week, President Buhari approved 12,000 metric tons of grains for the flood victims, the humanitarian affairs minister said.

Swedish Parl elects conservative PM

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

The Swedish parliament on Monday elected Ulf Kristersson — the conservative Moderate Party leader — as prime minister at the head of a coalition that is being supported by a once radical far-right party. Kristersson, 59, was elected by 176-173 votes. His government is expected to be presented Tuesday. His three-party coalition does not have a majority, but in Sweden, prime ministers can govern as long as there is no parliamentary majority against them.

After a month of talks with the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, Kristersson presented an agreement that gave them an unprecedented position of influence in Swedish politics. They took over 20% of the vote at the Sept 11 election.

Kristersson's centre-right coalition Govt comprises his party and the Liberals and the Christian Democrats, but he has said it will remain in "close collaboration" with the Sweden Democrats. He depends on Sweden Democrats to secure a majority.

UK Treasury chief in position of power as PM Truss struggles

AP ■ LONDON

As British Prime Minister Liz Truss struggles to retain her authority, one man is seen to be in the real position of power to restore order and credibility to the Conservative government and limit the damage caused by Truss' economic plans.

Jeremy Hunt, named Britain's new Treasury chief three days ago, on Monday sought to calm jittery markets and angry Conservative lawmakers as he announced he was reversing the bulk of Truss' tax-cutting economic stimulus



package, which has left the U.K. in political and financial chaos since it was unveiled three weeks ago.

Hunt, 55, on Friday

became the U.K.'s fourth Treasury chief this year after Truss fired his predecessor, Kwasi Kwarteng, and ditched her pledge to scrap a planned increase in the corporation tax, a key plank of her tax-slashing plans.

A veteran Cabinet minister, Hunt has served in top government posts including foreign secretary and health secretary.

He is seen as a centrist among Tories and considered an experienced "safe pair of hands" to steer the government through its current self-inflicted crisis.

Japan PM orders probe of Unification Church problems

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered an investigation on Monday into the Unification Church in an apparent move to calm the public outrage over his governing party's cozy ties with the controversial group, which were revealed in the wake of Shinzo Abe's assassination.

Former Prime Minister Abe was shot to death during an outdoor campaign speech in July. The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, told police he killed Abe because of his apparent link to a religious group he hated.

A letter and social media postings attributed to

Yamagami said his mother's large donations to the church bankrupted his family and ruined his life.

Kishida said a government hotline set up to receive complaints and inquiries related to the church has resulted in more than 1,700 cases that have been handled by police and legal experts.

"Many victims face financial difficulty and their families were destroyed, but the government has not been able to provide adequate support and I take it seriously," Kishida said. He also pledged to do more to support the alleged victims, including a possible revision to the consumer contract law to prevent future problems.

Landmark trial begins over Arkansas' ban on trans youth care

AP ■ LITTLE ROCK

The nation's first trial over a state's ban on gender-confirming care for children begins in Arkansas this week, the latest fight over restrictions on transgender youth championed by Republican leaders and widely condemned by medical experts.

U.S. District Judge Jay Moody will hear testimony and evidence starting Monday over the law he temporarily blocked last year prohibiting doctors from providing gender-

confirming hormone treatment, puberty blockers or surgery to anyone under 18 years old. It also prevents doctors from referring patients elsewhere for such care.

If the law takes effect, doctors who violate the ban could lose their licenses or face other professional disciplinary measures and could be sued.

The families of four transgender youth and two doctors who provide gender-confirming care want Moody to strike down the law, saying it is unconstitutional because it dis-



criminates against transgender youth, intrudes on parents' rights to make medical decisions for their children and infringes on doctors' free speech rights. The trial is

expected to last two weeks.

"As a parent, I never imagined I'd have to fight for my daughter to be able to receive medically necessary health care her doctor says she needs and

we know she needs," said Lacey Jennen, whose 17-year-old daughter has been receiving gender-confirming care.

Arkansas was the first state to enact such a ban on gender-confirming care, with Republican lawmakers in 2021 overriding GOP Gov. Asa Hutchinson's veto of the legisla-

tion. Hutchinson, who had signed other restrictions on transgender youth into law, said the prohibition went too far by cutting off the care for those currently receiving it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Akash Yadav S/o. Lokesh Yadav who is owner of Plot of land measuring 100 Sq. Yds. (63.61 Sq. Mtrs.), carved out of Khazra No:187/833min., situated at Kala Enclave, Village Khoda, Paragana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.), having purchased the same from Mr. Dinesh S/o. Mr. Dhanpal, vide Sale Deed dated 05.12.2017, which is registered as Document No:11130, in the office of Sub Registrar-Ghaziabad-I and intend to mortgage the aforesaid land along with other piece of land against the financial assistance from Prutium Finance Limited. That, Original Sale Deed dated 05.12.2017, which is registered as Document No:11130, in the office of Sub Registrar-Ghaziabad-I, are/is not available/misplaced/lost, a complaint regarding loss of aforesaid deed is lodged by Mr. Akash Yadav in Police Station Khoda, vide G.D. No.038 dated 10.10.2022. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 7 days at below address.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moh. Opp. Uday Park, South Ext. II, New Delhi-49
Contact@ 011-40046316

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR20091SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Ref. No: 766 **Short Term e-Tender Notice** Dated : 17.10.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-IV), Vyasi Project, Daikpathar, Dehradun invites sealed and separate tender from interested contractors/firms for the following work. Brief summary of work and detail of tender is given below:

Tender No: 01/EE (Civil-IV)/VP/TN/2022-23

Name of work:- Supply/Installation and Rectification/Replacement of outstanding works of monitoring instruments and data acquisition system (DAS) at Dam site of Vyasi HEP in district Dehradun (Uttarakhand).

Estimated cost : Rs. 10018200.00 (Including G.S.T.)

