

OPINION 6

AGNIVEER IS KILLING
REGIMENT TRADITIONS

WORLD 9

XI SWEARS TO MAKE CHINA FIRST
MODERN SOCIALIST COUNTRY

MONEY 10

FINMIN SEEKS SUGGESTIONS
ON TAXES FOR NEXT BUDGET

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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BENZEMA
WINS BALLON
D'OR AWARD
11 SPORT

‘Response to global threats can’t be local’

World must come together to fight terror, graft, drugs, says Modi at Interpol meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Dubbing terrorism, corruption, drug trafficking, poaching and organised crimes as “globalised threats” staring at the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the pace of change of these dangers is faster than earlier and the world must come together to defeat these threats.

“When threats are global, the response cannot be just local! It is high time that the world comes together to defeat these threats,” Modi said while inaugurating the 90th General Assembly of the global policing body, Interpol.

Exhorting the global community to work faster to “eliminate safe havens” for terrorists, criminals and the corrupt, Modi said when the “forces of good cooperate, the forces of crime cannot operate.”

The Prime Minister released a commemorative postage stamp and a ₹100 coin to mark the 90th General Assembly.

Modi was welcomed at the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the 90th General Assembly of Interpol, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

venue by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Interpol President Ahmed Naser Al Raisi and Secretary General Jurgen Stock.

In his address to the gathering of 195 member countries of Interpol which included a delegation of Pakistan, led by its Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director-General Mohsin Butt, the Prime Minister said India has been combating trans-national terrorism for several decades.

“Long before the world

woke up to it, we knew the price of safety and security. Thousands of our people made the ultimate sacrifice in this fight,” he said.

He said a safe and secure world is a shared responsibility of the global community.

There can be no safe havens for the corrupt, terrorists, drug cartels, poaching gangs or organised crime.

“Such crimes against people in one place are crimes against everyone, crimes against humanity. Further,

these not only harm our present but also impact our future generations.

“Police and law enforcement agencies need to devise procedures and protocols to increase cooperation. Interpol can help by speeding up Red Corner Notices for fugitive offenders,” he said.

Continued on Page 2

Studied silence by Pak on terror

New Delhi: The Chief of Pakistan’s Federal Investigation Agency Mohsin Butt maintained silence when confronted with questions by journalists about fugitive terrorists Dawood Ibrahim and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba chief Hafiz Saeed — living in his country under ISI patronage.

Once Modi’s address was over, he was surrounded by reporters who wanted to know about the location of the 1993 Mumbai blast mastermind Dawood Ibrahim, designated as a global terrorist by the United Nations, and other terrorists wanted by India like Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Masood Azhar. Butt, however, maintained stoic silence and walked away even as media persons fired a volley of questions at the top Pakistani delegate.

Sasikala, coterie ill-treated Jaya during sickness

Probe panel on Amma’s death says their role must be closely investigated

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Justice Arumughaswamy Commission, which probed the factors leading to the demise of former Chief Minister and AIADMK General Secretary J Jayalalithaa, has blamed VK Sasikala, the close confidante of the former, and three others for ill-treating Amma during her illness.

Dr KS Sivakumar, a close relation of Sasikala, J Radhakrishnan, the then Health Secretary of Tamil Nadu Government and C Vijayabaskar, the then Health Minister, are the three others against whom the needle of suspicion is pointed.

The commission has called for a thorough investigation into the roles of Sasikala, Dr Sivakumar, Radhakrishnan and Vijayabaskar. The commission also said there was total secrecy behind the treatment given to Jayalalithaa.

“Sasikala and her gang had

hijacked the entire process and they kept the entire State administration in the dark about the medical status of Jayalalithaa,” said the report that runs into 440 pages.

Justice Arumughaswamy, a former judge of Madras High Court, was appointed to head a Commission of Enquiry to probe the factors that led to the hospitalisation of Jayalalithaa on September 22, 2016.

This was one of the demands put forward by O Panneerselvam for returning to the AIADMK after he was expelled from the party in 2017. Jayalalithaa breathed her last on December 5, 2016, days after Chairman of Apollo Hospitals Dr Pratap C Reddy had said she was recovering and it was for her to decide when to leave the hospital.

The commission substantiates what *The Pioneer* has been writing all these years. Justice Arumughaswamy, who probed the events starting from the hospitalisation of Jayalalithaa, has expressed doubts and reservations about the behaviour of Sasikala and her family members towards the former Chief Minister.

Though Sasikala and her relations were ousted from Veda Nilayam, the personal bungalow of Jayalalithaa in November 2011, the former managed to return back to the residence within months.

Continued on Page 2

Chopper carrying Kedarnath pilgrims crashes; seven killed



Locals at the site after a helicopter carrying pilgrims crashed near Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on Tuesday

PTI

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Six pilgrims and a pilot were killed when their helicopter crashed near Kedarnath on Tuesday morning.

The chopper - Bell 407 (VT-RPN) - operated by Aryan Aviation burst into flames at around 11.45 AM at Dev Darshini in Garud Chatti, Rudrapur District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh said.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA), C Ravishankar told media persons that the helicopter crashed when it was on its way back from Kedarnath to Guptkashi

when it crashed at Garud Chatti. When the members of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) reached the accident site, they only found body parts of the passengers along with the wreckage of the helicopter. The deceased have been identified as Anil Singh (57) from Mumbai, who was the pilot of the helicopter; Purva Ramanuj (26), Kriti Barad (30) and Urvi Barad (25) of Gujarat; and Sujata (56), Kala (60) and Prem Kumar (63) of Tamil Nadu.

Teams of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) and aviation regulator DGCA will be probing the helicopter crash.

Continued on Page 2

Stray dog mauls infant to death in Noida society, enraged residents protest

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A seven-month-old baby succumbed to his injuries late on Monday, hours after a stray dog mauled him at Lotus Boulevard society, a posh group housing society in Noida’s Sector 100.

Anguished over the incident, several locals held a protest outside the society. Also, the incident has triggered tension between residents of the society and dog lovers who allegedly feed the animals inside the premises.

The child’s father, Rajesh Kumar, a daily-wage worker, was working at the Lotus Boulevard society when the dog attacked the child around 4.30 PM on Monday, Dharam Vir Yadav, a representative of the society’s residents group said.

“The child was admitted to Yatharth Super Speciality



Hospital in Sector 110 where doctors operated on him. Unfortunately, we lost him late last night,” Yadav said. He said the police have been informed and are taking action now.

According to Assistant Commissioner of Police (Noida 1) Rajneesh Verma, the parents kept the child nearby while they were working and as the society’s gate was open at the time, a stray dog then came in from outside and attacked the boy, causing severe injuries.

Continued on Page 2

Halal meat economic jihad, says Karnataka BJP MLA

Right-wing groups launch drive against halal products before Diwali

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the row over the “legacy issues” of Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore and the recent hijab controversy, halal meat is the latest “raging entrant” into Karnataka where several Right-wing groups, including the ruling BJP, equated it with “economic jihad” and launched a strong campaign against halal products ahead of Diwali.

BJP national general secretary CT Ravi on Tuesday asked the community to shun halal meat and buy it from Hindu shops instead. “Halal is an economic jihad. It has been put in place so that Muslims don’t do business with others,



which has been forced upon them,” Ravi, the BJP Legislator from Chikmagalur, said in Bengaluru.

“The way they (Muslims) feel that halal has to be imposed, the same way it is not wrong for others (Right-wing groups) to say don’t use it,” he said.

Muslims are mandated to buy only halal meat by their religion and it is the community which mostly runs the meat shops.

2 UP workers killed in 2nd targeted attack in J&K in last few days

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Two migrant labourers hailing from Kannauj district of Uttar Pradesh were killed after terrorists lobbed a grenade inside a tin roof shed in the South Kashmir district of Shopian in the early hours of Tuesday. This is the second incident of targeted killing of members belonging to the minority community in the Kashmir Valley since Saturday.

A Kashmiri Pandit fruit grower Puran Krishan Bhat was shot dead outside his residence in the Chowdari Gund area of Shopian on Saturday.

The deceased labourers have been identified as Monish Kumar & Ram Sagar, both residents of Kannauj. They were earning their livelihood by working as “packers” in one of the apple orchards.

According to initial reports, around midnight terrorists lobbed a grenade inside a tin roof shed where both the

labourers were sleeping after a day’s hard work. The incident was reported from Harmen village of Shopian district. On receipt of information the local police teams rushed to the spot and shifted both the migrant labourers to the nearby hospital where doctors declared them dead. Panic stricken migrant labourers working in the Shopian district on Tuesday decided to shift to safer places. They hired private vehicles and left the place in a hurry to ensure their safety.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha’s scheduled visit to Shopian was also cancelled after a spate of attacks in the area on Tuesday.

According to a police spokesman, a local “hybrid terrorist” of the proscribed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was among two people arrested for the attack during a search and cordon operation launched in the area.

Continued on Page 2

TN Assembly adopts resolution against Hindi imposition

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution against the imposition of Hindi and urged the Centre not to implement recommendations of the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.

The resolution, piloted by Chief Minister MK Stalin, contended that the recommendation submitted to the President on September 9, was against the State languages including Tamil and also against the interest of the people who speak those languages.

The resolution was passed by a voice vote.

Leader of the House and Minister Durai Murugan said: “Anti-Hindi sentiment is deeply ingrained in all Tamil people in Tamil Nadu. Unfortunately, these people (the AIADMK MLAs) have tried to create ruckus even ahead of this resolution.”

Continued on Page 2

Many flaws in probe of case in which Aryan Khan was held: NCB

PNS ■ MUMBAI

An internal report submitted by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in the infamous case involving Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan’s son Aryan Khan, who was arrested on a luxury cruise ship for alleged drug abuse, has pointed to a series of irregularities and suspicious behaviours of NCB staff dealing with the case.

The report has come out as a major source of embarrassment for the NCB. The agency’s honchos ended with egg on their faces when Aryan Khan got a clean chit in May and the NCB admitted they had not been able to find “sufficient evidence” against him and five others.

Continued on Page 2

MSP on six Rabi crops raised: CCEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced that it was raising the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for six Rabi crops for the marketing season 2023-24 by up to 9 per cent.

The MSP for wheat, the most crucial of winter crops, has been raised by 5.45 per cent to ₹2,125 per quintal from ₹2,015 per quintal to encourage more area under the crop amid tight Government stock position owing to low procurement, fall in production and higher exports. The MSPs for other Rabi crops — barley, gram, lentil (masur), rapeseed, mustard, and safflower — have been increased in the range of



3.84 per cent to 9.09 per cent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the hike in the MSP of several Rabi crops will further energise the agriculture sector. Modi noted that farmers are important partners in the country’s development and said the Government has approved an increase in the MSPs of all essential Rabi crops, including wheat, lentils, and barley.

Continued on Page 2

India will play Asia Cup at neutral venue, says BCCI secy Jay Shah

PTI ■ MUMBAI

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Tuesday made it clear that India will play Asia Cup next year at a neutral venue. The 2023 edition, which will be played in the 50 over format ahead of the ODI World Cup in India, has been allotted to Pakistan.

“We have decided to play at a neutral venue,” Shah was quoted as saying by multiple cricket websites after the conclusion of BCCI AGM. The Asia Cup being held at neutral venues is not unprecedented.

Shah also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council president, after the BCCI’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) here. He was re-elected as secretary for a second term.

Continued on Page 2

Former war zone in Kargil is now a breeding ground for budding cricketers

Army porter’s daughter wows social media with impressive ‘helicopter’ shot

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A budding cricketer, Maqsooma, hailing from a remote Kaksar village of Kargil district, is fast rising up the ladder to become a new sports icon from the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Maqsooma is the daughter of an Army porter, Shabir and she is trending on social media after one of her videos in which she was seen playing MS Dhoni’s legendary ‘helicopter’



shot went viral.

She is currently studying in class 6 in the Government High School (GHS), Kaksar which is located close to the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan and witnessed death and destruction at the peak of hostilities during

the Kargil War in 1999. Now, the infamous war zone of the cold desert region is all set to become a breeding ground for budding cricketers.

Maqsooma and other schoolchildren have been practicing hard to hone their cricketing skills in the same campus.

Former Indian skipper Virat Kohli is their favorite player and they want to emulate his performances to become world-class cricketers in the near future.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, GHS, Kaksar schoolteacher Talib Hussain said, “It is the same school which was targeted by the Pakistan Army during Kargil War. Before that too, it was badly affected due to mortar shelling in 1991 and 1998.”

He said the villagers had told him that 13 schoolchildren had lost their lives due to heavy shelling during the Kargil War.

The villagers were shifted to safer areas away from the war zone. The education of the young children was badly affected due to this.

Continued on Page 2

NCR-PULSE

PRESIDENT ACCEPTS AAP'S GAUTAM'S RESIGNATION
New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignation of Delhi Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam with immediate effect after he put down his papers following a controversy over his presence at a religious conversion event. A notification issued on Tuesday by the Union Home Ministry said, "The President is pleased to accept, on the advice of the Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the resignation of Shri Rajendra Pal Gautam, a minister in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, with immediate effect."

DU TO ANNOUNCE 1ST LIST OF SEAT ALLOCATION TODAY
New Delhi: Delhi University has deferred announcement of the first list of seat allocation in its colleges by a day to Wednesday. The first round of CSAS (Common Seat Allocation System) list would be released on Wednesday, it said in a notification. "It is hereby notified that the declaration of first round of CSAS allocation list shall be released tomorrow i.e. Wednesday, the 19th October, 2022," the varsity said.

TRADERS URGE CP TO DEPLOY COPS DURING FESTIVAL
New Delhi: A traders' body has urged Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora to deploy adequate personnel in various markets here in the wake of increased footfall around Diwali. In a letter to Arora, the Chamber of Trade and Industry said after two years of Covid pandemic, this is the first Diwali when there are no restrictions and one lakh people are visiting markets like Sadar Bazar and Sarojini Nagar everyday. "There is no restriction on Diwali after two years of Corona and everyone is busy preparing for Diwali," it said.

ASHRAM FLYOVER CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS: PWD
New Delhi: Delhi's Public Works Department officials on Tuesday said the construction work of the Ashram flyover extension project will be completed within the given deadline. They said the construction work is in progress despite complex work conditions. The six-lane flyover will end traffic bottlenecks at Ashram Chowk, a major intersection of Ring Road and Mathura Road. The total length of the flyover, including the ramp, is 1,425 metres.

Sasikala, coterie ill-treated Jaya during...

From Page 1
"It could be discerned from the materials available on record that though seemingly normalcy had been resorted between the two (Jayalalithaa and Sasikala), still it was not as though perfect bonhomie was restored between the two as it existed before the cleavage occurred. There was simmering discontent in the mind of Sasikala," said the commission in its observation.

Though Jayalalithaa allowed Sasikala to come back to Poes Garden, she did not allow other family members to return. The Commission has also found that though Jayalalithaa was not in the best of health since early September 2016, neither her personal physician Dr Sivakumar (close relation of Sasikala) nor Sasikala gave any importance to her illness.

The Commission has expressed shock that though the then chief minister was diagnosed with cardiovascu-

lar issues as early as December 2015, no efforts were made to treat her. After Jayalalithaa developed a fever on September 17, 2016, her physician Dr Sivakumar advised Sasikala to administer paracetamol to her. This continued till September 22 when Jayalalithaa collapsed and an ambulance had to be summoned from Apollo Hospital in Chennai where she was admitted in the night in an unconscious state.

Dr Richard Beale, the specialist doctor who was flown in from Britain to examine the then chief minister had told the medical team attending to her to shift Jayalalithaa for advanced treatment to either the UK or US. He also expressed his willingness to accompany Jayalalithaa in the air ambulance. The Commission says that neither Sasikala nor the other members in the medical board attending to Jayalalithaa did not give due consideration to the opinion of Dr Beale.

Delhi court refuses to cancel bail granted to Tejashwi in IRCTC case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



A Delhi court on Tuesday refused to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on a plea by the CBI in the IRCTC scam, saying it did not find any specific ground to order cancellation of the relief. Special Judge Geetanjali Goel, while declining the CBI's petition, asked Yadav to be careful with words and use them appropriately.

CBI approached the court for cancelling the bail in the IRCTC bribery case, arguing that at a recent press conference, Yadav threatened CBI officers and attempted to subvert the process of law and thwart the entire investigation as well as the consequent trial, and "blatantly abused the liberty granted to him." The agency said that Yadav issued

"direct threat" to CBI officers and their families and "indirect threat" to witnesses. The probe agency accused Yadav of having attempted to "portray the CBI in bad light and under the influence of political parties" by using innuendoes such as "Jama" (son-in-law) of a political party.

"You are on very responsible post. It is not right to use such words. Use appropriate words in public because your words impact a huge number of the public. You have to understand the implications of your words. This should not

happen again. You must choose words carefully and not use such words which have the potential to influence witnesses," the judge said.

The judge passed the order after hearing the arguments during which Yadav claimed he did not violate any condition set in the bail granted to him earlier. During the hearing, senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Yadav, opposed the submission made by CBI counsel D P Singh.

"My client's press conference was in another context. He talked about many things, scams and other political issues in the press conference. I (Yadav) spoke about the land for job scams. I have spoken about the raids in that case. How is he (the CBI counsel) seeking cancellation (of bail) in IRCTC case," asked the defence counsel, adding Yadav was not an accused in land for job scam

case.

Yadav's father and RJD Supremo Lalu Prasad is the main accused in the IRCTC scam case involving alleged irregularities in handing over the operational contract of two IRCTC hotels to a private firm when he was the railway minister. Yadav's counsel added if the CBI feels the politician has threatened agency officials, it can register an FIR.

"I (Yadav) am an opposition party and raising questions on wrongdoing is my duty. CBI and ED are being misused by the present government. All opposition parties are feeling this... The same thing against the CBI and ED was also asked by the present Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was a Chief Minister and was in opposition in the Centre in 2013," the defence counsel told the court. The court had granted bail to Yadav in October 2018.

MHA issues final gazette notification for delimitation of Delhi wards paving way for civic polls

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the delimitation committee submitted its report to the Centre, the Ministry of Home Affairs on Tuesday issued the final gazette notification for redrawing municipal wards in Delhi, paving the way for civic polls in the city.

The 800-page gazette notification by MHA stated that the number of municipal wards in Delhi will now be 250. Before the reunification of the municipality municipal corporations, there used to be 272 wards.

Municipal elections in the city are due since April this year. The BJP, which was ruling the three municipal corporations in Delhi for over a decade before their reunification, the AAP, and the Congress have already started preparation for the polls.

The delimitation committee submitted to the Centre its

final report on redrawing the wards of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday, official sources said. According to civic officials, following the gazette notification, the delimitation exercise should be understood to be completed.

The Ministry of Home Affairs in July this year set up a three-member panel for a fresh delimitation of the municipal wards in Delhi.

The delimitation exercise in Delhi was last conducted in 2016 and the number of wards was kept at 272 with each having an average population of 60,000 considering a variation of 10 to 15 per cent.

Municipal polls were slated to be held in Delhi in April this year. They were put on hold hours before then Delhi State Election Commissioner S K Srivastava was to announce the schedule on March 8 due to the Centre's plan to reunify the three civic bodies.

In a first in Govt hospital, Army Hospital performs non-surgical cardiac valve replacement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-based Army Hospital (Research and Referral) earned yet another feather in its cap by performing a complex non-surgical cardiac valve replacement in a 15-year-old boy last week.

This is the first time in the Government sector including armed forces that this procedure has been carried out.

The patient was born with a complex congenital heart defect (CHD) for which he underwent two open heart surgeries in early childhood, wherein an artificial 'conduit' was placed to supply blood from heart to lungs, said Col Harmeet Singh Arora, Pediatric Interventional Cardiologist who had led the team in conducting the operation.

Over time, this conduit degenerated leading to progressive heart failure. To avoid a very high risk third open heart surgery, a procedure called 'Transcatheter

Pulmonary Valve Implantation' was undertaken in which an artificial valve was inserted through a small incision in the groin, he added.

The operation was conducted under the mentorship of Director General Armed Forces Medical Services, Surgeon Vice Admiral Rajal Datta, a senior-most serving cardiologist in the armed forces.

Col Sandeep Dhingra, Pediatric Intensivist & Head of Pediatric Department said, that this achievement by the pediatric cardiology team is a quantum leap towards providing advanced comprehensive cardiac care in children with Complex CHDs and ushers a new era in non-surgical interventions'.

Lt Gen Ashok Jindal, Commandant, AIHRR complemented the operating team on achieving the historical milestone and encouraged them to be always at the forefront in provision of advanced pediatric cardiac care.

DU admits 520 foreign students, sees 27.5% dip in intake than last year

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University has admitted 520 foreign students across undergraduate, post-graduate and PhD courses this academic season, a decline of over 27.5 per cent from the previous year.

The maximum number of students this year is from Nepal (110), followed by Tibet (100) and Bangladesh (85).

A university official attributed the decline in the number of admissions by foreign students to the delay in the start of the academic session.

In 2022 year, 520 foreign students have been admitted to the university compared to 663 students in 2021.

The number of applications from foreign nationals has also dipped this year by over 28 per cent.

"The university received application forms from over 7,000 applicants this year. Last



year, the varsity received over 9,000 applications," Professor Amarjiva Lochan, Jt Dean, International Relations said.

This year, the maximum applications are from Nepal. Last year, it was from Afghan nationals.

The admission process started in March and it was over in the middle of July.

"As many as 1,500 students were selected for admission. Out of them, only 520 have confirmed their admission and are coming to Delhi. In UG courses, 320 students have taken admission, and in PG and PhD courses, 100 students and 50 students respectively have got admission in DU colleges," Lochan said.

TN Assembly adopts...

