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COUNCIL REFORMS**WORLD 9**
TRUMP TO BE DEPOSED IN DEFACTION
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In driving seat, Kharge faces bumpy road ahead

Cong chief 'supreme', he will decide where to deploy me: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Veteran Mallikarjun Kharge scored a one-sided victory over Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday to emerge as the first non-Gandhi Congress president in 24 years. A staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, the 80-year-old leader trounced Tharoor by bagging nearly 84 per cent of votes in the party presidential election.

Kharge got 7,897 votes and Tharoor 1,072 votes, while 416 votes were declared invalid. Congress' central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here.

Congressmen across the country may celebrate Kharge's victory, but Kharge himself would not have that luxury as he has to race against time to reverse the electoral fortunes of the 137-year-old party. Kharge will now have to intensify the party's moribund campaign in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

In both States, the Congress campaign has not picked up in the absence of senior leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.



Shashi Tharoor greets newly elected Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at the latter's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Kharge, hailed by the Congress cadre as "Solillada Saradara", a leader who has faced no defeat, rose from humble beginnings as a union leader to become the president of the Congress.

In his political career spanning over five decades, he deftly steered the Ministries he held and remained a steadfast Gandhi family loyalist notwithstanding the ebb and flow of

politics and power.

Be it the Cauvery river water dispute or the kidnapping of iconic Kannada top star, late Rajkumar, he has handled such crisis situations as Home Minister of Karnataka, over two decades ago. Kharge's public life began as a union leader in his home district of Gulbarga, now Kalaburagi, and he joined the Congress party in 1969 and became the president

of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly the Hyderabad-Karnataka region, and won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes. For the nine-time MLA, Gurmitkal Assembly constituency was his home turf before he set his sights in 2009

on national politics.

While Sonia and Priyanka drove to the residence of Kharge to wish him, Rahul said the president was the "supreme authority" and he alone would decide on the way forward for the party. Addressing a press conference during his padyatra halt, Rahul said Kharge will now decide where to deploy him.

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82 jail staff cog in Sukesesh crime wheel in probe net

Delhi LG gives nod for prosecution in Rohini jail racket

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has granted permission to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police to probe the role of 82 officials of prison department in the organised crime syndicate run by conman Sukesesh Chandrashekhar from the Rohini jail.

According to Raj Niwas sources, the EOW had sought the permission of the competent authority for investigating these officials under Section 17(A) of POC Act, in a case which is already being investigated under various Sections of IPC dealing with extortion, cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy as well as under special statutes, including the MCOCA and the IT Act.

Pointing out that the prison department was under the now jailed AAP leader and Minister Satyendar Jain, the Lieutenant Governor has noted that under Jain several serious controversies marred the prison. These include confiscation of mobile phones from prisoners following which jamming devices were installed in and around various jails recently, the LG Office sources said.

"Similarly, issues of overcrowding, violent clashes among inmates and prisoners jumping parole have put the



department under a cloud. The case pertains to the extortion of ₹200 crore by Chandrashekhar in collusion with jail officials," a source said. Chandrashekhar was lodged in jail number 10 of Rohini Jail at the time of the incident.

The EOW had informed that during investigation in the case, seven officers were arrested for facilitating the extortion syndicate run by the accused. It also found the involvement of 82 officials who had colluded in running the syndicate from the prison.

Chandrashekhar, who is currently in Mandoli jail, is accused of cheating many people, including high-profile individuals such as former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh of ₹200 crore.

"He was living in the jail like a king. It seems all officials

of Rohini jail were involved because of the facilities given to him. An entire barrack vacant of all other inmates was given to him," the police said in the document.

The police also said that he was using certain high-end mobile applications to spoof the landline numbers of top Government officials for extorting huge amounts of money from several people from inside the jail.

The Supreme Court on October 18 refused to entertain a fresh plea by alleged "con-man" Sukesesh 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.

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India breaking monopoly in defence exports: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR

India is on the path of becoming a major defence equipment manufacturer and has made a place for itself despite the monopoly of a few companies globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

He also said the decision of the Indian armed forces to opt for procuring a majority of the equipment made in the country shows the capacity of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India).

"The country has come a long way as earlier we used to release pigeons and now we release cheetahs," Modi said.

Making these observations after inaugurating the International Defence Exhibition "DefExpo-2022" in Gandhinagar, the Prime Minister said it also indicated the rising confidence on the defence equipment made within the country.

Underlining the growing



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of DefExpo 22 in Gandhinagar on Wednesday

PTI

capabilities of the local industry, Modi said defence exports from India reached ₹13,000 crore in 2021-22 and "we have set a target to reach ₹40,000 crore in the coming times."

He said the exports of Indian defence products have increased eight times in the last

few years.

Modi said the defence forces will release a list of 101 more items that can only be procured in India. With this, 411 defence-related goods can only be procured locally, he said.

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Nirbhaya again! Woman critical

4 of 5 rapists held**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

A 38-year-old Delhi woman is battling for her life at a hospital here after five men allegedly gangraped her for two days and inserted a rod into her private parts. The men abducted her while was returning from Ghaziabad.

The woman was rushed to the hospital after she was found by a roadside, according to Ghaziabad police, four of the accused have been arrested.

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has issued a notice to the Ghaziabad police.

"The Commission was informed that the survivor lives in Nand Nagri in Delhi and had gone to Ghaziabad to participate in her brother's birthday celebration on October 16. When she was returning at night, four persons kidnapped her in a Scorpio car while waiting for an auto. They took her to an unknown loca-

tion, where one more person was present," the NCW notice stated.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said the attack reminded her of the Nirbhaya case. The woman, a resident of Nand Nagri in Delhi, was found in Ghaziabad "wrapped in a jute bag, with her hands and legs tied and an iron rod inserted in her private part," the DCW had claimed.

According to Nipun Agarwal, Superintendent of Police, (City-I) Ghaziabad, Nandgram police station received a call on the 112 emergency helpline number at around 3.30 am on October 18, saying a woman was found lying on Ashram road.

He said the police took her to a nearby hospital, but she insisted that she be admitted to a hospital in Delhi. She was then taken to GTB Hospital.

In her statement to the police, the woman said she had been to Gurugram to celebrate her brother's birthday, a day before the incident.

Continued on Page 2

Rape convict Rahim's virtual satsang draws BJP leaders

ANI ■ KARNAL (HARYANA)

Rape convict Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh on Wednesday organised a virtual "Satsang" which was attended by many political leaders, including the Karnal Mayor and many BJP leaders, sparking a fresh controversy.

Ram Rahim, who is serving a jail term after being convicted in rape and murder cases was released from Sunaria jail on a 40-day parole.

The Dera chief's family had submitted an application to the jail authorities seeking month-long parole for him.

The Opposition demanded a justification from the BJP over its leader's participation in the Satsang. Meanwhile, Karnal mayor Renu Bala Gupta, deputy mayor Naveen Kumar and senior deputy mayor Rajesh Aggi are continuously trying to defend their participation in the event.

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China vetoes bid to tag LeT leader as global terrorist

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

China has once again come to Pakistan's rescue by blocking a move in the United Nations to list Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) leader Shahid Mahmood as a global terrorist.

This is the fourth time in as many months that Beijing has thwarted moves to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists.

India and the US late on Tuesday initiated the latest proposal to list Mahmood, 42, as a global terrorist under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. The US Department of Treasury had designated Mahmood and another LeT leader Muhammad Sarwar in December 2016 as part of the action "to disrupt Lashkar-e-Tayyeba's (LeT) fundraising and support networks."

Incidentally, the latest China block or putting on hold the proposal came at a

time when UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is in India and paid homage to the victims of the 26/11 attack in Mumbai. The LeT had carried out the attack in which over 160 people were killed.

According to information on the US Department of Treasury's website, Mahmood "has been a longstanding senior LeT member based in Karachi, and has been affiliated with the group since at least 2007. As early as June 2015 through at least June 2016, Mahmood served as the vice chairman of Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), a humanitarian and fundraising arm of LeT."

In 2014, Mahmood was the leader of FIF in Karachi. In August 2013, Mahmood was identified as a LeT publications wing member, the website said.

Mahmood was previously part of LeT's overseas operations team led by Sajjid Mir...the US Department of Treasury said.

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CAPSULE

JAIL FOR BURSTING CRACKERS ON DIWALI

New Delhi: Bursting of firecrackers on Diwali in Delhi will attract jail term up to six months and a fine of ₹200, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday. **P3**

MOOSEWALA MURDER: ACCUSED NABBED

New Delhi: The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Wednesday nabbed gangster Deepak Tinu, who is an accused in singer Sidhu Moosewala's murder and escaped from Punjab police custody on October 1. **P8**

SUELLA RESIGNS AS UK HOME SECRETARY

London: Indian-origin Suella Braverman has resigned as the United Kingdom Home Secretary, according to reports emerging from her office in London on Wednesday. **P8**

Bilkis convict booked for outraging woman's modesty during parole

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

One of the convicts in Bilkis Bano case was charge-sheeted for outraging the modesty of a woman in 2020 while out on parole, the Gujarat Government has told the Supreme Court in an affidavit.

Mitesh Chamanlal Bhatt was charge-sheeted under sections 354 (outraging the modesty of woman), 504 (insult intended to provoke breach of the peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, entailing a maximum sentence of 7 years, or fine, or both.

As the per May 25, 2022 letter of the collector-cum-district magistrate of Dahod, the

alleged incident happened on June 19, 2020 at 9.15 am.

The collector further said, "On the records of all the police stations of Dahod district being summoned, neither any representation nor any memorandum nor any FIR has been found filed against the said prisoner namely Mitesh Chimanlal Bhatt, resident of Singwad...during his parole furlough leave that may lead to communal conflict between Hindu-Muslim."

He gave no objection to the premature release of Bhatt after taking into account the opinion of Police Sub-Inspector, Randhikpur, and DSP of Limkheda.

₹ plunges to record low of 83 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged by 60 paise to record low levels of 83 for the first time against the US dollar on Wednesday amid unabated foreign capital outflows and a strong dollar in the overseas markets.

Besides, rising crude prices in the international markets and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local currency, traders said.

The rupee had moved in a narrow range in the past three sessions on dollar selling by PSU lenders possibly on behalf of the RBI for curbing volatility and the US dollar index hovering near 112 level.

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2% of all fishing gear ends up on ocean floor

Marine life, their food security hit

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly two per cent of all fishing gear, comprising 2,963 km of gillnets, 75,049 km of purse seine nets, 218 km of trawl nets, 7,39,583 km of longline mainlines, and more than 25 million pots and traps are lost in the ocean at the cost of wildlife, marine, coastal habitats and food security.

Business as usual means that the amount of longline fishing gear littering the ocean each year can circle the Earth



more than 18 times within 65 years, warns the shocking finding based on the interview of 450 fishers from seven of the world's biggest fishing countries like Peru, Morocco and the US.

India, which has a 7,516.6 km long coastline covering nearly 6,100 km of land, has not been included in the data, which has come directly from fishers themselves. The findings will help highlight where to focus efforts to stem the tide of fishing pollution as well as save endangered marine species like turtles from getting entangled in the nets and abandoned fishing gears.

It can also help inform fisheries management and policy interventions from local to global scales. The study is published in the journal *SciencesAdvances*.

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Leave Ukraine at once, embassy urges Indians

AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian embassy in Ukraine has advised Indians against travelling to Ukraine and those in the country have been asked to leave immediately as Russia intensifies its offensive on its war-ravaged neighbour.

"In view of the deteriorating security situation and recent escalation of hostilities across Ukraine, Indian nationals are advised against travelling to Ukraine," the Indian Embassy in Kyiv said in an advisory.

"The Indian citizens, including students, currently in Ukraine are advised to leave Ukraine at the earliest by available means," the advisory added.

NCR-PULSE

AAP'S CLAIMS ABOUT SCHOOL EDU FALSE: BJP
New Delhi: Delhi BJP on Wednesday challenged the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia over their claims regarding education and the improvement of schools in the national Capital. Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the claims being made by Kejriwal on education across the country are false and baseless. I challenge CM to debate over his claims.

OFFICERS FOR 250 MUNICIPAL WARDS APPOINTED
New Delhi: The Delhi State Election Commission on Wednesday appointed returning-cum-scrutinising officers for the 250 municipal wards, setting the wheels in motion for the civic polls. The move by the SEC, Delhi comes soon after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued the final gazette notification for redrawing of municipal ward, paving the way for civic polls in the city.

LG APPROVES BONUS FOR DDA EMPLOYEES
New Delhi: Amid the ongoing festival season, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved bonus to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) employees with a ceiling of Rs 7,000 for the year 2021-22. The decision will benefit over 3500 employees and will have financial implication of around Rs 2.5 crore.

DJB: SUPPLY TO BE HIT IN SOME AREAS TODAY
New Delhi: The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said the water supply will be affected on October 20, 2022, in the areas including, Gopal Pur, DDA SFS Flat Mukharji Nagar, Gujrawala Town area, Police Station AzadPur, JJ Cluster Azadpur Mandi, Shalimar Bagh Area, and Wajipur Industrial area near Metro Station, Wajipur Industrial Area, Lawrance Road, and Punjabi Bagh Pumping Station and their adjoining Areas, due to the maintenance work.

21 STREET CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS
New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) got 21 street children, involved in begging near Lodhi Road Flyover admitted to the Corporation Primary School, Nizamuddin with the help of SPYM NGO. "These children with their parents were living under Lodhi Road Flyover and were involved in begging for their livelihood," said an official privy.

UGC seeks report from GD Goenka varsity on clashes

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has sought a report from the GD Goenka University on the recent clashes that erupted between two groups involving Indian and Nigerian students. The UGC also directed the university to take measures to ensure such incidents do not occur in future. This comes after tensions flared between Indian and Nigerian students at the GD Goenka University in Gurgaon and the police registered cross FIRs against the two groups for allegedly thrashing each other.

The letter dated October 18, 2022, stated that the University Grants Commission noticed through media that there were clashes between Nigerian and local students on the campus of the university, which is causing tension



among the students. "You are requested to urgently take appropriate action on the issue and send a detailed report to the Commission. Please take suitable measures to ensure that such incidents are avoided in the future," the letter stated. On October 14 and 15, clashes had broken out between Indian and Nigerian students after an alleged argument over substitution of players of a team during a practice football match at the Goenka University. Six students had suffered injuries and the university administration had suspended 22 students for their involvement in the brawl.

US repatriates 307 antiquities worth \$4 mn stolen from India

12-13th century article 'Arch Parikara' returns

PTI ■ NEW YORK

A globe spanning, 15-year investigation has led to the repatriation of 307 antiquities by the US that were stolen and trafficked from India and valued at nearly four million dollars, the majority seized from disgraced art dealer Subhash Kapoor. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg announced on Monday the return of 307 antiquities valued at nearly USD 4 million to the people of India. Of these, 235 antiquities were seized following the investigation by the office of the Manhattan District Attorney into Kapoor, "a prolific looter who helped traffic items from Afghanistan, Cambodia, India,

Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and other countries. All the antiquities were returned during a repatriation ceremony at the Indian Consulate in New York attended by India's Consul General Randir Jaiswal, and US Homeland Security Investigations Acting Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge Christopher Lau, a statement issued by the Manhattan District Attorney's office said. "These antiquities were stolen by multiple complex and sophisticated trafficking rings - the leaders of which showed no regard for the cultural or historical significance of these objects," Bragg said, adding "we are proud to return hundreds of stunning pieces back to the people of India." Among the pieces being returned is the Arch Parikara, crafted from marble and dating to the 12-13th century. Valued at approximately USD 85,000, the Arch Parikara was among



the antiquities seized from Kapoor. It first surfaced in photographs depicting antiquity in a dirty, pre-restoration condition. These photographs-along with dozens of others depicting antiquities lying in the grass or on the ground-were sent to Kapoor by a supplier of illicit goods in India, the statement said, adding that the piece was smuggled out of India and into New York in May 2002. Kapoor laundered the Arch Parikara to the Nathan Rubin

-Ida Ladd Family Foundation, who donated the piece to the Yale University Art Gallery in 2007. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York Acting Special Agent in Charge Michael Alfonso said that the repatriation "is the result of a globe spanning, fifteen-year investigation where the investigative team chased leads, followed the money and ultimately seized these pieces, ensuring their return to the people of India."

Rape convict...

From Page 1
The senior Deputy Mayor said, "I was invited to the Satsang by the 'sadh sangat'. Online Satsang was done from UP. Many people in my ward are associated with Baba. We reached the program from social connection and it has nothing to do with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the upcoming bypoll election." Notably, the Adampur bypoll in Haryana is scheduled to be held on November 3. Besides, the state is also scheduled to hold panchayat polls soon. Deputy Mayor Naveen Kumar said that everyone who got information about the Satsang reached there. On the question of taking the blessings of Ram Rahim to win the election, Naveen said that the people have chosen him from their ward and only the public decides this. "It is necessary to have the blessings of the people," Naveen said. Speaking about Dera

chief's parole, he said that anyone could seek parole at his own pleasure. "He may have taken parole for the festival of Diwali and we should not equate it with elections," he added. Notably, the opposition also alleged that Ram Rahim was granted parole due to the forthcoming bypolls. Earlier, Ram Rahim was granted parole for a month on June 17. Ram Rahim has been incarcerated since 2017 in Haryana's Sunaria jail where he is serving a 20-year-term for raping two women disciples at his ashram's headquarters in Sirsa. Speaking on the same, Haryana minister Anil Vij said that his parole has nothing to do with Adampur bypoll. "Parole is granted by jail department. I have nothing to do with this. If a person from Karnal believes in Gurmeet Ram Rahim and has gone to see him, then what is the connection with Adampur polls," Vij said. Earlier in February, the Dera chief was granted three weeks' furlough.

2% of all fishing gear ends up on...

From Page 1
In fact, the loss to marine life could be more than what is being estimated given that these data cover only commercial fisheries, and don't include the amount of fishing line and other gear lost by recreational fishers, said the authors Kelsey Richardson, Britta Denise Hardesty, Joanna Vince and Chris Wilcox, all from Centre for Marine Socioecology, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The researchers also estimate that between 1.7 per cent and 4.6 per cent of all land-based plastic waste travels into the sea. This amount likely exceeds lost fishing gear. Nearly 700 species of marine life are known to interact with marine debris, many of which are near threatened. Australian and US researches in 2016 found fishing gear poses the biggest entanglement threats to marine fauna such as sea turtles, marine mammals, seabirds and whales.