Date of availability of bid document on website : From 18-10-2022 at 12:00 Hrs

Last date for submission of bids on website : 31-10-2022 upto 17:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in" **Executive Engineer (Civil-IV)**

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

Mahindra

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:** F/F, Plot No-17, Sanjay Nagar, District Center, 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 "MRHFL"), Having its registered office at **LUCKNOW** and Branch office at **GHAZIABAD** 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: 717936/ XSEMGZB00591847 GHAZIABAD Branch) PRADEEP KUMAR (Borrower) HARENDRA SINGH (Co Borrower)	HOUSE NO KHASRA NO 106 M I SITUATED AT SANGAM VIHAR VILLAGE- SADDIQ NAGAR NANDGRAM GHAZIABAD UP 201003, AREA SQ.METER/ FIT: 450, EAST: ROAD 7 FT , WEST: HOUSE ANKIT, SOUTH: PLOT OTHER , NORTH; HOUSE ANKIT SAXENA	31-May-22 Rs. 15,55,150/-	14-OCT-22 Symbolic Possession
2.	(LC No: 1294517/ XRESMG00167592 GHAZIABAD Branch) RISHAB GOYAL (Borrower) MAHENDER KUMAR GOYAL (Co Borrower) RAMA GOYAL (Co Borrower) SHEETAL KUMARI (Co Borrower)	PLOT NO. 92^ PART OF KHASRA NO. 316^ VILLAGE ACHICHEJA^ TEHSIL DADR^ DISTRICT GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR^ UTTAR PRADESH AREA SQ.METER/ FIT: 753, EAST: VACANT PLOT, WEST: PROPERTY OF DULARI DEV, SOUTH: ROAD 20 FEET , NORTH;VACANT PLOT	11-Jun-22 Rs. 15,26,890/-	14-OCT-22 Symbolic Possession
3.	(LC No: 881318 / XSEMGZB00818194 GHAZIABAD Branch) MUNNA KHAN (Borrower) JAYDA SAIPI (Co Borrower)	PLOT NO-22 KHASRA NO-1277 MOHALLA NEW ABADI GARHI MOHALLA PILKHUWA HAPUR UTTAR PRADESH, AREA SQ.METER/ FIT: 504 EAST: ROAD 15 FT, WEST: PLOT OF SITARAM SOUTH; PLOT OF LOKESH , NORTH;PLOT OF LOKESH	11-Jun-22 Rs. 9,03,201/-	14-OCT-22 Symbolic Possession
4.	(LC No: 573229/ XSEMGZB00482359 GHAZIABAD Branch) VIPIN TYAGI (Borrower) MITHLESH (Co Borrower) KALPANA TYAGI (Co Borrower) SANTOSH (Co Borrower)	PLOT NO 15 GARDEN ENCLAVE KHASRNA NO -245, MAINPURE, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH -201002 ,AREA SQ.METER/ FIT: 1033 , EAST: OTHER PROPERTY , WEST: ROAD 18 FEET , SOUTH: PLOT NO-16 , NORTH;PLOT NO.13 AND 14	30-May-22 Rs. 8,00,000/-	14-OCT-22 Symbolic Possession

Place :- **DELHI, NCR** Date:-18.10.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited

PM releases ₹16K cr to farmers in 12th tranche

Modi for mission mode to make nation self-reliant to cut high import bill of edible oils, fertilisers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed concern over India's high import bill for edible oil, fertilisers and crude oil, and said there is a need to work in a mission mode to make the country self-reliant and reduce import dependence.

With international energy prices soaring after the war in Ukraine, India will spend a record ₹2.5 lakh crore to subsidise fertilizer for farmers. Another USD 120 billion is spent on importing crude oil and the two together are the biggest drain on exchequer.

Addressing PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 event here, Prime Minister released the 12th installment of the cash support — ₹16,000 crore to eligible farmers — that the government had launched ahead of the 2019 general elections, and launched a scheme to brand all subsidised fertiliser under one brand 'Bharat' to eliminate product differentiation and confusion multiple brands cause in the minds of farmers.

He also inaugurated 600



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Narendra Tomar and Union Health Minister Manuskh Mandaviya during the PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022, at Pusa in New Delhi on Monday

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PM-KSK) which will act as a one-stop-shop providing multiple services to farmers. Around 3.3 lakh retail fertiliser shops will be converted into PM-KSK.

"We have another major challenge before us, which I want to discuss with our farmers and innovators. Why I am stressing on self-reliance and what role agriculture and farmers can play in this, one needs to understand and work on a mission mode," Modi said.

Out of total imports, maximum is spent on edible oils,

fertilisers and crude oil. When there is a global problem, it has its bearing on the domestic market. First, the country had to face the challenge of pandemic and then the war in exporting countries from where India buys many commodities, he said.

"To reduce import bill and make the country self-reliant, we together have to take a pledge. ...We need to take a pledge to become free from import dependency on food and agriculture related items. We together have to move in this direction," Modi said.

Sensex jumps 491 pts, Nifty closes above 17,300

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for a second straight session on Monday following buying in index majors Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and recovery in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 491.01 points or 0.85 per cent to settle at 58,410.98 as 24 of its components advanced. The index opened lower and fell to a low of 57,639.80 in early trade. However, it bounced back in late morning deals and rallied 529.03 points or 0.91 per cent to touch a high of 58,449 points.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 126.10 points or 0.73 per cent to close above the 17,300 level at 17,311.80 with 37 of its constituents ending in the green.

"Domestic market started weak in-line with a volatile global market. However, due to buying on dips strategy, the domestic market is recovering well supported by a good start to Q2 earnings season by IT and banks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Among Sensex shares, State Bank of India, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Axis



Bank, Reliance Industries, and IndusInd Bank were the biggest winners.

On the other hand, Larsen & Toubro, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Tata Steel, Nestle, Power Grid and Bharti Airtel were the laggards.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd said that markets shrugged off global weakness and started the week on a positive note. Though most sectors participated in the move, banking and energy majors played a crucial role in the surge. The broader indices too ended with modest gains.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.26 per cent and the smallcap index went higher by 0.09 per cent.

Impact of policy inflation curb after 5-6 qtrs: MPC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Jayanth R Varma on Monday said that the impact of monetary policy tightening on inflation will be felt after five to six quarters.

The central bank is mandated to keep inflation at 4 per cent with 2 per cent of upside and downside margins.

In order to control rising inflation, the RBI on September 30, has raised short-term lending rate for the third consecutive time by 50 bps to take the repo rate to 5.9 per cent.

Since May it has cumulatively increased the key interest rate by 190 bps.

"No doubt it (inflation) will come down. Because we have done monetary policy tightening.

"That tightening will have its impact. The monetary policy takes, you know, five to six quarters to have its impact and cool prices," he told PTI in a telephonic interview.

India's consumer price index (CPI) based inflation in September rose to five-month high of 7.41 per cent from 7 per cent recorded in the preceding month, with the print remaining well above the upper tolerance level of RBI's inflation targeting framework for the ninth consecutive month.