From Page 1
"The House expresses concern that the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee, now presented, are against the two-language policy resolution moved and passed by Perarignar Anna in this august House, contrary to the promise made by the then Prime Minister Nehru to the non-Hindi speaking States and are against the use of English as Official language ensured by the resolutions passed in 1968 and 1976 on Official language," the resolution said. The resolution was passed unanimously by the House.

AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam said his party

favoured the dual language policy of Tamil and English in the State.

The issue has been flagged up in the State ever since the committee headed by Home Minister Amit Shah had recommended that Hindi be the medium of instruction in Central educational institutions. They include the Indian Institute of Technologies, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and Central universities. It also recommended that Hindi be the medium of instruction in all technical and non-technical institutions, and all Central government institutions, including Kendriya Vidyalayas.

2 UP workers killed...

From Page 1
According to a police spokesman, a local "hybrid terrorist" of proscribed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was among two people arrested for the attack during a search and cordon operation launched in the area.

Additional Director General of Police of Kashmir, Vijay Kumar, said the arrested terrorist was identified as Imran Bashir Ganie from Harmen.

Stray dog mauls infant to death...

From Page 1
The police said as no one owned the dog, there was no complaint registered in the matter. "If it was a pet dog, appropriate action could have been taken against the owner. But since it is a stray dog, the concerned departments will be alerted to take action in the area, such as pushing out the dogs or any other measures."

On Tuesday, the police lodged a general diary case in the matter, officials said.

Among the protesters was a group of women who sat on a road outside the society and raised slogans against the local Noida Authority. A senior Noida Authority official said, "We are coordinating with residential societies and dog shelters to check the menace of dog bites."

The residents of the society claimed that stray dogs have attacked several people over the years inside the society, including a worker's child. They want the dogs removed but couldn't due to pressure from dog lovers.

Halal meat economic...

From Page 1
The activists of Hindu outfits held demonstrations at KFC and McDonald demanding that they should not serve halal certified meat to non-Muslims.

According to Hindu Janajagruthi Samithi spokesperson Mohan Gowda, the drive has begun in most of the districts of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra and Sriram Sena has also joined it.

Talking to reporters at Bengaluru, Gowda said the campaign was launched in the city in front of McDonald and the KFC store. "McDonald and KFC are serving only halal certified meat. Compelling Hindus to eat halal meat is against the Hindu faith. We have submitted a memorandum to the KFC and the McDonald management not to serve halal products to Hindus," he said.

The memorandum comprises four demands, which include Hindus should not be served halal product, menu should contain halal and non-halal items listed separately. These demands should be fulfilled in a week lest the companies face boycott of their products across Karnataka, Gowda warned.

Many flaws in probe of case in...

From Page 1
A report said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the NCB to probe allegations of impropriety by its officers in their handling of the Aryan Khan case has sent a vigilance report to its headquarters in Delhi.

"The investigation found that there were many irregularities in the case. Questions have also been raised about the intention of the officers involved in the investigation," a source said.

India will play Asia Cup at...

From Page 1
The 2022 Asia Cup was held in the UAE last month after hosts Sri Lanka expressed their inability to host the event amid the economic crisis back home.

India and Pakistan only play each other in Asia Cup and global events due to political tensions between the two countries. Both teams played twice in the Asia Cup last month and are set to clash in Melbourne on October 23 in the T20 World Cup.

Former war zone in Kargil now breeding ground for budding...

From Page 1
However, after the ceasefire agreement of November 2003, not a single bullet has been fired from across the LoC, allowing residents to focus on developmental activities.

"The schoolchildren play different games such as volleyball and kho-kho and chess but a group of girls is really playing good cricketing shots for a long time," Hussain said. "Last week, while the girls were playing cricket in the school ground I myself shot a small video and posted it on social media. It has now gone viral," he added.

added.

Referring to the video clip, Talib said Maqsooma can be heard talking about her passion for cricket even as she acknowledges the support and training she receives from her father at home and teachers at school. Maqsooma aspires to be a cricketer like Virat Kohli in the future, he added.

"International cricketers from around the world have appreciated her cricketing skills and attitude," Talib Hussain said.

A large number of people on social media are also writing motivating posts. Arjun Prabhu, practising advocate at the

Bombay High Court tweeted, "Future of Indian Women's cricket looks bright with proper coaching many of these young talents can become future cricketers playing for India". Fitness enthusiast Siddharth Sambayal wrote, "Natural at timing the ball, keep it up, sky isn't the limit anymore".

As soon as this video came to the attention of the Youth Services and Sports Department, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh, the department decided to extend support not just to young Maqsooma, but also to her team and the whole school.

MSP on six Rabi crops raised...

From Page 1
Addressing the media, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said that the CCEA met under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister and approved the increase in the MSP for all mandated Rabi crops for the marketing season 2023-24.

"The cost of production of wheat is estimated at Rs 1,065 per quintal. The Government has ensured a 100 per cent return over the cost of production in the case of wheat and mustard. Whereas in the other four Rabi crops, it is between 50 to 85 per cent return over the cost of production," he added.

Asked if the hike in MSP

of Rabi crops would lead to food inflation, the Minister said price rise in India is under control in comparison to other countries.

The increase in the MSP of wheat this year is higher in both — absolute and percentage — terms compared to last year. Last year, the Government hiked the wheat MSP by just Rs 40 per quintal (2.03 per cent). The increase in the wheat MSP assumes significance in view of lower production and procurement in the just-ended Rabi season.

As per the Fourth Advance Estimates released by the Agriculture Ministry on August 17, 2022, wheat production is estimated at 106.84 million tonne during 2021-22,

which is lower than the target (110 million tonne) for the year and 109.59 million tonne actual production recorded in 2020-21.

While wheat prices have risen in comparison to the last two years, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey on Monday said the increase in both wholesale and retail wheat prices is not "abnormal" and the government would intervene when required.

According to an official release, the support price of barley was hiked by Rs 100 to Rs 1,735 per quintal for the 2022-23 crop year from Rs 1,635 per quintal in the previous year.

Among pulses, the MSP for gram has been increased by

Chopper carrying Kedarnath pilgrims...

From Page 1
Prima facie bad weather caused the accident.

Ravishankar added that all helicopter services operating in the area have been suspended. He clarified that the ambit of the UCADA is only limited to provide time slots for the helicopter operators and it is the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) which takes decisions on the safety and permission of the flights.

He added a technical expert of UCADA would be part of the inquiry of the administration and its findings would be submitted to the DGCA which can conduct its own technical investigation.

Ravishankar said nine helicopter companies are operating in Kedarnath and out of them only six companies are allowed to operate the helicopters at a time.

PTI adds: The operator of the ill-fated helicopter - Aryan Aviation - had come under the regulatory scanner and was fined Rs 5 lakh recently by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for certain violations.

The senior DGCA official said the teams of AAIB and DGCA have already left for the site.

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Ijhar Khan & Huma Khan have acquired the Third Floor (R.H.S.) without roof rights 'said floor' on property bearing no.13 -A/1, measuring 50 sq. yds. i.e. 41.80 sq. mtrs. Out of Khasra no. 1332/261/142, situated at village Uthmanpur in the Abad of Gali No. 3, Kanti Nagar, Extn. Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi by way of sale deed dated 22.07.2020 Docno. 2894. Now, Huma Khanam & Ijhar Khan are mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 24 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhwani/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Vertas North, Unit no 507, 9th Floor, GD-HTL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9068707172/9818228636 (V).

Public Notice
My client, Mrs. Sarita Devi W/o Late Sh. Hari Om R/o Q92, Bhagat Enclave, Mayapala Road, Uttam Nagar-110059, has disowned her son Mr. Varun Kumar@Prince R/o Q92, Bhagat Enclave, Mayapala Road, Uttam Nagar-110059 from all of his legal rights in my client's assets / properties' Bank Accounts/ Savings due to disobedience's, addictions of drugs, mischievous behaviours and acts of him. Whosoever will deal in any manner or in relation to any assets of my client shall be doing at own risk and consequences.

LEGAL LAW FIRM

HC rejects Umar’s bail plea

Acts of accused prima facie qualified as ‘terrorist act’ under UAPA: Court

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to grant bail to former JNU student Umar Khalid, in custody for over two years, in a UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the riots here in February 2020, saying he was in constant touch with other co-accused and allegations against him are prima facie true.

The court also said the acts of the accused prima facie qualified as “terrorist act” under the anti-terror law UAPA.

A bench headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul said the anti-CAA protests “metamorphosed into violent riots”, which “prima facie seemed to be orchestrated at the conspiratorial meetings”, and the statements of the witnesses indicate Khalid’s “active involvement” in the protests.

“The appellant (Khalid) was in constant touch with other co-accused persons, including Sharjeel Imam, who arguably is at the head of the conspiracy; at this stage (of bail), it is difficult to form an opinion that there are not reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against the petitioner is prima



facie not proved,” observed the bench, also comprising Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar. “On in-depth and considered perusal of the chargesheet, the accompanying documents This court expresses the inescapable conclusion that allegations against the appellant are ‘prima facie true’ and hence, the embargo (on bail) created by Section 43D(5) of UAPA applies squarely. Thus, the appellant’s application seeking regular bail is rejected,” the court ruled.

In its 52-page order, the court observed that the “planned protests” were not the kind that are “normal in political culture or democracy (but were) far more destructive and injurious geared towards extremely grave consequences” and the acts of the accused prima facie qualified as “terrorist act” under UAPA.

Taking the charge sheet and other material on face value, the court noted there was intentional blocking of roads to cause disruption in north-east Delhi, and the weapons used, the manner of attack and the resultant deaths and destruction indicate it was pre-planned.

It asserted that acts which threaten the country’s unity, cause communal friction and create terror in any section of the

people by disturbing the social-fabric is a “terrorist act” and the issue of granting bail in the present case has to be considered in the “larger context of the societal concerns involved in releasing an accused in juxtaposition with individual liberty”. The court said the statements of the protected witnesses indicate the presence and active involvement of the appellant in the protests against the CAA and NRC.

Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and several others have been booked under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the ‘master-minds’ of the February 2020 riots, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. The violence had erupted during the protests against CAA and NRC. “Admittedly these protests metamorphosed into violent riots in February 2020, which began by firstly choking public roads, then violently and designedly attacking policemen and random members of the public, whereat firearms, acid bottles, stones etc. Were used, resulting in the admitted and sad loss of 53 precious lives and the destruction of property worth several crores,” it said.

These protests and riots prima facie were orchestrated at the conspiratorial meetings held from December 2019 till February 2020, the court said.

The court said the weapons used, the manner of attack and the resultant deaths and destruc-

‘Khalid, Imam members of WhatsApp group, participated in stir’

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday brushed aside former JNU student Umar Khalid’s contention that there was no consensus between those who were opposed to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, saying there was a string of commonality running amongst all the co-accused in a case, including Sharjeel Imam.

The court said it is an admitted position that both Khalid and Imam were members of a WhatsApp group and they participated in a protest at Jantar Mantar and there are statements of various protected witnesses that confirm the presence of the duo at several meetings, including one held at the office of the Popular Front of India (PFI).

tion caused indicate the mayhem was pre-planned.

Khalid, arrested by Delhi Police in September 2020, was represented by senior advocate Trideep Pais, who sought bail on the ground that he neither had any criminal role in the violence nor any “conspiratorial connect” with any other accused in the case.

PICTALK



Delhiites shop ahead of Diwali festival at Sadar Bazaar Market in Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Over 50L vehicles deregistered in Delhi till Oct 17 this year

New Delhi: More than 50 lakh vehicles have been deregistered by the transport department of the Delhi Government so far this year, said official data. The deregistered vehicles included diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years. PTI

Babu facing probe for molesting 17-year-old girl suspended

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

AV Prem Nath, a DANICS officer of joint secretary level, who is facing criminal probe for allegedly molesting a 17-year-old girl in Almora in Uttarakhand, has been suspended by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Nath is currently posted in Urban Development Department, Delhi Government.

As per the MHA order issued on Tuesday, a case against Nath, in respect of a criminal offence is under investigation by Almora Police, Uttarakhand. On October 4, he was also detained in custody of the Almora police for more than forty-eight hours, said the order.

“Therefore, Nath is suspended with effect from the date of his detention, in terms of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965, and shall remain under suspension until further orders,” the MHA order



stated. During the period of suspension, Nath shall not leave the headquarters (Delhi) without obtaining the prior permission of the Competent Authority, it said.

As per the order, Nath, would be entitled to a subsistence allowance at an amount equal to the leave salary which he would have drawn, had he been on leave on half average pay or on half pay and in addition, dearness allowance, if admissible on the basis of such leave salary, under FR-53, subject to the furnishing of a certificate to the effect that he has

not been employed in any business, profession or vocation for a profit/remuneration/salary. Sources said that Nath is founder member of a school ‘Pleasant Valley’ at Dandakanda, Almora.

According to reports, the mother of the victim has alleged that Nath, in the pretext of providing job, took her daughter to his school in Almora where he raped her. The victim’s mother has also alleged that when she opposed his action, she was framed in a false case and even sent to jail.

The family had to approach Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Almora tehsil, Chandra Singh Martolia, when district police refused to take any action in the case.

At the ADM’s behest, the case was registered under the Pocco Act and IPC sections 376/511 (attempt to rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation), and the IT Act, said Almora SSP Pradeep Kumar Rai.

‘56% say stray dog attacks common in their area’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Six in 10 people say that stray or pet dog attacks are common in their area, according to a pan-India survey. The survey, by LocalCircles, found that 56 per cent respondents say attack by stray dogs are common in their area while 31 per cent say attack by pet dogs are common.

Only 32 per cent of the respondents feel most pet owner train and restrain their dogs, the survey showed. “Only 1 in 10 respondents credit their local municipal corporation for effective handling stray and pet dog management,” the survey found. LocalCircles founder Sachin Taparia said the survey



received over 31,000 responses from citizens located in 303 districts of India. About 10,000 respondents of the survey

are from Delhi NCR including Noida and Gurugram, he said.

He said 66 per cent of the respondents were men while 34 per cent were women. Further, 47 per cent of the respondents were from tier 1, 36 per cent from tier 2 and 17 per cent from tier 3, 4 and rural districts, Taparia said.

“The survey was commissioned on August 1 and completed on October 17 itself when the news broke out of a dog mauling an infant to death in Noida,” Taparia said.

Incidents of dog bites in the country have risen significantly in recent months. The recent death of a seven-month-old child after he was mauled by a pack of stray dogs inside a posh hous-

ing complex in Noida, has once again put the spotlight on the issue of management of stray canine population. As per the Centre’s livestock census, the stray dog population in India has dipped from 1.7 crore in 2012 to about 1.6 crore in 2021, when around 17.01 lakh dog bites cases were reported.

The four states with the highest incidents of stray dog bites are Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Gujarat, according to data tabled by the Centre in Parliament during the monsoon session this year.

The highest number of stray dogs, on the other hand, are in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Odisha, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Setting up of four Zila Sainik Boards OK’d

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday approved setting up of four zila sainik boards or district soldier boards in as many districts of the national Capital, a move that will benefit about 77,000 ex-servicemen and their families.

According to Raj Niwas, the estimated cost of the project will be Rs 16.69 crore, of which the Central Government will bear 60 per cent share while the rest will be borne by the Delhi Government.

“The Lt Governor has also expressed ‘shock and pain’ over ‘inordinate delay’ in clearing the proposal by the Delhi Government. The proposal to establish four district soldier boards was initially cleared and sent to Delhi Government by the then LG in 2019,” officials said.

“The file to this effect, which originated in 2019, was cleared by a Cabinet decision after almost two and a half years in May, 2022 and sent to the LG after being duly signed by the chief minister as late as on September 27 this year,” an



official at the LG office said.

The soldier boards are responsible for policy formulation and implementation of resettlement and welfare schemes for ex-servicemen, widows and their dependents residing in their respective states, union territories and districts.

“The LG, who is also the president of the Rajya Sainik Board, has approved the setting up of four Zila Sainik Boards (ZSBs) in the NCT of Delhi. Districts where these boards will be set up include South-West, East/Shahdara, North-West and Central/New Delhi.

Each ZSB will have a team of 10 officials. These boards will cater to the resettlement

and rehabilitation needs of the ex-servicemen,” an official said.

He said the move will benefit about 77,000 ex-servicemen, their widows and their families in Delhi.

The decision emanates from the 2018 report of a high-level committee established by the central government on the problems of ex-servicemen that has recommended setting up of district soldier boards by concerned state governments, if the population of ex-servicemen and their families is more than 7,500.

Accordingly, in December 2019, in the 13th meeting of the state soldier board, it was decided to establish four district soldier boards in the city.

Give security to journalist probing corporate fraud, SC tells Police Commissioner

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Commissioner of Police of Gautam Buddh Nagar to grant adequate and effective protection to journalist Jaskaran Singh Chawla, who was investigating a corporate fraud and has claimed he is being stalked and attacked.

Chawla wrote and filed cases against Amtek Auto Limited for bank loan fraud of more than Rs.13,000 crore by cheating 27 banks and illegalities in insolvency procedures and acquiring company through benamis.

A bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit passed the order after it was informed that despite the apex court’s October 12 order, no protection has been granted to the journalist yet.

On October 12, Attorney General R Venkataramani assured security to the journalist. Advocate Jai Anant Dehdrai mentioned the mat-

ter before the bench and said that despite the order no protection has been granted to the journalist who lives in Noida.

The advocates appearing for Uttar Pradesh told the bench if appropriate directions are issued to the Commissioner of Police of Gautam Buddh Nagar, adequate and effective steps shall immediately be undertaken.

“We, therefore, direct the Commissioner of Police, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh to grant adequate and effective police protection to the person concerned, whose name will be evident from the documents placed in the sealed cover,” the bench said on Tuesday.

Chawla approached the Supreme Court seeking CBI, ED, SFO probe against Amtek Auto Limited and their subsidiary companies for defrauding Rs.13,000 crore from 27 banks. He also said that the company made violations in the insolvency process and acquired the company again through benamis.

Capital gets 11 e-charging stations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated 11 charging stations in the national Capital. Inaugurating the charging station, Kejriwal said Delhi would get 100 electric vehicle charging stations in the next two months and the facilities would also include battery swapping points.

In a tweet in Hindi, the Chief Minister said, “Launched 11 e-charging stations in Delhi today. It is based on an amazing model. It will be very cheap to drive an e-vehicle after

charging it here. Today Delhi has given the world the most economical model of EV charging. Two wheelers — 7 paise per km, three wheelers - 8 paise per km and four wheelers — 33 paise per km.”

The Chief Minister said that driving an EV after charging them here would be extremely cheap — it would barely cost 7 paise/km for two wheelers, 8 paise/km for three wheelers and 33 paise/km for four wheelers.

“There are 73 charging points and 12 swapping stations at these 11 charging stations, consumers will be

charged at the rate of Rs 3 per unit,” he said. “Such rates are perhaps the lowest all over the world. The EV Model of Delhi is extremely unique, it can shape the path for the entire country to ride on this revolution. That being said, we are keen to adopt any good practices followed anywhere else as well,” he said.

“Earlier, battery swapping points and charging stations were different but these have now been clubbed together. These 11 stations have 73 charging points. In the next two months, Delhi will get 100 charging stations,” he said.

MCD gives nod for 549 EV charging stations

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has given nod for setting up of 549 EV Charging Stations in association with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Discoms such as Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL), Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), Indraprastha Gas

Limited (IGL), Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) and BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL). The decision was taken in meeting held under Chairmanship of Naresh Kumar, Chief Secretary, Delhi Government aimed to achieve the target set by government of India for adopting Electronic Vehicles. SR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the CBI questioned the Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia over the previous excise policy scam, the BJP and the AAP traded charges against each other of spreading lies.

Delhi BJP leaders Tuesday challenged Sisodia to appear for a narco test over his allegations that the CBI tried to pressure him into quitting the AAP and joining the BJP, or step down from his post for “lying” while AAP leader called for PM Modi’s Narco Test and branded him as “The Biggest Liar Of The Century”.

West Delhi BJP MP Parvesh Verma said if Sisodia is an honest leader he should agree to a narco test or resign for making allegations against CBI officials. “If any CBI officer has asked Sisodia to join BJP then he should name that officer.

If he can not do so, he should either prepare for the narco test or resign from his post,” Verma said in a press conference. Another Delhi BJP leader Kapil Mishra said Sisodia should either undergo narco and lie-detected tests or tender an apology for “lying”.

Mishra, a former minister in the Arvind Kejriwal government, said the allegations by Sisodia, an accused in the Delhi Excise policy case, should be seen as a “shameless” attempt to “influence” the probe.

Speaking to reporters, Mishra hit back at the AAP leader and said, “I challenge Sisodia to face a narco or a lie detector test to find out the truth or (he should) take back his statement against the CBI and tender an apology by the evening.”

AAP Chief Spokesperson and MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj said that PM Modi is a serial liar, he speaks the highest number of lies amongst all politicians, BJP must get his Narco

Gupta questions AAP Govt’s silence on classroom graft

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

BJP MLA Vijendra Gupta on Tuesday questioned the AAP Government’s silence on the corruption in the construction of classrooms in Delhi. Gupta said he had tweeted a set of 24 questions, in July 2019, asking Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia about the corruption taking place in the construction of classrooms.

“Instead of replying to them, the AAP Government tried to suppress the Opposition’s voice by filing fake defamation cases,” Gupta said while addressing a Press conference after the Supreme Court quashed the defamation case filed by the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia against him.

The BJP leader said the Supreme Court’s order quashing defamation charges against him by Sisodia, should put the AAP Government to shame. “The AAP Government also suppressed the Central Vigilance Commission’s report, for 2.5 years, bringing forth grave financial irregularities in the construction of classrooms,” he said.

However, Gupta said he has still not received any reply on the RTI he filed on 1st September 2022, highlighting the issue of financial discrep-

ancies in the construction of classrooms in the Delhi Government schools.