Kejriwal terms LG's notice to Jasmine wrong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena issued a notice to Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDCD) vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah, citing "misuse of public office" and asking him to explain his position in the matter, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday termed the notice as wrong and said commission has done exemplary work in the last seven years. During a media briefing on the achievements of the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDCD) in the last seven years, Kejriwal backed him up all the way saying that the DDC has done exemplary work in the last seven years and termed the showcase notice to its vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah wrong. "DDC has put in unprecedented hard-work to come up with brilliant projects for the



development of Delhi. It deserves a lot of credit for the success of Delhi Government's schemes; DDC's experts work on the ground to make the common man's life easier," he said. "DDC bridging the gap between innovation and practice; works in three stages- Project Design, Monitoring and Correction of Deficiencies. The commission has taken up more than 70 landmark projects in the last seven years like EV Policy, Doorstep Delivery, Installation of CCTVs, Streetlights, Health Information Management System, Rozgaar Bazaar, E-Coupon for Ration and COVID Ambulance Management," Kejriwal said.

China vetoes bid to tag...

From Page 1
Additionally, in August 2013, Mahmood was instructed to forge covert links with Islamic organisations in Bangladesh and Burma, and as of late 2011, Mahmood claimed that LeT's primary concern should be attacking India and America," the US Department of Treasury said. This is the fourth time in last four months that China has put a hold on listing proposals to designate Pakistan-based terrorists. In June this year, China put a hold, at the last moment, on a joint proposal by India and the US to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki. He is a US-designated terrorist and brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba head and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed. Then in August, China again put a hold on a proposal by the US and India to blacklist the senior leader of Pakistan-based terror organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) Abdul Rauf Azhar.

Nirbhaya again!...

From Page 1
The SP said in a video posted on Twitter that "initially, she said there were two people but she later said five men raped her. Four of them have been arrested." Preliminary investigation has revealed that there is a property dispute between the woman and the accused. That case is already in Karkardooma court. According to authorities at the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, the woman's condition is stable and no internal injury has been found yet. In a statement, Dr Rajat Jhamb, media spokesperson of GTB Hospital said the woman was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday morning. He said her vitals were stable. "No internal injury found till now. She is under observation and admitted in the gynaecology department," he said. Sources at the hospital, however, said there were signs of sexual assault and a "foreign object" was found in her body.

India breaking monopoly...

From Page 1
"This will give a major boost to the Indian defence industry," he said, adding that these decisions also show the potential of a self-reliant India. "The world is relying India's technology because our armed forces have proved their capabilities. We are exporting defence materials and equipment to more than 75 countries," the Prime Minister said. Giving examples, he said the Indian Navy has inducted indigenously built state-of-the-art aircraft carriers like the INS-Vikrant into its fleet. The induction of the "Prachand" Light Combat Helicopters developed under the "Make in India" initiative by IAF is a clear example of India's defence capability, he said. Elaborating upon the importance of maritime security and space technology, the Prime Minister said maritime security has emerged as a global priority. India will also have to increase its preparations looking at the future opportu-

nities in the space sector, he said. Modi talked about his vision of the "Security and Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR). India's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region is inclusive, he said. As regards space technology, the Prime Minister said the armed forces have reviewed and identified various challenges in this area. "We have to work fast to solve them," he said. "Mission Defence Space", he continued, will not only encourage innovation and strengthen the forces but also provide new and innovative solutions. The Prime Minister said space technology is also setting up a new definition of India's generous thinking by sharing the benefits with other countries. Many small African countries are benefiting from this. There are more than 60 developing countries with which India is sharing its space science, he said.

By next year, India will share real-time access of Indian satellite data with 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries. Even developed European and American countries are using our satellite data, he said. Modi also talked about India's relationship with Africa and said it is based on the "time-tested trust which is further deepening and touching new dimensions with the passage of time." Dwelling upon the old ties between Africa and Gujarat, he recalled that the first railway line in Africa had the participation of people from Kutch. Modi also said this is an unprecedented Defence Expo as it is for the first time that only Indian companies are participating in it. There are more than 1,300 exhibitors which include the Indian defence industry, some joint ventures associated with it, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and more than 100 Start-ups, he said.

82 jail staff cog in Sukesh crime wheel face...

From Page 1
"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 Chandrashekhkar was being allegedly assaulted in jail. The lawyer also alleged that Chandrashekhkar is being pressured to pay Rs 25 lakh per month in jail. Earlier, the Supreme

Court on August 23 had ordered that Chandrashekhkar and his wife be shifted from Tihar Jail to Mandoli Jail in the city. The order was passed on a plea filed by Chandrashekhkar and his wife alleging a threat to their lives and seeking a transfer to a prison outside Delhi. On June 20, the ED had made some startling revelations against Chandrashekhkar 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. The probe agency named several TV and Bollywood personalities with whom the alleged conman has contacts and used to give them expensive gifts. Chandrasekhkar, reportedly aged in his 30s, is a conman and a native of Bengaluru. According to police officials, he wanted to lead a luxurious life and started duping people at 17.

₹ plunges to record low...

From Page 1
However, the dollar index breached the 112.55 level on Wednesday while US Treasury yields surged to a 14-year high, triggering a panic selling in the rupee, according to traders. Major global currencies also took a hit with the greenback hitting a 32-year high against the Japanese yen and approaching the historic level of 150. The Euro declined 0.8 per cent while the British pound fell by 0.6 per cent against the US dollar on Wednesday. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local

currency opened strong at 82.32 but later pared gains to hit an all-time trading low of 83.01 against the American currency. The rupee finally settled at a record low of 83.00, showing net loss of 60 paise — its sharpest single day loss since September 22. In the previous session on Tuesday, the rupee slipped 10 paise to end at 82.40 against the dollar. The rupee slid by nearly 2 per cent or 160 paise this month to hit the record low of 83 level due to a surging dollar. The local unit had breached the 82 mark on October 6.

In driving seat, Kharge faces bumpy...

From Page 1
He has been a two-time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment. However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the veteran leader was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes. He has served as Union Cabinet Minister for Labour and Employment, Railways, Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA Government. While his election was marked with great pomp and show throughout the day, Kharge also received congratulatory messages from Modi who wished him a "fruitful tenure". Besides the common nomenclature of reviving the party and winning couple of Assembly elections in near future, elements of major task cut out for Kharge is to keep the party's flock together, settle internal squabbles like the one prevailing in Rajasthan, prevent

another grouping like G-23 since the generational gap is to stay now, and above all taking independent decisions without annoying the Gandhis which now comprise of Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi. Around 177 MPs/MLAs have quit the party during elections, while 222 electoral candidates left the Congress for other parties in the last eight years over multiple issues including the ones like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Jyotiraditya Scindia who openly challenged the party's first family. Hence, in the longer run, Kharge will have to find a way to stem these defections and ensure harmony between the old guard and the new. At least 460 leaders left Congress between 2014 and 2022. Another challenge, as a very senior party leader confided, at the backdrop of loyalty pledge to the "high command" on the day of elections of the post, Kharge may be threatened as leaders not liking his ideas

will rush to the Gandhis for resolution. Any principal change will surely need Rahul's stamp in case Sonia finally decides to keep away due to poor health. The leader also mentioned immediate concern with Kharge will be solving the Rajasthan crisis where also elections are due and treading over a seasoned Ashok Gehlot and his bete noire established leader Sachin Pilot. Gehlot and Pilot met Kharge separately to congratulate him after the results. "The party will neither want to lose the Assembly elections of Rajasthan and also will no more afford to loose another young leader in Pilot. His challenge will be to defuse the situation in the state before it turns into yet another crisis," the leader remarked. Addressing a Press conference after his victory, Kharge said, "no one is big or small, all have to work together as 'karyakartas' to strengthen Congress... We have to fight

together against fascist forces who are attacking democracy and Constitution." All Congress workers feel that the country cannot be sacrificed for a "tanashah" and "we have to together fight "these 'vinashakari' (destructive) forces", he said. Kharge said Rahul had called him an hour ago and congratulated him and said that together "we all have to work towards strengthening the Congress organisation". The Dalit leader from Karnataka also appealed to all Congress workers and people of the country to join Rahul Gandhi in his Bharat Jodo Yatra which is a 'jan andolan' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir against price rise, unemployment and against those who are creating hatred and division in society. Kharge also lauded Sonia's leadership, saying "her tenure will be remembered for a long time". "I thank Sonia who made personal sacrifice as she steered

the party for 23 years," he said. In his congratulatory message, Rahul said Kharge represents a "democratic vision" of India. "The Congress president represents a democratic vision of India. His vast experience and ideological commitment will serve the party well as he takes on this historic responsibility," Rahul said on Twitter. Conceding his defeat, Tharoor congratulated Kharge and said the 'democratic contest' has galvanised vibrancy at all levels and has prompted a healthy and constructive discussion on change, which will serve the party in good stead in the future. Tharoor also claimed that the Congress' revival has begun. Leaders from other political parties like NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, left party leaders also congratulated Kharge and all hoped to work together for building the nation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, A/JC Bose Road, Kolkata 700020
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Laxman Haldar/ Rahul Haldar/ Sapna Haldar/ Dhoba Samudragarh Samudragarh Kalna West Bengal Kalna - 713519/ LBDGR00005120579/ LBDGR00005296886	RS. And L.R. Dag No 1329, R.S. And L.R. Dag No. 2132, L.R. Khatian No 2085, J.I. No -43, Mouza- Nandai, Thana and A.D.S.R. Office- Kalna, District- Burdwan, West Bengal. (Measuring An Area of Total Land 21.08 Satak Along With 25 Years Old Pucca One Strided Building Measuring 1403 Sqft.	September 20, 2022 Rs. 60,49,243/-	04/07/ 2022

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

Date : October 20, 2022
Place : Delhi

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Stephen's to admit non-minority students on CUET scores only

College takes down prospectus from its website after SC refuses to stay Delhi HC order

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the Supreme Court rejected St Stephen's College's petition against the admission process, the college on Wednesday removed the prospectus from its website which was at the centre of a discord between it and Delhi University (DU).

The prospectus, which was on the website since May, for admission to the college's undergraduate (UG) courses for 2022-23 gave 85 per cent weightage to the Common University Entrance Test Admissions (CUET) and 15 per cent to the interview that the premier college has held for aspiring students for four decades.

This was against the DU's new criteria which accorded 100 per cent weightage to the CUET only. Earlier in the day, the top court refused to stay the Delhi High Court (HC) order asking the college to follow the admission policy prescribed by the DU under which it cannot hold interviews for non-minority students in UG courses. A Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and CT

Ravikumar said it was not inclined to interfere with the HC judgement. "We find no reason to stay the judgement, therefore the application for interim relief is dismissed," the Bench said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the college, said the interview process was applicable to all and not just non-minority students. "Delhi

HC order says interview can only be for minority and rest as per the CUET. That is bad in law and unsustainable," he asserted.

The senior lawyer said the prestigious college has, for the last 40 years, given 15 per cent weightage to interview for admission against unreserved seats. Sibal also referred to the New Education Policy (NEP) of the Government and said marks should not be the criteria for admission in colleges.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Delhi University, submitted that imposing a stay on the HC order will have a detrimental

effect on the academic environment. Mehta contended the CUET has been introduced with a view to having a common standard of assessment and there is no requirement of a separate interview by the college. The HC had on September 12 asked the Christian minority institution to follow the admission policy formulated by the DU.

The HC Bench, while asking the college to withdraw its prospectus had, however, ruled the DU "cannot insist upon a single merit list for admission of candidates belonging to the Christian community regardless of denomination, etc."



DU's first list for seat allocation for UG programmes under CSAS out

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

Delhi University (DU) announced on Wednesday the much-awaited first list of seat allocation for undergraduate (UG) programmes, marking the commencement of the third and last phase of the admission process. The list was to be announced on October 18 but was deferred by a day.

"The first round of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) of the University of Delhi has been released on Wednesday," said DU's Dean of Admission Haneet Gandhi. In the context of provisional seat allocation, 'Allocated Seat' refers to a unique combination of programme plus college.

According to data provided by DU, more than 1.5 lakh applicants marked their college and course preferences till the last date for phase II last week.

The allocation list has not been issued in public domain and candidates will only be able to see the college and courses allotted to them on



their dashboard. The candidates will have to click on 'Accept Allocation' under the user action tab.

"On receiving the 'Approval from the College Principal', a student will proceed to pay the fee to confirm the admission.

The candidate should take a printout of the acknowledgment receipt," DU said in a statement. The students have been given a three-day window from October 19 to October 21 to "accept" the allocated seat.

The provision for acceptance of a particular Allocated Seat will be valid only for the round in which the seat was allocated to the candidate. The colleges will be able to verify and approve the online applications from October 19 to

October 22. For the first round of CSAS allocation and admission, the last date for online payment of admission fees by the candidates will be October 24. The university began the admission process for over 70,000 seats last month.

DU has advised candidates to ensure that they secure admission to the seat allocated to them, whenever it is offered.

"Only candidates who are admitted to a programme in a college will be able to opt for upgradation in subsequent rounds," the statement said.

"Candidates are advised not to be in haste and, at the same time, not to wait for deadlines. Sufficient time has been provided for processing applications," DU added. For

the seats left vacant in the first round, the university will open the second round of CSAS allocation and admission.

On October 25, the university will display vacant seats. Then the students will be given a three-day window to re-order higher preferences from October 25 to 27.

The second allocation list will be announced on October 30. The students will be given a two-day window from October 31 to November 1 to accept the allocated seat, the varsity said.

The colleges will verify and approve the online application from October 31 to November 2. The last date for online payment of admission fees by the candidates is November 3.

For the third round, the vacant list will be displayed on November 4. During the third round, the university will give a chance for mid-entry and a window to re-order higher preferences from November 5 to 7, as per the statement. The third allocation list will be announced on November 10, the varsity said.

East Patel Nagar MLA may get Gautam berth

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from East Patel Nagar constituency Raj Kumar Anand is likely to replace Rajendra Pal Gautam, who resigned as Social Welfare Minister after his presence at a religious conversion event sparked a political controversy earlier this month.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said he has recommended to the Lieutenant-Governor the name of Anand as Gautam's replacement.

Just like Gautam, Anand, who is a first-time MLA, is also from the Jatav community. He is a member of the AAP's national council. A postgraduate in political science, he and his wife joined the anti-corruption movement in 2011 that set the ground for the formation of the AAP, and in the 2013 Assembly election his wife Veena Anand won as MLA from Patel Nagar.

In the 2015 Assembly polls, she was replaced by AAP leader Hazari Lal Chauhan for the seat. In 2020, Raaj Kumar Anand contested the Assembly



polls from the seat and won it. Gautam, who was Minister for the departments of Social Welfare, SC and ST, Registrar of Co-operative Societies and gurudwara elections, had resigned on October 9.

A major row erupted over his presence at an event where Hindu deities were allegedly renounced by hundreds of people who had embraced Buddhism. President Droupadi Murmu had accepted Gautam's resignation.

Burst crackers on Diwali, spend 6 months in jail

Storage, sale of firecrackers will be punishable with ₹5,000 fine, 3 years in prison

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to check air and noise pollution, the Delhi Government has imposed a fine of ₹200 and a six-month jail term for purchasing and bursting of crackers in the national Capital on Diwali.

In a press conference, Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday informed that bursting of crackers can attract a jail term of up to six months and a fine of ₹200.

The Government also said that the production, storage, and sale of crackers in Delhi will be punishable with a fine of up to ₹5,000 and three years in jail under Section 9B of the Explosives Act.

According to Rai, 408 teams have been set up to implement the ban. "The Delhi Police has set up 210 teams under Assistant Commissioners of Police, while the Revenue Department has constituted 165 teams and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee 33," he said. The Minister further said that a public awareness campaign — Diye Jalao Patakhe Nahi (light diyas, not firecrackers) — will be launched on October 21.



The Delhi Government will light 51,000 diyas at the Central Park in Connaught Place on Friday.

In September, the city government re-imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years.

The Minister said 188 cases of violations have been detected

and 2,917 kg firecrackers seized till October 16.

The air quality in Delhi-NCR start worsening in October, due to unfavourable meteorological factors, such as low temperatures and wind speed, which do not allow dispersion of pollutants. A cocktail of emissions from firecrackers and stubble burning in neighbouring States further dent the air quality. "Therefore, the Delhi Government has

imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers this year too. The ban covers online delivery of firecrackers," the Minister said.

Rai urged Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav to ensure the ban on firecrackers is strictly implemented in the entire NCR "as the smoke from firecrackers burst in the region impacts the people in Delhi also.

Duty Officers to aid MPs visiting hospital for treatment 24x7: AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

With rampant complaints from Parliamentarians regarding protocol issues, the authorities of AIIMS on Wednesday decided to attach a Duty Officer to facilitate the MPs visiting the hospital for medical treatment.

As per the latest SOP issued by the AIIMS Director M Srinivas, Duty Officers (who are qualified medical professionals) from the Department of Hospital Administration will be available in the Control Room of AIIMS round-the-clock and the Duty Officer will be the Nodal Officer to coordinate and facilitate requisite medical care arrangements for Sitting MPs.

"The landline telephone numbers of the Control Room are 011-26589279, 011-26593308 and 011-26593574. Mobile phone number of Duty Officer on site is 9868397016 which will be constant irrespective of the person on duty," the SOP notice read. "In case any sitting MP requires OPD

consultation from a specialty/super-specialty department, the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha Secretariat or personal staff of the MP will contact the Duty Officer and provide him requisite details about the ailment and specialist/superspecialist doctor to be consulted," it stated. "The Duty Officer will speak to concerned specialist/superspecialist doctor or Head of Department and will fix up the requisite appointment. In case it so required, they can speak to the Chief of Centre/Head of concerned department as well," it stated. "On the scheduled date and time of scheduled OPD consultation, the MP will be requested to reach the office of the Duty Officer that is the Control Room," it read.

"The Duty Officer will extend due protocol to the MP in his office and will confirm availability of concerned specialist doctor before sending the MP for requisite consultation, accompanied by a responsible official from the hospital," it said.