"We started only in April. We will start seeing the effect of that tightening later in the year.

Varma, currently a professor of Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad), noted that India's economic growth has actually been depressed for many years now.

"We are not fearing recession to say but growth is not what we would like," Varma said.

The World Bank on October 6 projected 6.5 per cent growth rate for the Indian economy for 2022-23, a drop of one percentage point from its June 2022 projections, citing deteriorating international environment, while IMF projected a growth rate of 6.8 per cent in 2022 as compared to 8.7

per cent in 2021 for India.

"So, that is the dual challenge. Economic growth is below what we would like, inflation is higher than what we would like, and that poses a difficult challenge for the monetary policy," the eminent economist emphasised.

He said that the Monetary Policy Committee is prioritising inflation right now, and trying to bring inflation under control and then move from that. IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva has said the global economy is moving from a world of relative predictability to one of greater uncertainty.

On the Indian rupee touching a historic low, Varma pointed out that the US dollar is strengthening against almost every currency.

I-to-I transfer area at IGIA T3 to make journey pleasant: DIAL

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The new expended International to International (I-to-I) transfer area to 3,000 square metres at Terminal 3 aimed to make passenger's connecting journey pleasant and hassle-free is all set for operations, said Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL).

"After the completion of the Phase 3A Expansion work which is scheduled in 2023, the passenger handling capacity of Delhi Airport will increase to 100 million passengers per annum (MPPA) while the air-side capacity will increase to 140 MPPA," it stated.

Prabhakara Rao, Deputy Managing Director, Delhi Airport the facility is now ready for operations.

"We are committed to providing a world-class experience to the passengers. It will also help enhance the airport's operational efficiency," Rao said.

Bank of Maharashtra Q2 profit doubles to ₹535 cr on higher interest income

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Monday posted a two-fold jump in its net profit to ₹535 crore in the September 2022 quarter aided by a decline in bad loans and a rise in net interest income.

The lender had reported a standalone profit of ₹264 crore in the year-ago period.

Total income increased to Rs 4,317 crore during the quarter under review against ₹4,039 crore in the same period last year, BoM said in a regulatory filing.

Talking about the financial performance, BoM managing director A S Rajeev said the increase in profit can be attributed to various factors, including a jump in net interest income.

The bank was able to reduce gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to 3.40 per cent of the gross loans by the end of September 2022 from 5.56 per cent a year ago.

Rupee falls 11 paise to close at 82.30 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 11 paise to close at 82.30 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as risk-off sentiment among investors and sustained foreign capital outflows weighed on the local unit.

However, a rally in the domestic equities and a weak greenback overseas restricted the rupee's fall, traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened lower at 82.33 and later fell to a low of 82.42. The unit finally settled at 82.30 against the American currency, registering a decline of 11 paise over its previous close.

In the previous session on Friday, the local currency had settled at 82.19 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.47 per cent to 112.78.



Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.28 per cent to USD 91.89 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 491.01 points or 0.85 per cent to end at 58,410.98, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 126.10 points or 0.73 per cent to 17,311.80.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,011.23 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

SRM, SICA hold 2-day conference on Int'l Chef's Day



Kattankulathur: SRM Institute of Hotel Management in association with South India Chef's Association and Chef's Table Studio, organised two day conference International Chef's Day.

The hospitality sector got a big boost during the valedictory International Chef's Day conference at Kattankulathur near Chennai. The event began on October 13 and the valedictory for the conference was

held on October 14. Ravi Pachamoothoo, Pro Chancellor (Administration) of SRMIST said the food industry has retained its importance amidst a scenario where every other aspects were witnessing changes.

Manjit Singh Gill, president, IFCA (Indian Federation of Culinary Associations) said focus was shifting towards nutrition and health in the food industry.

NTPC, Mitsubishi ink pact to demonstrate hydrogen co-firing in Auraiya gas power plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-run power giant NTPC has inked a pact with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and its arm Mitsubishi Power India to demonstrate feasibility for hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas at NTPC's Auraiya gas power plant.

NTPC Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, Japan and its subsidiary Mitsubishi Power India Private Ltd to demonstrate the feasibility for hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas in MHI 701D gas turbines installed at NTPC Auraiya Gas Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh," a power ministry statement said.

According to the statement, the total installed capacity of the Auraiya Gas Power Plant is 663 MW with four gas turbines operating in combined cycle mode.

Hydrogen co-firing in gas turbines can play a key role in reducing CO2 emissions. Under this MoU, both companies will collaborate to carry out the study and identify key actions for introducing hydrogen co-firing at NTPC Auraiya gas-based combined cycle power plant, it stated. The study will identify key actions for co-firing with various percentages of hydrogen — 5 per cent, 15 per cent, 30 per cent, 50 per cent and 100 per cent — and the hydrogen required for the project will be supplied by NTPC.

"We believe that partnering with MHI Limited which has global expertise in this technology will help us meet our objectives under the National Hydrogen Mission," said Manish Kumar Srivastava, executive director, NTPC Ltd.

"The momentous event of the signing of the MOU signifies the focus of NTPC and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries towards achieving the goal of decarbonisation of the power generation sector and their commitment to addressing the pressing issue of climate change," said Tatsuto Nagayasu, CMD, Mitsubishi Power India.

Gold falls ₹40; silver declines ₹594

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national capital fell ₹40 to ₹50,833 per 10 grams on Monday amid a fall in the precious metal prices in the overseas market, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had touched ₹50,873 per 10 grams.

Silver also declined by ₹594 to ₹56,255 per kilogram from ₹56,849 per kg.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,655.75 per ounce while silver was down at USD 18.55 per ounce.

Nokia bags multi-year deal from Reliance Jio for mega 5G network

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finnish company Nokia on Monday said it has won a multi-year deal from Indian telecom operator Reliance Jio to build one of the largest 5G networks in the world.

Under the contract, Nokia will supply equipment from its AirScale portfolio, including base stations, high-capacity 5G Massive MIMO (multiple input multiple output) antennas, and Remote Radio Heads (RRH) to support different spectrum bands, and self-organising network software.

Reliance Jio plans to deploy a 5G standalone net-

work which will interwork with its 4G network. The network will enable Jio to deliver advanced 5G services such as massive machine-to-machine communications, network slicing, and ultra-low-latency. "Nokia today announced that it has been selected as a major supplier by Reliance Jio to supply 5G Radio Access Network (RAN) equipment from its comprehensive AirScale portfolio countrywide in a multi-year deal," a release said.