Gupta also criticised the AAP for conducting a rally when Sisodia was summoned by CBI for questioning over his involvement in the now scrapped liquor policy saying that the leaders of party are known for their theatrics instead of their work.

When Deputy CM was called by CBI for questioning in Delhi liquor scam, he and his entire party went on an overdrive to defend his wrongdoing and influence investigation.”

Gupta also slammed Kejriwal for comparing Sisodia and Satyendar Jain with great man of country Bhagat Singh, saying that CM comments dragging the name of the freedom fighter for politics were highly objectionable and deeply hurt people of India.

Speaking about AAP’s much-publicised “Education Model”, Gupta criticised Kejriwal and his deputy for trying to claim credit for the five Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya (RPVV) featuring in the Education World’s State government school rankings.

The BJP leader said the RPVV project was first undertaken by the BJP government in Delhi in 1997 by Sahib Singh Verma when he was the Chief Minister.

Test done. PM lied to the nation, said he’ll bring back black money in 100 days, and put 15 lacs in everyone’s bank account.

“Can PM Modi take the Narco Test and tell if CBI-ED

are neutral agencies, whether or not he waived off loans worth 10 lac crores to help his friends. PM Modi holds the record for outrightly speaking huge lies to the nation without any guilt.” Bhardwaj added.

BILKIS BANO CASE

Guj Govt reply very bulky: SC

Court to hear pleas against premature release of 11 rape convicts on Nov 29

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday remarked that the Gujarat Government's reply to pleas challenging the remission granted to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case is very "bulky" wherein a series of judgments have been quoted but factual statements and application mind are missing.

The top court granted time to the petitioners to file their response to the Gujarat Government's affidavit and said it will hear on November 29 the pleas challenging the remission of sentence and release of convicts.

"I have not come across a counter affidavit where a series of judgments are quoted. Factual statement should have been made. A very bulky counter. Where is the factual statement, where is the application of mind?" a bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi observed. The bench, also comprising Justice C T Ravikumar, directed that the reply filed by the Gujarat government be made available to all parties.

CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali and two other women have filed the PIL against the remission of sentence of the convicts and their release.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, sought time to file the



response. Justice Rastogi observed that even before he could go through the Gujarat Government's reply, it was visible in the newspapers.

Addressing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Justices Rastogi said he has not come across a counter affidavit where a series of judgments have been quoted. Mehta concurred with the observation and said it could have been avoided. "The judgments were mentioned for easy reference, it could have been avoided," Mehta said. The Solicitor General submitted that strangers and third parties cannot raise the challenge to the remission of sentence and release of the convicts. The apex court then granted time to the petitioners and posted the matter for hearing on November 29.

The Gujarat Government had on Monday defended in the apex court its decision to release the convicts in accordance with the 1992 remission policy since they had completed more than 14 years in prison

and their conduct was found to be good. It also clarified the convicts were not granted remission in consonance with the circular for grant of remission to prisoners as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

Union Min Joshi justifies premature release of convicts



Ahmedabad: Union Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao on Tuesday justified the premature release of convicts in the Bilkis Bano case. "I don't find anything wrong in it as it is a process of law," Joshi, the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister said.

"I don't find anything wrong in that because it is done as per the process of law," Joshi was quoted as saying by NDTV. The Minister asserted that "there is a provision" for release for all the convicts who have spent ample amount of time in prison.

"Accordingly, as per law, it is done," Joshi said while campaigning in Gujarat, which is gearing up for Assembly elections in December. "After having been in prison for some time, if their behaviour...there are so many incidents, I don't want to get into that," Joshi said.

Modi has just betrayed women, says Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Gujarat Government told the Supreme Court that it obtained "suitable orders" from the Centre for granting remission to the convicts in the Bikis Bano gang rape case, Opposition parties including Congress led by its former president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that while there was talk of respect for women from the Red Fort, there was "support" for rapists in reality.

"Talk of respect for women from the ramparts of the Red Fort but in reality support for 'rapists'. The difference between the Prime Minister's promises and intentions is clear. PM has only betrayed women," Rahul said in a tweet message.

His attack came after the Gujarat Government also told the Supreme Court that since the investigation in the case was carried out by the CBI, it



had obtained "suitable orders" for grant of remission to the convicts from the Centre.

Attacking the BJP and the Central Government AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi and TRS Working President K T Rama Rao said the release was against the Central Government's own policy. "But BJP State and Central Government left no stone unturned for the early release of these rapists, murderers & child killers," Owaisi tweeted.

The Gujarat Government on Monday had told the Supreme Court that petitioners challenging the remission given to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case are nothing but an "interloper" and

a "busybody".

Rama Rao, son of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhkar Rao, alleged that releasing "rapists just for political gains is a new low even by BJP standards." "Letting out Rapists and Child-Killers just for political gains is a new low even by the very low BJP standards," Rama Rao tweeted. The Congress accused the Narendra Modi Government of granting premature release to the convicts in the Bilkis Bano case for political motives and said "this stain on the legacy of this dispensation will never wash off".

"This shocking revelation came to light when the Modi government, in its reply before the Supreme Court, revealed that it had given its 'concurrent release and approval' for the release of the individuals convicted of gangraping Bilkis Bano and killing her three-and-half-year-old child and various family members," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said at AICC Press conference.

DefExpo2022 to kick off today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday will inaugurate the international defence exhibition DefExpo2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The theme of this year's exhibition is 'Path to Pride.' He will also launch development projects worth Rs 15,670 crore during his two-day visit to Gujarat.

The DefExpo, for the first time, will witness a defence exhibition held exclusively for Indian companies, including domestic subsidiaries of foreign firms, divisions of companies registered in India and exhibitors having joint ventures with Indian companies. Modi will also launch 'Mission DeFSpace', or Defence Space Mission.

At the India Pavilion of the expo, Modi will unveil HTT-40, the indigenous trainer aircraft designed by the public sector Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The aircraft has state-of-the-art contemporary systems and has been designed with pilot-friendly features, a statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) here on Tuesday said.

During the programme, he will also launch 'Mission DeFSpace', aimed at developing innovative solutions for defence forces in the space through industry and startups. He will later lay the foundation stone of the Deesa airfield in Gujarat. The forward air force base will add to the security architecture of the country, it said.

As the nature of warfare is rapidly changing and expand-



ing into space besides land, air and sea, the Defence Space Mission will look after multiple dual use technologies to provide fillip to the nascent space industry in India, sources said here. During the DefExpo, the second India-Africa Defence Dialogue under the theme 'India-Africa: Adopting strategy for synergizing Defence and Security cooperation' and the second 'Indian Ocean Region Plus (IOR+) Conclave' will also be held.

The grand event will also have the first ever Investors' Meet for defence, having more than 100 startups to showcase their innovations, with 451 partnerships and launches likely to be sealed.

Among other programmes on Wednesday, Modi will launch the 'Mission Schools of Excellence' at Adalaj and will lay the foundation stone of various development projects in Junagadh.

He will later inaugurate the India Urban Housing Conclave 2022 and dedicate and lay the foundation stone of multiple projects in Rajkot. He will also inaugurate the exhibition of innovative construction practices in Rajkot in the evening.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister will launch 'Mission LiFE' at Kevadja and later participate in the 10th 'Heads of Missions' conference being held there. He will also lay the foundation stone of various development initiatives at Vyara.

The 'Mission Schools of Excellence' has been conceived with a total outlay of Rs 10,000 crores and will help strengthen education infrastructure in Gujarat through setting up of new classrooms, smart classrooms, computer labs and overall upgradation of schools' infrastructure.

India does not believe in hierarchical world order: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said India and African countries are important stakeholders in ensuring a safe and secure maritime environment, especially in the Indian Ocean Region. He also said the two sides work together in many regional mechanisms to address common challenges.

Stressing on the growing ties between India and Africa, Rajnath said India does not believe in a "hierarchical world order" where a few countries are considered superior to others.

India's international relations are guided by the essence



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and MoS Ajay Bhatt with delegates at the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD), in Gandhinagar on Tuesday PTI Photo

of human equality and dignity which is a part of its ancient ethos. The defence minister made these remarks while addressing the India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) on the sidelines of DefExpo 2022

in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The dialogue successfully brought out various aspects of the IADD's theme 'Adopting Strategy for Synergizing and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation'. He high-

Parl panel gets extension for 7th time for framing CAA rule

New Delhi/Agencies: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has been granted an extension for the seventh time from the Parliamentary Committees on Subordinate Legislation in the Lok Sabha. The Parliamentary Committees gave their nod another time to extend rules for the CAA taking cognizance of a request made by the MHA as the earlier extension ended on October 9.

The time to frame CAA rules has been extended till December 31 this year by the

Parliamentary Committees on Subordinate Legislation in the Rajya Sabha, and till January 9, 2023, by the Parliamentary Committees on Subordinate Legislation in the Lok Sabha. The Parliamentary Committees gave their nod another time to extend rules for the CAA taking cognizance of a request made by the MHA as the earlier extension ended on October 9.

The Citizenship Amendment Act was passed

by Parliament on December 11, 2019, and the Presidential approval came the next day.

In January 2020, the Ministry notified that the Act would come into force from January 10, 2020, but it later requested the Parliamentary Committees in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha to give it some more time to implement rules as the country was going through its worst ever health crisis due to Covid-19 pandemic. PNS

Tourist police scheme to be discussed at conference

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Seven years after it was conceived, the Tourist Police Scheme (TPS) that proposes a dedicated tourist-friendly police force to ensure a safe environment for global and domestic travelers will finally see some forward movement.

On Wednesday, the Union Tourism Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) will discuss the scheme threadbare at a national conference with Director Generals/Inspector Generals (DGs/IGs) of Police Department of all States/UTs.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be the Chief-guest for the conference, which will also be attended by Union Minister of Tourism, Culture & DONER, G Kishan Reddy. The TPS aims at developing tourist specific policing

with suitable roles and responsibility and training aspects, to provide a safer ecosystem to the foreign and domestic tourists in and around tourist destinations, as safety and security the first and foremost priority of any tourist.

As per the scheme, the TPS personnel shall be deployed at major tourist attractions, including monuments, entry and exit points, i.e., airport, railway stations and bus terminals, religious places, shopping areas, entertainment areas, etc., where tourists might need help.

Some of the State Governments have deployed Tourist Police for the security and safety of the tourists from their existing police set up. However, this is not a committed force and there is always a possibility of their redeployment in case of other pressing law and order situations.

Furthermore, it has been

felt that many states have not deployed Tourist Police due to budgetary constraints, an official said, elaborating the need to have a dedicated tourist-friendly police.

"During the conference, the report on 'Tourist Police Scheme' prepared by BPR&D will be deliberated upon. The BPR&D would be sharing the finding and recommendations of the report with MHA, MOT and representatives of State Govts/ UT Administrations," explained the official.

He said the idea of the conference is to develop a dedicated team of police personnel by States/ UTs to work towards taking care of the requirements of the foreign and domestic tourists, their safety and security.

"This would change the safety & security related perception of India at global level and will help in making India a must visit destination around the globe," he added.

Production of AK-203 rifles to begin in India by year end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The production of AK-203 assault rifles in India will begin by the year end for armed forces, para-military forces and State police organisations. The rifles are derivative of iconic AK-47 rifles and a factory in Uttar Pradesh under a joint venture between India and Russia will manufacture these guns.

The Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited was set up in 2019 to produce the Russian-origin Kalashnikov assault rifles in Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi district. The project is worth over RS 7,000 crores.

The Korwa Ordnance Factory is ready to start manufacturing Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles by the end of 2022, Rosoboronexport Director General Alexander Mikheev said here on Tuesday.

Rosoboronexport is Russia's state-run defence entity that oversees various key military projects, including those in foreign countries. Its chief also said plans include 100 per cent localisation of the production of legendary

Russian assault rifles in India.

"In future, the joint venture may increase production and modernise facilities to manufacture advanced rifles based on the Kalashnikov assault rifle platform," he said.

Rosoboronexport said the AK-203 rifles are fitted with integral Picatinny rails for a convenient and easy mounting of sights and tactical accessories, enabling the effective use of weapons in various conditions.

The company is attending the five-day DefExpo 2022 in Gandhinagar, which began on Tuesday.

Made-in-India ASMI pistol to be showcased

New Delhi: Indigenously-developed ASMI machine pistol showcased in the India pavilion will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at DefExpo-2022. The weapon has been developed by Indian Army officer Lt Col Prasad Bansod and a DRDO lab in 14 months' time. PNS

lighted that India and Africa share a robust partnership, which is based on the cooperative framework of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region), drawn upon the ancient ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World is One Family).

He invited African countries to explore Indian defence equipment and technologies, stating that India has emerged as a leading defence exporter in recent years.

Later, the Gandhinagar Declaration was adopted as an outcome document of IADD 2022. It proposes to enhance cooperation in the field of training in all areas of mutual interest by increasing training slots and deputation of training teams, empowerment and

capability building of the defence forces of Africa, participation in exercises and humanitarian assistance during natural disasters.

India offered fellowship for experts from African countries through Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis.

Fifty African countries, including 20 Defence Ministers, seven Chiefs of Defence Staff and eight Permanent Secretaries participated in the Dialogue attesting to the high priority accorded to India-Africa engagement in defence and security.

On the sidelines of the IADD, Rajnath held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Rwanda, Armenia and the Maldives.

Min: Peace in border areas remains basis for normal ties with China



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said peace in border areas remains a prerequisite for restoring normal ties between India and China though this has been "mischievously conflated" with sorting out the boundary question from time to time.

His remarks came after troops from both the sides disengaged in mid-September from the last stand-off site at Patrolling Point 15 in Hot Springs-Gogra region in Eastern Ladakh.

Jaishankar reiterated India's stand on ties with China while delivering an address on the theme "China's foreign policy and international relations in the new era" at a conference organised by the Center for Contemporary China Studies (CCHS) here.

The minister said India must prepare to "compete more effectively, especially in our immediate periphery". On the international stage, building deeper relationships and promoting a better understanding of India's interests strengthens the country, he added. "Peace and tranquility in the border areas clearly remain the basis for normal

relations. From time to time, this has been mischievously conflated with the sorting out of the boundary question," Jaishankar said. "The truth is that the prerequisite has been and remains one much more modest; and even that was breached in 2020," he said, referring to the massing of troops on the LAC by China and attempts to alter the status quo in the border areas.

India's search for a "more balanced and stable relationship" with China stretches across "multiple domains and many options," he said adding given the developments of 2020, they obviously focus on an effective defence of the border. "This was notably undertaken even in the midst of Covid," the minister underlined.

Noting that the two countries must display the willingness to take a long-term view of their ties, Jaishankar said: "Establishing a modus vivendi between India and China after 2020 is not easy.

Yet, it is a task that cannot be set aside. And this can only become sustainable on the basis of three mutuals: mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest." He added the continuation of the current impasse will not benefit either India or China.

Rabies deaths in Kerala not due to ineffective vaccines: Central team

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Central Government team, in its report to the Union Health Ministry, said on Tuesday that the rabies deaths reported in Kerala were not caused by ineffective vaccines. As many as 21 rabies deaths and 1.96 lakh dog bite cases have been reported in Kerala so far this year.

The Central team had recently visited Kerala to probe the cases after five people, bitten by dogs, died after taking the anti-rabies vaccine and the rabies immunoglobulin vaccine, leading to panic in the state. The death of five people due to dog bites in Kerala despite vaccinations recently had raised concerns about the efficacy of the anti-rabies vaccine and the rabies immunoglobulin vaccine. However, testing of the vaccines done at Kasauli stated that the vaccines were effective. The Kerala Government has



also said that the efficacy of both the vaccines were tested and cleared as safe and effective. The Central team, in its report, said the majority of the deaths were "preventable", with "low awareness" in the event of animal bites being the primary cause of casualties. "None of the deaths could be attributed to vaccine/RIG quality, the report said," an official said.

"There has been delay in seeking time and appropriate animal bite management in the cases examined which might be attributed to not recognising the importance of timely and full rabies post exposure prophylaxis," the official further said. The report said intensive information,

education and communication activities were required for all target audiences about do's and don'ts for animal bites management. "Deaths are also attributed to proper wound washing facility at animal bite management facilities even at tertiary care level and limited availability of ARV/ARS at peripheral health facility as only 30 per cent PHC and UHC were having ARV available and 3.5 per cent of all facilities were having ARS," the report said.

According to available data, India reported a total 72,77,523 cases of animal bites in 2019, which dropped to 46,33,493 in 2020 and 17,01,133 a year later. The first seven months of 2022, however, recorded more than 14.5 lakh cases.

In India, dogs are responsible for about 97 per cent of human rabies, followed by cats (2 per cent), jackals, mongoose and others (1 per cent). The disease is endemic throughout the country.

Multiple NIA raids to break ultras' nexus with drug smugglers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches at over 50 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Rajasthan and Delhi/ NCR region to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters and drug smugglers/traffickers based in India and abroad.

A few of the most desperate gang leaders and their associates based in India and abroad, who are spearheading and carrying out such terror and criminal activities were identified and booked in two cases registered by the NIA in

August.

"The second round of raids and searches is part of the NIA crackdown against top gangsters, their criminal and business associates based in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and arms suppliers based in UP, Rajasthan and Delhi followed the launch of investigations by the NIA against such organised criminal syndicates and networks," the NIA said in a statement.

Their associates involved in illegal liquor supply mafia were also targeted in the searches on Tuesday, including Rajesh alias Raju Mota of Basodi village in Sonapat district of Haryana.

In its ongoing efforts to dis-

mantle these trans-national terror and crime networks, NIA conducted searches at 52 locations in Abohar, Bhatinda, Muktsar Sahab, Moga, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Mohali districts of Punjab, East Gurugram, Bhiwani, Yamuna Nagar, Sonapat, Mahendragarh, Manesar, Rewari, Rohtak and Hajar districts of Haryana, Churu, Bharatpur and Alwar districts of Rajasthan , Noida, Bulanshehar and Sonbhadra districts of UP and Dwarka, Outer North, Central, Outer and North East districts of Delhi, it said.

Searches were conducted at the premises of Sampat Nehra

of Churu-Rajasthan, Naresh Sethi (notorious gangster-criminal of Jhajjar-Haryana), Surrender alias Cheeku of Narnaul-Haryana, Naveen alias Bali of Bawana-Delhi, Amit alias Dabang of Tajpur-Outer Delhi, Amit Dagar of Gurugram-Haryana, Sandeep alias Bandar, Salim alias Pistol of North-East Delhi, Qurban and Rizwan Khurja of Bulandshahr-UP and their associates. During the searches, five pistols/revolvers have been seized, along with ammunition, which includes a cache of four pistols from the house of Advocate Asif Khan of Gautam Vihar, Usmanpur, North East Delhi. He was connected with

various gangsters of Haryana and Delhi, the agency said.

Few weapons in semi-knocked down condition have also been recovered. Apart from these, incriminating documents, digital devices, details about benami property created through proceeds of crime, cash, gold bars and gold jewellery from Khurja , Bulandshahr (UP) and threat letters among others have also been seized by the NIA.

"Preliminary investigations have revealed that these gangs were carrying out targeted killings and were also raising funds to carry out such criminal activities through smuggling of drugs and weapons,"

the agency said.

The recent sensational crimes and extortion calls by criminal syndicates and gangsters to businessmen, professionals, including doctors, had created a widespread scare among the people. These gangs were using cyber-space to publicise these crimes to create terror among the public at large, it said, adding such crimes were part of a deep rooted conspiracy amongst terrorists, gangsters and drug smuggling cartels and networks, operating from within and without the country.

Many gang leaders and members had fled from India and were now operating from



foreign countries, including Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia and Australia.

Ongoing probes by the NIA in cases like the killing of Shaurya Chakra Awardee Comrade Balwinder Singh in

Punjab also revealed that such conspiracies were being hatched from inside jails of different States and were being executed by an organized network of operatives based abroad, it added.

Do not bow to political pressures to check illegal coal mining: Meghalaya HC to CS, DGP

PTI ■ SHILLONG

Meghalaya High Court on Tuesday came down hard on the administration and directed the State Chief Secretary and the Director General of police to not bow to any "political interference" while implementing its order to completely arrest illegal coal mining in the State.

The court warned that the CS and the DGP will be held accountable if any form of illegally mined coal is henceforth found in the state.

It directed the DGP to instruct all superintendents of police in the state to ensure that "not an ounce of illegally mined coal" is allowed to pass whether in trucks or other vehicles to other states.

"The chief secretary, the director general of police and all other police personnel will ensure strict compliance in such regard and will not bow to any political interference in



the matter," the full bench of the HC said in its order while hearing a PIL on the matter.

"The SPs in all districts in the state are put on notice that if illegally mined coal in the state is found to have originated in or passed through their jurisdiction, they shall be held in contempt," the court warned.

The court said that apart from the dangerous rat hole

mining in the eastern part of the state, there are reports that illegally mined coal is smuggled out of Meghalaya and then returned for apparent export to a neighbouring country on the basis of fabricated documents to suggest that the mineral originated in some other state.

Besides, there are credible reports that a substantial part of the illegally mined coal in

Meghalaya is transported to other states, primarily on trucks bearing Nagaland licence plates and with papers showing that the mineral was mined in some other north eastern state.

The court said the Supreme Court had passed orders based on the initial orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to completely arrest the illegal mining of coal in the state.

The other directions issued by the NGT and the Supreme Court are incidental to the principal part of the order and are to ensure the confiscation and disposal of the previously illegally mined coal.

"One must not miss the wood for the trees by ensuring compliance with the incidental directions for the disposal of the previously illegally mined coal without being alive to the complete prohibition of coal mining in the state otherwise than in accordance with law," it said.