Minister kicks off mega cleanliness drive

New Delhi: Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur on Wednesday launched mega cleanliness drives across India under the Swachh Bharat 2022 programme from Chandani Chowk, in Delhi. Similar Cleanliness Drives were undertaken in all villages and districts across the country.

A "swachhta" pledge was also administered on this occasion. Secretary Department of Youth Affairs and Sports Sanjay Kumar and other officers of the Ministry were also present on this occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Thakur said that

'Swachh Bharat' is not just a programme but it reflects the genuine concerns of the common man and their resolve to address the issue head on.

He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always reiterated 'Jan Bhagidari se Jan Andolan' and said any campaign is incomplete without participation of the youth. "Without fulfilling the dream of Swachh Bharat, the dream of a New India, a Developed India cannot be fulfilled," he said. Thakur said that the programme commenced with the objective of collection of one crore kg of waste in the span of

one month. "We have already collected 84 lakh kg of plastic waste in a matter of 18 days and are set to surpass the target. This work was carried out in historical places, community centers, schools, villages and other places in districts.

"People particularly youth, irrespective of their background and affiliations, are not only participating in programme but playing a pivotal role in motivating others to join the programme purely on a voluntary basis," he said. Thakur said "without cleanliness we cannot ensure good health and wellbeing of people."

CM urges PM to work together on edu; BJP rejects offer

Miserable education system of Delhi cannot be model for country, retorts Amit Malviya

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to work together to improve the country's schools and offered his Government's expertise, inviting a sharp retort from the BJP.

"The miserable education system in Delhi cannot be a



model for the country," BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya said, adding that Modi has been working to improve Government education and make it effective since he was Gujarat's Chief Minister.

Kejriwal's remarks came after Modi visited a school in

Gandhinagar in Gujarat, and interacted with students. "PM sir, we have done a wonderful job in the field of education in Delhi. In five years, all the Government schools of Delhi were improved remarkably. Schools across the country can be improved in five years," Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

"We have experience in this field. Please use our experience completely for this. Let's do it together for the country," he said. Kejriwal also posted a picture of Modi sitting in a classroom with the students. "I am very happy that today all the parties and leaders of the country have to talk about

education and schools. This is our biggest achievement. I hope that education is not missed only during elections. All Governments together can make schools great in just five years," the Delhi Chief Minister tweeted in an apparent swipe at the BJP.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who holds the education portfolio, said that the BJP will send Aam Aadmi Party leaders to jail while the AAP compels them to visit schools. "They will send us to jail. We will send them to school," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Hitting back, Malviya said Modi's aim has been to change

things on the ground. "He does not do politics for merely giving advertisements like you," he said, replying to the AAP leader's tweet.

The BJP and the AAP have been involved in a bitter war of words in the run up to the Assembly polls in Gujarat whose schedule is likely to be announced soon.

The AAP has pivoted its pitch around its welfareism, dismissed by the BJP as "freebies", and what it describes as its focus on boosting education and health infrastructure as it makes a determined foray into the western State. The BJP has not lost an Assembly election in Gujarat since 1995.

As Delhi's air quality dips, GRAP-2 kicks in: No coal fire in eateries

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With "very poor" air quality predicted in Delhi-NCR by Saturday, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Wednesday directed authorities to enact stage two of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which includes banning the use of coal and firewood in hotels, restaurants and open eateries.

Delhi's air quality continues to be in the poor category for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday. The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) stood at 228 at 4 pm. At least six out of the 35 monitoring



stations in the city recorded the air quality in the "very poor" category. The use of diesel generators, except for essential services, is also banned under stage two of the GRAP which is a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the Capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

GRAP is classified under four stages of adverse air quality in Delhi NCR region. Stage one in a case of 'poor' air quality (AQI 201-300); stage two for 'very poor' air quality (AQI 301-400); stage three for 'severe' air quality (AQI 401-450); and stage four for 'severe plus' (AQI >450). The sub-committee constituted for invoking actions under GRAP reviewed the air quality in the region at a meeting on Wednesday.

It was noted that there is a forecast for deterioration of air quality in Delhi and the air quality index (AQI) may move into the 'very poor' category from October 22, due to calm winds and the stable atmos-

pheric condition predicted over the Capital from Saturday, the CAQM said in an order.

"Also, the Diwali festival on October 24 is expected to worsen the situation further. Therefore, in an effort to prevent the deterioration of the air quality further, the subcommittee decided that all actions as envisaged under Stage II of GRAP — 'very poor' air quality (Delhi AQI 301-400) — be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned, with immediate effect in the Delhi NCR region in addition to all actions under Stage I," the order read. The use of coal and firewood, including in tandoors in hotels, restaurants

and open eateries, is not allowed under stage two category. The use of diesel generators is not allowed except for essential services related to national security, defence-related activities, projects of national importance, telecommunication, data services, medical, railway and metro rail services, airports, inter-state bus terminals, sewage treatment plants and water pumping stations. Other measures to be taken under stage two include vacuum-based sweeping of roads every day, water sprinkling to prevent dust pollution and strict enforcement of dust control measures at construction and demolition sites.

Defence & Steel Ministries get new secretaries

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Road Transport and Highways Secretary Aramane Giridhar was on Wednesday named the new Defence Secretary and Rural Development Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha the new Steel Secretary, as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle involving 16 secretaries.

Giridhar, a 1988 batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Defence. He will take over as Defence Secretary after the retirement of Ajay Kumar on October 31, 2022, a Personnel Ministry order said.

Alka Upadhyaya, chairperson of the National Highways Authority of India, will be the new Road and Transport Secretary in place of Giridhar. Sinha has been appointed as the OSD in the Ministry of Steel with effect from December 1, 2022.

He will take over as Secretary in the Ministry of Steel, after the retirement of Sanjay Kumar Singh on December 31, 2022. Shailesh

Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner in the MSME Ministry, will be the new Rural Development Secretary in place of Sinha from December 1. Singh has been appointed as the OSD in the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, the order said.

Financial Services Secretary Sanjay Malhotra will be the new Revenue Secretary. He has been appointed as an OSD in the Department of Revenue. The officer will take over as the Revenue Secretary after Tarun Bajaj completes his term on November 30, 2022.

Vivek Joshi, Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner, MHA, will be the new Secretary, Department of Financial Services in place of Malhotra. Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, will be the new Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner in place of Joshi.

Amrit Lal Meena, who is currently Special Secretary (Logistics), Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, will be the new Coal Secretary. Meena, who has

been appointed as the OSD in the Coal Ministry, will take over as the Secretary after the retirement of Anil Kumar Jain on October 31.

Sudhanshu Pant, a 1991 batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, has been named as Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. Pant, who has been appointed as the OAS in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, will take over as Secretary after incumbent Sanjeev Ranjan superannuates on January 31, 2023.

Kamran Rizvi, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, will be the Heavy Industries Secretary. Rizvi is appointed as the OSD in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and he will take over as the secretary after Arun Goel superannuates from the post on December 31.

Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, has been named as the new Textiles Secretary.

Shah, who has been appointed as the OSD in the Ministry of Textiles, will take over as the secretary after incumbent Upendra Prasad Singh retires this month-end.

Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, who is currently chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), will be the New and Renewable Energy Secretary. Bhalla, who has been appointed as the OSD in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, will take over as the secretary after incumbent Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi completes his term this month-end.

Youth Affairs Secretary Sanjay Kumar will be the new Secretary of the Department of School Education & Literacy. He will take over the new position after the retirement of incumbent Anita Karwal on November 30.

Meeta R Lochan, Member Secretary in the National Commission for Women, will be the new Youth Affairs Secretary. Sanjeev Chopra, a 1990 batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, has been named as Secretary of the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

He will replace Sudhanshu Pandey, who retires this month-end. Manoj Govil, a 1991 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed Secretary in Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

PM lays foundation stone for new airbase in Gujarat's Banaskantha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/GANDHINAGAR

In an effort to boost the capabilities of the IAF to meet any challenge from Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for a new airbase at Deesa in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat near the border. He said it will emerge as an effective centre for the country's security.

The airbase is 130 km from international border and when it is likely to be operational by 2024, the base will bridge the gap between Bhuj and Uttarlai, Rajasthan. The forward airbase will come up in two phases with a total cost of more than Rs 1,000 crores.

The airfield will thwart any attempt by the adversary to target Gujarat or other parts of south-western sector and can launch offensive action against enemy aircraft taking off from Hyderabad, Karachi and Sukkur in Pakistan.

Laying the foundation of this critical asset, the Prime Minister said after his government came to power, they decided to set up an operational base in Deesa, and "this expectation of our forces is



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the foundation stone laying ceremony of various developmental projects in Junagadh, Gujarat on Wednesday PTI Photo

being fulfilled today". "The international border is just 130 km away. If our forces, especially the Air Force, will be in Deesa, we shall be able to respond in a much better way to any challenge on the western border," he said.

Modi said for this airfield, Gujarat had given land way back in 2000, and as the then chief minister he tried his best for its construction and explained this to the then cen-

tral government about its importance. "But nothing happened for 14 years," he said. "So many question marks were put on files that it took time to put things into the right perspective even after I went there (at the Centre)."

After we formed the government, we decided to make an operational base in Deesa and the expectations of our forces are being met today," he said.

HC to hear pleas against Agnipath on Nov 18

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday listed several pleas for hearing on November 18 challenging the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces. The Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad granted two weeks' time to the petitioners to respond to the Centre's stand on the matter.

The Government submitted the Agnipath scheme was introduced in exercise of its sovereign function to make national security and defence more "robust, impenetrable" and "abreast with changing military requirement".

"Reply has been filed by the Union of India. Petitioner prays for time to file rejoinder. Petitioners are granted 2 weeks' time," said the court. The Agnipath scheme, unveiled on June 14, lays out rules for the recruitment of youths in the armed forces.

According to these rules, those between 17-and-a-half and 21 years are eligible to apply and they would be inducted for a four-year tenure, and 25 per cent of them will be granted regular service subsequently.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Subhash Chandra/ Sarita Tomar/ LBGUR00002252341	Flat No- N/UH-203, 2nd Floor, Urban Homes, Situated At NH-24, Ghaziabad/ October 17, 2022	January 30, 2018/ Rs.10,03,631/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sanjay Sachdeva/ Manju Sachdeva/ LBGUR00005201580	Shop No- SF- 215, 2nd Floor, Block- D, Sushant Tower, Sushant Lok Phase- 3, Sec- 56, Gurgaon Haryana/ October 15, 2022	May 07, 2022/ Rs. 16,40,781/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Satendra Singh/ Arpna Singh/ LBGH200002862052/ LBGH200002983769	Flat No-082, 8th Floor, Tower- B, (without Roof Rights) Meadows Vista Village, Morda Parganadana, Jalalabad, Kh No 240, Ghaziabad/ October 17, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 18,03,681/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Gaurav Kumar Bhatnagar/ Priya Bhatnagar/ LBDEL00002445224	Flat No- 1702, 17th Floor, Block- A, Troy, Plot No. GH-01/D, Sector 10, GB Nagar, Greater Noida/ October 15, 2022	August 31, 2017/ Rs.10,13,368/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Manu Bhardwaj/ Satpal/ LBGUR00002377203	Flat No- B-2/402, 4th Floor, Tower- B-2, Mvn Athens, Sohna Sector- 5 Sohna Gurgaon, Haryana/ October 15, 2022	October 31, 2017/ Rs.7,02,098/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Vikesh Pal/ Rajesh Pal/ LBNOD00005112925/ LBNOD00004967934	Flat No- C 1502, 14th Floor, Savy Ville De, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad, UP/ October 17, 2022	September 30, 2020/ Rs.40,59,065/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Deepak Kumar Kharioli/ Sonal/ LBNOD00005290312/ LBNOD00002341853	Flat No- 1616, 16th Floor, Tower - A3 , Eco Village-1, Plot No- 08, Sector-1, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh/ October 15, 2022	June 19, 2021/ Rs. 14,71,040/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Priyanka Srivastava/ Aprajita Srivastava/ LBDEL00005114560	Flat No- Sun-1/0606, Floor 6th, Block- Sun-1, Migsun Roof, Raj Nagar Extension, Sikroad Plot No/ Khnara No- 4.5, & 51 Pargana Jalalabad Tehsil Ghaziabad/ October 17, 2022	August 06, 2021/ Rs.18,46,111/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Kumari Sonam/ Amit Kumar/ LBGUR00004280382	Flat No- F102, 1st Floor, Tower-F Suncity Avenue 102 Sector- 102 Gurgaon/ October 15, 2022	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 14,43,503/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Vivek Anand/ Shobha Ran/ LBNOD00001994391	Flat No- A-A3-202, 2nd Floor, Tower- A3, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No- GH 10, Eco City Sector-75 Noida/ October 15, 2022	July 06, 2021/ Rs. 20,56,329/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Nikhil Yadav/ Vandita/ LBGUR00004121099	Flat No 1302, 13th Floor, Tower G1, Eco Village G1, Plot No 08, Sector-1, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ultra Pradesh/ October 14, 2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 78,43,247/-	Delhi/ NCR
12.	Hardeep Bhati/ Sheetal Bhati/ LBDEL00003056637	Plot No G 92, Block G, Sector 63 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida 201301/ October 15, 2022	June 13, 2022/ Rs. 68,49,490/-	Delhi/ NCR
13.	Abhinaya Verma/ Manisha Verma/ LBGUR00002089668	T-1/C-422, Monarch, Plot No. GH-02/ C, Sector 1, Greater Noida, UP/ October 15,2022	October 03, 2017/ Rs.5,347,877/-	Delhi/ NCR
14.	Nitin Budhiraj/ Anju Budhiraj/ LBDEL00002066051	Flat No. B-1812A, 18th Floor, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No. 10, Sector 75, Noida/ October 15,2022	September 29, 2018/ Rs.38,97,884/-	Delhi/ NCR
15.	Rajesh Kumar Singh/ Rajesh Kumar Singh/ LBGUR00002417418	Unit No- 2006, 20th Floor, Tower B, The Aranya Residency, GH-2, Sector 119, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ October 15, 2022	March 22, 2021/ Rs.73,57,668/-	Delhi/ NCR
16.	Sameer Sachdeva/ Samita Madan/ LBGH200002446378	Flat No- C3- 1501, 14th Floor, Victory Ace, Plot No GH-02, Sector-143, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ October 15, 2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 75,02,431/-	Delhi/ NCR
17.	Bhupal Singh Negi/ Soni Negi/ LBDEL00004351441	Flat No. E-1401, 14th Floor, Skytech Matrott, Plot No. GH-01/D, Sector-76, Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh/ October 15,2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 51,64,233/-	Delhi/ NCR
18.	Kunal Singh/ Prashima Kanwar/ LBNOD00002018386	Apartment No. Ld00151004 In Kove-tower-15, Jaypee Green Sports City, Gautam Buddh Nagar/ October 15, 2022	June 23, 2021/ Rs. 36,58,998/-	Delhi/ NCR
19.	Shivendu Tiwari/ Kameshwar Tiwari/ LBNOD00002057019	Flat No. A-A2-1902, 19th Floor, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No. 10, Sector 75, Noida./ October 15,2022	February 12, 2019/ Rs.66,08,837/-	Delhi/ NCR
20.	Shiv Madan/ Sarita Madan/ LBDEL00002255676	Flat No. A-A2-1402, 14th Floor, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No. 10, Sector 75, Noida./ October 15,2022	February 12, 2019/ Rs.62,49,369/-	Delhi/ NCR
21.	Raminder Singh Chadha/ Harjinder Kaur Chadha/ LBDEL00001675509	T-8/503, Floor- 5, Amrapali Grand, Plot No- 09, GH, Sec- zeta- 1, Greater Noida, Noida/ October 15, 2022	June 25, 2010/ Rs. 51,21,996/-	Delhi/ NCR
22.	Jeeshv Wami/ Laxmi Choudhary/ LBNOD00002069889	Flat No. A-A2-1903, 19th Floor, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No. 10, Sector 75, Noida./ October 15, 2022	February 12, 2019/ Rs.50,27,674/-	Delhi/ NCR
23.	Ajeet Ranjan/ Vandana Rose/ LBDEL00002073727	Flat No. B-1705, 17th Floor, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No. 10, Sector 75, Noida./ October 15,2022	February 12, 2019/ Rs.61,41,952/-	Delhi/ NCR
24.	Rohit Gurudeva/ Rajate Gurudeva Tiwari/ LBDEL00002093535	Flat No. T-1/C-403, Third Floor, Tower T-1, Monarch, Plot No. GH 02/C, Sector 1, Greater Noida, West Distt, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP/ October 15, 2022	March 31, 2017/ Rs.57,38,232/-	Delhi/ NCR
25.	Vinay Jain/ Vivek Jain/ LBDEL00002114828	Flat No. T-1/C-522, Monarch, Plot No. GH-02/C, Sector 1, Greater Noida/ October 15, 2022	October 03, 2017/ Rs.49,32,340/-	Delhi/ NCR
26.	Vibhore Kumar/ Anuradha Jasuja/ LBGUR00004983636	Unit No G-68, Ground Floor, Spaze Palazo Sector 69, Village Fazilpur, Jharsa, Haryana Gurgaon/ October 15, 2022	March 25, 2021/ Rs.71,12,615/-	Delhi/ NCR
27.	Rohit Sharma/ Vimla/ LBNOD00004221992	Flat No 2404, Floor No 24, Tower F, Supertech Hues, Revenue Estate, Village Badshahpur, Sector 68, Gurgaon-122001./ October 15, 2022	January 28, 2020/ Rs.62,08,385/-	Delhi/ NCR
28.	Nareesh Pal Singh/ Lata Singh/ LBNOD00002435586	House No. 365 A, Ground Floor, Mig Shipra Sun City, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201001/ October 17, 2022	May 27, 2022/ Rs. 36,97,625/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : October 20, 2022
Place: Delhi NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

BJP's first list of 62 candidates for Himachal Assembly polls out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday announced its first list of 62 candidates for the elections to the 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly with 11 sitting MLAs dropped, two Congress defectors to the party getting the tickets and two Ministers shifting their seats in the state.

Five women have also found their names in the list. Former state Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, 78, father of union minister Anurag Thakur who lost the 2017 Assembly poll will not contest this time. Applying winnability as the main criteria, the BJP central leadership has also denied tickets to some of the candidates having allegiance to former and the incumbent Chief Ministers.