ISB, IIM-B figure in FT EMBA 2022 Rankings

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian School of Business (ISB) was ranked number one in India and 44 globally in the top 100 Financial Times (FT) Executive MBA 2022 ranking.

After ISB, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B) figured in the FT list at 67th position globally.

Alumni from the Post Graduate Programme in Management for Senior Executives (PGPMAX) class of 2019 have been surveyed for this year's ranking and ISB has significantly ranked higher in various parameters of this year's rankings than the previous year, the premier B-School

said in a statement.

Professor Ramabhadran Thirumalai, Deputy Dean - Academic Programmes, ISB, said, "It is gratifying to witness how ISB has excelled in the various ranking parameters of FT.

ISB's PGPMAX is a much sought-after programme for senior executives, who are keen to reach new heights in their professional pursuits and in the process provide new ideas and thinking in their organisations. ISB will continue to provide greater value to its students and empower them to stay ahead of the curve."

Poornima Bushpala, an alumna of PGPMAX class of 2019, said, "The student jour-

ney was beyond classroom and academics, the opportunity to participate in global competitions and networking with rich peer and alumni groups across the world significantly added to my success.

The overall experience has helped me become a more confident and resilient person. Importantly, the experience prepared me to take on challenges," she added.

The FT Executive MBA ranking is a comprehensive ranking of executive MBA courses around the world. ISB's PGPMAX is a 15-month global executive MBA level programme for senior-level employees with a minimum of 10 years of work experience.

'India to have over 65% power generation capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will have more than 65 per cent of its power generation capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030, Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh said on Monday.

Addressing a CII conference on green energy, he explained that India is aiming for 65 per cent of power generation capacity from non-fossil fuels but the country will have more than that.

India will have 90 GW of solar equipment manufacturing capacity by 2030, up from 20GW at present, he added.

He also informed that about 15-20 GW of solar equip-



ment manufacturing capacity is under construction and India will have 40 GW of such facilities under Production-Linked Incentive Scheme-II (PLI-II).

The minister also urged the industry player to shift to the manufacturing of high-efficiency solar equipment.

He stated that the country has already 170 GW of renewable energy (including large hydro), while another 80 GW is under construction.

SBI, Kotak, Federal Bank revise lending rates based on marginal cost of funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned SBI and private lenders Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank have revised their lending rates under marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR), making consumer loans such as personal, home and auto costlier.

Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has revised the MCLR for the benchmark one-year tenor to 7.95 per cent, up by 25 basis

points from previous rate. SBI said the new MCLR is effective from October 15, 2022.

The one-year tenor MCLR is the rate against which most consumer loans are tied to.

Besides, SBI has also raised the two- and three-year tenor MCLR to 8.15 per cent and 8.25 per cent respectively, as against 7.90 per cent and 8 per cent.

The overnight, one-, three- and six-month rates have been raised in the range of 7.60-7.90 per cent.

Kotak Mahindra Bank said the MCLR for various tenors has been set in the range of 7.70-8.95 per cent with effect from October 16, 2022. Its revised one-year MCLR rate is 8.75 per cent.

South-based Federal Bank said its one-year MCLR on loans and advances has been revised to 8.70 per cent with effect from October 16.

Following RBI's repo rate hike last month, a number of banks have revised their lending rates upward.

Indian Bank opens Digital Banking Unit in Delhi

Delhi: In yet another measure to deepen financial inclusion, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi dedicated 75 Digital Baking Units (DBUs) to the nation through a virtual event held today. As part of the Union budget speech for 2022-23, the Finance Minister had announced the setting up of the 75 DBUs in 75 districts of the country to commemorate the 75 years of independence of our country.

The DBUs are being set up with an objective to ensure benefits of digital banking reach every nook and corner of the country and will cover all the States and Union territories. Of these, Indian Bank has established three DBUs at Delhi, Lucknow and Karaikal (Union Territory of Puducherry).



Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Minister of State for Culture, Shri. Dr. M. P Tangirala, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services and Shri. S L Jain, MD&CEO, Indian Bank graced the occasion at DBU,

Delhi.

DBUs will be brick and mortar outlets which will provide a variety of digital banking facilities to people such as opening of savings account, cash deposit, cash withdrawal, balance-check, passbook printing, transfer of funds, investment in fixed deposits, loan applications, stop-payment instructions for cheques issued, apply for credit / debit cards, view statement of account, pay taxes, pay bills, make nominations, etc. DBUs will enable customers to have cost effective, convenient access and enhanced digital experience of banking products and services all-round the year. They will spread Digital Financial Literacy and special emphasis will be given to customer education on cyber security awareness and safeguards.

iD Fresh sets up plant in Haryana

New Delhi: iD Fresh Food, fresh food brand, on Monday announced the launch of its state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Haryana to meet the rapidly-growing customer demand from north Indian markets, particularly in the Delhi-NCR region. PC Musthafa, CEO and co-founder of iD Fresh Food, said, "There was a time when it was believed that only South Indians relished soft idlies and crispy dosas. Today, we know that these are equally main favorites across Indians irrespective of the geography."

Never asked to leave PSG: Mbappe

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe insisted on Sunday that he has "never asked to leave" Paris Saint-Germain despite widespread reports last week that he would seek a move away from the Qatar-owned club as soon as possible.

The 23-year-old France superstar was speaking in the wake of PSG's 1-0 win over Marseille, in which he set up Neymar for the only goal as his side moved three points clear at the top of Ligue 1.

"I am very happy. I have never asked to leave in January," he said while insisting that he was not "implicated directly or indirectly" in the rumours about his future.

The story emerged on Tuesday, hours before PSG's 1-1 Champions League draw with Benfica in which he scored.

"I didn't understand why the story came out on the day of a game. I was as shocked as everyone," Mbappe claimed.

"People can think I was involved but I wasn't at all."

Several sources assure that the noise about Mbappe wanting to leave PSG -- despite only signing a new three-year contract in May after lengthy negotiations -- came from the entourage of the player himself.

Mbappe has openly admitted that he has not enjoyed his position in the Paris attack this season, saying he plays with "more freedom" when on international duty.

But he insisted that there was no truth that he wanted to leave Paris, saying: "It is completely false. I am very happy."

Neymar's goal against Marseille came in first-half stop-



page time as PSG beat their bitter rivals at the Parc des Princes to maintain their unbeaten start to the season.

The game also featured a red card for Marseille defender Samuel Gigot, who was dismissed in the second half for scything down Neymar.