Kashmiri Pandits concerned over unabated targeted killings by terrorists in Valley

PTI ■ JAMMU

Several Kashmiri migrant Spandit organisations on Tuesday expressed concern over the unabated targeted killings by terrorists in the Valley and proposed a fact-finding delegation to assess the ground situation.

Panun Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Vichar Manch, Roots in Kashmir, Youth 4 Panun Kashmir and Global Kashmiri Pandit Diaspora (GKPD) representatives met and discussed the situation in the valley in the aftermath of the continued attacks on minority community members, including pandits, a statement issued here by the parties said.

The joint meeting took place in the aftermath of the killing of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri pandit in two separate attacks in Shopian district of south Kashmir since Saturday.

"All the organistaions in

the meeting endorsed several demands including creation of a 'geo-political' foothold to facilitate rehabilitation of pandits in their homeland and enactment of genocide prevention bill along with setting up of special investigation teams to assist in investigating crimes of genocide," the statement said.

The parties also called for the constitution of a tribunal to look into cases related to the pandit community and relocation of Prime Minister Package employees outside the valley in order to avoid further target killings in Kashmir. "It was also agreed to send a fact-finding committee to the valley to assess the ground situation, for community deliberation on the future course of action," the statement said.

It said the latest killings of two migrant labourers and a Kashmiri pandit a few days back in Shopian is "another setback to the return of the aborigines of Kashmir".



I feel ashamed as Indian: Kerala Gov on killings of Pandits in Kashmir

PTI ■ BULANDSHAHR



There cannot be a more heinous crime than the killing of innocents and as an Indian he feels ashamed, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan said on Tuesday, reacting to the targeted killings of Kashmiri pandits by militants in the Valley.

Khan was here to unveil the statue of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar

at Bangar village.

"There can be no greater crime than a murder, the killing of an innocent. I feel ashamed as an Indian," he said when asked about the killings of pandits in Kashmir.

"If a single person from my country has to leave his home and become a refugee, no amount of shame will suffice it," he said.

HIMACHAL ASSEMBLY POLLS 2022

Cong releases first list of 46 candidates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/SHIMLA

The Congress on Tuesday announced the candidates on the 46 seats (out of 68) for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly election.

The list includes some expected names like former health minister of Himachal Pradesh and senior Congress leader Kaul Singh Thakur, who will fight the elections

from the Darang Assembly seat, in the Mandi district of the state. He represented the Darang constituency since 1993 but lost to BJP's Jawahar Thakur in 2017 assembly polls.

The list also includes the name of the chief of the Congress campaign committee for the elections Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, who is a sitting MLA from the Nadaun constituency. On Monday, Sukhu even warned leaders of the

Youth Congress to work within the discipline of the party.

Leader of the Opposition in the Himachal Assembly, Mukesh Agnihotri will fight the elections from his home constituency Haroli, while Vikramaditya Singh, son of former Chief Minister Vir Bhadra Singh, will fight from Shimla rural.

Congress faced a jolt in September, when the sitting President of the Himachal

Congress Harsh Mahajan, switched to the BJP. Pratibha Singh, wife of former Chief Minister Vir Bhadra Singh and MP from Mandi constituency was appointed as the President of the Himachal Congress.

The ruling BJP has not announced candidates for any seat yet rather formed a committee to look for prospective candidates that includes half of the sitting MLAs.

BJP sends names of 35 sitting MLAs to party board to finalise candidates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP's Central Election Committee has sent the names of 35 sitting MLAs for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls to the Central Parliamentary Board for finalisation.

"Winnability has been the

main criteria," said a senior BJP leader. The names of all BJP candidates for 68 assembly seats will be announced late Tuesday night.

A day before, Himachal BJP leaders had held a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur and attended by Union I&B Minister Anurag

Thakur, and scrutinized the candidates who could "ensure an outright victory" in their respective seats.

Presently, the BJP has 43 MLAs in the Himachal assembly. A decision on repeating MLAs in 35 seats has already been taken on account of the party's internal survey which

had calculated the anti-incumbency factor as also winnability in each of the assembly segments of four parliamentary constituencies of the hill state.

For the remaining 33 seats, the BJP panel has been considering more than two names before zeroing-in on the final candidate,

Mandaviya chairs meeting, reviews Covid-19 situation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over the detection of highly-infectious new sub-variants of Omicron ahead of the festival season like Diwali and Chhath, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday chaired a meeting and reviewed the Covid-19 situation and the ongoing vaccination drive in the country.

NITI Aayog member (Health) VK Paul, chairman of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) NK Arora, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and other senior health officials attended the meeting, said a senior official from the Ministry.

For its part, the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on



Genomics (INSACOG) is planning to issue a bulletin on the new sub-variants of Omicron.

The meeting concluded with the decision to continue the mask mandate and COVID-19-appropriate behaviour across the country. The Minister was informed that 219.37 crore doses of vaccines against Covid have been administered in the country under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive. The meeting comes amid growing concern over Omicron's new sub-variants BA.5.1.7, BE7 and BQ.1.

As per reports, Gujarat

recently reported the first case of BE7 sub-variant of Omicron, which was first detected in China and now reached the United States, the UK, Australia, and Belgium.

The first case of BE7 was reportedly detected by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre.

Pune has also reported its first case of Omicron sub-variant BQ.1, a descendant of BA.5. The Maharashtra health department on Monday cautioned that the COVID-19 cases could rise especially during winters and the festive season.

Department of Biotechnology Secretary Rajesh S Gokhale and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Rajiv Bahl were also present at the meeting.

SC refuses to entertain conman Chandrashekhar's plea for transfer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a fresh plea by alleged 'conman' Suresh Chandrashekhar seeking transfer from Mandoli jail in the city to any other jail which is not under control of the Director General of Prisons, Delhi. A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and CT Ravikumar declined to interfere in the matter. "We find no reason to entertain the petition. We don't appreciate this kind of behaviour," the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the alleged conman submitted before the bench that in spite of several assurances Chandrashekhar was being allegedly assaulted in jail. The lawyer also alleged that Chandrashekhar is being pressured to pay 25 lakh per month in jail. The top court on August 23 had ordered that Chandrashekhar and his wife be shifted from Tihar Jail to Mandoli Jail in the city. It had passed the order on a plea filed by Chandrashekhar and his wife alleging a threat to their lives and seeking a transfer to a prison outside Delhi.

Chandrashekhar is lodged in jail on charges of alleged money laundering and duping several people. On June 20, the ED had made some startling revelations against Chandrashekhar that he indulged in money laundering, extortion, impersonation of public officials including those holding constitutional posts, and had opposed his plea for prison transfer outside Delhi.

ED attaches properties of firm in PMLA case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties worth Rs 185.1 crore under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA) belonging to Surya Pharmaceuticals Ltd. and others. The attached properties include building, plant and machinery.

The ED initiated investigation under the provisions of PMLA on the basis of two FIRs registered by the CBI on the complaint of State Bank of India, Chandigarh and Punjab & Sind Bank, Karnal against Surya Pharmaceuticals Ltd; its Managing Director Rajiv Goyal and others.

Didi provides jobs to rescuers in North Bengal flash floods

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

About a fortnight after at least eight people were swept away in a flash flood in Mal River in Malbazar Town of North Bengal — while the victims were taking part in the immersion of Durga idols on Vijaya Dashami Day — Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday visited the area and rewarded seven people who saved several lives on the fateful evening by announcing Government jobs for them.

TET candidates start indefinite fast in WB ignoring police warning to clear area

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the successful candidates of 2014 Teachers Eligibility Test examinations giving Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee the same bitter medicine to taste that she once used for the Left Front there was more problem for a beleaguered Trinamool Congress Government grappling with the school level recruitment scam.

Hundreds of TET candidates who on Monday staged a sit-in outside the West Bengal Board of Primary Education Office at Salt Lake started indefinite fast at the same venue ignoring the police ultimatum to clear the area at the earliest.

Banerjee had literally brought the then

Buddhabek Bhattacharjee Government to its knees post during the Singur and Nandigram movement after resorting to a 26-day fast in Kolkata.

Demanding that they be given appointment letters immediately before the State Government went for subsequent selection tests the protesters said they would continue the with the fast "and no person can take the right to fast from us."

One of the agitators said "if the government cannot provide us job that belongs to us ... if the Government cannot restore the jobs that was rightfully ours and were sold out to ineligible candidates ... they have no right to stop us from ending our lives ... if we cannot live honourably ... we should be allowed to die honourably."

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public at large is hereby notify that my client Mrs. Neha Jain W/o Mr. Manish Jain is the owner of the property No. 87-E, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Delhi-110007 and the previous original Sale Certificate of the above said Property No. 87-E, Veer Nagar, Jain Colony, Delhi-110007 in the name of Smt. Veena Jain vide Document No. 12272 in Book No. 1, Volume No. 7138 on pages 136 to 141, dated: 07.10.2017 in the office of S.R. VLA, New Delhi has been lost by Smt. Veena Jain herself and is not traceable by best efforts of her. If anyone found or have any objection/Claim for any type such as any Loan, Mortgage, Surety, Security etc. over the said property regarding the above said original documents, then contact to the undersigned within 15 days of this Notice. Thereafter no body have any right on the said property. Sahil Arora (Advocate) Enrol No. D/2186/2019 Add. Off. No. 107, F.F., M.S. Chambers, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-92

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that the Comm. Shop No 25, Block-X-I-A, Sector 12, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh area measuring 8 Sq. Mtrs, has been allotted in the name of Anant Vijay Verma S/O Shri R.S. Verma R/O A/20, Shiv Mandir Marg, Mandawali Delhi-110092, had sold the said shop, on the basis of GPA to the following persons. AGPA was executed in favour of Sunil Tanwar S/O Shri Musaddi Singh R/O Ya/58A, Dinod Gate Jain Gali Bhiwani, Haryana- 127021, in the office of SR Noida Vide Book No IV Volume No 164 on pages 607-614 at Document No 1639 dated 22.11.2001 and Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice is informed the transfer of the above shop goes in favour of Monika Tanwar W/O Shri Sunil Tanwar R/O Ya/58A, Dinod Gate Jain Gali Bhiwani, Haryana- 127021, if any one has /have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Commercial Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication this notice. Sunil Tanwar

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (UP) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

| A) Fresh-Tender Work: | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| S. No. | Job no. | Name of the Work | Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs) |
| 1. | 41/PGM/SM (WC-8)/ET/2022-23 | M/o Drain (Repair of Drain and Concertina coil on boundary wall in B-Block and other miscellaneous work in sector-108), Noida. | 43.70 |
| 2. | 22/GM/SM (WC-2)/2022-23 | M/o Building (C/o Toilet for Ladies & Gents at Multilevel Car Parking compound Botanical Garden sector-38A) Noida. | 35.99 |

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 01.11.2022 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 02.11.2022 at 11.00 AM.

| B) Re-Tender Work: | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| S. No. | Job no. | Name of the Work | Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs) |
| 3. | 42/PGM/SM (WC-5)/2022-23 | M/o Road (Repair of footpath & M.S. Jaal and painting work in Mansarovar Apartment sector-61), Noida. | 31.62 |

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 28.10.2022 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 31.10.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 18.10.2022

| Sealed tenders are invited for Banking of power by BRPL from all bidders | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| NIT No. | Brief Item Description | Period | EMD Cost (₹) | Due Date & Time of Submission | Date & Time of Opening |
| HOD(PMG)/BRPL/Tender/2022-23/1485 Date: 18.10.2022 | BANKING OF POWER | 01st Nov/22 to 30th September/23 | Five Lakh | 4.11.2022 at 15:00 HRS | 4.11.2022 at 15:15 HRS |

For further details please log on to <http://www.bsesdelhi.com>
Address: 2nd Floor, D-Block, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi
Head (Power Management Group)
Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Stop hooliganism

Campaign against Halal products in Karnataka will hurt India’s capability to attract investment

There are a zillion problems India faces—the problems like air, water, and land pollution, rampant poverty, hunger, child wasting, gender discrimination, unemployment, and endless is the list. These are the problems that affect all of us—Hindus and Muslims, the young and the old, men, women and children. Saffron activists, however, don’t find anything amiss in the country unless it has something to do with Muslims. Not content with looking for shivlings in mosques and thrashing Muslims on suspicion of cow slaughter, they have now launched a campaign against Halal products during the Deepavali season in Karnataka. According to a news report, the activists of these “fringe outfits” held demonstrations at KFC and McDonald’s outlets demanding that they should not serve Halal certified meat to non-Muslims. In short, they have decided to champion the cause of non-Muslims—except that most non-Muslims don’t identify themselves with the phony cause in the first place. Hindu Janajagruthi Samithi spokesperson Mohan Gowda told a news agency that the drive has begun in Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra and Sriram Sena, another saffron outfit, has also joined it. “McDonald and KFC are serving only Halal certified meat. Compelling Hindus to eat Halal meat is against the Hindu faith.” Gowda said. As if KFC and McDonald’s hold a gun to the heads of their customers to eat their chicken products!



Do these saffron organisations, and their political masters in the Bharatiya Janata Party, believe that their actions will have no undesirable consequences? Communal polarisation may help them in electoral terms. Perhaps, the BJP is worried about the Assembly poll in Karnataka next year; cognisant of crowds Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra has been drawing, it may want the communal issues high on the election agenda. But what about the other agenda, that of economic development and business promotion, of attracting investment and creating employment? What kind of impact such bigoted campaigns will have on the food and beverages sector in particular and tourism in general? According to the India Brand Equity Foundation, a trust established by the Government, the food and beverages industry accounts for around 3 per cent of India’s GDP and is the single largest employer in the country, with more than 7.3 million workforce. The IBEF website says, “Services will grow to become more personalised and customer-centric, creative service offerings will be launched, health and safety will be standardised...” Are Hindu Janajagruthi Samithi and Sriram Sena part of the endeavours to make the food and beverages sector more personalised? Would hooliganism targeting Muslims help boost medical tourism? Many people from Muslim countries come to India for medical treatment. How would they view the anti-Halal campaign? It is time the BJP got serious about the misdemeanours of its auxiliary forces and checked their lawlessness.

PICTALK



Women light earthen lamps in an agricultural field on the occasion of ‘Kati Bihu’ festival, at Tezpur in Sonitpur

Next CJI appointed

The new chief justice of India DY Chandrachud is a legal luminary and known for his tough decisions

It is official, Dr Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud is the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). President Draupadi Murmu has appointed him as the new chief justice of India. He would take charge on November 9 and Justice Chandrachud. He would be the 50th chief justice of India. His name was recommended by the outgoing CJI Uday Umesh Lalit on October 11. Dr Chandrachud will formally take the oath on November 9 and his tenure as the CJI will be till November 10, 2024. It is the longest term a CJI has served in the recent past. DY Chandrachud is a legal luminary who has many degrees to his credit. He graduated with his LLB from Delhi University and went on to study at Harvard on the Inlaks Scholarship from where he did his Leaders in Law (LLM) and later did his Doctorate in Juridical Sciences at Harvard (SJD). Justifying the phrase like father like son his father had also served as the chief Justice of India. His father, Justice Yeshwant Vishnu Chandrachud was the 16th CJI and the longest-serving CJI of India. he served more than seven years from 1978 to 1985. Justice Chandrachud has been in the apex court for over six years impressing the legal fraternity with exceptional jurisprudential acumen. In fact, he has overruled a couple of the apex court’s old decisions including some that his father wrote or endorsed. That speaks volumes about his integrity and sense of purpose. However, his appointment seems to have not gone down well with the government. In the wake of his appointment, Kiran Rijiju the union minister for Law and Justice said that Indian wants to do away with the collegium system of appointment of judges, and the power to appoint the judges should rest with the government. This in a way shows the unease of the government with the new chief justice. In fact, DY Chandrachud was one of the four judges that came out to show their displeasure with the way the judiciary was being conducted. His tenure would last as long as the present parliament and a little more which could make the government a little uncomfortable as many of its decisions and policies are under scrutiny in the apex court including the decision to scrap article 370 and demonetization. This could be the reason for the BJP being at unease with him. Justice Chandrachud’s tenure as CJI would indeed be critical for the country and the BJP alike.



Agniveer is killing regiment traditions

Agniveer recruitments is playing havoc with the traditions of regiments in the army. The Gorkha recruitment crisis is just tip of the iceberg

Gorkha Training Centres, like other training establishments, where recruits are trained have been out of work for more than two years as recruitment was suspended due to COVID though it was possible to recruit and train with suitable precautions just as festivals, religious gatherings, election rallies, elections and so on were being held. The government took a calculated risk with manpower shortages in combat and combat support units and saved funds on recruitment, training, and salaries for over two years. 60,000 soldiers become pensioners annually. The downside: operationally deployed units were deficient on average of 80 to 100 men. Some infantry battalions deployed in friction points in East Ladakh were short of roughly a company strength that is 100 soldiers.

Agniveer has altered beyond comprehension the concept of recruitment - a cross between voluntary service and conscription. With few jobs going, the military has been turned into an employment avenue. Only Army Medical and Dental Corps and Electric and Mechanical Engineers have been excluded from Agnipath - a fait accompli. The political leadership which understands little about camaraderie, esprit de corps, and regimental ethos, unfortunately, has begun to take whimsical decisions. Sadly no one including Service Chiefs dared to question Agnipath: they were just so scared. A major problem that should have been foreseen has arisen in the recruitment of Gorkhas. Nepal has shifted the onus on the decision of four-year recruitment to the next government following elections on 20 November. Being a national security issue related to the 1947 Tripartite Agreement on Recruitment, more thought and discussion were needed, said the Nepalese government. Just as in India, there are few takers for Agnipath, in Nepal too. Nepal does not generate jobs for its skilled and unskilled youth. That’s why nearly one-third of the country of 30 million is outside the country and gainfully employed.



Remittances from them, tourism, and recruitment in the Indian Army constitute the mainstay of the economy. Like in India, Nepal has a residual Maoist problem led by Netra Bikram Chand. Similarly, several armed and unarmed groups are lying doggo in Madhesh. The last thing Nepal wants is hundreds of demobilized Agniveers injected into society. It is a difficult choice that the next government will have to make. They are known to politicize the recruitment of Gorkhas into the Indian Army. There is a new self-created structural problem among Gorkha regiments. Previously 100 per cent of Gorkhas recruited hailed from Nepal. And many on retirement settled in pockets between the Chenab and Teesta rivers - the extent of the erstwhile Gorkha empire. These Gorkhas are called Indian domiciled for purposes of recruitment and their share of recruitment has gradually increased, from 30 per cent to 40 per cent, while the remaining 60 per cent comes from Nepal. In 2016, a Gorkha battalion with 100 percent Indian-domiciled Gorkhas was raised on an experimental basis. 6/1 Gorkha Rifles was unique when it was born but later, it

IF NEPAL DECIDES NOT TO OPT FOR AGNIVEER, IT WILL POSE A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SEVEN GORKHA REGIMENTS AND THE GORKHA BRIGADE AS A WHOLE. WERE THIS TO HAPPEN, IT WILL BE A BIG BLOW TO THE "GORKHA CONNECT"

became difficult to sustain as Indian Gorkha recruits did not meet standards, even after lowering them. The failed experiment has led to a shortfall of Indian Gorkhas being met from Nepali Gorkhas. This lacuna has infected other Gorkha battalions as the 40 per cent quota for Indian Gorkhas is not being met. So instead of enhancing the quota of Nepali Gorkhas from 60 to 70 per cent, in its warped wisdom, the Army let other Gorkha regiments like 1 GR, 5 GR, and some others recruit Kumaonis and Garhwals instead. 11 Gorkha Rifles, (late Gen Rawat’s Regiment) it is understood, refused to induct other ‘pahadis’ to maintain the purity of Kiranti Gorkhas. The government of Nepal is likely to decide by December whether it will allow Gorkhas to become Agniveers. Army Chief Gen Manoj Pandey told reporters after returning from a goodwill visit to Nepal where he was made honorary General of the Nepal Army, a historic tradition unique to India-Nepal relations, that if Nepal does not decide in time, their vacancies will be redistributed. To whom; he did not

say. But it will be safe to assume Nepali-domiciled vacancies could go to Indian Gorkhas, who are already stressed by standards, and/or Kumaonis and Garhwals for which there is a precedent. If Nepal decides not to opt for Agniveer, it will pose a serious problem for the future of the seven Gorkha regiments and the Gorkha Brigade as a whole. Were this to happen, it will be a big blow to the "Gorkha connect" and India-Nepal relations. New Delhi must fire on multiple cylinders to save the integrity of Gorkha regiments and the 75-year-old tradition. CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, who is a blue-blooded 11 Gorkha officer is to shortly review Agnipath, especially the contingency if Nepal says 'no' to Agniveer. He will act in the national interest in recommending to Prime Minister Modi who has in the Nepali parlia to exempt the Gorkha regiments from Agnipath. This is vital for India-Nepal relations. (The writer, a retired Lt Gen, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BR AMBEDKAR’S 22 VOWS

Sir — Over six decades ago, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, took 22 vows, while converting to Buddhism with about 4 lakh Hindu cohorts. He pledged not to have faith in the Hindu belief system and renounced religious practices linked to Tridev, Ram, Krishna, and other Hindu gods and goddesses. And no faith in Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, and he wouldn’t worship them. In 1990, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was conferred the Bharat Ratna, supposedly on the initiative of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani. It was the vow, which was read out in the event of a mass conversion of Hindus to Buddhism in Delhi organised by the Jai Bhim Mission. When the cacophony over his presence and pledge in the event escalated, the Delhi cabinet minister, Rajendra Pal Gautam, resigned. Thousands take the vow of conversion every year on Ashoka Vijayadashami, the day Dr Ambedkar renounced Hinduism. In Nagpur alone, about 65,000 people in 2018 and 67,543 people in 2019 converted to Buddhism. In an article titled, “An Ambedkar speech no Hindu should ever forget” (April 2019), former BJP member in Rajya Sabha, Tarun Vijay, wrote, “After six decades of Ambedkar leaving the fold of Hindu dharma, what is the condition of Scheduled Castes at the ground level among Hindus? Have Hindus learned any lessons?” lambasting the “ritualistic high caste Hindus” for discriminating against Dalits. Gautam’s chant fades into insignificance before the discriminatory intolerance.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

MBBS IN HINDI

Sir — It refers to “Shah releases textbooks in Hindi for MBBS students in MP”. This decision is a welcome step for all those Hindi medium students. It is good that the Madhya Pradesh government has started this pilot project at Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal. The confidence level of these students will increase when they study medicine in their moth-

Maharashtra Bye-election



Under the fear of worst defeat, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) surrendered and withdrew the nomination of its candidate Murji Patel for the bye-election in the Andheri (East) Assembly constituency in Mumbai bye-election slated for November 3, which was necessitat-

ed by the death of Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke. The legislator died due to a cardiac arrest in Dubai on May 11. Many leaders had urged and put pressure on the BJP to withdraw its candidate to allow Latke’s wife to get elected unopposed. Patel was the joint candidate of the BJP and the Shiv Sena faction headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The other faction, headed by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, has fielded Latke’s wife Rutuja Latke for the bye-election. Several politicians such as Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray and Shinde faction MLA Pratap Sarnaik had urged BJP’s Devendra Fadnis to not field a candidate in the bye-election for the humiliating defeat.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

er tongue. But having said that, it would be interesting to see whether the standard of education is maintained because professors are not used to teaching in Hindi, so whether they will be able to maintain the same quality and intensity would be very critical. In countries like Russia and China, the medium of education is their mother tongue, so overall the intent is good and if there is no compromise on the quality of education and output then this initiative of Madhya Pradesh can be replicated elsewhere too.