Election in the state is slated for November 12. The plan to neutralize the anti-incumbency factor against the government is reflected in the selection of the candidates.

The constituencies of two Ministers have been changed while as many as 11 sitting MLAs have been denied party ticket and fresh face have been given a chance. Suresh Bhardwaj will contest Kasumpti instead of Shimla (Urban), besides, Rakesh Pathania seat has been changed from Nurgpur to Fatehpur.

Two Congress MLAs, who quit the party and joined the BJP have been made party candidates. Pawan Kajal is to contest from Kangra constituency and Lakhwinder Rana from Nalagarh seat. The BJP's list of candidates includes only five women candidates. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur will

Ex-TRS MP Narsaiah Goud joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A head of a bypoll in Telangana on November 3, former Telangana Rashttra Samithi (TRS) MP Boora Narsaiah Goud, also a noted doctor, joined the BJP here on Wednesday.

The joining of a TRS MP in the BJP has happened after the Congress MLA from Munugode Assembly K. Rajagopal Reddy also crossed over to the saffron party.

The prestigious bypoll contest is scheduled in Munugode assembly on November 3 with Reddy as the BJP candidate against the TRS' K Prabhakar Reddy. Assembly polls are slated in the state next year.

Goud joined the BJP in the presence of Union Ministers Bhupinder Yadav and G Kishan Reddy besides several other party leaders from the state.

Yadav accused the K Chandrasekhar Rao government in the state of floating the gimmick of reservation for minorities while doing no good for any section of society. This shows that the state government does only minorities'

contest from Seraj assembly constituency in Mandi district. The BJP won 44 seats in 2017 Himachal Assembly elections, restricting the Congress Party to 22 seats. At present, the Union home minister Amit Shah were present in meeting along with other members of the party's election committee.



politics, he said.

He claimed that people will not only elect the BJP candidate in the upcoming Munugode assembly bypoll but will also bring the party to power in the next assembly elections. The state government's welfare schemes for Dalits and backwards are confined to advertisements while it is also disrupting the Centre's pro-people measures, he alleged.

Yadav accused the Telangana government of trying to hamper the yatra of state BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar in an undemocratic manner. This is not only a corrupt government but also dictatorial, he alleged, targeting the TRS.

was released a day after the meeting of BJP's central election committee chaired by party president Jagat Prakash Nadda concluded. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah were present in meeting along with other members of the party's election committee.

UP, Bihar, Raj lead country in smart meter installation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan are leading the States in installation of smart meters across the country under the Centre's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) that aims to enhance the operational efficiency and financial health of all government-owned power distribution companies (DISCOMs) by FY 2025-26.

According to a presentation made at a two-day brainstorming session of state power ministers at Udaipur last week, the highest number of smart meters have been installed in UP (1,56,855) followed by Bihar (1,08,703), Rajasthan (5,55,958), Haryana (5,38,293), Assam (4,15,063), Delhi (2,59,094), Madhya Pradesh (2,43,313), Himachal Pradesh (1,47,104), Tamil Nadu (1,23,945) and Jammu & Kashmir (1,13,857).

What took everyone by surprise were the figures for Bihar, otherwise struggling on many parameters. "It has taken the lead in the smart meter roll-out in the county. Not only has it got the second highest smart meter installations after UP but also taken the lead by achieving 92% penetration of pre-paid smart meters," sources said.

The presentation showed that Ashiyana and Bankipur, the two distribution areas with high smart meter penetration and taken as pilot cases, have witnessed their collection efficiency improve from 94% to 115% and from 92% to 105%, respectively.

The recovery of arrears in the two areas too stood at 100%. The monthly revenue collection per consumer also increased by 65% in Ashiyana and by 34% in Bankipur. Besides Bihar, the initial results of the implementation of the smart-meter program in the Union territory of J&K also show a sharp improvement in all financial parameters of the respective discoms.

Apart from other objectives, RDSS aims at lowering of Aggregate, Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses to 12-15% by 2024-25 nationally and the ACS-ARR gap to zero by 2024-25. A key ingredient of the scheme meeting the ambitious objectives of RDSS is Centre's Rs 3.3 lakh crore plan to replace all 25 crore traditional meters in the country with pre-paid smart meters in the next three years. Already, around 50 lakh smart-meters have been installed in the country.

In the first phase, 10 crore meters are to be replaced in 'priority areas' (high loss, high value consumers) by December 2023. Meters in the remaining areas will be replaced by March 2025. The smart meter project has been introduced by the Government of India with the objective to provide quality power and better services to consumers. The project will also help ensure accurate billing, accountability, transparency and efficiency among utilities, besides reducing technical and commercial losses.

Centre slams Punjab Govt for soaring farm fires

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern that incidents of stubble burning have started increasing rapidly with Punjab being the highest contributor, the Centre on Wednesday blamed the Punjab Government for not taking adequate steps to prevent farm fires.

However, it patted the Governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for "doing a remarkable work towards control of stubble burning."

"They have implemented the framework in the States which includes in-situ management, ex-situ management, effective monitoring and enforcement and IEC activities which have resulted in less events of stubble burning," said Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav at an inter-ministerial meeting on the issue of crop residue burning in Delhi-NCR.

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar mentioned that the status of paddy straw management in Haryana

is "significantly better than that in Punjab", the Environment Ministry said in a statement. "Till October 15, the trend of fire events was less as compared to last year but now it has started growing rapidly, especially in Punjab," the statement read.

The Ministers noted that the Pusa bio-decomposer - a microbial solution which turns stubble into manure in 15-20 days - was being sprayed in a lesser area in Punjab and its application needs to be promoted and enhanced.

Yadav also pointed out that the State had been provided with a sufficient number of equipment and farm machinery under the CRM scheme of Union Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Farmers Welfare and also adequate funds have been provided yet there has not been sufficient progress in implementation of the action plan.

M M Kutty, the chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), said Punjab has taken "inadequate" steps in spite of several



meetings and efforts by the statutory panel.

The Punjab chief secretary was asked to control the increasing rate of fire events in Amritsar and to ensure a 50 per cent reduction in cases of farm fires in the state in comparison to last year.

One of the main concerns is the delayed delivery of crop residue management machines in Punjab and Haryana.

Government data shows Punjab and Haryana generate around 27 million tonnes of paddy straw a year, of which around 6.4 million tonnes is not managed.

According to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Punjab reported 71,304 farm fires between September 15 and November 30 last year and 83,002 farm fires in the corresponding period in 2020. It

was also noted that the status of Parali management in Haryana is significantly better than that in Punjab. 9 out of 22 districts in Punjab and 4 out of 22 districts in Haryana are major contributors of stubble burning in these states. So, these 13 districts need to be focused upon more. Sangrur, Moga, Tarn Taran and Fatehabad are among them, said the statement.

Hybrid terrorist behind attack on migrant labourers killed in J&K

Ultra was killed when terrorists fired at forces during an Op

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Imran Bashir Ganai, a 'hybrid terrorist' belonging to the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba outfit, responsible for lobbing a grenade that led to the deaths of two migrant labourers from Uttar Pradesh, was killed during an anti-terrorist operation launched by the security forces in the early hours of Wednesday in Nowgam orchards of Shopian. The operation was launched based on the preliminary investigation with the sole objective to track down the footprints of other terrorists behind the targeted killing of migrant labourers.

However, the two mainstream regional political parties in the Kashmir Valley have triggered a fresh controversy by raising questions over the manner in which the 'hybrid terrorist' was killed. Both the National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party have demanded a thorough probe into the matter.

Former J&K Chief Minister

and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti first of all tweeted, "Using dubious nomenclature — hybrid militant & chance encounters to justify civilian killings has become the norm in Kashmir. Imran Ganai arrested by the police & then killed in their custody allegedly by another militant defies logic & deserves a thorough investigation".

On the other hand, JKNC MP Hasnain Masoodi also demanded an independent and impartial probe into the killing of Imran Bashir Ganai. He said civilian killings call for outright condemnation and cannot be condoned on any ground whatsoever.

Meanwhile, police spokesman in a written statement claimed, "within hours of the killing of two migrant labourers in a grenade blast in Herman area of Shopian, one hybrid terrorist linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT identified as Imran Bashir Ganai of Hermalin Shopian alongwith his accomplice was promptly arrested".



"Various joint raids along with security forces were launched on the basis of disclosures made by the accused about terrorists and their hideouts. In one of the raids on hideout at Dongri Nala near Landoora bridge, where although contact was established with the hiding terrorists but they managed to escape from the spot after initial fire" police spokesman said.

"Following his disclosure another raid was conducted in Nowgam orchards of Shopian where he had earlier met with other terrorists responsible in his recruitment in terror ranks besides providing a grenade to

him, a joint anti-terrorist operation was launched in the said area in the midnight at about 2.30 AM after the accused agreed to show the exact place of hideout in the orchards".

"During the search operation, the hiding terrorists fired upon the joint search party, in which the arrested hybrid terrorist who was accompanying and leading the search party for identifying the place got injured. He was shifted to hospital where he was declared brought dead.

Taking advantage of the darkness, terrorists managed to escape from the spot, police spokesman added.

CPM drove Tatas out from Bengal, not me: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With panchayat elections barely a few months away Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday raked up a new controversy saying it was not she but the CPI(M) that drove out the Tatas from Bengal.

"There is a major disinformation campaign going around that I drove the Tatas out of Bengal after the Singur movement ... It was not me but the CPI(M) which was responsible for Tatas' exit ... they drove the Tatas away from Bengal," Mamata Banerjee said, adding that her anti-land acquisition movement post 2006 that finally saw the Tatas leaving the State was only to protect the farmers from arbitrary State action and not an act against industrial investment.

"I had only taken up the farmers' cause as their lands had been forcibly taken by the CPI(M) government ... I wanted industry as I want it now but not by forceful acquisition of land ... we have set up industry but there was no controversy," said the Chief Minister leading the opposition parties to hit back.

"We in Bengal make no discrimination and we want all the industrialists to come here,"



she said referring to the Tajpur sea port project of the Adani group. "I want massive employment opportunities in Bengal and so every industrialist including the Tatas are invited here," she said.

The Chief Minister's statement comes barely a few months ahead of the panchayat elections and when her Government was facing around criticism from the opposition for what they allege "running government of scammers."

"The world knows how Mamata Banerjee the then opposition leader had blockaded a nationally highway for several weeks ... she carried out a so-called fast ... she even went to the Supreme Court after coming to power through a false movement ... and now she is washing her hands off it ... she is a great liar," said CPI(M) MP and senior advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya.

Conversion, infiltration causing population imbalance, says RSS

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

RSS leader Dattatreya Hosabale on Wednesday said religious conversion and migration from Bangladesh are causing "population imbalance" and called for strict implementation of anti-conversion laws.

Addressing reporters after a four-day all-India working committee meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh here, the RSS general secretary said the organisation is trying to create awareness on conversions. He said as a result there has been a favourable outcome of "Ghar Wapsi" — the Sangh Parivar effort to bring back to the Hindu fold people who converted to faiths like Islam and Christianity.

He said the existing laws to prevent religious conversion need to be implemented strictly. This was an apparent reference to laws in some states, including Uttar Pradesh, that prohibit conversion by force or allurement, particularly through marriage.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat too attended the meet in Prayagraj from October 16 to



19. Hosabale claimed that after conversion, infiltration was the second biggest cause of "population imbalance."

"Population imbalance caused by infiltration from Bangladesh has been seen in districts of north Bihar, including Purnia and Katihar, and in other states," he said at the press conference in Gohania, 25 km from the district headquarters.

The RSS leader said those who changed their religion should not get the benefit of reservation.

He referred to the committee formed under former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan to examine whether communities that adopted other religions should get the Scheduled Caste status.

Hosabale said the meeting also discussed increasing the participation of women in social activities of the Hindu community.

CBI arrests BSF Commandant in J&K for getting question papers for son through tout

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



the examination," the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that the accused manipulated/tampered with the log book of the official vehicle in a deliberate attempt to destroy evidence and was also evasive throughout during the investigation, the agency said.

Investigation has revealed that alleged payment of Rs 20-Rs 30 lakh was made by willing candidates and their families to the accused for accessing the question paper before the examination began, it said.

The CBI had earlier arrested eight accused persons including a constable of Jammu and Kashmir Police, an official of CRPF and a teacher of Jammu and Kashmir Government among others.

14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme organised for development of youths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs, on Wednesday organised the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme for the development of tribal youth in New Delhi. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur attended the occasion along with officials from the Ministry.

Thakur said that the performances and presentations by the tribal youth were full of confidence and energy. "I'm happy that not only you have participated in this programme but also did a lot of research in a right way and presented your thoughts effectively," he added. Thakur said, "PM Modi's vision of 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' must be taken forward. We plan to send our youth to different villages at the border and spend atleast a day there".

Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has been organizing Tribal Youth Exchange Programme since 2006 for the



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur at the event.

development and main streaming of Tribal Youth in collaboration and financial support from Department of Left Wing Extremism (LWE), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. During this financial year 2022-23, 26 Tribal Youth Exchange Programmes are being organized by NYKS across the country.

The aim of this programme is to sensitize tribal youth to the rich cultural heritage of India and to enable

them to appreciate the concept of unity in diversity, expose them to development activities and industrial advancement and help emotional linkages with their peer groups in the country and enhance their self-esteem. The duration of each Tribal Youth exchange Programme is of 7 days. 220 selected youth in the age group of 18-22 years are participating from Left Wing Extremist affected districts of Sukma and Rajnandgaon district.

Expedite revision of poll roll, UP SEC tells DMs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh State Election Commission has expedited the process of electoral roll revision ahead of the election to urban local bodies in the State in November.

The UP State Election Commission has directed the District Magistrates to complete the draft revised roll as per the schedule announced by the poll panel. It has fixed October 31 as the date for the publication of draft electoral rolls after revision.

State Election Commissioner Manoj Kumar on Wednesday conducted video conferencing with the district magistrates and reviewed the progress of the electoral roll revision work.

He asked the district magistrates to ensure that the final rolls are published on November 18.

Kumar directed the district magistrates to daily monitor the progress of the roll revision and ensure that not even a single voter is left out from inclusion in the rolls. He also asked the district magistrates to ensure that no ineligible voter's name was added in the rolls.

The poll panel will also offer the facility of online registration of voters from November 1 and it will continue till November 4. The poll panel has directed the district magistrates to ensure maximum publicity of the online facility for the registration of new voters.

CPM asks EC to scrap pacts signed with firms to name non-voters in Guj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



is nothing short of being outrageous. The EC has claimed that it is an attempt to address voter apathy, but the fact is that the move to name and shame those who do not vote is a coercive step towards compulsory voting. The report actually quotes Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer: "We have signed 233 MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) that will help us enforce the guidelines of the Election Commission. For the first time in Gujarat, we will be

monitoring the electoral participation of the workforce belonging to 1,017 industrial units."

"The current move by the EC of involving corporates in enforcing the right to vote as a fundamental duty is outright unconstitutional. Apart from this it further involves the corporates in the conduct of the elections in an already controversial background of anonymous corporate funding through Electoral Bonds," said Yechury.

CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said, "It is amply clear that such MoU is not just meant for addressing voter apathy; the decision to identify, name and shame those not casting their votes (among the workers) tantamount to coercion and victimization."

NCSC to probe harassment plea filed by Wankhede

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



The ordering of an inquiry came after Wankhede met NCSC chairman and discussed the matter in detail. "The Commission observed that there appears to be discrimination and harassment of the petitioner (Wankhede), the Commission decided that no further action in the manner be taken till the pendency of the case in the Commission. This is as per para 7.2 (a)(vii) of the Rules of Procedure of the

Constitution." In his report to the Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs, Under-secretary to the Government of India Kishan Chand stated that the Commission had further asked Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) to submit all documents submitted by the Special Inquiry team of the NCB before the commission for its perusal and examination.

Chand asked Singh to submit full facts and information of the case to him within 15 days if the receipt of the notice or in person.

Chand said that in case the commission did not receive reply from Singh within the stipulated time, "the Commission may excise the

powers of Civil courts may exercise under Article 338 of the Constitution of India and issue summons for your appearance in person by a representative before the Commission.

The development came two the Mumbai district caste certificate verification committee — which went into the allegation that he used fake caste certificate to join the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) — has given a clean chit to Wankhede and his father Dnyandeve Wankhede.

In an order passed on August 13, the Mumbai district caste certificate verification committee ruled that Sameer was not a Muslim by birth and it has been proved that he

belonged to Mahar caste, which is a Scheduled Caste (SC).

Rejecting all complaints against the controversial IRS officer and his father, the order stated that "it has not been proved that Sameer and his father Dnyandeve Wankhede had renounced Hinduism to convert to Islam. It is proven that Wankhede and his father in law belong to the Scheduled Caste that is Mahar-37.