It was a welcome return to winning ways for PSG after

three straight draws and a week overshadowed by the doubts about Mbappe's future.

PSG are three points clear of surprise package Lorient, who drew 0-0 on Saturday with Reims.

Lens are five points behind the leaders in third, with Marseille another point adrift now in fourth.

'BIG CHARACTERS'

Mbappe lined up for the Parisians alongside Neymar and the returning Lionel Messi in attack and was twice denied by fine Pau Lopez saves in the first half.

"He created lots of chances. He was in his favourite position most of the time. He just lacked a bit of luck and came

up against a good goalkeeper," coach Christophe Galtier told broadcaster Amazon Prime.

"Obviously I have understood Kylian and that he wants to be in his favourite position," said Galtier, who switched from a back three to a back four against Marseille.

"That is also why we tried to play with a different system, but believe me when I say everything is fine in the dressing room.

"I have players with big characters but they are great professionals."

Messi hit the underside of the crossbar from a first-half free-kick for PSG, who lost Danilo Pereira to injury in the first half.

Marseille, who beat Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League in midweek, were a threat when they got forward but could not find a response to Neymar's goal.

"I am not frustrated," their coach, Igor Tudor, told Amazon Prime.

"It finished 1-0 but it could have been maybe 5-5 or 4-5 or 6-4. Paris deserved this win."

Elsewhere, Lyon's slump continued as they went down 3-2 to Rennes in their first game since appointing former PSG boss Laurent Blanc as their new coach.



Neymar appears in Spanish court in Barca transfer trial

AP ■ BARCELONA

A few hours after scoring the winning goal in Paris Saint-Germain's victory over Marseille in the French league, Neymar arrived in court in Spain on Monday to face a trial for alleged irregularities involving his transfer to Barcelona in 2013.

Neymar's parents, former Barcelona president Sandro Rosell and representatives for both the Spanish club and Brazilian team Santos also appeared in court after a complaint brought by Brazilian investment group DIS regarding the amount of the player's transfer.

The Brazil forward arrived at the court in Barcelona wear-

ing sunglasses and a black suit and tie. Neymar's mother and father, who also is his agent, were among those arriving alongside the player.

The defendants, who have denied wrongdoing, sat near each other to hear the opening arguments in the trial that comes nearly a month before the World Cup opens on November 20 in Qatar, and is expected to last until the end of the month.

Neymar left the Barcelona court about two hours after arriving, without talking to reporters.

Neymar and the rest of the defendants had to be in court for the first day of the trial, but the player is only expected to testify on Friday.

UNION STUN DORTMUND, BAYERN THRASH FREIBURG

AP ■ MUNICH

Union Berlin's fairytale run at the top of the Bundesliga continued on Sunday after a howler from Borussia Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel helped them to a stunning 2-0 win over Edin Terzic's side.

Two first-half goals from Janik Haberer put Union into dreamland in front of a raucous home crowd as they extended their five-week run at the top of the table and pulled four points clear of Bayern Munich, who moved second with a thumping 5-0 win at home over Freiburg.

The visitors got off to a nightmare start after Kobel handed Union the opener on a silver platter.

As he stepped up to receive a routine backpass from Raphael Guerreiro, Kobel



slipped on the grass in his own penalty area, allowing Haberer to tap the ball into the empty net.

Haberer doubled the lead shortly afterwards, smashing the ball into the bottom corner after Union had danced through the lethargic Dortmund back line.

Terzic brought on three attacking players at half-time to try and force a fightback, but it was Union who continued to have the better chances.

Champions Bayern Munich are back on course, meanwhile, after they leapfrogged Freiburg into second with only their second win

in eight league games.

Freiburg started brightly but Bayern quickly took control of the game, Serge Gnabry putting them in front with a powerful header after just 13 minutes.

Eric-Maxim Choupo-Moting doubled the lead on the half-hour mark, with Leroy Sane picking up his second assist of the evening.

Sane got on the scoresheet himself just after half-time when he found the bottom corner with a thundering shot from the edge of the area.

Any faint hope for Freiburg was buried just two minutes later, when Sadio Mane sent a dainty chip over the head of goalkeeper Mark Flekken to make it 4-0.

Mane then produced a dainty backheel to set up Marcel Sabitzer for Bayern's fifth late on.

Indians up for tough challenge in Denmark

PTI ■ ODENSE

Indian shuttlers in absence of an injured LPV Sindhu will be up for a tough grind as the badminton season begins with the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament here on Tuesday.

Sindhu is on her path to recovery after sustaining an ankle injury during her gold medal winning campaign at the Commonwealth Games.

In her absence, all eyes will be on the likes of Kidambi Srikanth, Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy and doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who won a historic bronze medal at the World Championships in Tokyo in August.

But with no Indians being seeded in the singles, it will be a tough draw for the Indian shuttlers.

With a career-high world ranking of No. 8, Sen will face sixth seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting, against whom, the Indian holds a 2-0 head-to-head edge, having beaten him at the German Open and Thomas Cup final this year.

But it remains to be seen whether the Indian is rusty coming back after a break. A win could pit him against fellow Indian



HS Prannoy, who takes on Zhao Jun Peng in his opening round.

For that to happen, Prannoy has to overcome the Peng challenge for the first time. The Chinese world No. 19 has a 2-0 head-to-head advantage, having won against Prannoy in the World Championships in August and the other being at the Indonesia Open in June.

The other Indian heavyweight Srikanth on the other hand will be up against Angus Ng Ka Long with the duo having a 3-3 over-

all record.

The last encounter saw the Indian beating the Hong Kong lad but it has been more than a year at the HYLO Open and since then the Srikanth has been struggling to be consistent.

The road will only get tougher for Srikanth if manages to carve out a win as his next potential challenger could be seventh seed Loh Kean Yew.

They are in the same quarter as top seed and home favourite and world No. 1 Viktor Axelsen, fresh from winning the World Championships.

Axelsen will face Kunlavut Vitidsarn in a rematch of the World Championship final. Veteran Saina Nehwal will be the sole Indian in fray in women's singles and will take on China's Zhang Yi Man as the Indian would look to avenge her defeat way back in 2016 in their only clash so far.

If she manages to get past the opening round hurdle, Saina could face fifth seed Ratchanok Intanon.

On a high after winning a bronze at the World Championship, Satwik-Chirag will be up against South Koreans Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae, who had beaten the Indian duo in April.