Bal Govind | Noida

CONGRESS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Sir — Thankfully, the much-hyped Congress presidential election, after having passed through a slew of topsy-turvy phases, eventually reached its destination with two contenders, Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor, left in the fray. Notably, Congress leadership’s first choice, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had to withdraw his nomination midway following some misunderstanding cropping up between him and the leadership. Rahul Gandhi exercised his franchise amid the ongoing ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’, presently in

Karnataka. On the face of it, 82-year-old Mallikarjun Kharge has an edge over his opponent Shashi Tharoor due to former’s long association with the Congress as well as the experience he has gathered over decades and is in the good books of the Gandhis. The Congress presidency is not a bed of roses given that the party is already beset with internecine bickering which had led to a series of defeats meted out in several state assembly polls.

Besides, many party stalwart has left in the lurch for instance: Congress veteran Ghulam Nabi Azad who has floated his outfit in Jammu & Kashmir and another stalwart and Kapil Sibal happens to be another rebel. At the end of the day, the Grand Old Party sees a silver lining in the warm welcome its ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’, spanning over 3750 km and 150 days through 12 States and 2 UTIs, has been receiving everywhere. Whether or not this favourable public response is translated into votes for Congress is yet to be seen!

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

CBI raided my house for 14 hours. My bank locker was searched, they did not find anything. Now they have called me.. I will go and cooperate.



Delhi Dy CM —Manish Sisodia



Pakistan is a responsible nuclear state and we are proud that our nuclear assets have the best safeguards as per IAEA requirements. We take these safety measures with the utmost seriousness.

Pakistan PM —Shahbaz Sharif

Trolls, where are you all slowly vanishing, please don’t leave me.



Film producer —Raj Kundra



Shami was down with Covid-19. He was then called over to the National Cricket Academy. His recovery after Covid was very good. All in all, everything is good as far as Shami is concerned.

Indian skipper —Rohit Sharma

I am batting on a pitch with uneven bounce but I have to bat on it. I just don’t want there to be any pitch tampering.



Congress leader —Shashi Tharoor

FIRST COLUMN

STRAY DOGS NEED CARE NOT ABUSE

Govt, municipal authorities must come to their aid




SUJATA PRASAD

A small fenced area in the interior of the Danapur-Khagaul Road in Patna is home to dogs with special needs and serious medical conditions—by all accounts, the only one in the capital city of Bihar. Three of them are with a missing front or back leg, a couple of them paralytic, many are recovering from surgery or post-surgical complications, and some have behavioural issues. But nearly all of them have cheerful, inquisitive faces, and are surrounded by an incredible love aura.

Their two caregivers are young adults, barely out of their teens: 22-year-old Varsha and 23-year-old Ashish. Between them, they handle the entire gamut of operations that running a facility entails. Their foundation, Aap, was set up in July 2021, but they have been feeding and protecting homeless cats, dogs, and cows with an unmatched passion for a long time.

Varsha reminisces, “We belong to very modest homes, but we tried to save whatever we could to feed and take care of strays who were part of our ecosystem. During Covid our work increased. We picked up several injured and sick animals and took them to private vets for treatment, often at exorbitant rates.”



She continues, “We also began fostering dogs which needed sustained care and medical attention, many of whom were living with open, festering wounds on the streets, without any shelter, or human contact.”

Ashish tells me the story of eight-year-old Monty, a beautiful indie dog who now lives at their shelter. When Monty was rescued, he had a broken spinal cord. He was probably hit by a passing vehicle. It was not just his spine that was a problem. His feet had open lesions that were infested with maggots. Ashish took him home, cleaned up the open wounds with chloroform, and extracted hundreds of maggots manually, before taking him to Dr Amresh Kumar, an accomplished and deeply empathetic vet in Kankarbagh. One of Monty's legs was amputated.

The shelter also takes care of abandoned pets like Sundari, a black Labrador, who was found tied to a pole near the Patna Veterinary College a few months ago. She was thirsty, hungry, and a bundle of nerves when Pallav Shekhar, a doctor at the Veterinary College spotted her. After giving her some water and food, he contacted Varsha and Ashish and asked them to move her to their shelter.


“An abandoned dog battles with hosts of insecurities”, says Varsha. “Sundari too had behavioural issues, but has overcome them, and has begun trusting humans again. Her somewhat sad, pick-me eyes seem to plead to be taken home. People who leave their pets when their finances are stretched, or for some other reason, must realise that their pets are sentient beings who suffer when abandoned.”

The challenges of running the foundation are many. The registration process has hit a roadblock. Fundraising too has been a daunting task. “We need to educate people to care for the animals in their neighbourhood. Every area should have designated feeding spots with water bowls. We also need many more shelters and homes for animals with medical conditions, special needs, and neonates,” Varsha says.

“Why is the government not stepping in? The municipal authorities need to sterilise dogs and cats and vaccinate them against rabies. Everyone should have access to a working helpline to report cases of acute animal distress and abuse. We ferry injured animals in rickshaws and autos. What about ambulances? Should they not be available,” she asks. These questions need urgent answers. *(The author is a former civil servant and a crusader for animal rights)*

Accelerating genetic engineering is risky

Gene-editing has been a major scientific advancement, but the limits of such endeavours must be known as there are inherent dangers in doing so



BKP SINHA

Biotechnology can be taken as a biology for industry. It can also be defined as manipulation of genes or their components of microorganism via genetic engineering for production of new commercial products such as antibiotics, hormones, etc. We are fast entering into an unnatural world.

Though many of us believe that nature is worth preserving, that even aside from its utility, there is an intrinsic value to having a world of biodiversity. But conserving nature is ill served by going into the back gear of an unnatural world. For example, without the hybrid seeds of drought resistant crops, and without chemical fertilizer and pesticides, it is not possible to feed the galloping rise in population. Since no new technology is available that can replace the hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers, we would need about a fourfold increase of land required for agriculture.

Human population is steadily increasing in geometrical progression and the pressure on natural landscapes and sanctuary is increasing. Biotechnologically engineered crops achieve great efficiency and productivity that enable us to reduce our agricultural footprint, which is hard to imagine by presently available means. Similarly, without genetic engineering, gene therapy would not have been possible. With the gene therapy scientists were able to change the DNA of the patient, which was not gene editing but delivering into the patient cell some engineered DNA to counter the faulty gene that caused the disease.

Gene therapy was not always a sure shot. A young man died in the US due to a massive immune response caused by a virus transporting gene that triggered cancer causing gene which led to leukemia in five patients. But incremental improvements in genetic engineering laid the foundation for more ambitious gene editing. Genetic editing in essence fixes the ways to edit the flawed sequence of DNA in relevant cells of the sufferer. This paved the way for gene editing.

The invention of gene editing requires two steps. First, researchers had to find the right enzyme that could cut a double strand break in DNA. Then a guide was needed to precisely target the cells' DNA where they wanted to make the cut.

This enzyme is called nucleases. In 2000, the scientists found a tool, known as FokI Enzyme which is found in the soil and pond bacteria. It has two domains one that serves as scissors that can cut DNA and another that serves as a guide telling it where to go. These domains can be separated, the first can be programmed to go anywhere.

Then came the CRISPR, it had a cutting enzyme which has Cas9 and a guide that led the enzyme that can be



SUGARCANE CROPS IN AUSTRALIA WERE BEING ATTACKED BY BEETLES. IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, 'CANE TOADS' ATTACK BEETLES. HENCE, 'CANE TOADS' WERE INTRODUCED IN AUSTRALIA TO PROTECT SUGARCANE CROPS. THE PLAN FAILED AND TOADS MULTIPLIED

(The author is a retired Indian Forest Service officer)



guided to spot on a DNA strand. The CRISPR guide was not a protein but a snippet of RNA.

But accelerating genetic engineering is risky. Tinkering with the ecosystem can go awry. Biodiversity serves as a template for ecosystems. It is something like that in a flying plane, if a bolt drops, the plane will fly and even if two bolts drop the plane can still fly. But if several bolts give way, the plane will dash. Likewise, the ecosystem is balanced because there is a natural balance between predator and prey, a complete holistic food chain.

To simplify, from microbes deep in the soil to the uppermost canopy of tree tops, all life works together and creates a rough equilibrium continually racked by boom and bust. At least, that is the theory of the ecosystem. As human use became so much more intense, pockets of conservation have been seen spread across the globe. The story of 'Can toad' in Australia provides an example.

Sugarcane crops in Australia were being attacked by beetles. In other parts of the world, 'Cane toads' attack beetles. Hence, 'Cane toads' were introduced in Australia to protect sugarcane crops. The plan failed and toads multiplied and their population is estimated to be 200 million covering a wide range. They started eating native insects, frogs, bird's eggs, instead of beetles. Being poisonous, the toads killed many potential predators that might have been controlled. Rather than being a benefit, the toads became a major pet.

It is still not understood how to control their populations.

But CRISPR-Cas9 described above has potential which can be applied to cells that can be targeted to spread a mutation leading to only maleness and such female anopheles mosquitoes that spread malaria and thus eliminating these mosquitoes. Modified mosquitoes highlight the potential of biotechnology. Mutant mosquitoes can activate a lethal variation in genes that produce an activator that regulates by overstimulating a protein of its own production. But these decisions can adversely impact conservation.

Many fragile ecosystems are threatened by invasive species like Lantana camara in Sal forests and prosopis juliflora in dry degraded deciduous forests. Would a gene derived species seriously impact the local wildlife than a pesticide to control pests of agriculture for plantation of tree species?

Hence, gene derived technologies bring before us all our past failure of ecosystem engineering as it should. One worries that we will simply see new versions of toads to control paste in sugarcane. Additional advanced technologies are already on the way to safeguard such as DNA enclosed mechanisms to block or even reverse drives in a population. It is reiterated that education is crucial for our decision that we make regarding application of technology on living beings. We end by stepping back to the deeper and more inspirational lessons from looking into the working of life.

The final frontier of genetic engineering will be the possibility of improving human intelligence and memory. Unlike heights, mental skills are beneficial in more than just a positional way. If everyone or even a fraction of the population becomes smarter, it will make society better off. But of all the complex mental skills, wisdom may be the most elusive. Understanding the components of wisdom might require us to understand consciousness. Ingenuity without wisdom is dangerous.

But the vital question in genetic engineering is who should decide? Broad public discussion at world level may be required to draw a line of gene editing. Then emerges, the question of bio ethics. The bromide for calling for greater social discussion is who should decide how gene editing tools should be used. There are two modern foundations either for John Rawls' Theory of Justice or Robert Nozick's Anarchy, State and Utopia, that emphasised the moral foundation for individual liberty.

The DNA vaccines made it possible for the genetic material to be inserted into human cells to produce components of a virus which can stimulate genetic code of the component as DNA or RNA. The cells thus can become a vaccine manufacturing facility. But given all the potential of genetic engineering, there is immense uncertainty and danger of bringing drastic dangerous changes in the ecosystem to which all living beings, including humans, are a part and parcel.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT


THE BHARAT JODO YATRA HAS EXCITED BOTH NON-BJP SUPPORTERS AND CONGRESS SYMPATHIZERS ALIKE. IT HAS GIVEN ALL OF US SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN. —CONGRESS LEADER SANDEEP DIKSHIT



TO DESCRIBE RAHUL GANDHI'S BHARAT JODO YATRA IN ONE WORD, IT IS 'DIRECTIONLESS'. SOLELY AIMED AT ATTACKING RSS —KARNATAKA BJP LEADER K. SUDHAKAR

India-China War and unending security dilemma

Trust deficit mars Sino-India relations, as the tense Line of Actual Control poses a big challenge for the leadership



NEERAJ SINGH MANHAS

(The author is a Director of Research at the Indo-Pacific Consortium at Raisina House, New Delhi)

Imagining peace between India and China is impossible without understanding the conflict dynamics between them in retrospect. October 2022 marks 60 years since India and China engaged in their first and only war in the high Himalayan frontiers, which lasted for 31 days, from 20 October to 21 November, 1962. In an unexpected aggression, China inflicted a heavy debacle on India, while the world's attention was largely fixated on the Cuban Missile Crisis (16-29 October, 1962), which was underway around the same time.

The Chinese are known for choosing their timing perfectly. The two nuclear-armed nations are currently engaged in a tense military

stand-off in eastern Ladakh, since late April 2020. With a billion-plus population in the country, the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the world's longest disputed land border. Any future conflict between India and China will have disastrous consequences not only for Asia, but also for the global politico-economic stability.

While an undemarcated Sino-Indian boundary is the legacy of a colonial past, the LAC unraveled itself following the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950-51. Three years later, in a huge diplomatic faux pas, India recognized China's sovereignty over Tibet and signed the Panchsheel pact, or the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which China had no intention to

honour. Towards the end of that decade, in the run up to the 1962 war, Tibetan rebels began an uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, and the region's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, was forced to flee to India in March 1959.

A few months later, in the same year, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) clashed with Indian troops in Longju in the eastern sector. In the following year, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai held talks with his Indian counterpart Jawaharlal Nehru, only to break off soon after. India then launched a confrontational and soon-to-be disastrous 'Forward Policy' in 1961, wherein New Delhi established new military posts to the north of existing Chinese posts in the

disputed areas. This proved to be a fatal miscalculation from the Indian side.

Clashes followed in Nathu La and Cho La in the eastern sector in 1967, wherein India managed to successfully push back Chinese aggression near Sikkim. Two decades later, clashes resurfaced in Sumdorong Chu in Arunachal Pradesh. Standoffs became a recurring phenomenon along the border areas, as in the case of Depsang Plains in 2013, Demchok in 2014, Doklam in 2017. For the first time in 45 years, the 2020 Galwan standoff resulted in a loss of lives on both sides. Ever since the ongoing stand-off began in late April 2020, India and China held 16 rounds of military-level talks, the latest being in July 2022,

and high-level diplomatic talks parallelly on the sidelines of various regional and multilateral gatherings.

The two remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh, dates back to 2013-14. Both sides have signed five confidence-building pacts between 1993 and 2012, including the one banning the use of firearms in the border areas. Almost all of them are effectively placed in a state of coma by the ongoing stand-off. Depsang and Demchok continue to remain as legacy friction points with the prospect of a possible disengagement unlikely to happen any time soon, particularly considering the fact that India is now part of plurilateral groupings such as the Quad, which China views as

a US-led initiative to "contain" its rise.

Combined with the overlap of perceptions of territoriality, both India and China have been boosting up their military preparedness and infrastructure build-up in the border areas, with China having a higher comprehensive national power. India's advantage, however, lies in a much experienced armed forces. Unfortunately, though, considering the changing nature of modern warfare, the traditional aspect of soldiers' battleground valour is poised to play a lesser role in victory in the event of a full-scale war with China, taking the latter's Artificial Intelligence-backed war machine into account.

While China wants to

put the border dispute only at an "appropriate place" in the overall bilateral ties between India and China, India has made it clear that "the state of the border will determine the state of the relationship". As China continues to invoke revanchist notions to claim territory across its neighbourhood and continues its expansionist posture across the Indian territory in the western and eastern sectors, the challenge for India's diplomatic and military establishments, are poised to increase with time, particularly as the overall ties are made further complicated by the nuclear angle to the dispute and India's widening trade deficit and persisting economic dependency on China.

Missiles, exploding drones again hit Ukraine’s power, water

AP ■ KYIV

Airstrikes cut power and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians on Tuesday, part of what the country’s president called an expanding Russian campaign to drive the nation into the cold and dark and make peace talks impossible.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said nearly one-third of Ukraine’s power stations have been destroyed in the past week, “causing massive black-outs across the country.”

“No space left for negotiations with Putin’s regime,” he tweeted.

Depriving people of water, electricity and heating as winter begins to bite and the broadening use of so-called suicide drones that nosedive into targets have opened a new phase in Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war.

The aerial bombardments appear aimed at wearing down the notable resilience Ukrainians have shown in the nearly eight months since Russia invaded.

Even far from front lines, basic utilities are no longer certainties, with daily strikes reaching far into the country and damaging key facilities, sometimes faster than they can be repaired.

The latest city to lose power and water entirely was Zhytomyr, home to military bases, industries, leafy boulevards and about 250,000 people, some 140 kilometers west of Kyiv.

The city’s hospitals switched to backup power after the double missile strike Tuesday on an energy facility, and other settlements in the area also lost



electricity, city and regional officials said.

In Kyiv, the capital, missile strikes damaged two power facilities and killed two people, city authorities said.

The attack left 50,000 people without power, the facilities’ operator said.

Missiles also severely damaged an energy facility in the south-central city of Dnipro.

Russia is also mixing up its modes of attack.

Suicide drones set ablaze an infrastructure facility in the partly Russian-

occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, the regional governor said.

Air-defense S-300 missiles, which Russia has been repurposing as ground-attack weapons as its stocks are being depleted, were used to strike the southern city of Mykolaiv.

The body of a man was found in the debris of a building, the region’s governor said.

In the eastern city of Kharkiv, eight rockets fired from across the nearby

border with Russia hit an industrial area, the regional governor said.

Waves of the explosives-laden suicide drones also struck Kyiv on Monday, hitting energy facilities and setting ablaze and partly collapsing buildings.

One drone slammed into a residential building, killing four people.

Ukraine says Russia is getting thousands of drones from Iran. The Iranian-made Shahed drones that hit targets in Kyiv have also been widely used elsewhere in recent weeks.

An Associated Press photographer caught one of the Iranian drones on

camera Monday, its triangle-shaped wing and pointed warhead clearly visible, though the Kremlin refused to confirm their use.

In the past week alone, more than 100 self-destructing Iranian-made drones have slammed into power plants, sewage treatment plants, residential buildings, bridges and other targets in urban areas, Ukraine’s Foreign Ministry said.

In a televised address on Monday night, Zelenskyy said Russia is using the drones because it is losing ground in the war.

“Russia doesn’t have any chance on the battlefield, and it tries to compensate for its military defeats with terror,” he said. “Why this terror? To put pressure on us, on Europe, on the entire world.”

In other developments:

■ Ukraine’s nuclear energy operator said Russian forces have detained two more senior employees at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Energoatom said their whereabouts are unknown. Also unknown are the whereabouts of another executive who was detained earlier in October.

■ In Russia, the death toll from the crash Monday of a Russian warplane climbed to 14.

The Su-34 bomber came down in the port city of Yeysk after one of its engines caught fire during takeoff for a training mission, the Russian Defence Ministry said. It said both crew members bailed out safely, but the plane crashed into a residential area, causing tonnes of fuel to explode on impact.

US to continue imposing sanctions on Russian, Iranian arms trade: White House

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States will continue to vigorously enforce sanctions on Russian and Iranian arms trade, the White House said, asserting that it will stand with the people of Ukraine for as long as it takes.

This will make it harder for Iran to sell these weapons to Russia, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference on Monday.

There is extensive proof of Russia using Iranian drones to target military and civilian targets in Ukraine, she added.

“We’ll continue to vigorously enforce US sanctions on both the Russian and Iranian arms trade — that’s what we’ll do from here, make it harder for Iran to sell these weapons to Russia. And we’ll stand with our partners throughout the region against that Iranian threat,” Jean-Pierre said.

Responding to questions, she said NSA Jake Sullivan had warned in July that Iran was planning to sell UAVs to Russia for use against Ukraine.

“We also exposed publicly that Russia has received drones from Iran, that this was part of Russia’s plan to import hundreds of Iranian UAVs of various types, and that Russian operators continue to receive training in Iran on how to use these very systems,” she said.

“So, there is extensive proof of their use by Russia against both military and civilian targets there (Ukraine),” she added. Jean-Pierre said the US is in daily touch with the Ukrainians across the administration, from the National Security Advisor to the Department of Defence and the Department of State. On Friday, the US announced an additional security package of \$725 million for Ukraine.

Winter is coming: Ukrainians dig in for brutal season ahead

AP ■ KIVSHARIVKA (UKRAINE)

Nine-year-old Artem Panchenko helps his grandmother stoke a smoky fire in a makeshift outdoor kitchen beside their nearly abandoned apartment block. The light is falling fast and they need to eat before the setting sun plunges their home into cold and darkness.