The allegations questioning the authenticity of the caste certificate used by Sameer Wankhede to join IRS also figure in the submissions made by Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik in response to a Rs 1.25 crore defamation suit filed by Sameer's father Dhyandev against him.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Aswani Srivastava / Manish Srivastava / LBGUR00003073756	Flat No. 702, 7th Floor, Block B, JNC Greenwoods, Gh-1, Sector 3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad/ October 17,2022	July 31,2018 Rs. 67,07,366/-	Delhi / NCR
2.	Ashish Kumar Sardana / Vinay Kumar Sardana / LBDEL00002728396	Apartment No. A-1/1201A, 13th Floor, Block A-1, Saya 2, Plot No. GH-II, Ahimsa Khand-II, Opposite Shipra Suncity, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad./ October 17,2022	August 18,2020 Rs. 1,34,68,973/-	Delhi / NCR
3.	Paras Sharma / Nandini Sharma / LBGHZ00002288216	Flat No. 202, Type E, Block C, In JNC Greenwoods, Gh-1, Sector 3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, UP / October 17,2022	July 31,2018 Rs. 75,85,037/-	Delhi / NCR
4.	Dhirendra Verma / Snehlata Verma / LBDEL00002974099	Flat No. 801, 8th Floor, Block B, JNC Greenwoods, Situated At GH -1, Sector-3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad/ October 17,2022	May 24,2018 Rs. 49,51,051/-	Delhi / NCR
5.	Devesh Pratap Singh/ Amrita Singh / LBDEL00002441689	Flat No. 1031, 10th Floor, Saraswati, Mahagun Mantra- II, Plot No. Gh-01, Sector 10, Greater Noida (West)/ October 15,2022.	September 25, 2020 Rs.22,31,433/-	Delhi / NCR
6.	Anil Kumar Gupta / Nirmal Gupta / Hitech Ultra Vision/ LBGUR00002050188	Flat No- D-57 FF, Pedestal Sector- 70A, Gurgaon, Haryana / October 15,2022.	March 25,2021 Rs. 27,98,013/-	Delhi / NCR
7.	Anil Kumar Gupta / Hitech Ultra Vision / Nirmal Gupta / LBGUR00002050183	Flat No- D- 57 Ff, Pedestal Sector- 70a, Gurgaon, Haryana / October 15,2022.	March 25,2021 Rs. 26,98,415/-	Delhi / NCR
8.	Gaurav Sharma/ Ved Prakash Sharma / LBDEL00001979564	Flat No. J1-603, 8th Floor, Tower- J1, Plot No -2, Sec-137, Expressway Noida, Blossom County, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ October 15,2022.	March 22,2021 Rs. 28,21,773/-	Delhi / NCR
9.	Sumit Ratnagar / Smarika / LBDEL00001907722	Jaypee Greens, Aman Apartment Number.- Amn 0222202, Sector-151, Noida, Uttar Pradesh./ October 15,2022.	November 30, 2019 Rs.43,93,947/-	Delhi / NCR
10.	Syedmohd Kashif Rizvi / Daizi Rizvi / LBGUR00002640760	Flat No. B- 1301,12th Floor, Tower B, Newtech LA Galaxia, Situated At Hra-11, 1A, Surajpur Site- C, Noida, Uttar Pradesh./ October 15,2022.	January 30, 2018 Rs.27,16,207/-	Delhi / NCR
11.	Sushanta Kumar Seth/ Shela Seth / LBDEL0000217608	Flat No G-606, 6th Floor, Tower G, RG Residency, Plot GH-02, Sec-120, Noida / October 15,2022.	June 23, 2016 Rs. 48,79,486/-	Delhi / NCR
12.	Syed Imran Ahmed / Syed Vakil Ahmed / LBDEL00002103292	Flat No. A1901, Springview Floors, Crescent Parc Township, Nh 24, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ October 15,2022.	April 30, 2019 Rs. 45,79,505/-	Delhi / NCR
13.	Rajesh Malhotra / Rishu Soni / LBDEL00002872923	Flat No. E-1501, 15th Floor, Newtech LA Galaxia, Hra 11, 1A, Surajpur Site C, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh./ October 15,2022.	October 03, 2017 Rs. 38,76,634/-	Delhi / NCR
14.	Aman Kalra / Kiran Kalra / LBNO00002351265	Flat No. F-1101, Vip Homes, 11th Floor, Plot No. GC-03K/ GH-03, Sec-16C, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh Greater Noida/ October 14,2022.	April 27, 2018 Rs. 47,06,182/-	Delhi / NCR
15.	Vivekanand Mallick / Shasmita Mallick / LBDFB00002259235	Flat No. T-1/B-618, Monarch, Plot No. GH-02/ C, Sector 1, Greater Noida/ October 15,2022.	October 03, 2017 Rs. 47,59,155/-	Delhi / NCR
16.	Yogendra Singh/ Deepak Singh/ LBGUR00003201640	Flat No 1303, 13th Floor, Block B, Sector-3, JNC Greenwoods, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ October 17, 2022.	January 28, 2020 Rs. 45,27,294/-	Delhi/ NCR
17.	Amit Kumar Srivastava/ Shalini Srivastava/ LBDEL00002098816	Flat No. T-1/B-722, Monarch, Plot No. Gh-02C, Sector 1, Greater Noida 201307 / October 15, 2022.	August 31, 2017 Rs. 45,52,965/-	Delhi/ NCR
18.	Namit Nayak/ Pooja Jain/ LBDEL00002119084	T-1/C-521, 21st Floor, Monarch, Plot - Gh-02C, Sector 01, Greater Noida, 201307/ October 15, 2022.	June 30, 2017 Rs. 42,04,730/-	Delhi/ NCR
19.	Manish Kumar/ Renu/ LBDEL00003182976	Flat No. 501, 5th Floor, Block B, JNC Greenwoods, Situated At Gh 1, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad/ October 17, 2022.	September 29, 2018 Rs.41,67,169/-	Delhi/ NCR
20.	Ajay Kumar Upadhyay/ Kirti Upadhyay/ LBDEL00002072771	Flat No. B-G12, Ground Floor, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No.10, Sector 75, Noida / October 15, 2022.	October 30, 2017 Rs. 40,02,070/-	Delhi/ NCR
21.	Jai Prakash/ Manisha Yadav/ LBNO00004905056	Flat No 1605, 16th Floor Tower-I, Future Estate Plot No Gh-16E, Sector 1 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttarpradesh/ October 15,2022.	June 25, 2021 Rs. 41,56,638/-	Delhi/ NCR
22.	Paras Agarwal/ Udisha Agarwal/ LBDEL00002084948	T-1/B-721, 21st Floor, Monarch, Plot No. Gh-02C, Sector 1, Greater Noida 201307/ October 15, 2022.	August 31, 2017 Rs. 41,82,976/-	Delhi/ NCR
23.	Nargis Alfred/ Raju Alfred/ LBDEL00002172023	Flat No. T-1/C-516, 16th Floor, Monarch, Plot No. Gh-02/ C, Sector 1, Greater Noida/ October 15, 2022.	September 27, 2017 Rs.38,90,400/-	Delhi/ NCR
24.	Shashi/ Ashish Chandra Kandwal/ LBGUR00002209187	Flat No. T-1/ B-314, 14th Floor, Monarch, Plot No. Gh 02C, Sector 1, Greater Noida 201307/ October 15, 2022.	March 31, 2017 Rs. 36,22,971/-	Delhi/ NCR
25.	Shashi/ Ashish Chandra Kandwal/ LBGUR00002159834	Flat No. T-1/B-312A Monarch, Plot No. Gh-02C, Sector 1, Greater Noida/ October 15,2022.	April 29, 2017 Rs. 36,17,688/-	Delhi/ NCR
26.	Shaifali Verma/ Kamlesh Kumar Verma/ LBDEL00002433345	K1-2203, 22th Floor, Tower-K1, Kumar Imperial Greens, Plot No. GH-01 B, Sector-16, Greater Noida (West) 201303/ October 15, 2022.	June 23, 2021 Rs. 31,79,534/-	Delhi/ NCR
27.	Baani Dharmija/ Manandeep Singh Dharmija/ LBDEL00003257666	Flat No. 806, 8th Floor, Tower A, Oxirich New Delhi Extension, Plot No. Gh-07A, Koyal Enclave, Vojna Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ October 17, 2022.	March 31, 2022 Rs. 27,67,479/-	Delhi/ NCR
28.	Jitender Singh Sehrawal/ Sarita Sehrawal/ LBDEL00002042317	Flat No. D-084, 8th Floor, Meadows Vista, Rajnagar Extn. Village- Morla, Nh-58, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh/ October 17,2022.	March 31, 2018 Rs. 29,68,576/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : October 20, 2022

Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

FIRST COLUMN

ADVENTURE SPORTS ARE FOR EVERYONE


They take adventure enthusiasts away from daily routine



NIHARIKA NIGAM

When we hear the word ‘adventure’, it brings to mind ‘thrill’, ‘adrenaline rush’, and an exciting venture into the unknown, a feeling that most youngsters would like to be associated with. But, why only youngsters? With disposable incomes, more access to a fit and healthy lifestyle, and probably a western influence of the ‘life starts after 60’ philosophy, not only millennials, but people in their 40s and 50s are putting adventure sports on their bucket list!

Be it jumping from a cliff or flying in the wide-open canvas of the sky, people are desperate to tick off these activities on their bucket lists. However, some extreme adventure sports have a set age limit, like bungee jumping, making it the most sought-after activity among college graduates or young corporates. With the general age bracket for bungee jumping falling in 12-45 years, you might have a reason to regret not making it till now, or you might be desperate to take that ‘leap of faith’. This once-in-a-lifetime experience makes the adventure sport one of the most sought after activities among youngsters and adrenaline junkies.



Adventure for our forefathers may have meant hunting in the wild. Today, extreme adventure sports like paragliding, bungee jumping, and white-water river rafting define the adrenaline rush among youth today.

The unprecedented crisis in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic brought in a series of lockdowns and restrictions, as the whole world was shut behind doors. A lot of youngsters suffered from the feeling of FOMO (Feeling of Missing Out) during this hard time. This growing desperation has given way to the boom in the tourism and adventure sports segment as people rush to their favorite tourist destinations like Goa and Rishikesh where they can also get a dose of adventure.

Adventure sports are the best way to escape from mundane life. While trekking, kayaking, water rafting, and rock climbing are popular activities, only a few choose to jump off a bungee platform or an aircraft thousands of feet above the ground (scuba diving). In meme language, only ‘legends’ can do that. Well, if you are fit with healthy body weight, you can go for these thrilling activities, no matter the age. However, it would be best to consult a doctor or jump coach, if you are above 45 years of age.

Quite popular among youth, bungee jumping is a therapy for your body, mind, and soul indeed. When you prepare to jump off that platform, then you are just trying to overcome your fear and once you are in the air, you forget all your worries. This is the best part of this extreme adventure and people who start this activity with shaking legs, come back again and again as if they get addicted to the height, the adrenaline rush.

Bungee jumping has recently gained the attention of youth as Rishikesh, the adventure capital of India and Goa, the land of serene beaches, started tourism and adventure activities recently. The bungee jumping platforms at both destinations are managed by ex-army officers and personnel, which means there is no compromise on safety.

The bungee jumping platforms are often set in the lap of nature with beautiful surroundings. This means, being in a dense forest or in between the cliffs surrounded by majestic mountains, where there is no network and no sight of the concrete world. This takes the adventure enthusiasts away from the chaos of the daily life routine, a true bliss in a fast-moving world. And who knows you may get answers to some tough questions in your mind, while you meditate with a world upside down, legs tied to long elastic ropes.

(The author is Director, Business Development, at Jumpin Heights)

Don’t forget Pakistan is a terror factory



SARADINDU MUKHERJI

The Singapore meeting is crucial for global peace. Pakistan is aiming FATF grey delisting but it is not doing enough to eliminate terrorism from its soil

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is scheduled to meet at Paris very soon, which among other issues would be examining Pakistan’s yet another desperate effort to come out of the “grey list” and be accepted as a normal civilised state.

Irrespective of the outcome of this meeting over which the city-state of Singapore would preside, there are a few principles and basic facts, which the participants representing the European Union, the US, the UK and other countries should not ignore. Equally important is their attitude in accepting the stand taken by the Government of India, after all, the people in India have been the single largest victims of Pakistani terrorism. Many countries in Europe, notably England and France besides the US, have had enough of battering from Islamic terrorism, and very often, it has Pakistani lineage.

The statement of Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs—“Pakistan is the global centre of terrorism and continues to be the source of terrorist activities, including in India. Pakistan continues to make no investment in human development but provides their resources for creating and sustaining infrastructure of terrorism”—needs to be taken seriously by all the participants before they take any decision.

It is expected by all the peace loving people, just not in India, that they are the principal target of on-going Pakistani sponsored terrorism. The so-called “infrastructure” is merely one aspect in understanding the nature and magnitude of the threat human civilization faces from Pakistan and similar other “pious” nations in pursuing their theologically sanctioned “Holy Mission”.


Lekhi’s assessment is both timely and apt. Countries like Pakistan, built and sustained on blind hatred of “others” have very different ideas on “human development” It is devoid of humanism and the finer aspects of human civilization, to put it very mildly.

Let us face facts which are known to many, but ignored by all those who matter most in fighting the battle against Islamic terrorism, that Pakistan and various other nations have embraced, and show no sign of any dilution in their tenacity and commitment in pursuing that agenda. From its very beginning, it was common knowledge that the Pakistani system is controlled by three “A”s – Allah, America and Army. Given this background, Pakistan is bound to suffer and lose out in the long-run. It is one of the enigmas of contemporary history that some of the most advanced democratic nations in the world often prop up Pakistan as an ally for very nebulous geo-strategic advantages, and that also against a democratic, liberal and civilized country like India!

India’s case suffers, because very often

“

WE CANNOT FORGET THAT IT WAS A “CONSTITUTIONALIST” AND AN ENGLISH EDUCATED SHIA, LIKE JINNAH, WHO HAD ORGANISED THE “DIRECT ACTION” IN CALCUTTA ON AUGUST 16, 1946, AND HASTENED THE PROCESS OF PARTITION



there is a studied reluctance to accept the reality and the deeper causes of this unending terrorism which for the perpetrators is Jihad. The problem in India is that the “domain experts” –both in the area studies departments in the university system, and sometimes in the North Bloc and South Bloc, are engaged in finding out layers and layers of meaning in distinguishing between the “hawks” and “doves” in the Pakistani state-system. Such an analytical tool, however useful it could be in categorizing other societies, miserably fails in understanding countries like Pakistan.

The Japanese have a term, Kokutai, that means that certain basic characteristics of a state-system do not change despite the changes in the complexion of a government. It is time to realize that Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and many countries in our neighbourhood would not suddenly turn liberal and humane.

Sensitivity and fellow-feeling develops over centuries, and societies which get cut off from those life-sustaining spiritual-cultural sources get deformed and stunted like weeds in barren deserts. Hence, any attempt to expect the basic minimum of civilized behavior from them is not only futile but also dangerous. Sir Vidia had vividly pointed out the many deficiencies of such societies so brilliantly even while another Nobel laureate Amartya Sen maintains total ignorance on such matters!

While the Singapore meeting would be looking at the various ways, a terror-infrastructure is considered innocuous or dangerous, the fact remains that there are


(The author is a Member of the ICHR)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE ASIA CUP 2023 WILL BE HELD AT A NEUTRAL VENUE. I AM SAYING THIS AS ACC PRESIDENT. WE CAN'T GO THERE, THEY CAN'T COME HERE.

—SECRETARY BCCI


JAY SHAH



WHEN COMRADERY BETWEEN THE 2 SIDES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WHY BCCI SECY WILL MAKE THIS STATEMENT BEFORE T20 WORLD CUP?

—FORMER PAKISTAN CAPTAIN

SHAHID AFRIDI



US mid-terms: Republicans face heat over abortion

A surge in the registration of young women voters show abortion rights would set the poll agenda

Mary Ziegler, the American legal historian, who closely follows the abortion debate in the US, in her latest book, ‘Dollars for Life: The Anti-Abortion Movement and the Fall of the Republican Establishment’ said that the abortion abolitionists considered the Roe reversal as a major achievement, but their ultimate goal is to achieve ‘a nationwide personhood protection to a fetus’.



ARCHANA DATTA

Ziegler asserts that such a move would slowly drift the Republican Party and American politics to new extremes on the agenda of MAGA/Christian rights. After the SC’s June ruling, the veteran Republican and the former Vice-President, Mike Pence, called for ‘restoration of the sanctity of life to the cen-

tre of American law in every state’ and averred that ‘a national abortion ban is a profoundly more important issue than any short-term politics’.

Many political analysts fear that such a ‘call for restoration’ hinged on the newly-gained freedom to impose forced birth may lead to a ‘culture war’ in the US. A political-science professor at UCLA has opined that ‘attitudes about cultural change and American identity have already emerged as the principal point of separation between the parties’.

In the 2022 mid-terms, many political analysts predicted a ‘big red wave’ in the face of Biden’s lowering approval ratings. However, in the post-Dobbs scenario, earlier predictions of sweeping

Republican gains have been believed to be ‘tempered’. A recent Pew Research Centre poll revealed that the share of voters who call abortion ‘very important’ rose from 43 to 56 per cent between March and August. A media tracker poll (CBS News) disclosed that more than 40 per cent of likely voters would support abortion rights, compared to just 16 per cent, who would oppose them, while, about 25 per cent of persuadable voters have been ‘tilting toward Democrats’. A recent opinion poll (Monmouth University) also found that nearly half the voters prefer Democrats in Congress, with 43 per cent favouring Republicans. Planned Parenthood, a non-profit, has already announced a record \$50 million to elect

abortion rights supporters across the country in November, which, political analysts claim, will add to the Democrats advantage’.

Besides, recent win in the Upstate New York, a highly competitive district, and also the resounding rejection of a constitutional amendment that would have allowed state lawmakers to further restrict abortion access, in a Republican stronghold like Kansas, where only 26 per cent of registered voters are Democrats, are being considered as ‘early signs that Democrats are likely to fare better than expected in the fall’.

The GOP, on the other hand, in a memo to the contestants in September, accepted that ‘the vast majority of voters disagree with the

Supreme Court’s decision’, and urged them to ‘draw a contrast’ between their position on abortion, which includes exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother as against a ‘Democrat’s stand who supports abortion at any time for any reason’.

Republicans, rather, wanted to fight out the midterms on the issues of inflation, crime, immigration, etc. But, they have found it difficult to avoid the topic since Republican Sen. Lindsey O. Graham introduced a bill in September that would ban abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy nationwide.

Many GOP strategists consider ‘it is an absolute disaster’, while some others believe their best message is ‘leave it to the states’. House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the bill the ‘latest, clearest signal of extreme MAGA Republicans’ intent to criminalise women’s health freedom in all 50 states and arrest doctors for providing basic care’.

In terms of voter’s registration also there was a backlash against the SC’s Dobbs decision. In states where abortion rights are under threat, there is a significant upsurge in under-25 registration, particularly among young women, according to political data analysts (TargetSmart). The highest gender gap in voter’s registration was observed in Kansas, which recently faced a ballot initiative on abortion restrictions. Almost in every state, the number of the newly registered under-25 voters

tende to be ‘even more Democratic’.

In Pennsylvania, the number of newly registered women voters went up from 51 per cent to nearly 65 per cent, while 62 per cent of them signed up as Democrats, which was early this year only 46 per cent.

Now, as large turn outs of people in Washington and elsewhere in rallies across the country carry protest signs like ‘Abort the court’, ‘Abortion justice voter’, ‘My body my choice’, etc., the message is loud and clear that voters are to back candidates who support abortion rights. Though mid-terms typically don’t favour the party in power, this year Democrats definitely have an edge.