Qatar to host 2023 Asian Cup

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

World Cup hosts Qatar will stage the 2023 Asian Cup, the Asian Football Confederation said on Monday, after China withdrew earlier this year because of Covid.

China in June 2019 won the bid to host the event but pulled out in May because of its "zero-Covid" policy, leaving the AFC scrambling to find a new host for its flagship men's 24-team football tournament.

The tournament had been due to be held in 10 Chinese cities from June 16 to July 16 next year.

South Korea and Indonesia were the other two countries in the running after China's withdrawal, but Qatar got the nod.

"The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive

committee has today confirmed the Qatar Football Association (QFA) as the host association for the AFC Asian Cup 2023," the Malaysia-based AFC said in a statement.

The AFC did not give dates for the Asian Cup. It also said its executive committee has short-listed India and Saudi Arabia for the 2027 Asian Cup.

AFC president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said Qatar is ready to put on the event despite the short lead time to prepare. It will also host the World Cup starting next month.

The Asian Cup is staged every four years. Qatar won the tournament's last edition, in 2019, which was hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

Qatar hosted the 1988 and 2011 editions.

Osimhen keeps Napoli top, Milan squeeze past Verona

AP ■ MILAN

Victor Osimhen made sure that Napoli kept hold of their Serie A lead on Sunday with the winning goal in a 3-2 victory over Bologna which took their all-competitions winning streak to 10 matches.

Nigeria striker Osimhen struck in the 69th minute to secure the win for unbeaten Napoli, who maintained their two-point lead on Atalanta at the top of the pile.

It was his first league goal since August after helping his team to secure qualification to the Champions League last 16 with a midweek strike in Naples against Ajax.

"It's always important for me to get a goal in this stadium because the atmosphere is really amazing," said Osimhen to DAZN.

"I'm happy to be able to help the team with this goal and the victory, and I believe we will continue to push with this momentum."

However Sunday's win was far from the swashbuckling display expected against Bologna, who sit 17th but



come away from the Stadio Maradona with credit after a fine performance without star man Marko Arnautovic. The hosts looked to be heading for a routine win once Hirving Lozano put

them ahead three minutes after half-time.

They had gone into the break level thanks to Juan Jesus bundling in his first goal of the season in final minute of the

half, just four minutes after Joshua Zirkzee had give Bologna a shock lead.

However Alex Meret allowed Musa Barrow to level for Bologna just two minutes after Lozano's arrowed strike with a howler, letting the Gambian's long-range shot slip through his fingers.

The home crowd squirmed but Osimhen, who replaced Giacomo Raspadori at half-time, forced his third league goal of the campaign under Lukasz Skorupski from the superb Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's pass to send the fans home drained but happy.

TONALI SAVES MILAN

AC Milan gave their title defence a boost with a 2-1 win at Verona which bumped them up to third, three points behind Napoli.

Sandro Tonali stroked in the champions' winner with nine minutes remaining, his first goal of the season and one which saved Stefano Pioli's injury-ravaged team from falling further off the pace.

"We're happy that even on our off nights, we can still get the points," said Tonali.

Dunne named as High Performance Director for Indian boxing team

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Irish boxing legend Bernard Dunne, who has produced Olympic and world champions, was on Monday named the High Performance Director for Indian boxing.

The 42-year-old, who has won the WBA World Championship (2009) and the European Championship (2007), will take over the position which was left vacant after Santiago Nieve's departure.

"India has huge boxing talent and its boxers have been performing exceedingly well," said Dunn. "It will be a great opportunity for me to work with them and contribute to their success. I'm very excited to join the team and take the standards of Indian boxing to a new high altogether," he added.

Swiatek beats Vekic for WTA San Diego title

AP ■ SAN DIEGO

World number one Iga Swiatek captured her 11th career WTA title and her eighth of the year on Sunday by outlasting 77th-ranked Donna Vekic in the San Diego Open final.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Swiatek defeated the 26-year-old Croatian 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 for her WTA-best 64th match victory of 2022.

"It was a really tight match and pretty long," Swiatek said. "We felt the intensity for sure. At the end I wanted to be the one who played the last ball in."

Swiatek took her prior titles this year at the US and French Opens as well as Qatar, Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart and Rome.



The 21-year-old Polish star bounced back in her ninth championship match of the year after losing last week's final at Ostrava to Czech Barbora Krejickova.

In a rain-halted semi-final delayed to Sunday afternoon, Vekic rallied from 4-2 down in

the third set when showers struck to defeat 19th-ranked American Danielle Collins, this year's Australian Open runner-up, by 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2).

That left her only a short rest break before facing Swiatek for the title, but she tested the top-ranked star through two sets.

Liverpool 'showed up' against world's best team: Klopp

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jurgen Klopp said Liverpool "showed up today" after his side beat Premier League champions Manchester City 1-0 in a thrilling contest at Anfield on Sunday.

Mohamed Salah's 76th-minute strike gave Klopp's team just their third win of the Premier League season and slowed City's title charge.

"Result, perfect," said Klopp, who was shown a red card late in the game. "Performance, really, really good, in an incredibly intense game."

"We defended at an incredibly high level for 99 minutes almost. They had their moments but especially in the box we did extremely well."

"This was for us obviously big today. We showed up today and that is all we wanted to do."

Klopp praised "sensational" awareness from goalkeeper Alisson Becker to free Salah for the goal.

"Outstanding from Mo," he said. "He might miss one but he will not miss two in a similar situation. "Goals decide the game but there were so many good football moments against what I would say is the best football team in the world."

Pep Guardiola said his City team were punished for making a mistake in a game of "fine margins".

"This is Anfield — every time you come here lately unfortunately this is Anfield," he added. "We played a really good game but this is a game where there are really fine margins and the mistakes are punished. We made a mistake and we cannot concede and that's why we lost the game."



"We played to beat Liverpool today, definitely we played for that. After 1-0 the crowd shouted but we shouted more on the pitch."

City thought they had snatched the lead early in the second half through Phil Foden but VAR spotted a foul by Erling Haaland on Fabinho in the build-up and the goal was disallowed.

"The referee said played on, played on, played on, there were a thousand million fouls like this and this one is because we scored a goal," said Guardiola.

"So they disallowed because we scored a goal, otherwise it would not have been disallowed. We lost because we make a mistake but this is Anfield."

"The crowd tried (to throw coins and objects) but they didn't touch me. Maybe next time they will be better."