Winter is coming. They can feel it in their bones as temperatures drop below freezing. And like tens of thousands of other Ukrainians, they are facing a season that promises to be brutal.

Artem and his grandmother have been living without gas, water or electricity for around three weeks, ever since Russian missile strikes cut off the utilities in their town in Ukraine’s eastern Kharkiv region. For them and the few other residents that remain in the complex in Kivsharivka, bundling up at night and cooking outdoors is

the only way to survive.

“It’s cold and there are bombings,” Artem said on Sunday as he helped his grandmother with the cooking. “It’s really cold. I’m sleeping in my clothes in our apartment.”

Adding to the foreboding about the coming winter, Russian strikes on Monday and Tuesday in Kyiv, the capital, and several other Ukrainian cities by drones and missiles targeted power plants.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a tweet on Tuesday that over the past week Russian attacks have knocked out 30 per cent of his country’s power plants causing “massive blackouts across the country.”

As the freeze sets in, those who haven’t fled from the heavy fighting, regular shelling and months of Russian occupation in eastern Ukraine are desperately trying to figure out how to dig in for the cold months.

In the nearby village of

Kurylivka, Viktor Palyanitsa pushes a wheelbarrow full of freshly cut logs along the road toward his house. He passes a destroyed tank, the remnants of damaged buildings and the site of a 300-year-old wooden church that was levelled as Ukrainian forces fought to liberate the area from Russian occupiers.

Palyanitsa, 37, said he’s gathered enough wood to last the entire winter. Still, he planned to begin sleeping beside a wood-burning stove in a rickety outbuilding and not his home, since all the windows in his house have been blown out by flying shrapnel.

“It’s not comfortable. We spend a lot of time on gathering wood. You can see the situation we’re living in,” Palyanitsa said, quietly understating the dire outlook for the next several months.

Authorities are working to gradually restore electricity to the area in the coming days, and repairs to water and gas infrastruc-



structure will come next, according to Roman Semenukha, a deputy with the Kharkiv regional government.

“Only after that will we be able to begin to restore heating,”

he said.

Authorities were working to provide firewood to residents, he added, but had no timeline for when the utilities would be restored.

Standing beside his pile of split wood, Palyanitsa was not waiting for government help. He said he didn’t expect heating to be restored anytime soon, but that he feels ready to fend for

himself even once winter sets in.

“I have arms and legs. So I’m not scared of the cold, because I can find wood and heat the stove,” he said.

Authorities in the Ukrainian-controlled areas of the neighbouring, hotly contested Donetsk region have urged all remaining residents to evacuate, and warned that gas and water services in many areas will likely not be restored by winter.

Like in the Kharkiv region, ordinary Ukrainians are still living in thousands of homes that have been wrecked by Russian strikes, with leaky or damaged roofs and blown-out windows that are unable to provide protection against cold or wet weather.

The threat of a winter without heating has even spread to other areas of Ukraine far from the front lines.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, angered and embarrassed by a Ukrainian strike on a key

bridge to annexed Crimea, has intensified Russia’s bombing campaign, targeting civilian energy infrastructure around Ukraine and leaving many cities and towns without electricity.

Monday’s strikes hit Kyiv, Sumy in the northeast and Vinnytsia in western Ukraine.

In the centre of Kurylivka, a group of men used a chainsaw to bring down a tree near a bus stop. As they worked, they warned an Associated Press reporter about the Russian land mines still hidden in the surrounding grass.

With so much of the area’s towns destroyed and modern comforts all but disappeared, the drive for survival trumps any concerns about the preservation of what was before.

With no utilities, homes have become like rudimentary shelters from a medieval age where residents live by candlelight, gather water from wells and bundle up to fend off the cold.

Russian warplane crashes near apartment building, killing 14

AP ■ MOSCOW

A Russian warplane crashed Monday into a residential area in a Russian city on the Sea of Azov after suffering engine failure, leaving at least 13 people dead, three of whom died when they jumped from upper floors of a nine-story apartment building to escape a massive blaze.

A Su-34 bomber came down in the port city of Yeysk after one of its engines caught fire during takeoff for a training mission, the Russian Defense Ministry said. It said both crew members bailed out safely, but the plane crashed into a residential area, causing a fire as tons of fuel exploded on impact.

After hours of combing through the charred debris of the building, authorities said 13 residents, including three children, were found dead. Another 19 were hospitalized with injuries.

Vice governor of the region, Anna Menkova, said three of the four victims died when they jumped from the upper floors of the building in a desperate attempt to escape the flames, according to the RIA-Novosti news agency.

The authorities reserved emergency rooms at local hospitals and



scrambled medical aircraft. Over 500 residents were evacuated and provided with temporary accommodations.

The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin was informed about the crash and dispatched the ministers of health and emergencies along with the local governor to the site. Yeysk, a city of 90,000, is home to a big Russian air base.

Surveillance cam videos posted on Russian messaging app channels showed a plane exploding in a giant fireball. Other videos showed an apartment building engulfed by flames and loud bangs from the apparent detonation of the warplane’s weapons.

The Su-34 is a supersonic twin-engine bomber equipped with sophisticated sensors and weapons that has been a key strike component of the Russian air force. The aircraft has seen wide use during the war in Syria and the fighting in Ukraine.

Monday’s accident marked the 10th reported non-combat crash of a Russian warplane since Moscow sent its troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Military experts have noted that as the number of Russian military flights increased sharply during the fighting, so did the crashes.



German cybersecurity chief out after news of Russia intel ties

AP ■ BERLIN

The head of Germany’s national cybersecurity agency has been dismissed following reports of possible ties to Russian intelligence, the Interior Ministry said Tuesday. The ministry said that Interior Minister Nancy Faeser dismissed Arne Schoenbohm as head of the BSI agency, German news agency dpa reported.

Schoenbohm co-founded a cybersecurity group a decade

ago that brings together experts from public institutions and the private sector. German media have reported that one of its members is a company founded by a former Russian intelligence agent.

The German government said over a week ago that it was investigating the reports comprehensively.

There is growing concern in Germany that the country’s critical infrastructure might be targeted by Russia because of Berlin’s support for Ukraine.

Russian role in Burkina Faso crisis comes under scrutiny

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU (BURKINA FASO)

Within hours of Burkina Faso’s second coup this year, the head of Russia’s shadowy mercenary outfit Wagner Group was among the first to congratulate the new junta leader in West Africa.

In a message posted on Telegram, Yevgeny Prigozhin praised the mutinous soldiers for doing what “was necessary.”

That same day, pro-Kremlin political analyst Sergei Markov, posted that the



Russian people had helped Capt. Ibrahim Traore, the new coup leader. And he predicted that Burkina Faso’s new leadership would turn to Russia for

help instead of former colonizer France.

As Traore now solidifies his grip on power in Burkina Faso, questions are already swirling about his relationship with Russia and how much it played a hand in catapulting him and his allies to power.

The recent coup “could be a gateway to a more assertive Russian policy towards the Sahel,” said Samuel Ramani, associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, a defense and security think tank.

Lebanese MP: Ukraine war sped up border deal with Israel

AP ■ BEIRUT

The war in Ukraine and rising demand for natural gas around the world helped speed up a US-mediated maritime border deal between Lebanon and Israel, a prominent Lebanese legislator allied with the militant Hezbollah group said. The agreement is expected to help bring stability to the eastern Mediterranean.

Gebran Bassil, who is under sanctions by the US, also told The Associated Press in an

interview at his office on Monday that “it would be a crazy act” if caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati does not form a new government before the six-year term of President Michel Aoun ends October 31. Disagreements between Aoun and Mikati have delayed the formation of a new Cabinet since May 15, following parliamentary elections. Since then, the government has been in a caretaker capacity.

Parliament failed during two sessions in recent weeks to



elect a president and it is highly unlikely that a new head of state will be voted in to the country’s top job before Aoun’s term ends, leaving the country without a president.

Bassil is Aoun’s son-in-law and heads the Christian nationalist Free Patriotic Movement founded by the president and has yet to endorse a candidate. Bassil, who heads a 21-member parliamentary bloc in the 128-member legislature, said that despite media reports, he does not see himself as a candidate.

New Swedish PM presents 3-party Government



AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Incoming Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson on Tuesday vowed to set the country on a new course on immigration, criminal justice and energy policy as he presented a centre-right coalition government led by his conservative Moderate Party.

The new Cabinet consists of 24 ministers — 13 men and 11 women. Thirteen are Moderates, six Christian Democrats and five Liberals.

The three centre-right parties secured a majority in Parliament after the September 11 elections with the help of the Sweden Democrats, a far-right party that has entered the political mainstream after years of being treated as a pariah by the other parties.

Moderate Party parliamentary leader Tobias Billstrom was appointed foreign minister while the head of Parliament’s defence committee, Pal Jonson, another Moderate, was tapped as defence minister.

Christian Democrat leader Ebba Busch became energy minister, and 25-year-old Romina Pourmokhtari of the Liberals made history as Sweden’s youngest ever Cabinet minister, in charge of the climate and environment portfolio. Elisabeth Svantesson, the Moderate Party’s spokeswoman on economic policy, was appointed finance minister.

XI SWEARS BY MARXISM TO MAKE CHINA FIRST MODERN SOCIALIST COUNTRY AS HE HEADS FOR RARE 3RD TERM

PTI ■ BEIJING

Poised for record third five-year term and perhaps for life, Chinese President Xi Jinping's high-voltage Marxist rhetoric on Sunday with a vow to make China a modern socialist country has raised hackles at home and abroad that the Communist giant, which for decades relegated the ideology to the background, could be taking the turn to the extreme left.

"From this day forward, the central task of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will be to lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realise the Second Centenary Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese

nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation," Xi said in his marathon speech at the key Congress of the party on Sunday.

"Only by taking root in the rich historical and cultural soil of the country and the nation the truth of Marxism flourish here," he told the over 2,300 delegates of the week-long 20th Congress, which is due to confirm his unprecedented 3rd five-year term to make him the only leader after the party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power after 10-year term.

Xi, 69, who came to power in 2012, has raised the ideological bar of the CPC, which earlier relegated the ideology to the backseat for the last three decades.

China emerged as the second largest economy after the US during this period riding



on the success of opening up and economic reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping, ending Mao's disastrous tryst with extreme Marxist-Leninist communist ideology.

Deng, who succeeded Mao after his death in 1976, ended

the founder's ideological obsession and advocated a new theory of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics under which CPC remained all but a Communist party by name.

In the following years, it practised a policy of reform

and opening up advocated by Deng attracting massive foreign investments to revive the country, which went bankrupt under Mao.

Deng, who is widely regarded as the father of China's economic rise, dismissed the importance of Marxist ideology bluntly at a CPC conference in 1981 with a cryptic remark "let's dispense with the theory", which became a buzzword for the party leaders.

His successors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao followed his lead, rapidly expanding the role of the market in the Chinese domestic economy and embracing a foreign policy that maximized China's participation in a global economic order led by the United States.

"Xi has brought that era of pragmatic, non-ideological

governance to a crashing halt," Australia's former prime minister Kevin Rudd, who is widely regarded as the foremost expert on China, wrote recently in the Foreign Affairs journal.

"In its place, he has developed a new form of Marxist nationalism that now shapes the presentation and substance of China's politics, economy, and foreign policy," he said.

"Xi has pushed politics to the Leninist left, economics to the Marxist left, and foreign policy to the nationalist right," Rudd said.

Xi has "reasserted the influence and control the CPC exerts over all domains of public policy and private life, reinvigorated state-owned enterprises, and placed new restrictions on the private sector", Rudd said in his write-up ahead of the CPC Congress.

Greens leaders back German Nuke extension, grassroots angry

AP ■ BERLIN

Senior members of Germany's environmentalist Greens party indicated Tuesday that they would accept Chancellor Olaf Scholz's decision to extend the lifetime of the country's three remaining nuclear plants for a few months.

The reactors were long scheduled to be switched off at the end of the year, but Economy Minister Robert Habeck agreed to let two plants run until mid-April amid a feared energy crunch. Some in the government insisted that all three reactors should stay online until 2024, prompting a Cabinet spat that Scholz overruled Monday. Habeck told public broadcaster ZDF that the plan was "one I can work with, one I can live with."

Greens chairman Omid Nouripour said Scholz's top-down decision also effectively ended the debate over whether to buy new fuel for the reactors and operate them beyond April 15. "That's good," he tweeted.

Still, Nouripour said the third reactor, Emsland in the northwest of the country, wasn't required to safeguard Germany's power supply.

House panel: Trump's bills to Secret Service 'exorbitant'

AP ■ NEW YORK

Donald Trump's private company arranged for the Secret Service to pay for rooms at his properties in excess of government-approved rates at least 40 times during his presidency, including two charges for more than USD 1,100 per night, according to documents released Monday by a congressional committee.

The Secret Service was charged room rates of more than USD 800 per night at least 11 times when agents stayed at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, the Trump hotel in Washington,

D.C., and other properties, the Democratic-led House Oversight Committee said. It noted that Trump made over 500 trips to his properties while president.

The "exorbitant" rates point to a possible "taxpayer-funded windfall for former President Trump's struggling businesses," Committee Chair Carolyn Maloney of New York wrote in a letter Monday to the Secret Service requesting more information.

The Secret Service said it had received the letter and was reviewing it.

The Trump Organisation



denied that the Secret Service charges were a problem and said it provided rooms and other services at cost, at big discounts or for free.

"The Trump Family is like-

ly the first family in American history to have not profited off of the United States government," said Eric Trump in a statement. He added, "President Trump funded the vast majority of his campaign with hundreds of millions of dollars of his own money and turned away billions of dollars in real estate deals worldwide."

In total, the Trump Organisation charged the agency responsible for protecting the president and his family at least USD 1.4 million, according to Secret Service records released by the committee. The committee said the

total bill was likely higher because the panel only got records through September 2021 and payments for trips abroad were not included.

The former president has been repeatedly criticized by Democrats and government watchdogs for what they say were brazen attempts to make money from taxpayer funds during his presidency.

In addition to money from the Secret Service when he and his family visited his clubs and hotels, Trump played host to foreign officials at his properties, also requiring lodging for accompanying agents.

China headhunting military pilots for PLA training; UK says taking decisive action

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK government said on Tuesday that it is taking decisive steps to stop Chinese recruitment schemes attempting to headhunt serving and former British military pilots to train the People's Liberation Army personnel in China.

According to reports, around 30 former UK military pilots are thought to have gone to train members of

China's Army and an intelligence alert is being issued to warn Royal Air Force (RAF) and other Armed Forces personnel against such recruitment drives.

While the recruitment does not breach current UK laws, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the new National Security Bill would create additional tools to tackle such "security challenges".

"We are taking decisive



steps to stop Chinese recruitment schemes attempting to headhunt serving and former UK Armed Forces pilots to train People's Liberation Army personnel in the People's Republic of China," an MoD spokesperson said.

"All serving and former personnel are already subject to the Official Secrets Act, and we are reviewing the use of confidentiality contracts and non-disclosure agreements

across Defence, while the new National Security Bill will create additional tools to tackle contemporary security challenges - including this one," the spokesperson said.

Armed Forces Minister James Heappey told 'Sky News' that the recruitment of UK pilots to train Chinese counterparts had been a concern within the MoD "for a number of years".

EU lawmakers reject border agency budget over misconduct

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union lawmakers refused on Tuesday to endorse the way the EU's border and coast guard agency used its 2020 budget, over concerns about serious misconduct by staff and human rights concerns involving Frontex's work. Frontex supervises the 27-nation EU's outside borders. The agency is under pressure over allegations that it was involved in the illegal pushbacks of migrants, notably in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey. Its executive director resigned earlier this year after an anti-fraud office probe.

During a plenary session in Strasbourg, France, the lawmakers voted by 345 votes to



284, with 8 abstentions, not to sign off on Frontex's 2020 accounts.

"With a budget of 900 million euros (\$884 million) in 2022, Frontex is the most well-funded European agency. We can no longer tolerate public money being used to violate European legislation and international law," Dutch Greens lawmaker Bas Eickhout said after the vote. The move has no direct legal consequences, but it

does oblige the EU's institutions - notably the European Commission - to take measures to address the parliament's concerns. In similar circumstances in 1999, the entire commission resigned amid corruption allegations.

Several EU members of parliament have expressed concern about the suspected suicide of a Frontex staff member apparently linked to allegations of sexual harassment. A report by the EU's anti-fraud office, OLAF, examined Frontex activities in Greece from spring to autumn 2020 and found that the agency wasn't investigating or handling evidence of migrant pushbacks correctly and at times was attempting to cover them up or not reporting them at all.

Confident of Pakistan's commitment, ability to secure its nuclear assets: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US is confident of Pakistan's commitment and ability to secure its nuclear assets, the State Department has said, days after President Joe Biden dubbed the country "one of the most dangerous in the world" as it has "nuclear weapons without any cohesion".

The US has always viewed a secure and prosperous Pakistan as critical to US interests, State Department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said on Monday.

Biden's remarks, made at a Democratic Party congressional campaign committee reception here on Thursday, were rejected by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as "factually incorrect and misleading" as Islamabad summoned the US Ambassador to lodge an official demarche.



"(The US is) confident of Pakistan's commitment and its ability to secure its nuclear assets," Patel told reporters at a news conference.

"The US has always viewed a secure and prosperous Pakistan as critical to US interests. More broadly, the US values our long-standing cooperation with Pakistan. We enjoy a strong partnership," he said.

Australia drops recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's Capital

AP ■ CANBERRA

Australia has reversed a previous Govt's recognition of West Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the foreign minister said Tuesday. The center-left Labor Party Cabinet agreed to again recognize Tel Aviv as the capital and reaffirmed that Jerusalem's status must be resolved in peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, FM Penny Wong said.

Australia remained committed to a two-party solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, and "we will not support an approach that undermines this prospect," Wong said. Former conservative Prime Minister Scott Morrison formally recognized West Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2018, although the Australian embassy remained in Tel Aviv.

The change followed the then-US President Donald Trump's decision to shift the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. President Joe Biden has kept the embassy in Jerusalem as the U.S. Steps back from its once-intense mediation between the Israelis and Palestinians,

Corruption, race baiting, cronyism will not work: Lanka's Booker Prize winner

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka, whose supernatural satire set amid the island nation's brutal civil war won the Booker Prize, has expressed hope that his crisis-hit country will soon learn from its stories and understand that the ideas of corruption, race baiting and cronyism have not worked and will never work.

Karunatilaka's novel 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida' is about a photographer who wakes up dead, with a week to ask his friends to find his photos and expose the brutality of war.

Karunatilaka, 47, became only the second Sri Lankan born to win the prestigious GBP 50,000 literary prize at a ceremony in London on Monday night, after Michael Ondaatje who won for 'The English Patient' in 1992.



Karunatilaka, who was born in Galle in 1975 and grew up in Colombo, said he decided in 2009 to write "a ghost story where the dead could offer their perspective" after the end of the Sri Lankan civil war, "when there was a raging debate over how many civilians died and whose fault it was".

Karunatilaka said as he accepted his prize, "I wrote this book for you. This is a win at a time when the

country has lost so much. But let's accept this victory and go on to win the T20 World Cup" and "My hope is that in the not too distant future Sri Lanka will understand that these ideas of corruption and race baiting and cronyism have not worked and will never work", were much hailed in the social media platforms.

His remarks came after the unprecedented economic and political turmoil Sri Lanka witnessed that led to the change of the government headed by the Rajapaksa family in July.

"I hope it's in print in 10 years... if it is, I hope it's written in a Sri Lanka that learns from its stories, and that Seven Moons will be in the fantasy section of the bookshop, next to the dragons, the unicorns and will not be mistaken for realism or political satire," he was quoted as saying by Colombo Gazette.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Flat No.72-B, First floor, Block-U-03, Dhawalgi, Sector-11, Noida, U.P.

That our client Anita Garg w/o Pramod Kumar Garg proposes to purchase the above said property from Vinod Singh Bisht s/o Late Bhim Singh Bisht, who have assured our client that he is absolute owner of said property vide Mutation letter dated 06.09.21 issued by Noida on the basis of NOC of other legal heirs consequent upon death of Bhim Singh Bisht, who was registered owner vide Transfer deed No. (7885) dated 30.10.06. The said Bhim Singh Bisht died intestate on 21.01.21 leaving behind Vinod Singh Bisht, Rajni Bhandari, Geeta Bisht only legal heirs.

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public, Bank/Financial institutions or other persons/s, organization/s, company/ies, government authority/ies, having any claim, rights, title, or any interest of any nature whatsoever in or upon the said property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned hereinbelow within 14 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Vinod Singh Bisht to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

Kumar Amit Advocate Legal Access B1/704 Satyam Apartment, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi 110096

Liz Truss' waning power brings political plots and jokes



AP ■ LONDON

Powerless, humiliated, labeled a "ghost" prime minister and compared unfavourably to a head of lettuce — this is not a good week for Liz Truss.

Britain's prime minister was scrambling to recover her grasp on power Tuesday after her economic plans were ripped up and repudiated by a Treasury chief whom she was forced to appoint to avoid meltdown on the financial markets.

Truss remains in office, for now, largely because her Conservative Party is divided over how to replace her.

In a bid at business as usual, Truss held a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday and met lawmakers from rival Conservative factions, arguing that keeping her in post can provide stability, even though she has had to ditch almost the entire prospectus on which she was elected party leader just six weeks ago. Chastened but defiant, Truss acknowledged Monday that "mistakes were made" — but insisted she would lead the Conservatives into the next national election.

Few believe that. Britain's lively, partisan press is unusually united in the opinion that

Truss is doomed. The Conservative-backing tabloid The Sun called her "a ghost PM" and said "for the sake of the country, we cannot go on like this." The left-leaning Guardian compared the Conservatives to a mutinous ship's crew, saying "Truss has not left her party. But it appears to have left her."