Russia evacuates occupied Ukrainian city

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces launched mass evacuations of civilians Wednesday from one of the first major cities they seized in the invasion of Ukraine - a tacit acknowledgement that yet another stinging battlefield defeat may be unfolding for President Vladimir Putin.

Ukraine's stunning counteroffensive appears to be bearing down on Kherson, a southern city of more than 250,000 people, with industries and a major port on the Dnieper River. The battle for the city is a pivotal moment for both Ukraine and Russia heading into winter, when cold and difficult conditions could largely freeze front lines until the spring thaw.

In what could be another sign that his invasion is not going as planned, Putin ordered martial law Wednesday in four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed in recent weeks and where Russian forces have full or partial control. The region surrounding Kherson that bears the same name is among them.

What had previously been a

trickle of evacuations from the city in recent days was becoming a flood. Residents could be seen on Russian state television crowding on the Dnieper's banks, many with small children, to cross by boats to the east - and, from there, deeper into Russian-controlled territory.

Text messages warned residents to expect shelling and said buses were being prepared for them to leave, Russian state media reported. Leaflets told evacuees that they could take the weight equivalent of two large suitcases, medicines and food for a few days.

Moscow-backed authorities have said evacuations from occupied territories are voluntary. But in many cases, the only routes out are to Russia.

"It's better to evacuate people in case the fighting starts to involve artillery shelling and bombing of the city, and that's what we are doing now," said Vladimir Saldo, the region's Moscow-installed head.

Andriy Yermak, head of the Ukrainian presidential office, called the evacuation "a propaganda show" and said Russia's claims that Kyiv's forces might shell Kherson were "a rather



primitive tactic, given that the Armed Forces do not fire at Ukrainian cities."

Ukrainian forces have rolled back Russian positions on the river's west bank in recent weeks, and the region's Moscow-installed administrators now appeared to be hoping that the Dnieper's wide, deep waters will act as a natural barrier against those approaching forces.

In a rare acknowledgement of the pressure that Kyiv's troops are exerting on the ground, Russia's new commander for Ukraine on Tuesday described the situation for Russian forces in the Kherson region as "very difficult." Russian bloggers have interpreted Gen. Sergei Surovikin's comments as a warning of a possible pullback of Moscow's forces.

Putin didn't immediately spell out the powers that martial law would grant. But they could include restrictions on travel and public gatherings, tighter censorship and broader powers for law enforcement agencies.

Proving incapable of holding all the territory his military has seized and struggling with manpower and equipment losses, Putin has stepped up bombardments from the air, with a scorched-earth campaign targeting Ukrainian power plants and other key infrastructure.

Those tactics contrast with the Kremlin's strategy in the invasion's opening stages in February, when Russian commanders had seemingly sought to spare some utilities they perhaps thought they might later need.

But after being routed from around the capital, Kyiv, and then pushed back in the south and east by the ongoing Ukrainian counteroffensive launched in late summer, with the backing of Western-supplied weaponry, Moscow is now increasingly resorting to targeting Ukraine's power plants and other energy infrastructure, threatening a miserable winter

for millions of Ukrainians.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tweeted Tuesday that nearly a third of the country's power stations have been destroyed since Oct. 10, causing "massive blackouts" nationwide.

Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians to make "a very conscious" effort to save power, speaking before another night where substations and other infrastructure were pounded.

Shelling knocked out power and water in some parts of Enerhodar, Mayor Dmytro Orlov said. The southern city is next to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is one of the most worrisome flashpoints of the nearly eight-month invasion.

Missiles severely damaged an energy facility in the region of Kryvyi Rih, a city in south-central Ukraine, the regional governor reported. He said the strike cut power to villages, towns and to one city district.

Western nations have promised more air-defense systems to help Ukraine counter the aerial assault that is testing the resilience Ukrainians have shown since Moscow invaded.

A newly arrived German-supplied air defense system has been deployed and is performing well against the Russian strikes, Zelenskyy said.

He thanked Ukrainian soldiers who shot down missiles and Iranian-made drones that have targeted energy facilities.

Iran has denied supplying drones to Russia, even though the ones now used to strike Ukrainian targets have been identified by Ukraine and Western nations as Shahed drones, a comparatively cheap, unmanned aircraft that Iranian armament facilities make in large numbers.

Across Ukraine, Russian strikes killed at least six civilians and wounded 16 in the latest 24-hour period, the president's office said Wednesday. It said Russian forces attacked nine southeastern regions of Ukraine using drones, rockets and heavy artillery, focusing on energy facilities.

Four cities were attacked around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, the largest in Europe, with residential buildings damaged. In Enerhodar, where plant workers live, electricity and water was partially lost.

Putin tightens Ukraine energy squeeze, launches evacuation

AP ■ KYIV



Shelling of energy utilities left more Ukrainian villages, towns and parts of two cities without power on Wednesday, authorities said, tightening an energy squeeze that threatens misery for millions in winter.

A nearly two-week barrage of Russian attacks with missiles, self-destructing explosive drones and other weaponry on Ukraine's critical infrastructure comes as Russian forces are being forced back on the ground.

In Kherson, among the first Ukrainian cities seized by Russian forces in the February invasion, Moscow-installed authorities are bracing for a Ukrainian assault to take it back, telling residents to expect shelling and to evacuate.

Text messages on Wednesday urged people to leave the southern city, Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

Moscow-backed authorities have said evacuations from occupied territories are voluntary. But in many cases, the only routes out for evacuees are to Russia.

In a rare acknowledgement of the pressure that Ukrainian troops are exerting on the ground, Russia's new invasion commander, Gen. Sergei Surovikin, on Tuesday described the situation for Russian forces in the Kherson region as "very difficult".

Kherson is one of four partly or fully-occupied regions that Russia illegally annexed last month, in an effort - widely

condemned and rejected by Western nations - to cement its land-grabs.

Proving incapable of holding all the territory it seized and struggling with manpower and equipment losses, Russia has stepped up bombardments from the air.

The scorched-earth campaign targeting Ukrainian power plants and other key infrastructure contrasts with Kremlin tactics in the invasion's opening stage, when Russian commanders had seemingly sought to spare some utilities they perhaps thought they might later need, had they not been beaten back.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tweeted on Tuesday that nearly a third of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed since October 10, causing "massive blackouts" nationwide.

Later on Tuesday, in his nightly video address, Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians to make "a very conscious" effort to save

power, speaking before another night where substations and other infrastructure were pounded. Zelenskyy said switching off appliances and doing other things to save power during hours of peak consumption help "the entire country".

Shelling knocked out power and water in some parts of Enerhodar, Mayor Dmytro Orlov said. The southern city is next to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which is one of the most worrisome flashpoints of the nearly eight-month invasion.

Missiles severely damaged an energy facility in the region of Kryvyi Rih, a city in south-central Ukraine, the regional governor reported. He said the strike cut power to villages, towns and to one city district.

Western nations have promised more air-defense systems to help Ukraine counter the aerial assault that is testing the resilience Ukrainians have shown since Moscow invaded.

Russia's Iranian drones complicate Israel's balancing act

AP ■ JERUSALEM



The Iranian-made drones that Russia sent slamming into central Kyiv this week have complicated Israel's balancing act between Russia and the West.

Israel has stayed largely on the sidelines since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February so as not to damage its strategic relationship with the Kremlin. Although Israel has sent humanitarian aid to Ukraine, it has refused Kyiv's frequent requests to send air defense systems and other military equipment and refrained from enforcing strict economic sanctions on Russia and the many Russian-Jewish oligarchs who have second homes in Israel.

But with news of Moscow's deepening ties with Tehran, Israel's sworn foe, pressure is growing on Israel to back Ukraine in the grinding war. Israel has long fought a shadowy war with Iran across the Middle East by land, sea and air.

Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, a military spokesman, said the suicide drone attack in Ukraine had raised new concerns in Israel.

"We're looking at it closely and thinking about how these

can be used by the Iranians toward Israeli population centers," he said.

The debate burst into the open on Monday, as an Israeli Cabinet minister called on the government to take Ukraine's side. Iran and its proxies in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen have threatened Israel with the same delta-shaped, low-flying Shahed drones now exploding in Kyiv. The Iranian government has denied providing Moscow with the drones, but American officials say it has been doing so since August.

"There is no longer any doubt where Israel should stand in this bloody conflict,"

Nachman Shai, Israel's minister of diaspora affairs, wrote on Twitter. "The time has come for Ukraine to receive military aid as well, just as the USA and NATO countries provide."

His comments set off a storm in Russia. Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Telegram that providing military aid to Ukraine would be "a very reckless move" by Israel.

"It will destroy all interstate relations between our countries," he wrote.

But Shai doubled down on Tuesday, while stressing his view did not reflect the government's official stance.

"We in Israel have a lot of

experience in protecting our civilian population over 30 years. We've been attacked by missiles from Iraq and rockets from Lebanon and Gaza," Shai, a former military spokesman, told The Associated Press. "I'm speaking about defense equipment to protect Ukraine's civilian population."

The Israeli prime minister's office and Defense Ministry both declined to comment.

For years, Russia and Israel have enjoyed good working relations and closely coordinated to avoid run-ins in the skies over Syria, Israel's northeastern neighbor, where Russian air power has propped up embattled President Bashar Assad. Russia has let Israeli jets bomb Iran-linked targets said to be weapons caches destined for Israel's enemies.

Israel has also been keen to stay neutral in the war over concern for the safety of the large Jewish community in Russia. Israel frets about renewed anti-semitic attacks in the country, with its long history of anti-Jewish pogroms under Russian czars and purges in the Soviet era. Over 1 million of Israel's 9.2 million citizens have roots in the former Soviet Union.

Berlusconi says Russia's Putin gifted him vodka, sweet note

AP N ROME



Ukraine in Russia's war, is divvying Cabinet posts ahead of formal consultations this week to form a new government. Forza Italia, the junior member of the coalition, is gunning for the foreign ministry, among other ministries.

In the audiotape, Berlusconi also again seemed to defend Moscow's position in the war, relaying to his lawmakers that

Russian officials have repeatedly said the West is at war with Russia "because we're giving Ukraine weapons and financing."

It's not the first time Berlusconi has seemingly defended Putin. Late in the campaign, he seemed to justify Russia's invasion by saying Putin was forced into it by pro-Moscow separatists in the

Donbas region of eastern Ukraine.

"The troops were supposed to enter, reach Kyiv within a week, replace Zelenskyy's government with decent people and then leave," Berlusconi told his favorite late-night talk show host on Sept. 22. Later he backtracked, saying his words had been "oversimplified."

Berlusconi's office similar-

ly tried to deny his audiotape comments about the birthdate vodka. In a statement Tuesday, his office insisted that he hadn't restarted relations with Putin and that Berlusconi "told an old story to lawmakers about a episode that occurred years ago."

Berlusconi has a long, friendly history with Putin: He has entertained the Russian leader at his Sardinia villa and even visited Crimea with Putin in 2014 after the Russian leader annexed the peninsula from Ukraine.

Berlusconi's latest comments are likely to complicate relations with Meloni, who is expected to be tapped to become Italy's next premier. Meloni's far-right credentials and past euroskept views have raised eyebrows in some European capitals, but she has staunchly supported NATO and Ukraine in the war.

Already relations between the two soured over Berlusconi's insistence on placing a loyalist in her Cabinet and over Forza Italia's refusal to vote for her candidate for Senate president.

Trump to be deposed in defamation suit filed by rape accuser



AP ■ NEW YORK

Former President Donald Trump is scheduled to answer questions under oath on Wednesday in a lawsuit filed by E. Jean Carroll, a magazine columnist who says the Republican raped her in the mid-1990s in a department store dressing room. The deposition - if it takes place as planned - will give Carroll's lawyers a chance to interrogate Trump about the assault allegations as well as statements he made in 2019 when she told her story publicly for the first time.

Trump says Carroll's rape allegation is "a hoax and a lie."

His legal team worked for years to delay his deposition in the lawsuit, which was filed when he was still president. A federal judge last week rejected Trump's request for another delay, saying he couldn't "run the clock out on plaintiff's attempt to gain a remedy for what allegedly was a serious wrong."

Details of where, when and how Trump was to be questioned haven't been revealed by either his lawyers or Carroll's. Only the date has been revealed in court filings.

Trump still appeared to be in Florida as of Wednesday morning. Carroll was to have been questioned by Trump's lawyers last Friday. Neither her attorneys and nor Trump's have responded to questions about how that deposition went. Anything Trump says during his deposition could potentially be used as evidence in an upcoming civil trial. He hasn't faced any criminal charges related to Carroll's allegations and any prosecution is unlikely. The deadline for criminal charges over sexual assaults that occurred in the 1990s has long expired.

Similar legal deadlines also applied to civil lawsuits over sexual assault. As a result, Carroll chose to sue Trump for defamation over comments he made in 2019 when he denied any wrongdoing. She maintains his denials and attacks on her credibility and character damaged her reputation. However, New York lawmakers recently gave survivors of sexual violence a one-year window to sue their attackers over old assaults. Carroll's lawyer has told the court she intends to file such a suit against Trump after that window opens in late November.

Suella resigns as UK Home Secretary over 'mistake'

PTI ■ LONDON

Indian-origin British Home Secretary Suella Braverman resigned on Wednesday after a "mistake" in using her private email for ministerial communication in London.

Braverman was only appointed Home Secretary 43 days ago when British Prime Minister Liz Truss took charge at 10 Downing Street. Her exit followed a face-to-face meeting with Truss earlier on Wednesday and posted her resignation letter on her Twitter handle. "I have made a mistake; I accept responsibility; I resign," the 42-year-old barrister said.

Braverman said she "sent an official document from my personal email to a trusted parliamentary colleague... As you know, the document was a draft Written Ministerial Statement about migration, due for publication imminently". "Nevertheless it is right for me to go. As soon as I realised my mistake, I rapidly reported this on official channels, and informed the Cabinet Secretary," she said.

In remarks that will deal a further blow to her boss Liz Truss, she noted that "we are going through a tumultuous time... I have concerns about the direction of this government". "Not only have we broken key pledges that were promised to our voters, but I have had serious concerns about this government's commitment to honouring manifesto commitments, such as reducing overall migration numbers and stopping illegal migration."

Summon Gotabaya, Lanka SC orders Govt

In 2011 human rights violation case

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Wednesday directed authorities to issue summons to ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to appear in court over the disappearances of two activists in 2011 as he has now been stripped of constitutional immunity.

Rajapaksa, 73, will now be required to give evidence in the case filed on the disappearance of two rights activists Lalith Weeraratne and Kugan Murugananthan in the northern district of Jaffna.

The disappearances took place 12 years ago soon after the end of the country's long civil war when Rajapaksa was a powerful official at the Defence Ministry under the presidency of his elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa.

At the time, Gotabaya Rajapaksa was accused of overseeing abduction squads that



whisked away rebel suspects, critical journalists and activists, many of them never to be seen again. He has previously denied any wrongdoing.

When Rajapaksa was originally summoned to appear in court in 2018, he petitioned the Court of Appeal claiming his life would be under threat if he were to travel to Jaffna to appear in

court.

The Appeal Court later ruled that Rajapaksa cannot be summoned to court as he had been elected President by then and enjoyed legal immunity as the President of the country.

As Rajapaksa has now lost his constitutional immunity, the apex court decided to issue summons to him to make an

appearance on December 15

when the case would be heard. Rajapaksa was ousted in the popular uprising against him for his mishandling of the island nation's worst economic crisis.

He fled to the Maldives mid-July and announced his resignation from Singapore. In early September he returned to the country from Thailand.

France 'profoundly shaken' by schoolgirl's slaying in Paris

AP ■ PARIS

The slaying of a 12-year-old girl whose body was found inside a plastic box in a Paris building courtyard has left France "profoundly shaken," the French government's spokesperson said Wednesday.

A 24-year-old woman who was arrested Saturday in a northeastern suburb of the capital is in custody on charges of murder and rape of a minor, torture, acts of barbarity and concealment of a corpse, the Paris state prosecutor said Monday. A 43-year-old man is also in custody, charged with helping to hide the girl's body, according to a prosecutors' statement.

The killing of the girl, identified in the French media only as Lola, has sparked a vicious political debate after



reports emerged identifying the main suspect as an immigrant who remained in the country despite a deportation order.

An autopsy showed the girl died of "cardiorespiratory failure with signs of asphyxia and cervical compression," Paris prosecutors said. The coroner's report also cited

wounds to her face, back and neck and injuries consistent with sexual assault, the prosecutor's statement said.

A judicial investigation is underway to determine the motive for the killing and a timeline of events that led to the girl's death on Friday and the discovery of her body that night in the courtyard of the building where she lived with her family.

"We are profoundly shaken, faced with the horror and the pain," French government spokesman Olivier Veran said during a media briefing.

The girl's father reported his daughter missing Friday afternoon after she failed to return home from school. He works as a concierge in the building and used security camera footage to retrace the girl's movements.

Barber, 75, pleads guilty in 1976 killing of WWI veteran

AP ■ NEW YORK

A 75-year-old New York City man pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the 1976 killing of a World War I veteran whose dismembered remains were found in 2019.

Martin Motta's guilty plea on Tuesday in the death of George Seitz represented the first successful use of genetic genealogy by any of the city's prosecutors, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said.

Seitz had been a customer at the Queens barbershop where Motta worked.

"No matter how much time has passed, we will use every tool at our disposal to achieve justice," Katz said in a news release.

NYC opens emergency centre for influx of bused migrants

AP ■ NEW YORK

A complex of giant tents built on an island is set to open Wednesday as New York City's latest temporary shelter for an influx of international migrants being bused into the city by southern border states.

The humanitarian relief center on Randall's Island is intended to be a temporary waystation for single, adult men — many from Venezuela — who have been arriving several times per week on buses chartered predominantly from Texas.

Spartan and utilitarian, the tents include cots for up to 500 people, laundry facilities, a dining hall and phones for residents to make international calls. The city's plan is to bring single men to the facility once they arrive at the main Manhattan bus terminal and to house them there for a period of days while determining next steps, officials said. Families with children are being housed in a hotel.