India start T20 WC preps with win

Shami sizzles in 4-wicket over as Men in Blue edge out Oz in warm-up

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Mohammad Shami put the concerns over his fitness to rest with a sensational 20th over as India pulled off a six-run win over Australia in their first warm-up fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Monday.

K L Rahul (57 off 33) and Suryakumar Yadav (50 off 33) smashed entertaining half-centuries to power India to 186 for seven after Australia opted to bowl at the Gabba.

Needing 16 runs off the last 12 balls with six wickets in hand, Australia were on course for a comfortable win before Shami, Harshal Patel and Virat Kohli the fielder scripted a turn-around for India.

Shami, who last played a competitive game in July and landed here after suffering a long bout of COVID-19, turned up to bowl the last over of the game and made a decisive impact on the game.

He landed yorker after yorker and ended up with three wickets in the over besides a run out. Shami was drafted into the squad as a replacement for the injured Jasprit Bumrah.

In the penultimate over, under-fire Harshal Patel delivered after being hammered early on, as he conceded only five runs in an over that also included a brilliant run out off a Kohli direct hit.

The star India batter had also plucked a stunning one-handed catch out of thin air at the boundary line to dismiss Pat Cummins.

However, concerns over India's bowling remains ahead of their tournament opener



against Pakistan on October 23.

"There is room for improvement, but I want more consistency from the bowlers. You need to keep things simple and hit the deck hard. Overall a good game for us, they had a decent partnership and that

put us under pressure," said skipper Rohit Sharma.

On Shami's match-winning effort, he said: "He is coming back after a long time, so we wanted to give him an over. Wanted to give him a challenge and let him bowl the final over,

and you saw what he did."

Earlier, the Indian batters enjoyed the pace and bounce of the wicket, especially Rahul who scored the bulk of the runs in the powerplay, taking his team to 69 for no loss.

Rohit (15 off 14) was a mere

spectator at the other end as Rahul came up with one classy hit after another.

During a 78-run stand between the openers, Rohit hardly got to bat and could open his account only in the fifth over.

Rahul, whose strike rate

has been questioned in the past, looked like he was back to his best after coming back from an injury lay off.

His innings comprised delightful cover drivers off the pacers while his standout shots were the two sixes off Cummins, one was a crisp pull while the other was a whip off a good length ball, which sailed over deep midwicket.

Barring Hardik Pandya (2), who was outdone by a slower ball from Kane Richardson, all the Indian batters got to spend some valuable time in the middle.

The bigger boundaries in Australia are already making an impact with Kohli (19 off 13), Dinesh Karthik (20 off 14), Rohit and Rahul getting caught in the deep.

Karthik walked across the stumps to dispatch Kane Richardson over deep mid-wicket but was caught by Glenn Maxwell just inside the boundary ropes. It would have been a six at a ground in India.

Kohli was bounced out by Mitchell Starc to be caught at fine leg while Rohit's slog sweep landed in the safe hands of Maxwell.

After a high-quality knock, Rahul could not give a long hop from Maxwell due punishment and was caught at deep mid-wicket.

With the start India got, they should have reached 200 but could not do so.

There was also another fine knock from Suryakumar, who had also scored a fifty against Western Australia in Perth. He and Rahul also got the taste of the extra bounce as they both were hit on the helmet.



Shami is an ideal replacement for Bumrah: Tendulkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah's absence is a "big loss" for India, but Mohammed Shami can more than fill the void with his speed and skill sets, in the ICC T20 World Cup, feels Sachin Tendulkar.

Bumrah, who is out for an indefinite period of time due to a stress fracture on his back, was replaced in the main squad by Shami, who hasn't played a single T20I match since the last edition of World Cup in the UAE.

However, the crafty 32-year-old from Amroha dispelled all doubts about his fitness with a splendid three-wicket burst in the 20th over, ensuring India's six-run win over Australia in a warm-up game in Brisbane on Monday.

"Bumrah not being there is a big loss and we obviously needed a strike bowler. An out and out genuine fast bowler, who could attack batters and get wickets. Shami has proven that and he seems a good replacement," Tendulkar said.

The maestro seemed very

impressed with young left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh, who has shown a lot of heart in his short international career so far. "Arshdeep has shown a lot of promise and he looks a balanced guy. And whatever I have seen of him, he looks a committed fellow because you can see a player, you can make out looking at his mindset," the legendary batter said.

For Tendulkar, committing to a specific plan is as important as devising one.

"What I really like is that if Arshdeep has a plan, he commits to it and that is really, really important in this format as batters are going out and playing those extra shots and some innovative ones. So if you have a plan, commit to it."

Tendulkar didn't want to comment on team combinations, he does believe that a left-hander in the batting line-up gives the kind of variety every team craves.

Scotland get better of WI; Zimbabwe beat Ireland

PTI ■ HOBART

Scotland dished out a perfect ball-round display to stun two-time champions West Indies by 42 runs in a rain-interrupted Group B fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Monday.

Invited to bat, Scotland put on a challenging 160 for five on the back of opener George Munsey's sparkling unbeaten 66 off 53 balls, which was studied with nine fours.

The Scots then defended the total in style as West Indies, the most successful side in the T20 World Cup, looked a shadow of their past and folded for 118 in 18.3 overs.

West Indies now must win their next match against Zimbabwe on Wednesday to remain in contention for the Super 12 stage.

The Richie Berrington-led side, on the other hand, need a win against European rivals Ireland to qualify for the Super 12 stage.

"We haven't had as many T20 games as we would have liked but have played a lot of 50-overs cricket. It was about transferring those skills to the short form," Berrington said.

Hailing their spinners effort, he added: "They have done it for us in key moments. Watt started off well and always picks up the key wickets. Leask bowled his fours over well on the trot, too."

Disappointed at the loss, Windies skipper Nicholas Pooran said: "We have to work hard and win two games. We



have to take accountability and responsibility."

RAZA DREAM RUN CONT.

In the second Group B match at the Bellerive Oval, Sikandar Raza smashed a 48-ball 82 as Zimbabwe defeated Ireland by 31 runs on their return to the T20 World Cup after 2016.

Raza hogged the limelight with his explosive half century as he lifted his side from 37

for 3 to an imposing 174/7.

Ireland were never in the hunt in their chase and ended at 143 for 9 with the off-spin all-rounder Raza also grabbing one wicket. He finished with figures of 3-0-22-1.

For Raza, this was his third successive T20I fifty, and fifth overall, this year. He has scored 598 runs from 16 innings this year at an average of 42.71.