After The Economist said Truss' time in control of the government — before the Sept. 23 "mini-budget" that set the markets aflame — was "roughly the shelf-life of a lettuce," the tabloid Daily Star set up a livestream featuring a photo of the prime minister beside a head of iceberg, adorned with a blond wig, eyes and a mouth. It asks "Can Liz Truss outlast this lettuce?" — which, five days in, is gradually turning brown.

Truss initially tried to stay the course after her government's package of 45 billion pounds (\$50 billion) in unfunded tax cuts spooked the markets, pushing up government borrowing costs, raising home mortgage costs and sending the pound plummeting to an all-time low against the dollar. The Bank of England was forced to intervene to protect pension funds, which were squeezed by volatility in the bond market.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is known to all that the Original Allottee of Residential LIG Flat No.332B, Block-B, Sector-19, Noida, U.P., R. Shrivastava S/o Shri S.Raghavan R/o 203, Nirman Apartment Mayur Vihar Phase-I, New Delhi-110091, have said the said flat on the basis of Registered General Power of Attorney to Mrs Meera Sharma W/o Anil Kumar Sharma R/o B-335B, Sector-19, Noida, U.P., on 30.07.1997, and the agreement to sell of the said property is not registered because the agreement to sell is not registered so with the help of this public notice it is informed that the transfer of this flat goes in favour of Anil Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Ganga Prasad Sharma R/o B-335B, Sector-19, Noida, U.P. If anyone/one has/have any objection he/she/they will submit his/her/ their objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along with the proofs within 15 days from the published of this Notice. Anil Kumar Sharma

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that my client, SMT. RENU SHARMA W/o SHRI RAM GOPAL SHARMA R/O Flat NOB-55/2, FIRST FLOOR, NARAINA VIHAR, NEW DELHI, is the owner of DDA MIG FLAT NOB-55/2, ON FIRST FLOOR, SITUATED AT NARAINA VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110028, VIDE DDA FILE NO.E.14(371566)/GEN/NR, have applied for Conversion of leasehold from freehold of the aforesaid property in DDA. The original documents i.e. Original DEMAND LETTER of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by my client and is not traceable inspite of his best efforts. An F.I.R./NCR is also effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No. 88063/2022) dated 17.10.2022. Any person(s) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above Address, Phone No. 1810541547, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) or Director (Housing), Vikas Sadan, New Delhi. Naveen Aggarwal (Advocate) Ch.No. M-7, Near SBI Western Wing, 16 Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-54

Office of the Superintending Engineer Mechanical Engineering Department Jammu

e-mail: semedj 02@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-NIT- 146 of 2022-23

For and on behalf of the president of INDIA, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

| S. No | Description of work | AAA | Estimated Cost | Earnest Money Depositable | Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable) | Time of completion | Eligibility Criterion of Bidder |
|-------|--|----------|----------------|---|---|--------------------|---|
| 1. | DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF MBBR BASED CETP OF 650 KLD CAPACITY AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS INCLUDING ELECTROMECHANICAL WORKS AT GOVT. SMGS HOSPITAL JAMMU | Accorded | 248.00 Lacs | Rs.4,96,000.00 in the Shape of CDR/FR/TPR valid for 12 months | Rs. 3000.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. | 90 DAYS | OEM /Registered & Reputed firms having authorization from OEM to having sufficient experience as per Annexure 'C' for the Similar Nature of work. |

THE e-NIT CONSISTING OF INFORMATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK/ BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ), SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE: www.tenders.gov.in

NOTE :- Overall lowest bidder shall be treated as "L1"

DIP NO: DIP/J-10309/22

(Er. Munga Ram) Superintending Engineer Mechanical Circle Jammu

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJIWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dohraund, 248006
Tel: 0135 - 2763508 & Fax: 0135-2763507 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

पत्र सं. 771

Scrap Notice

दिनांक: 18.10.2022

Due to unavoidable reasons, NIT no.e-12/UJVNL/EE(M&G)/KPS/ 2022-23 for "S.I.T.C of Nitrogen Injection Fire Protection System for 6.6/132 kV, 12.5MVA Generator Transformer of Unit A & C installed at Kulhal Power Station" is scrapped.

Executive Engineer (M&G), Kulhal

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.
SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR

BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I.D. JOINTS WITH EPDM RUBBER RING FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I.D. Joints with EPDM Rubber ring (80 to 600mm Dia for various dia of DI / PVC / HDPE Pipes.) Confirming to Relevant IS or as per given specification from Indian Manufacturer only. Interested bidder who wish to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website. <https://www.nprocure.com>

The last date of submission of online tender is 11-11-2022.

NO/INF/1779/G/2022

FinMin seeks suggestions on taxes for next Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kickstarting stakeholder consultation for 2023-24 Budget, the finance ministry has sought suggestions from industry and trade associations regarding direct and indirect taxes.

Along with the suggestions, the industry has to submit justification for their demand which, if found with merit, could become part of the Union Budget for 2023-24 (April-March), to be tabled in Parliament on February 1, 2023. The deadline for sending suggestions for changes in the duty structure, rates and broad-



ening of tax base on both direct and indirect taxes is November 5.

“In the context of formulating the proposals for the Union Budget for 2023-24, the Ministry of Finance would like to be benefited by the suggestions and views of your association,” the ministry said.

It said that since the government is working to phase out tax incentives, deductions and exemptions while simultaneously rationalising direct tax rates, the industry should point out ‘positive externalities’ arising out of the recommendations.

The ministry also sought industry suggestions on reducing compliance burdens, providing tax certainty and reducing litigation.

In the indirect taxes front, the request for correcting inverted duty structure for any commodity should be supported by value addition at each stage of manufacturing.

Rupee falls 7 paise to close at 82.37 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee pared its initial gains to close 7 paise down at 82.37 (provisional) against the US dollar in a restricted trade on Tuesday.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 82.21 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 82.02 and a low of 82.37 against the American currency during the session.

It finally ended at 82.37 against the US dollar, down 7 paise from its previous close of 82.30.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.18 per cent to 112.24.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.27 per cent to USD 91.37 per barrel.

“Rupee continued to consolidate in a narrow range in the last few sessions despite volatility in major crosses. Reaction on the rupee remained muted even as the dollar fell marginally against its major crosses,” said Gaurang Somaia, Forex & Bullion



Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Risk on sentiment got a boost after Britain’s new finance minister scrapped Prime Minister Liz Truss’s proposed tax cuts and reined in her energy subsidies, Somaia said.

The focus will be on the industrial production number from the US and better-than-expected data could support the dollar, Somaia said, adding that “we expect the USD-INR(Spot) to quote in the range of 82.20 and 82.80.”

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 549.62 points or 0.94 per cent higher at 58,960.60 points, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 175.15 points or 1.01 per cent to 17,486.95.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 372.03 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Gold falls ₹10; silver climbs ₹774

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national Capital fell ₹10 to ₹50,783 per 10 grams on Tuesday amid appreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹50,793 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, climbed ₹774 to ₹57,064 per kilogram from ₹56,290 per kg.

The rupee appreciated 22 paise to 82.08 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, tracking positive domestic equities and an overnight fall in the dollar index.

In the international market, gold was trading in green at USD 1,657 per ounce while silver was up at USD 18.91 per ounce.

“Spot COMEX gold last traded at USD 1,657 an ounce slightly lower from Monday evening while silver prices rose the following strength in base metal. In the near term, gold is expected to trade in a range with a positive bias on the back of a weaker dollar and a slide in Treasuries along with the strong physical gold demand,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

Stock markets rally for 3rd day amid positive global trend



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices rallied for the third day on the trot on Tuesday amid firm global market trends and buying in energy, banking and FMCG counters.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 549.62 points or 0.94 per cent to settle at 58,960.60. During the day, it zoomed 732.68 points or 1.25 per cent to 59,143.66.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 175.15 points or 1.01 per cent to end at 17,486.95.

State Bank of India (SBI) was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 3.41 per cent, followed by ITC, Nestle India, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank, L&T, M&M and Reliance Industries.

Only five constituents finished in the red — HDFC, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma and HDFC Bank, slipping up to 0.72 per cent.

“The Indian market is sustaining its gains due to favourable global and domestic cues. Home-grown positivity is the downward trend of crude prices and upside prospects to Q2 corporate earnings.

“Notably too, RBI’s confidence that headline inflation has peaked in September and henceforth will decline is taken cheerfully by the financial mar-

ket, providing upside to banks,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said the recent rebound in the markets can be largely attributed to the recovery in the global indices while the earnings have been mixed so far.

“Apart from the global markets, we feel participation of key sectors on a rotational basis would be critical for a sustained up move.

Amid all positivity, traders should maintain their focus on overnight risk management,” he added.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.06 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.71 per cent.

All BSE sectoral indices ended in the green, with capital goods climbing 1.97 per cent, realty jumping 1.76 per cent, industrials (1.71 per cent), auto (1.50 per cent), power (1.46 per cent), utilities (1.46 per cent), FMCG (1.22 per cent) and energy (1.13 per cent).

Other Asian markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Shanghai settled lower.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading in the positive territory in mid-session deals. Wall Street had ended significantly higher on Monday.

SBI hikes savings deposit rate by 30 bps for ₹10 cr and above

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A day after lowering the deposits for small savers (under ₹10 crore in savings deposits by 5 bps to 2.70 per cent per annum, the nation’s largest lender State Bank on Tuesday increased the savings deposit rates by 30 bps for large accounts.

The bank said the new pricing of 30 bps more on deposits, is applicable for ₹10 crore and above, and is effective from October 15.

Banks have been witnessing flight of money to other asset classes even as they were lending more.

For many months, deposit growth has not been keeping pace with credit growth which in the first half averaged at 14.8 per cent while deposits have been much lower at 9.5 per cent only. In the past many years, deposits have been growing in high single digits but credit has been negative or in low single digit.

While interest rates for saving bank deposits below Rs 10 crore remains unchanged at 2.70 percent, down 5 bps, those ₹10 crore or above will attract



30 bps more at 3 per cent, SBI said.

As of June 2022, the bank has a deposit base of over ₹40.46 lakh crore with the Casa ratio of 45.33 and advances of over ₹29 lakh crore. The bank commands a market share of 33.3 per cent (at over ₹6 lakh crore in outstanding) and 19.3 per cent in home loans and auto loans, respectively.

The bank on Monday also increased the lending rates (marginal cost of funds based lending rates or MCLR) 7.95 per cent, up by 25 bps from previous rate, which came to effect from October 15, for the

benchmark one-year tenor, which is the rate against which most of the consumer loans are tied to.

SBI has also raised the two- and three-year tenor MCLR to 8.15 per cent and 8.25 per cent respectively from 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.

Both the rate hikes are following the RBI increasing the key repo rate for the fourth time in a row this fiscal by another 50 bps to 5.90 per cent, taking the cumulative increase by 190 bps since May.

NCLT extends Reliance Capital resolution process deadline to January 31

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has for the third time extended the deadline for debt-ridden Reliance Capital’s resolution process to January 31.

The earlier deadline was November 1, 2022.

This is the third extension as the timeline has been extended twice in the past, sources said. As per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) rules, the administrator had to originally close the resolution of RCL within 180 days, by June 3, 2022.

Earlier, the lenders of Reliance Capital had given an extension of 30 days to the bidders for submission of binding bids, along with an EMD of ₹75 crore, by October 31. The bidders were not



happy with this 30 days extension as most of them had sought an extension by 2-4 months. Reliance Capital had received 14 non-binding bids for its multiple businesses. Six companies had submitted bids for the entire company, while the rest of the bidders had submitted bids for its multiple subsidiaries.

Two options are available for the bidders. The first, bidders are required to submit bids for the entire RCL and in the second one, they have the choice to bid for specific verticals of the company.

5G, telecom jobs in India saw 33.7% growth in 12 months: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Job postings for 5G and telecommunications have witnessed significant uptick in the last 12 months, as enterprises are looking at 5G adoption at an accelerated pace, says a report.

According to global job site Indeed, job postings for

telecommunications and 5G have increased by 33.7 per cent between September 2021 and September 2022.

“5G rollout has been eagerly anticipated in India, and businesses have already begun hiring to develop 5G-specific technology and services. With enterprises looking at 5G adoption at an accel-

ated pace, we will likely see an uptick in hiring for these roles in the next few quarters,” Indeed India Career Expert Saumitra Chand said.

This also means that there will be an increased need for skilled talent that can design security systems and strengthen network architectures to adapt to the new technology, he

noted.

“Both jobseekers and the industry at large need to ensure that they create a strong pool of cybersecurity talent to cater to the newly boosted telecommunication sector,” he added.

The report further noted that clicks for Customer Service Representatives and Operations

Associates have increased by 13.91 per cent and 8.22 per cent, respectively, in the last one month.

The data also revealed that the average salary for top job roles such as technical support, BPO executive and customer service representative was Rs 3,53,298, Rs 3,29,520 and Rs 3,06,680, respectively, it added.

India should tax passenger vehicles based on emissions: Nissan Motors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India should consider taxing passenger vehicles based on emissions rather than length and engine size of vehicles, for a cleaner environment, Nissan Motor India MD Rakesh Srivastava said on Tuesday.

Nissan, which is looking to drive in its global sports utility vehicles, including X-Trail into the Indian market to strengthen its presence in the country, said multiple technologies such as hybrids must also be considered to curb air pollution through automobiles.

“We can have different tax slabs based on the level of emissions,” Srivastava said here in an interaction, adding the gov-



ernment already has a different tax structure for below four meters, above four meters, in terms of length and in terms of fuel. Under the GST regime, cars attract the highest tax slab of 28 per cent and on top of that a cess is levied.

Small petrol cars with engine capacity less than 1200cc attract only 1 per cent cess, while diesel cars with engine capacity of less than

1500cc attract 3 per cent cess, on top of the 28 per cent GST rate.

Similarly, sports utility vehicles (SUVs), which include cars with length exceeding 4,000 mm and having a ground clearance of 169 mm and above attract a GST rate of 50 per cent.

Also, the total tax incidence on hybrid vehicles in the country is 43 per cent, which is inclusive of GST, while battery electric vehicles attract a tax of about 5 per cent. “I think the time has come, maybe, to look towards incentives in the market place based on emission levels, that is going to bring a cleaner and greener environment,” Srivastava noted.

LTTS Q2 net profit grows 23% to ₹282 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT company L&T Technology Services on Tuesday posted a 22.7 per cent growth in consolidated net profit to ₹282.4 crore for the second quarter ended September 2022.

The company had reported a net profit of ₹230 crore in the same period a year ago. The consolidated revenue from operations of L&T Technology Services (LTTS) grew about 24 per cent to ₹1,995 crore from ₹1,607.7 crore in the September 2021 quarter. LTTS CEO and Managing Director Amit Chadha said the company has achieved annualised revenue run-rate of USD 1 billion (about ₹8,000 crore) in constant currency terms.

“We are proud to have achieved a USD 1 billion annualized revenue run-rate in the second quarter on constant currency basis. Our momentum stayed strong in the second quarter with revenue growing sequentially by 4.5 per cent in constant currency. Investments into our EACV (Electric Autonomous Connected Vehicles) big bet has helped us win large deals consistently,” Chadha said. He added that the company won a USD 60 million-plus deal in the second quarter, making it the third consecutive quarter of wins in the USD 50 to 100 million total contract value range for the transportation.



As part of the contract, Tata Motors will operate and maintain the buses for a peri-

od of 12 years. “Sustainable public transport is the need of the hour, and we are delighted that Tata Motors has got the opportunity to serve the commuters in Jammu & Kashmir,” Tata Motors Smart City Mobility Solutions CEO and MD Asim Mukhopadhyay said.

Since 2019, Tata Motors’ 40 electric buses have been plying in Jammu and Kashmir along with a cumulative supply of 715 electric buses across multiple cities in India.

Tata Motors bags order for 200 e-buses; to be deployed in Jammu, Srinagar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Tuesday said it has received an order for 200 electric buses which will be deployed in Jammu and Srinagar.

The Mumbai-based auto major has won the tender of 200 electric buses floated by Jammu Smart City Ltd, it said in a statement.

The automaker will supply 150 units of 9-metre and 50 units of 12-metre Starbus electric buses, it added.

Scindia urges States to reduce tax on jet fuel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said there is a huge demand for air travel after the pandemic and urged eight states and Union Territories to reduce the tax on jet fuel.

Air traffic growth will be driven by smaller cities, he said and emphasised the need for developing airport infrastructure in such places. The minister was speaking



at the Civil Aviation Ministers’ conference in the national capital.

The domestic air traffic is inching closer to pre-COVID level and in recent times, the daily passenger numbers crossed the four lakh mark

twice. Scindia said that Value Added Tax (VAT) on jet fuel is still high in eight states and Union Territories in the range of 20-30 per cent and urged them to reduce the rate.

Jet fuel cost accounts for a significant part of an airline’s operational costs.

The minister requested Goa, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Bihar and Tamil Nadu to reduce the VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

BENZEMA WINS BALLON D'OR

AP ■ PARIS

Karim Benzema was rewarded for his remarkable success with Real Madrid by winning the Ballon d'Or at a star-studded ceremony in Paris on Monday, while Spain's Alexia Putellas retained the women's prize.

Benzema, who is the first French winner of the most prestigious individual prize in football since Zinedine Zidane in 1998, scored 44 goals in 46 games for his club last season as Real won the Champions League and La Liga.

Fifteen of his goals came in the Champions League, including hat-tricks in knockout wins against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea and three more across both legs of a stunning semi-final defeat of Manchester City.

The 34-year-old, who also won the UEFA Nations League with France, succeeds Lionel Messi with the Argentine not nominated this year after claiming the prize for the seventh time in 2021.

Benzema pushed Sadio Mane into second place, although the Bayern Munich and Senegal star did have his off-field work recognised as he was given a new award named after former Brazil star Socrates.

Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City and Belgium was third, with Barcelona and Poland star Robert Lewandowski coming fourth.

Winning the award, which is organised by France Football magazine, caps a remarkable career revival for Benzema. He returned to the national team for last year's European Championship and will now go to the World Cup in Qatar with France next month.

He will turn 35 on December 19, the day after the World Cup final.

Compared by his Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti to "a fine wine", Benzema has got better with age and is the oldest winner of the Ballon d'Or since the very first, Stanley Matthews in 1956.



The former Lyon striker is also the fifth Frenchman to win the prize, with Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini and Jean-Pierre Papin all getting their hands on the trophy before Zidane's victory in 1998.

The award was previously based on a player's performances over the course of the calendar year.

But the format has changed, with the prize now based on a player's record over the last season.

PUTELLAS EYES RETURN

That may have helped Putellas win the women's award despite suffering a serious knee injury in July that saw her miss the European Championship with Spain.

Instead, Putellas's performances with her club Barcelona were recognised after she top-scored in the Women's Champions League to help the Catalans reach the final.

They lost that final to Lyon, but Barca

did win a domestic league and cup double.

"It makes me even more annoyed to be injured, but I am very happy to be here," Putellas said.

"To retain the trophy is much harder.

When I injured my knee I thought my chances of winning it had gone but in the end the jury based their decision on the whole of last season, of which I only missed one month."

The 28-year-old edged out Beth Mead,

KARIM IS MORE OF A LEADER: ANCELOTTI

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema feels like he has grown into a team leader.

The striker, who joined Real Madrid in 2009, has developed into the side's figurehead since Cristiano Ronaldo left for Juventus in 2018.

"He's a player who has a lot more responsibility, he feels much more of a leader," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"His quality has not changed, it's the same as it was eight years ago. But his responsibility to the team has changed, and his attitude. He's much more of a leader."

Portugal striker Ronaldo won the trophy four times while at Real Madrid, becoming the club's all-time top goalscorer, with Benzema feeding him in a secondary role.

Manchester City, whom Real Madrid beat in the Champions League

semi-finals, were given an award for being club of the year.

"The best team was Real Madrid, and they got the prize for that, which is the Champions League," said Ancelotti. "A lot of respect to (City), of course, but for us, the biggest prize -- we received it in May."

Real Madrid beat Barcelona in the Clasico on Sunday and take on Elche as league leaders on Wednesday, with the Italian coach encouraging his team to focus.

"We have to push a bit harder," added Ancelotti. "It's normal to have more concentration in top level games, but it's a bit harder to have maximum concentration after a game which cost you so much on a mental and physical level."

Thibaut Courtois, who won the Yashin Trophy on Monday for the best goalkeeper of the year, will not be available after suffering sciatica and Andriy Lunin will continue to stand in.

Roma move into Serie A top four



AP ■ ROME

Roma moved into Serie A's top four on Monday with a 1-0 win at Sampdoria which left their hosts rooted to the bottom of the league.

Lorenzo Pellegrini's ninth-minute penalty ensured Roma leapfrogged local rivals Lazio into fourth place, four points behind league leaders Napoli.

Jose Mourinho's side earned a hard-fought win at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris without injured Paulo Dybala, who will potentially be out of action for Roma until January.

Samp's seventh defeat of their 10 league fixtures was the first for coach Dejan Stankovic after replacing sacked Marco Giampaolo earlier this month.

Former midfielder Stankovic, who resigned from the Red Star Belgrade job after they failed to qualify for the Champions League group stages, won the competition as a player with Mourinho at Inter.

However his winless team did little to merit anything from Monday's match, leaving them three points from safety.

Substitute Nicolo Zaniolo would have given Roma a more comfortable win had he not been dragged wide from close range in the 77th minute after pinching the ball from Omar Colley.

There was more drama in the stands than on the pitch as former Samp president Massimo Ferrero had to be escorted from the stadium by security staff after unexpectedly showing up to watch the match.