"We needed a different type of operation that gave us the time and space to welcome people, provide them a warm meal shower, a place to sleep, to understand their medical needs, to really then work with them to figure out what their next step is going to be," said Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol.

The white, plastic-walled tents also include a space where migrants can meet with case workers to determine their



next steps, as well as a recreational room with televisions, video games and board games. In the sleeping area, row upon row of green cots stretch out, each one with a pillow, some sheets and a blanket, and some towels. The city said it will be able to double the sleeping capacity of the tents, if needed.

In recent months, New York City has seen an unexpected increase in migrants seeking asylum in the United States who have been sent to the city from other states including Texas and Arizona. The influx has put a strain on the city's shelter system, leading officials to look for other places to house people and proposing the temporary tent facilities. New York City's homeless shelter system is now bursting with more than 63,300 residents.

While there are fewer families in the shelters now than there were in the years before the pandemic, the number of single men has soared since the spring, largely because

of the influx of migrants. There were more than 20,000 single adults in the shelter system Monday, up 23 per cent from the nightly average in July.

Mayor Eric Adams declared a state of emergency earlier this month, calling the increased demand being put on the city "not sustainable."

The tents were initially planned for a far-off corner of the Bronx, but were moved after concerns about flooding and criticism from immigrant advocates over the remote location. Iscol said the Randall's Island location was safe from flooding.

Advocates remain concerned even with the new location, questioning what conditions migrants will be kept in, and whether the support they get will be adequate.

Randall's Island is located in the waters between the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens. Five bridges connect it to the three boroughs, and the city's subway system is a bus ride or walk away.



Blasts kill at least 8 at Myanmar's Insein Prison

AP ■ BANGKOK

A bombing on Wednesday near the front gate of Myanmar's main prison for political detainees killed at least eight people, including visitors and prison personnel, local media and the government said.

Five people who were delivering parcels to prisoners and three prison staff were killed when two bombs exploded around 9:40 a.m., News of Myanmar, an online news service sympathetic to the country's military government, reported on the Telegram social media platform. The blasts occurred inside and outside of the parcel reception office near the main iron gate of Insein Prison in Yangon, the country's biggest city.

The military's information office confirmed in a statement that five visitors, including a 10-year-old girl, and three prison staff were killed, and that an unexploded bomb had also been found in a parcel. It said 13 visitors, including a 9-year-old boy, and five prison personnel were being treated for injuries at Insein township hospital. The prison has been notorious for decades for holding political prisoners under various military governments. Families of prisoners are allowed to bring parcels with items such as food, clothing and medicine.

Several resistance groups engaged in struggle against the military government, including the Yangon Revolution Force, Yangon Urban Guerrillas and the General Strike Committee, quickly released statements condemning the attacks for hurting civilians.

However, a little-known anti-government group later posted a statement on Telegram saying it had carried out the attack.

Two Hindu girls abducted in Pakistan's Sindh province

PTI ■ KARACHI

Two teenage Hindu girls have allegedly been abducted in Pakistan's Sindh province, prompting their mother to stage a protest on Wednesday after police purportedly refused to register an FIR about the incident, which is the latest in a string of such atrocities against members of the minority community in the country. The mother claimed the incident occurred last week in the Salah Pat area near Sukkur when they were returning home.

She said that three men forcibly took away her daughters — who are 17 and 18 years old — and also pushed and hit her when she tried to stop them. The helpless mother on Wednesday protested against the refusal of the police to register a first information report about the incident. "I have named the masked men who abducted my daughters but the police are doing nothing. I appeal to the court to do something and give me back my

daughters," she said.

The abduction and forcible conversion of young Hindu girls have become a major problem in the interior of Sindh province which has a large Hindu population in Thar, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Ghotki and Khairpur areas. Most of the Hindu community members are labourers. Pakistan's Sindh government this month ordered a high-level probe into reports of the abduction of a 14-year-old Hindu girl from the city of Hyderabad in Sindh province. Last month, a woman and two teenage girls belonging to the Hindu community were kidnapped with two of them forcibly converted to Islam and married to Muslim men.

On July 16, 2019, the issue of abducting and forcibly converting Hindu girls in various districts of Sindh province was taken up in the Sindh Assembly, where a resolution was debated and unanimously passed after it was modified over objections of certain lawmakers that it should not be restricted to Hindu girls only.

Embattled UK leader Truss says she's not a quitter

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Liz Truss described herself as "a fighter and not a quitter" Wednesday as she faced down a hostile opposition and fury from her own Conservative Party over her botched economic plan.

Truss attended her first session of Prime Minister's Questions since newly appointed Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt ripped up the tax-cutting package unveiled by her new government less than a month ago. She apologized to Parliament and admitted she made mistakes during her short tenure as the U.K.'s head of government.

Some lawmakers shouted

"Resign!" as she spoke.

Asked by the opposition Labour Party's leader, Keir Starmer, "Why is she still here?" Truss retorted: "I am a fighter and not a quitter. I have acted in the national interest to make sure that we have economic stability."

A package of unfunded tax cuts Truss' government announced Sept. 23 sparked turmoil on financial markets, hammered the value of the pound and increased the cost of U.K. Government borrowing. The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prevent the crisis spreading to the wider economy and putting pensions at risk.

Under intense political and economic pressure, Truss last week fired her ally Kwasi Kwarteng as Treasury



chief, replacing him with Cabinet veteran Hunt. On Monday Hunt scrapped almost all of Truss' tax cuts, along with her flagship energy poli-

cy and her promise of no public spending cuts. He said the government will need to save billions of pounds and there are "many difficult decisions" to be made before he sets out a medium-term fiscal plan on Oct. 31.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly urged Conservatives to give Truss another chance, saying "mistakes happen."

"What you've got to do is recognize when they've happened and have humility to make changes when you see things didn't go right," he said.

Official figures released Wednesday showed U.K. Inflation rose to 10.1% in September, returning to a 40-year high first hit in July, as the soaring cost of food squeezed

household budgets. While inflation is high around the world — driven up by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its effect energy supplies — polls show most Britons blame the government for the country's economic pain.

With opinion polls giving the Labour Party a large and growing lead, many Conservatives now believe their only hope of avoiding electoral oblivion is to replace Truss. But she insists she is not stepping down, and legislators are divided about how to get rid of her.

Truss faces another test in Parliament later when lawmakers vote on an opposition Labour Party motion seeking to ban fracking for shale gas — a policy Truss recently greenlit.

North fires more shells toward inter-Korean sea buffer zone

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea fired about 100 more artillery shells toward the sea Wednesday in response to South Korean live-firing drills at border areas as the rivals accuse each other of dialing up tensions on the Korean Peninsula with weapons tests.

The drills conducted by both sides come amid heightened animosities over recent North Korean missile tests that it calls simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean and U.S. Targets.

South Korea's military detected the artillery being fired from a western North Korean coastal town, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. On Tuesday night, North Korea fired about 100 shells off its west coast and 150 rounds off its east coast, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said earlier.

Both days, the North Korean shells landed in the northern parts of the maritime buffer zones the two Koreas created off their eastern and western coasts as part of agreements they made in 2018 to reduce



tensions, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

North Korea also fired hundreds of shells at the buffer zones last Friday, in its most significant direct violation of the 2018 agreement. North Korea's military said the launches were a warning against what it called provocative South Korean artillery firing drills along the border earlier this week.

"Our army strongly warns the enemy forces to immediately stop the highly irritating provocative act in the frontline areas," an unidentified spokesperson at the General Staff of the North's Korean People's Army said in a statement Wednesday.

Uganda to deploy Ebola vaccine in 2 weeks, says WHO official

AP ■ KAMPALA (UGANDA)

Experimental Ebola vaccines will be deployed in Uganda in about "two weeks," a World Health Organization official said Wednesday, as the East African country carried out tough preventive measures that include a lockdown in the Ebola-hit areas.

Potentially hundreds of thousands of trial vaccine doses will buttress a response effort that still must focus on tracing Ebola contacts and community engagement, Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldeariam, the WHO representative at the Uganda, told The Associated Press.

"We are getting closer and closer to deploying vaccines," he said. "This is a study. This is just another tool that we are going to try."

Vaccines developed by the U.S.-based Sabin Vaccine Institute and Oxford University "are ready to be shipped" to Uganda, which is finalising protocols for the study before the National Drug Authority issues import permits, he said.

The Sudan strain of Ebola,



for which there's no proven vaccine, is circulating in Uganda. Ebola, which manifests as a viral hemorrhagic fever, has infected at least 60 people and killed 24. The official figures don't include people who likely died of Ebola before the outbreak was confirmed. Victims include five health workers.

The Oxford vaccine is being produced by the Serum Institute of India, which has indicated it can eventually make hundreds of thousands of doses available, according to Yonas, who is closely following Uganda's Ebola

response. Uganda declared an outbreak of Ebola on Sept. 20, several days after the contagious disease began spreading in a rural farming community. A lockdown and nighttime curfew measures are now in place in the outbreak's epicenter, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) west of the capital, Kampala.

Ebola is spread by contact with bodily fluids of an infected person or contaminated materials. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pain and at times internal and external bleeding.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Amrudin is the owner of Property bearing No. 16-2/10/523, area measuring 41.35 Sq. Yds., Situated in the area of Village Chamli, Pargana & Tehsil & District Hapur wide Sole deed dated 03.08.2021. Doc No. 5565. All persons are hereby informed that Mr. Amrudin wants to mortgage the said property and intend to obtain a loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Waf Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4101227-28. kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mr. Anand Kumar Gupta is the owner of Upper Ground Floor measuring 200 sq. yds. (said floor) built on Plot No. 271/21, Block 27 & Plot No. 121, out of Khasra No. 289/637 & Khata No. 361/268, Situated at Village Chandrawali @ Shahdara in the area of Vishwas Nagar, Ilaga Shahdara, Delhi; by virtue of sale deed dated 03.06.2015, Registration No. 3314, executed by Mrs. Meena Garg, has lost /misplaced SMC Certificate stating legal heirs of Late Mrs. Premwati. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document, if anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Waf Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph: 011-4101227-28. kumar.associates.advocates@gmail.com

UJVN Limited

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135- 2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886
Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक: 780

Time Extension Notice-I

दिनांक: 19.10.2022

Due to unavoidable reasons Tender No. 16/EE(G)/CPH/2022-23 for "Annual maintenance of the Coolers & Pumps including replacement of main pipe line of 4x69 MVA Generator Transformers at Chibro Powerhouse" is being extended as below:

Last date for downloading of tender: 28-10-2022 (Up to 14:00 Hrs.)

Last dated for submission of tender : 29-10-2022 (Up to 15:00 Hrs.)

Date of opening of tender: 31-10-2022 (At 11:00 Hrs.)

Other terms & condition will remain same. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website "www.ujvn.com".

EE(G), Chibro

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Notice Inviting Tender

SSA-15022/2/2022-ESTABLISHMENT-SSA I/58111/2022

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom , Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, invites following bids through GeM portal.

1. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2640363 Dated: 14-10-2022 for printing and supply of Activity Calendar
2. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2643144 Dated: 15-10-2022 for printing and supply of Science and Maths Activity Books
3. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2643512 Dated: 15-10-2022 for printing and supply of Pupils Comprehensive Progress Report Card
4. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2644073 Dated: 15-10-2022 for printing and supply of Readiness Package
5. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2644280 Dated: 15-10-2022 for printing and supply of Evaluation Work Book LP and UP
6. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2644382 Dated: 15-10-2022 for printing and supply of Sikhon Puthi LP and UP
7. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2644678 Dated: 15-10-2022 for printing and supply of MDM Register
8. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2641427 Dated: 15-10-2022 for Supply of Teaching Learning Materials
9. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2644501 Dated: 15-10-2022 for supply of Apron and Cap
10. Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2644613 Dated: 15-10-2022 - for supply Stainless Steel Plates and Glass.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid on GeM portal accordingly.

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha, Axom
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2617/22

Sensex, Nifty settle higher for 4th straight day as Reliance, HDFC twins gain

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Wednesday, marking their fourth straight session of gains on the back of buying in index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC twins.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 146.59 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 59,107.19 even as 11 of its constituents gained while 19 declined. During the day, it rallied 439.09 points or 0.74 per cent to 59,399.69.

The broader NSE Nifty advanced 25.30 points or 0.14 per cent to end at 17,512.25 with 18 of its stocks ending higher and 32 closing lower.

Heavy buying in HDFC, Reliance Industries and Nestle helped indices close higher for a fourth straight session. Sensex and Nifty gained more than 3 per cent in the four-day rally.

From the Sensex pack, HDFC rose the most by 2.13 per cent. Nestle rose by 1.91 per cent,



Reliance Industries by 1.88 per cent, ITC by 1.79 per cent, HDFC Bank by 1.02 per cent and UltraTech Cement by 0.89 per cent.

IT, pharma and most of the banking stocks succumbed to selling pressure.

NTPC fell the most by 1.77 per cent while State Bank of India declined 1.64 per cent, and

Bajaj Finserv by 1.56 per cent. HCL Technologies, Dr.Reddy's, Infosys and Maruti were among the laggards.

"European markets interrupted their winning run after a 40-year high CPI in the UK. However, the strong US market due to healthy corporate result announcements is helping the domestic market to sustain the

positive trend," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said after the initial uptick, the key indices witnessed a gradual decline as participants preferred to book some profits off the table.

Most sectors traded in line with the move and ended flat to

marginal in the green. The broader indices too witnessed a similar trend.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge ended marginally higher by 0.13 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.03 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, services climbed 0.46 per cent, energy by 0.45 per cent, FMCG (0.42 per cent), realty (0.38 per cent) and financial services (0.32 per cent).

However, utilities, power, tech, metal, IT and commodities fell by up to 1.61 per cent.

Among other Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo settled in the green.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals. Wall Street ended higher on Tuesday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.72 per cent higher at USD 90.54 per barrel.

NSE Indices floats consultation paper on index rules

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NSE Indices Ltd, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange, is planning to change the methodology of merger and demerger of index constituents for equity indices to avoid big churnings, which happens in the current system.

This comes ahead of the proposed merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank.

The proposal, if considered, is expected to avoid sharp movement in stock prices of firms that are in the process of merger or demerger.

In its consultation paper, NSE Indices has suggested to make ex-date an important factor for replacing an index constituent.

It has sought comments from market participants on the proposed revision in the treatment of merger and demerger of



index constituents for equity indices till November 2.

With regards to the treatment of a merger, NSE Indices has proposed that the transferor company, which is being excluded from indices with a fixed number of constituents, as per the proposal issued late night on Tuesday. Indices with a variable number of constituents, NSE Indices suggested that no replacement will be made in place of the transferor company which is being excluded.

On ex-date, a replacement of company will be made based on the eligibility criteria of respective indices in place of the transferor company, which is being excluded from indices with a fixed number of constituents, as per the proposal issued late night on Tuesday.

Indices with a variable number of constituents, NSE Indices suggested that no replacement will be made in place of the transferor company which is being excluded.



Adani says committed to open offer for NDTV

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Group, which missed the date for the launch of an open offer to buy an additional 26 per cent stake in NDTV, on Wednesday said it is committed to completing the process and has asked SEBI to provide comments on its draft open offer letter.

The conglomerate, run by India's richest man Gautam Adani, in August acquired a little-known company that lent over Rs 400 crore to NDTV's founders more than a decade ago in exchange for warrants that allowed the company to acquire a stake of 29.18 per cent in the news group at any time.

Post that, Vishvapradhan Commercial Pvt Ltd (VCPL) - the firm that Adani group bought out - announced that it would on October 17 launch an open offer to buy an additional 26 per cent stake from minority shareholders of NDTV.

In a stock exchange filing, Adani Enterprises Ltd said VCPL has urged SEBI "to provide its observations on the Draft Letter of Offer filed in relation to the Open Offer, in accordance with the SEBI (SAST) Regulations."

VCPL along with AMG Media Networks and Adani Enterprises Ltd had proposed to acquire an additional 26 per cent or 1.67 crore equity shares at an offer price of Rs 294 per share.

NDTV shares closed at Rs 332.90 apiece on the BSE on Wednesday, a 13 per cent premium to open offer price of Rs 294 per share.

"The decision to acquire NDTV was arrived at in furtherance of the Adani Group's objective to set up a credible next-generation media platform with emphasis on digital and broadcast segments, and that NDTV is a suitable broadcast and digital platform to deliver on this vision," the filing said.

India's domestic passenger volume rose 65% to 10 mn in Sept: DGCA

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic air passenger volume grew 64.61 per cent to 10.35 million in September over the same period last year, according to a data released by aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday.

Indian domestic carriers (excluding newly launched Akasa Air) had flown a total of 7.66 million passengers on the local routes, the data showed.

Akasa Air commenced its flight services on domestic routes from August 7 this year. The average passenger load



factor of these carriers stood at 77.5 per cent against 72.5 per cent PLF delivered in August 2022, the DGCA data show.

PLF is an airline metric that measures how much of an airline's passenger carrying capacity is used.

In terms of market share, leading carrier IndiGo cornered 57 per cent of the total domestic traffic pie, carrying 59.72 lakh passengers across its domestic network followed by full service carrier Vistara, which flew 9.96 lakh passengers

with 9.6 per cent market share. The combined market share of Vistara, Air India and AirAsia India stood at 24.7 per cent in September.

Besides, Vistara also had the best on-time performance with 91 per cent of its flights arriving and departing from four key airports -- Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru -- on time.

In Vistara, Tata Group holds 51 per cent while in AirAsia India, it has 83.67 per cent holding.

Moreover, Tata Group regained the control of Air India on January 27 this year following its privatisation.

MSMEs can continue to avail non-tax benefits post re-classification: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Micro, small and medium enterprises will continue to avail all non-tax benefits in their respective categories post re-classification for three years, the government said on Wednesday.

The Ministry of MSME has notified that in case of re-classification in terms of investment in plant and machinery or equipment or turnover or both, and consequent re-classification, an enterprise shall continue to avail of all non-tax ben-



efits of the category it was in before the re-classification for three years from the date of the

such upward change. "This decision has been taken after due deliberations

with MSME stakeholders and is in line with the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The Ministry of MSME, Government of India, has allowed those registered MSMEs to continue to avail of non-tax benefits for three years, instead of one year, in case of an upward graduation in their category and consequent reclassification," an official statement said.