"The goal we brought was

to get into the Super 12 and take some of the big teams and see where we go. So to have this victory today is certainly humbling, exciting and happy as well," Raza said.

"But for me, once the team chat is done, I wouldn't be celebrating this victory. It's done, it's in the past. We have a very tough game against the Caribbean boys in 48 hours' time and that's what I'm looking forward to now," he added.

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Camaraderie between the likes of Mohammed Shami and Shaheen Shah Afridi on Monday added another dimension to the hype, the feeling of one-upmanship among fans that precedes an India-Pakistan World Cup clash.

Veteran India seamer Shami was on Monday seen sharing the tricks of the trade with Pakistani pace sensation Afridi, while the legendary Sunil Gavaskar shared batting tips with Pakistan captain Babar Azam.

In a video posted on Twitter by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Shaheen was seen praising Shami's ability to bowl with an upright seam.

"Jab se maine bowling start kari hai tabse mai aap ko follow kar raha hu, aap ki na wrist position aur seam ka jawab nahi hai," said Shaheen.

In response, Shami said, "Agar release point acha ho jayega na seam bhi theek ho jayega."

Both Shami and Afridi were training together in the nets.

In another video, Gavaskar was seen helping out Pakistan's prolific run-scorer and skipper Babar with tips.



Babar met the India batting legend during a private party, where Gavaskar gifted the Pakistani a cap signed by him, a day after his 28th birthday.

The Pakistan captain greeted the former India skipper, while the latter wished him 'Happy Birthday'.

Gavaskar was heard telling Babar, "Shot

selection acchi ho toh koi problem nahi (If the shot selection is good then there is no problem). Situation ke hisaab se shot selection karein, koi problem nahi (shot selection should according to the situation)." Saqlain Mushtaq and Mohammed Yousuf, who are part of the Pakistan coaching staff, were also present alongside Gavaskar.

'Maha Yagnya' for Team India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cricket is a religion in India and every Indian becomes passionate and emotional every time Team India plays. Mumbai-based NGO Cheering Squad India Foundation, a social arm under spiritual start-up My Omnamo, has launched a spiritual campaign this cricket season with a 'Maha Yagnya' to bring in collective prayers for Team India.

The first "Vijayi Bhava Maha Yagnya" was performed on Monday in Trimbakeshwar near Nashik.



16-year-old Indian GM Gukesh stuns Carlsen

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Teenaged Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh stunned Magnus Carlsen in the ninth round of the preliminary phase of Aimag Chess Rapid online chess tournament, becoming the youngest to beat the world champion.

The 16-year-old from Chennai beat the world No.1 with white pieces early on Monday to move up to third position behind Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda (25 points) and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Azerbaijan, 23 points) with 21 points after the 12th round.

Gukesh's 29-move dismantling of the world champion comes a day after his 19-year-old compatriot Arjun Erigaisi had posted a maiden win over the world champion.

"Gukesh just became the youngest player to ever beat Magnus after he became WC! Hats off to the 16-Year-Old Indian superstar," Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, of which the Aimag Chess Rapid event



is a part of, said on its Twitter feed.

Gukesh is 16 years 4 months 20 days and the previous record before his win was R Praggnanandhaa's 39-move victory over Carlsen in the

Gukesh, Erigaisi are very, very strong players: Vishy Anand

CHENNAI: The legendary Viswanathan Anand feels young Indian chess players are on the right track given their penchant to hog the limelight on and off, here and there.

Teenage Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa, D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi among others have been enjoying a superb run in 2022 with wins over world champion Magnus Carlsen being the feather on their caps.

Commenting on Gukesh's stunning 29-move win over the Norwegian superstar Carlsen in

the preliminary section of the ongoing Aimag Chess Rapid online tournament, the five-time world champion said it showed that players like him and Erigaisi are very strong and could compete against anybody on the other side of the board.

"I think it just shows that Arjun and Gukesh are very, very strong players who can compete well against whoever is sitting on the other side of the board. It is also nice that they play regularly against the best players because this is how you keep up," Anand said. PTI

"Beating Magnus is always special, but I was not very proud of that game."

"As a professional, I am happy with the way I played the game. The

win surely plays a vital role in boosting my confidence and I look forward to further games," Gukesh said.

Terming it an important win, the Chennai player said playing Carlsen was always an interesting challenge, and that he looked forward to playing against him in the near future.

"It is definitely an important win. Playing with Carlsen is always an interesting challenge and I look forward to playing with him again in the near future," he added.

Asked if there was any special preparation for the match against Carlsen, the Indian GM said, "I had a discussion with my coach, Vishnu Prasanna about the playing styles of all the players in the event. We made a brief plan about what to play against each participant as per their playing style."

Subsequently, Gukesh suffered a setback in round 10 when he lost to Duda but bounced back superbly to beat Mamedyarova and Eric Hansen in the next two rounds.

BCCI AGM: Binny to be elected 36th BCCI president

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The issue of ICC chairmanship will be up for discussion when the BCCI holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM), where former India cricketer Roger Binny will replace Sourav Ganguly as the new Board President here on Tuesday.

The election of the next set of office-bearers will be a mere formality as all are set to be elected unopposed. However, the member will deliberate if BCCI should field a candidate for the ICC chair or support incumbent Greg Barclay for a second term.

The last date for filing the nominations for the ICC top job is October 20. The ICC Board will meet from November 11-13 in Melbourne.

The much-debated exit of Ganguly from the BCCI has already garnered attention not just in sporting but in political arena too and it will be interesting to see if the former skipper is considered for the top job.

The other names doing the rounds include Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and former BCCI president N Srinivasan.

Srinivasan is eligible to contest but it remains to be seen if BCCI wants him to throw his hat in the ring, considering his age. He is 78.

Thakur is expected to be busy during the ICC Board meet as Himachal Pradesh is going to polls



in a single phase on November 12. Binny will replace Ganguly as the BCCI chief with the latter set to return to his home state association CAB as the president for a second term.

The other BCCI office bearers, who will be elected unanimously include secretary Jay Shah, Ashish Shelar (treasurer), Rajeev Shukla (vice-president) and Devajit Saikia (joint secretary). Outgoing treasurer Arun Dhimal will be the new IPL chairman.

"It is almost certain that Jay will be India's representative at ICC Board meeting. But members need to decide if we want someone to become the ICC chairman or let Greg Barclay of New Zealand complete his second and final term," a senior BCCI official said.