Ferrero was forced to step down from his role at Samp after he was charged with fraudulent bankruptcy and spent time in prison.

Samp fans found out that Ferrero had arrived and tried to make get at him in the stands and according to media reports even in the hospitality centre, forcing his exit before the match finished.

Five months were not enough to get ready: Dennerby

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Five months of preparation was not enough for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, said head coach Thomas Dennerby.

Hosts India crashed out of the tournament with three successive defeats, conceding as many as 16 goals.

"We have been away from our family since March, trying to have a good performance, but we need to accept the fact that these five months were not enough to get ready to really challenge the best teams," Dennerby said after India's last match.

India were awarded a spot in the World Cup main draw by the virtue of being the tournament hosts.

India ended their campaign without scoring a goal and suffered a 0-5 defeat to formidable Brazil in their last group match here on Monday.

"For India, the tournament is



over," the 63-year-old said after the match at the Kalinga Stadium.

"There is no chance to come to the knockout stage. Of course, it is

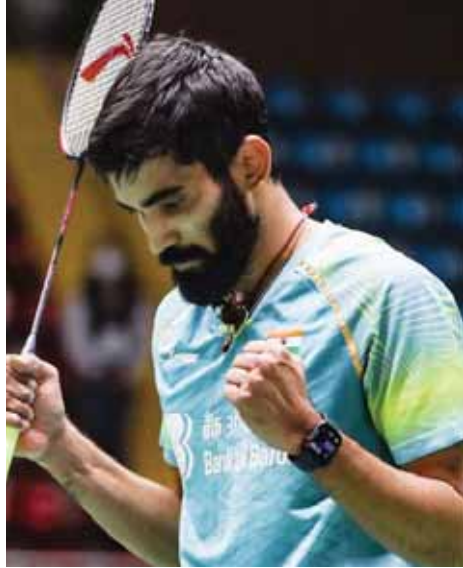
always painful to leave the World Cup in the group stage.

"In one way, I am still proud of the girls because they were putting in the

extra effort, working very hard and trying their very best," the coach added.

Prior to the match against Brazil,

Srikanth, Treesa-Gayatri in 2nd round of Denmark Open



PTI ■ ODENSE

Former champion Kidambi Srikanth staved off a spirited challenge from Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus to progress to the second round of the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Returning to the venue where he had claimed the title five years ago, the 2021 World Championships silver medallist notched up a 17-21, 21-14, 21-12 win over the world number 14 Hong Kong player in a 56-minute contest.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also advanced to the next round after beating Denmark's Alexandra Boje and Amalie Magelund 21-15, 21-15 in

India beat Australia 3-2 in World Jr Mixed Team C'ships

PTI ■ SANTANDER

Teen shuttler Unnati Hooda shone bright as India eked out a 3-2 win over Australia in their third Group B match of the mixed team event of BWF World Junior Championships here on Tuesday.

Hooda, the 15-year-old from Haryana, kept India afloat in the tie after men's doubles pair of Arsh Mohammad and Abhinav Thakur lost the opening match.

Women's pair of Isharani Baruah and Devika Sihag, and

mixed doubles combination of Vignesh Thathineni and Srinidhi Narayanan then claimed victories in the last two matches as India emerged winners.

Earlier, Arsh and Abhinav failed to get across Ricky Tang and Otto Xing De Zhao, going down 12-21, 17-21 to hand over the advantage to Australia.

Unnati, Odisha Open champion, dished out a clinical performance to outclass Sydney Go 21-6, 21-9 to bring India back in the contest.

In the men's singles match,

Bharat Raghav's fight ended with a narrow 19-21, 21-16, 15-21 loss to Jack Yu as Australia lead 2-1.

Isharani and Devika then took centrestage and defeated Australia's Dania Nugroho and Catrina Chia-Yu Tan 21-8, 21-8 to make it 2-2.

Vignesh and Srinidhi then provided the finishing touch with a 21-12, 21-16 win over Otto Xing De Zhao and Yuelin Zhang to take India home.

India had defeated Iceland 5-0, before suffering a 0-5 loss to China.

their women's doubles opener.

The Indian pairing will meet sixth seeds Jongkolphan

Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai of Thailand.

The former world number one

Indian will take on 2021 world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the next round.

Infantino vows to 'transform' Indonesian football after tragedy

AP ■ JAKARTA

Visiting FIFA president Gianni Infantino pledged to help "reform and transform" Indonesian football on Tuesday, two weeks after the country suffered one of the worst disasters in the sport's history.

Infantino met President Joko Widodo in the capital Jakarta, a year before the Under-20 World Cup is due to be held in the Southeast Asian nation.

"We will reform and transform football in this country", Infantino said, flanked by Widodo.

His assurances came as hospital officials said a 33-year-old man had died from injuries sustained in the



Kanjuruhan stadium crush, bringing the confirmed death toll to 133.

More than 40 children were among those killed in the city of Malang, East Java on October 1, in what Infantino described as "one of the dark-

est days for football".

After supporters invaded the pitch at the end of a league match between Arema FC and rivals Persebaya Surabaya, police fired tear gas into packed stands, sparking a stampede.

"What I can guarantee to all the people of Indonesia: FIFA is here with you, FIFA is here to stay, FIFA is here to work in a very close partnership with the government, with the Asian Football Confederation and with the federation of Indonesia," Infantino said after meeting Widodo.

The main focus would be improving stadium operations and fan behaviour, Infantino said, as well as creating programmes for football in schools.

Jota ruled out of World Cup

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Diogo Jota's World Cup dream is over after the Liverpool and Portugal forward was ruled out of next month's competition because of a calf injury.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp confirmed on Tuesday that the 25-year-old's injury is "pretty serious."

"Not good news on Diogo. He will miss the World Cup," Klopp said, according to Sky Sports.

When asked about a timeline, Klopp replied, according to The Athletic's James Pearce, "It will be months, I don't want to put a number on it."

Klopp added that Jota, who suffered the injury in Sunday's win over Manchester City, won't undergo surgery.

'The dream is over' says Higuain

AP ■ NEW YORK

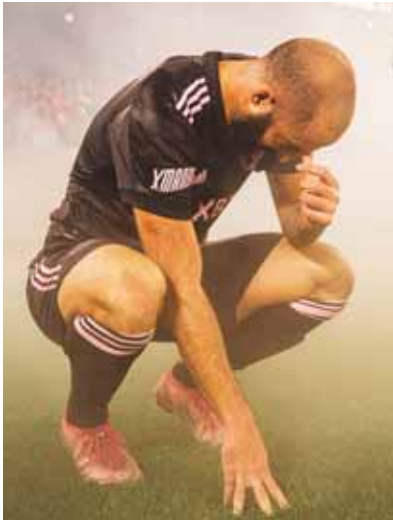
Argentine forward Gonzalo Higuain left the field for the final time on Monday ending an illustrious career that saw him win titles in Spain and Italy and reach the World Cup final with his country.

Higuain's final match was a defeat for his Inter Miami side to defending champions New York City in the Major League Soccer playoffs ending any hopes he had of bowing out with another trophy.

"The dream is over, now another life begins," Higuain told a post-match press conference.

The 34-year-old had already announced that he would retire at the end of this season but the campaign ended earlier than he hoped with a 3-0 defeat at Citi Field, the home of baseball team the New York Mets.

Higuain had a first half effort disallowed for offside but Miami were convincingly beaten and the former Real Madrid and Juventus forward crouched down in silence for several minutes after



the final whistle.

"I felt like that what I loved I had ended," he said when explaining his emotions during those moments of

contemplation.

"It has been half my life, a career of 17 years and images from throughout my entire career came into my mind. I am leaving very happy though because I gave it my all right up until today and that is the most important thing," he said.

"Now a new stage of my life begins, I am leaving what I loved the most but having given my all my conscience is clean and I am going to enjoy what is coming next, my partner, my daughter, my family, my friends and I am looking forward to that," he said.

Having made his mark with River Plate in his homeland, Higuain won three La Liga titles with Real Madrid, scoring 107 goals in 190 games before moving to Napoli and netting 71 goals in 104 appearances. He later joined Juventus and won two domestic doubles in his first two seasons.

Higuain scored 31 goals in 75 appearances for Argentina and helped them reach the World Cup final in 2014 and the 2015 Copa America final.

BINNY REPLACES GANGULY AS NEW BCCI PRESIDENT



PTI ■ MUMBAI

World Cup winner Roger Binny was on Tuesday elected as the 36th president of the BCCI, taking over from Sourav Ganguly to run the world's richest cricket board but the sports body's AGM concluded without any discussion on the ICC Chairmanship. Binny, 67, was elected unopposed at the BCCI AGM (Annual general Meeting) here alongside Jay Shah, who was re-elected as the secretary for a second successive term. The other office bearers who were elected unopposed included treasurer

er Ashish Shelar, vice-president Rajeev Shukla and joint secretary Devjit Saikia. Binny, who played 27 Tests and 72 ODIs for India, takes charge ahead of the ODI World Cup in India next year. However, the issue of the chairmanship of International Cricket Council (ICC) remained unsettled and the new set of office bearers will take a call on the issue. The observers keenly waited for the outcome of the AGM but the BCCI chose not to take a decision on the issue which is being discussed even in political corridors. West Bengal Chief Minister

Mamta Banerjee had recently appealed that Ganguly be allowed to contest the ICC polls after the former India captain denied a second term as BCCI President. The next ICC chairman will be elected during the board meeting in Melbourne next month but it seems that incumbent Greg Barclay will continue in the role for his second successive term. "As far as India's representative to the ICC is concerned, it will be decided by the office-bearers. There was no discussion on the ICC chairmanship. Only matters on the agenda were discussed," a state unit official who

attended the AGM told PTI. It is unlikely that the BCCI will nominate its own candidate for the ICC chairman's position, with the October 20 nomination deadline approaching. **DHUMAL APPOINTED IPL CHAIRMAN** Outgoing treasurer Arun Dhumal was elected in the IPL governing council alongside Avishek Dalmiya. Dhumal has become the new IPL chairman, replacing Brijesh Patel. "The members of the General Body appreciated the efforts of the outgoing office bearers, IPL Governing

Council Chairman and members, and Councillors for the work undertaken in their term," said the BCCI in a statement. MKJ Majumdar was elected in the BCCI Apex Council as the representative of the General Body. **WOMEN'S IPL APPROVED** The General Body also approved the inaugural Women's IPL which will consist of five teams and will be held in March. "How the teams will be sold and how the tournament will be conducted will be decided by the GC shortly," said a source.

Roger wants to reduce player injuries, improve pitches for domestic cricket

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Right after taking charge, BCCI president Roger Binny on Tuesday said frequent injuries to top India players is a matter of concern and promised to "get to the bottom of it all". Improving the pitches for domestic cricket is also high on his agenda. "We will look to improve on what we can do to reduce the injuries to players," Binny told reporters here after taking over BCCI presidency from Sourav Ganguly. "Players getting frequently injured is a concern, and we wish to get to the bottom of it all and see how it can be changed for the better. "We have excellent doctors and trainers at the National Cricket Academy (in Bengaluru), but we must look to reduce the injuries and improve recovery." India have fielded as many as 40 players across formats in 2022, with injuries being the main reason, apart from multiple series being held simultaneously. The team will be without its premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah and star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, all thanks to injuries. While Bumrah was ruled out due to a stress injury of the back, Jadeja recently



underwent surgery on his right knee. Initially named in reserve, Deepak Chahar, who had torn a quadricep muscle in February and then suffered from a back issue during its rehabilitation, was also ruled out due to an injury. During his interaction, Binny also stressed on the importance of improving the pitches used for domestic cricket in India. "There needs to be more life in the wickets at home, so that our teams would not have the problem of adjusting when travelling abroad - like in Australia, where there is more pace and bounce."

Netherlands register second win, SL back in business

PTI ■ GEELONG

Netherlands made heavy weather of a small target before eking out a five-wicket win against Namibia in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday. This is Netherlands' second victory in as many games and keeps them firmly in contention for a place in the next round. Netherlands dished out a fine bowling effort to restrict Namibia to 121 for six before taking the game deep. They completed the task in 19.3 overs in their first round Group A match. Sitting pretty at 92 for one, Netherlands made a harakiri towards the end to allow Namibia to make a comeback. Vikramjit Singh (39 off 31) and Max O'Dowd (35 off 35) got Netherlands' chase off to a blazing start, sharing 59 runs for the opening wicket. However, from 92 for one, Netherlands slumped to 101 for four, thanks to twin blows from left-arm pacer JJ Smit (2/24) in the 16th over. Skipper Scott Edwards did no good and perished in the next over. But Bas de Leede (30 not out off 30) held his nerves, and in the company of Tim Pringle (8 not out), saw Netherlands home with a 20-run stand. Earlier, de Leede (2/18) shone with the ball as well, to help Netherlands restrict Namibia to the modest total. Besides, Roelof van der Merwe (1/6), Pringle (1/15), Colin Ackermann (1/17) and Paul van Meekeren (1/18) also



registered their names in the wicket column for Netherlands. **SL BEAT UAE** Surprised by Namibia in their tournament opener, Sri Lanka made a strong comeback, thrashing UAE by a massive 79 runs to better their net run rate, which got a beating in the first match. Opener Pathum Nissanka hit a 60-ball 74 with the help of six boundaries and two hits over the fence to take Sri Lanka to 152 for 8.

It was a yet again an unimpressive batting display from Sri Lanka, as besides Nissanka, Dhananjaya de Silva (33) and Kusal Mendis (18) were the only two batters to register double digit scores. Asked to bat, Sri Lanka were cruising at one stage at 92 for 2 before leg-spinner Karthik Meiyappan (3/19) claimed a hat-trick in the 15th over, dismissing Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka as the Islanders slumped to 117 for 5. Despite wickets falling at the other end, Nissanka kept Sri Lanka's scoreboard ticking and was the last to be dismissed in the penultimate ball of the innings, but not before helping his team cross the 15-run mark. UAE never looked in the chase as right-arm fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera (3/15) inflicted the early damage with the wickets of Muhammad Waseem, Aryan Lakra and captain Chundangapoyil Rizwan to break the opponent's backbone. From there on it was always

an uphill task for UAE as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals to be bowled out for 73 in 17.1 overs. Aayan Afzal Khan (19) was the top-scorer for UAE. Besides Chameera, leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva (3/8) and Maheesh Theekshana (2/15) also chipped in with a few wickets. Sri Lanka will take on Netherlands in a must-win last group match on Thursday, while Namibia will be up against UAE.

Aimchess Rapid tourney: 3 Indians in knockouts

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Three Indian players — D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi — have advanced to the quarterfinals of the Aimchess Rapid online tournament. Gukesh will take on Richard Rapport in the knockout round, while Erigaisi will battle it out against world No.1 Magnus Carlsen. Gujrathi will take on Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland. Gukesh and Erigaisi, who stunned world champion Magnus Carlsen in the preliminary phase, finished second and fourth respectively. Gujrathi finished eighth to seal the final knockout berth. Gukesh (27 points) ended up one behind Duda, while Erigaisi also logged 27 points. The trio notched up wins in the 15th and final round of the preliminary phase. Gukesh beat Richard Rapport, while Erigaisi defeated Anish Giri of the Netherlands. Carlsen, whose form has been up and down in the preliminary phase, took the fifth place with 26 points. He tripped Duda in the final round after settling for draws in rounds 13 and 14 against Daniel Naroditsky and Giri. P Harikrishna scored 14 points and took the 13th spot, while young GM Mittal settled for 15th place with 12 points. The Aimchess Rapid tournament is part of the Meltwater Champions tour and features 16 players, including five Indians.



Mandhana, Deepti attain career-best T20 rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India opener Smriti Mandhana and off-spinning all-rounder Deepti Sharma have moved up a place each to attain career-best second spot in the batters and bowlers' charts of the latest ICC women's T20I player rankings. Both Mandhana and Deepti have moved to within striking distance of the top spot for batters and bowlers, respectively, after the latest weekly update. Mandhana, who has been a top-ranked batter in ODIs, moved up after scoring an unbeaten 51 off 25 balls, which guided her team to an eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the final of the Asia Cup in Sylhet, Bangladesh recently. Mandhana is on 730 rating points, 13 points separating her from top-ranked Beth Mooney of Australia. Deepti rose after conceding only seven runs off four overs in the final, following a haul of three for seven against Thailand in an earlier match of the tournament. Deepti, who finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker in the Asia Cup with 13 scalps, has reached 742 rating points, 14 less than England spinner Sophie Ecclestone. Deepti also found a place in the all-rounders' list at the third position with 370 rating points, behind West Indies' Hayley Matthews (377) and New Zealand's Sophie Devine (390). Fast bowler Renuka Singh, who was named Player of the Match in the final for her 3/5 haul, has moved up five places to a career-best third position while Sneha Rana is also at a career-best 10th position after gaining five slots. Explosive India opener Shafali Verma (up one place to seventh) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (up three places to 14th) have also gained in the latest update, while left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (up 15 places to 17th) has progressed in the bowlers' list.

Cummins named as Australian ODI captain

AP ■ SYDNEY

Test skipper Pat Cummins was Tuesday appointed Australia's one-day captain after Aaron Finch retired from the 50-over format, with the fast bowler saying he had "significant shoes to fill". The 29-year-old Cummins will lead the side through to the ODI World Cup in India next year. "I have thoroughly enjoyed playing under Finchy and have learnt an enormous amount from his leadership," Cummins said of his long-time teammate. "They are significant shoes to fill, although we are extremely fortunate to have a one-day squad with a huge amount of experience." Opener Finch retired from ODIs last month after a poor run of form, but remains skipper of the T20 side which opens its defence of the World Cup against New Zealand in Sydney on Saturday. "We are very fortunate to have a number of high-quality leaders and senior players across all formats," said Cricket Australia's national teams chief Ben Oliver. "The board and selectors



agree Pat is the ideal choice to lead the ODI team through the next period including the 2023 World Cup." Cummins took over the Test job last year after Tim Paine stood down on the eve of the Ashes against England following a sexting scandal and he has been widely credited for his calm leadership.

Ruturaj fires Maharashtra to 40-run victory; Karnataka, Haryana too win

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Ruturaj Gaikwad smashed a scintillating hundred to power Maharashtra to a 40-run win over Kerala in an Elite group C match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Tuesday. Opting to bat, skipper Gaikwad went on a six-hitting spree, clubbing seven maximums and eight fours in his 68-ball 114, to single-handedly take Maharashtra to 167 for four. In reply, Kerala could manage 127 for eight in their stipulated 20 overs, with Rohan Kunnummal top-scoring with a 44-ball 58 at the top. For Maharashtra, Satyajeeet Bachhav (3/11) and Azim Kazi (2/25) took three and two wickets respectively, while Rajvardhan Hangargekar (1/16) and Shamshuzama Kazi (1/8) accounted for one each. In another match, Karnataka trounced Arunachal Pradesh by 10 wickets, riding on splendid bowling performances by Vidhwath Kaverappa (3/22) and V Koushik (3/5). Karnataka, who had fin-

ished runners-up in the last edition, bundled out Arunachal Pradesh for 75 runs in 19.2 overs, and then returned to overhaul the target in 6.5 overs. It was a clinical bowling display from Karnataka, as J Suchith (2/15), K Gowtham (1/12) and Vijaykumar Vyshak (1/17) were also among wickets, apart from Vidhwath and Koushik. Chasing the total, skipper Mayank Agarwal smashed 47 not out in 21 balls, while his opening partner Devdutt Padikkal made an unbeaten 20-ball 28. Karnataka are leading the group C points table with 16 points from five matches, followed by Haryana and Services. **BENGAL CRUSH SIKKIM** Lucknow: Fancied Bengal produced an all-round display to rout Sikkim by 84 runs in their Group C match on Tuesday. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Bengal were served well by Sudip Kumar Gharami's 43-ball 56, Shahbaz Ahmed's 33-ball 43 before wicketkeeper Agniv Pan blazed away to an unbeaten 34 in just 12 deliveries.



Thanks to their efforts, Bengal made a competitive 179 for six in their stipulated 20 overs. There were two wickets apiece for Palzor Tamang, Sumit Singh and Ankur Malik. In reply, Sikkim were restricted to 95 for eight with only two of their batters reaching double figures at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium B. Pradipta Pramanik and Karan Lal were the most successful bowlers for Bengal, returning with figures of 2/11 and 2/5, respectively. Set a stiff target, Sikkim were never in the game and kept losing wickets at regular intervals. **ANDHRA, HP, GUJ WIN** Indore: Kiran Shinde produced a blistering 38-ball 75 as Andhra Pradesh chased down a tricky target to register a two-wicket win over Bihar in an Elite group D match. Chasing 182 to win, Andhra were down in the dumps at 68-5 in the ninth over, but Shinde changed the complexion of the match with a whirlwind innings. Shinde made good use of

the long handle, plundering nine fours and four sixes while adding 92 runs with Ricky Bhui (37) to lift Andhra to 160 in the 17th over. Once both the batters were back in the hut, K V Sasikanth, who had taken two wickets, slammed a six off Anuj Raj in the last over to take the team home with two balls to spare. Earlier, Bihar posted 181 for two in 20 overs, riding on Babul Kumar's 72 and Bipin Saurabh's 52. S Gani also smashed a quickfire 17-ball 33. Defending the total, Abhijeet Saket (3/31), Harsh Singh (2/43) and Anuj Raj (2/30) did put up a good show but, in the end, they were done in by Shinde's brilliance. In another match, Himachal Pradesh beat Saurashtra by 13 runs to move to the second position in the points table. Saurashtra still sits at top with 14 points, while HP and Andhra are tied at 12 points. **Brief Scores:** Bihar 181-2 in 20 overs (Babul Kumar 72, Bipin Saurabh 52; KV Sasikanth 2/36) lost by 2 wickets to Andhra 186-8 in 19.4 overs.