Non-tax benefits include benefits of various government schemes, including Public Procurement Policy, Delayed Payments, etc.

Sebi bars Empiric Trade, proprietor from securities markets for 6 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has barred Empiric Trade and its proprietor Niraj Thakur from the securities markets for providing advisory services without its authorisation.

The watchdog issued a show cause notice to them in September 2021.

The regulator found that Empiric Trade and Neeraj Thakur (noticees) were engaged in investment advisory services without obtaining a certificate of registration.

The notices have prima facie collected Rs 83.70 lakh during January-July 2019, Sebi said in an order on Monday.

The regulator has directed the notices to refund within three months the money received from investors as fees



in respect of their investment advisory activities.

Also, Sebi barred the notices from accessing the securities markets for a period of one year or till the expiry of six months from the date of completion of refunds to investors, whichever is later.

In addition, they shall not undertake investment advisory services or any activity in the securities market without obtaining a certificate of registration from Sebi either directly or indirectly during or after the expiry of the debarment period, the order said.

Meanwhile, in a separate order, the regulator slapped fines totalling Rs 28 lakh on 7 entities for violating regulatory norms in the matter of Omintech Infosolutions Ltd.

The order came after Sebi received a complaint alleging manipulations in the scrip of Omintech Infosolutions Ltd (OIL) by its promoters and their associates.

Thereafter, the market watchdog conducted an investigation into the matter for the period between January 2012 and December 2014.

LIC's share in NHPC comes down to 5.2%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Country's largest insurer LIC on Wednesday said its shareholding in hydro power generator NHPC has come down to 5.2 per cent on sell down of shares over a period of time for a consideration of Rs 700.79 crore.

Corporation's shareholding in NHPC Ltd has diluted from 72,62,11,315 to 52,26,11,195 equity shares, decreasing the shareholding from 7.230 per cent to 5.203 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company, LIC said in a regulatory filing.

The state-owned insurer sold 20,36,00,120 shares of the company at an average price of Rs 34.42 apiece from March 17, 2022 to October 18, 2022.

The shares were sold in open market sale in the ordinary course of transaction, which is an investment function.

Listed companies are required to disclose about change in shareholding of 2 per cent and more.

NHPC is involved in generation and sale of bulk power to various power utilities.

Stock of LIC closed at Rs 607.15 apiece on BSE, down by 0.12 per cent; NHPC stock closed 4.29 per cent down at Rs 40.20.

Greenko to supply 1,000-MW green energy to steel maker JSP's Odisha plant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) has signed an agreement with clean energy player Greenko for the supply of 1,000-MW green power.

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Greenko will supply the clean power for its steel making operations at Angul, Odisha, JSP said in a statement.

"The move aimed at reducing CO2 emissions in line with ESG goals. Green energy use to ensure reduction of approximately 7 million tonne CO2 annually at Angul, Odisha," it said on Wednesday.

The proposed 1,000 MW carbon-free energy is targeted to meet the existing and incremental power demand of Angul facility.

Greenko Group will offer energy storage capacity from its Off Stream Closed loop Pumped Storage



Project (OCSPS) under development in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

JSP Managing Director Bimlendra Jha said, "We already have

Green Hydrogen ready DRI units present at Angul using syngas. This collaboration with Greenko is aimed at re-affirming our commitment towards our sustainability goals."

Greenko Founder and Managing Director of Greenko Anil Chalamalasetty said that "increasing the use of carbon-free energy will not only reduce the carbon footprint of core industries in India but will also be a key differentiator in the global markets."

With investments worth USD 12 billion across the globe, JSP is an industrial powerhouse with significant presence in the steel, mining and infrastructure sectors.

Hyderabad-based Greenko Group is among the largest Renewable Energy (RE) companies with an installed capacity of 7.5 GW across solar, wind and hydro generation assets spread in 15 states.

Competition Comm slaps penalties totalling ₹392 crore on MakeMyTrip, Goibibo, OYO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission on Wednesday slapped penalties totalling more than Rs 392 crore on online travel firms MakeMyTrip, Goibibo and hospitality services provider OYO for unfair business practices.

A fine of Rs 223.48 crore has been slapped on Make My Trip-Goibibo (MMT-Go) and Rs 168.88 crore on OYO, according to a 131-page order.

Among others, it was alleged that MMT-Go imposed a price parity in their agreements with hotel partners.



Under such pacts, the hotel partners are not allowed to sell their rooms on any other platform or on its own online portal at a price below the price at which it is being offered on the two entities' platforms.

Besides imposing penalties, the Competition

Commission of India (CCI) has directed MMT-Go to "suitably modify its agreements with hotels/chain hotels to remove/abandon the price and room availability parity obligations imposed by it on its hotel/chain hotel partners with respect to other OTAs (Online

Travel Agencies)".

Also, CCI has asked it to modify agreements to do away with certain exclusivity conditions.

"MMT-Go is directed to provide access to its platform on a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory basis to the hotels/chain hotels, by formulating the platforms' listing terms and conditions in an objective manner," it added.

It was also alleged that MMT gave preferential treatment to OYO on its platform, further leading to a denial of market access to other players.

Nestle enters into D2C space, launches platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

FMCG major Nestle India on Wednesday launched its own Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) platform, foraying into the fast-growing online channel.

The company would launch its D2C platform MyNestlé in Delhi-NCR and will expand to other parts of the country, said Nestlé India Chairman and Managing Director Suresh Narayanan in the earnings statement of the company.

This has been "created specifically keeping the consumer needs in mind, I am confident that MyNestlé will delight the consumer in every way with curated product bundles, personalised gifting, subscriptions, discounts, and much more," he said.



Moreover, consumers can also try gourmet recipes on the site and get free nutrition counselling, Narayanan added.

During the July-September quarter, the e-commerce channel contributed 7.2 per cent of Nestle India's sales. It was largely fuelled by new, emerging formats such as 'quick commerce' and 'click & mortar'.

Recently, several FMCG companies either have acquired, invested or built their D2C platforms and online-first brands. The makers are now shifting online marketplaces such as Amazon and Flipkart to their own websites and D2C operations.

Though, presently D2C and online sales have a small contribution but are expected to grow in the coming years.

IN BRIEF

PFC, REC INK MOA WITH STPL
Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) along with REC Ltd (REC) executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SJVN Thermal (P) Ltd (STPL) for extending term loan of ₹8520.92 crore for 2x660 MW Buxar Thermal Power Project. STPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN Limited and will execute the project. The 2x660 MW Thermal project is expected to be commissioned by FY 2026-27 and generate approximately 9828 Million units of energy to meet the future power requirement of Bihar and other States. Speaking on the occasion, PFC CMD Ravinder Singh Dhillon stated that the project would generate employment opportunity for the locals, will promote infrastructure development and herald a new era of socio economic prosperity in Bihar.



ROHIT OPENS UP ABOUT TEAM INDIA'S APPROACH FOR T20 WC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Super 12 round of the ongoing 2022 edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will start on Saturday (October 22) and from there onwards, the main tournament will start. India will begin their campaign against archrivals Pakistan on Sunday (October 23) at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. India enjoy a dominant record over the Men in Green in T20 World Cup matches and have won five out of the six games played against them. But their only defeat against them was in the last T20 World Cup match, and so going into the tournament, Team India can't afford to take the Babar Azam-led side lightly.

India suffered a shock exit from the league stage in last year's edition of the tournament and so this time, they will hope to make amends for it and come up with a good show and hopefully go all the way and bag

the title as well.

Ahead of Team India's opening match in the T20 mega event that is taking place in Australia for the first time, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma said that it has been a long time since India waited to win a World Cup but at the same time pointed out how the team cannot afford to get carried away by the big occasion.

"It's been a while since we won the World Cup. Obviously, the motive and the whole thought process is to win the World Cup. But we know we need to do a lot of things right to get there, so one step at a time for us. We can't think too far ahead. You really cannot think about semis and finals from now onwards. You just need to focus on each team that you're going to come up against and try and do your best and prepare for that. Our focus will be on that and to prepare well against each team and make sure that we move in the right

direction," Rohit said in a video uploaded by BCCI.

The T20 World Cup in Australia will be the first occasion when Rohit will lead Team India in any ICC event, and the 35-year-old said that it's an honour for him to be the captain and he is pretty excited about it.

"It's a big honour to be captain. This is my first World Cup as captain, so I'm pretty excited. It also gives us a great opportunity to come here and do something special. Every time you come for the World Cup, it's a great feeling. The boys are pumped up; we had a great couple of practice matches in Perth. World Cup is a big event but at the same time, we have made a constant practice of not talking too much about it because it's important to be in the present and think about what you need to do on that particular day. And that will allow us to execute what we want to do."

India will enter the tournament as the world's number one T20I side and on the back of eight bilateral series wins since the end of the T20 World Cup last year. The Men in Blue have also played the maximum T20Is this year and created a world record by winning the most (23) in a year.

The Men in Blue arrived in Australia on October 6, and Rohit explained the reason for the team's early arrival in Australia as compared to the other competitors.

"We have come from two wins, but that was at home obviously. Australia will be a different challenge. It was important for us to get used to the conditions. A few of the guys have never been to Australia before, so we wanted to come here earlier and get used to it. They will be challenging and, as far as I am concerned, when I look at the whole group, like I said, they are pretty excited," added the India captain.

"It's been a while since we won the World Cup. Obviously, the motive and the whole thought process is to win the World Cup. But we know we need to do a lot of things right to get there, so one step at a time for us"

RB Leipzig into DFB-Pokal last 16



AP ■ LEIPZIG

German Cup holders RB Leipzig have qualified for the Round of 16 with a 4-0 home demolition of Hamburg.

Leipzig, who won their first ever piece of silverware in this competition last year, scored two quick goals through Danish international Yussuf Poulsen in the 33rd and 36th minute to put the home side up 2-0 at half-time.

Poulsen looked set for a hat-trick early in the second half but was denied through a superb intervention save from Hamburg goalkeeper Heuer Fernandes.

Any hope the three-time Cup winners and one-time heavyweights of German football had of a comeback was snuffed out by French defender Mohamed Simakan, who got a touch on an Emil Forsberg free kick to put the Red Bulls up 3-0.

German defender Benjamin Henrichs added a fourth in the 82nd minute to keep Leipzig on track for what would be their fourth final in the past five years.

After the game, Poulsen said he 'promised' (my teammates) I would score at least one - unfortunately I didn't think to put any money on it."

Poulsen's manager Marco Rose said the win showcased

"the character of the team" after a strong opening phase from Hamburg.

"The first goal was important for us. We stayed in it and showed we definitely want to go further (in the competition)."

Later on Tuesday, Borussia Moenchengladbach were knocked out by second-division Darmstadt 2-1.

Elsewhere, two early goals to Eintracht Frankfurt's Randal Kolo Muani and Hrvoje Smolic helped 2018 the 2018 Cup winners coast to a 2-0 win over fifth-tier Stuttgarter Kickers.

Hoffenheim poured more pressure on under fire Schalke coach Frank Kramer with a 5-1 home win.

Niko Kovac's Wolfsburg won 2-1 against neighbours Braunschweig, while Bochum - rock bottom of the Bundesliga - won 1-0 against third-division EVELSBERG thanks to an 85th minute goal from Anthony Losilla.

Mainz ran out comfortable 3-0 winners away at Lubeck, while four-time winners Nuremberg won away at third-league Waldhof Mannheim thanks to a 62nd-minute own goal from Gerrit Gohlke.

On Thursday, Hanover welcome under-pressure Borussia Dortmund while Bayern Munich travel to face neighbours Augsburg.

Falcao penalty snatches Rayo draw at Atletico

AP ■ MADRID

Former Atletico Madrid striker Radamel Falcao earned Rayo Vallecano a 1-1 draw against his old side in La Liga with a 92nd minute penalty on Tuesday.

Alvaro Morata's first-half strike seemed poised to help Atletico strengthen their grip on third place and keep close to leaders Real Madrid and Barcelona, but Rayo snatched a deserved draw.

Atletico deserved their first half lead but after the break the hosts had their backs to the wall at the Metropolitano and the pressure eventually told when Jose Gimenez handled in the box.

The Rojiblancos broke the deadlock in the 20th minute when Antoine Griezmann won the ball high up the pitch and crossed for his strike partner to finish consummately.

The France forward, who scored Atletico's winner against Athletic Bilbao at the weekend, was impressive again and seems to be returning to his best level.

Falcao, who played for Atletico between 2011-2013, slammed the



penalty into the top corner, sending Griezmann the wrong way.

Elsewhere Ernesto Valverde's Athletic, now sixth, were unable to pull themselves back into the top four as they drew 2-2 at Getafe.

Valencia captain Jose Gaya missed a late penalty amid a chaotic finale as Sevilla held the visitors to a 1-1 draw. The result leaves Sevilla provisionally 11th and Valencia in eighth.

AP ■ HOVE

Nottingham Forest edged off the bottom of the Premier League by holding out for a 0-0 draw at Brighton as Wilfried Zaha gave Crystal Palace a 2-1 win over Wolves on Tuesday.

Forest still have only one win on their return to the top flight for the first time in 23 years, but were grateful to escape the Amex with a point after Brighton dominated throughout.

The Seagulls are still waiting for their first win under new boss Roberto de Zerbi and it was a familiar failing that cost Brighton as they missed a series of chances to claim the

Forest off bottom of Premier League



three points.

Leandro Trossard hit the bar in the first half, while Dean Henderson twice denied the Belgian international and made a fine late save from Pascal Gross.

Forest failed to muster a single shot on target but just a second clean sheet of the season was enough to lift Steve Cooper's men a point above Leicester at the foot of the table.

Wolves remain just one point above the bottom three after blowing the lead at Selhurst Park.

Adama Traore headed in

Hugo Bueno's cross for just Wolves fifth league goal in 11 games this season just after the half hour mark.

In all three of Palace's wins this season they have come from behind and the Eagles soared in the second half once Eberechi Eze nodded in at the back post from Michael Olise's cross.

Zaha completed the comeback when he coolly collected Odsonne Edouard's pass to slot past Jose Sa 20 minutes from time.

Victory lifts Patrick Vieira's men up to 10th.

Kante to miss WC after hamstring surgery



AP ■ LONDON

N'Golo Kante will miss France's defence of the World Cup after Chelsea said on Tuesday that the midfielder will be out of action for four months following surgery on a hamstring injury.

The 31-year-old had not featured since limping off against Tottenham in August.

POGBA MAKES PARTIAL RETURN TO JUE TRAINING

AP ■ TURIN

France World Cup winner Paul Pogba has returned to partial training with Juventus, the Italian club announced on Tuesday.

Pogba, 29, has yet to feature for Juve since returning to the Serie A outfit this summer due to a knee injury. No return date for the

ex-Manchester United midfielder has been made public with Les Bleus' first World Cup game against Australia on November 22.

According to Italian media, Pogba could be back by the end of this month. France coach Didier Deschamps will name his squad for the tournament in Qatar on November 9.

"N'Golo Kante has undergone an operation on his hamstring injury," Chelsea said in a statement.

"The midfielder visited a specialist with the club's medical department to explore the options for his rehabilitation approach and it was mutually agreed for N'Golo to have surgery to repair the damage. Following a successful

operation, N'Golo is now expected to be sidelined for four months."

Kante was vital to France's success in Russia four years ago and will be a big miss for Didier Deschamps with his regular midfield partner at international level, Paul Pogba, also a major doubt for the tournament in Qatar.

India fail to qualify for 2023 AFC U-20 Asian Cup

PTI ■ KUWAIT CITY

Skipper Taison Singh and Gurkirat Singh struck in either half as India edged past hosts Kuwait 2-1 in their final qualification match but the third-place finish in Group H was not good enough to qualify for the next year's AFC U-20 Asian Cup.

India finished ahead of



Kuwait but behind toppers Australia and second-placed Iraq qualification event, which identified participants for next year's tournament in Uzbekistan.

Top teams from all the 10 groups and the five best runners-up qualified for the final tournament, with Uzbekistan getting a direct entry as hosts in the 16-team continental event to

be held from March 1 to 18 in 2023.

India had lost 2-4 and 1-4 to Iraq and Australia respectively in their previous group matches.

In the match against Kuwait on Tuesday night, Taison Singh and Gurkirat Singh scored for India while Saleh Almehtab pulled one back for the hosts at the Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium.

Aimchess Rapid: Indian challenge ends in Q/F

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India's challenge ended at the Aimchess Rapid online chess tournament with the trio of D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi bowing out in the quarter-finals.

Gukesh, who had beaten world champion Magnus Carlsen during the preliminary phase, went down 1.5-2.5 to Richard Rapport after having taken the lead with a win in the second game of the four-game contest.

The 16-year old Indian appeared to have gained the advantage when he took a 1.5-0.5 lead with a win in 32 moves in the second game after the first had ended in a stalemate.

Rapport, who is highly rated, showed his skills by winning the third game in 55 moves and then defeated his opponent in a marathon fourth game to end Gukesh's hopes.

Erigaisi, who too had upset Carlsen in the preliminary round, was outclassed by the world No.1 Norwegian 0.5-2.5.

After managing a draw from a near hopeless position in game one, Carlsen underlined his superiority to win the next two to advance to the last four round.

Gujrathi was outplayed by Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland, losing 0.5-2.5 without much of a fight.

Gukesh and Erigaisi had finished second and fourth respectively in the preliminary phase.

Bhanwala becomes first Indian to win medal at U23 Worlds

PTI ■ PONTEVEDRA

Sajan Bhanwala became the first Indian Greco Roman wrestler to win a medal at the Under-23 World Championship when he edged past Ukraine's Dmytro Vasetskyi on 'criteria' to emerge winner in the bronze play-off, here.

It was the Ukrainian who pulled off a four-pointer on the edge of the circle for a solid start but Bhanwala bounced back immediately with a strong move that got him into a position from where he could pin his rival.

Though he could not pin his rival, it was good enough to earn four points.

Bhanwala lost two more points and got into defensive mode.

For staying passive, Bhanwala put on 'Par Terre' position, something Indian wrestlers are very poor at defending and the Ukrainian pulled off another four-pointer from the ground position for a handsome 10-4 lead.

Bhanwala scored two points with a take-down move and with 35 seconds left in the bout, managed to push his rival on the back to level the scores.

The bout ended at 10-10 but since the Indian had scored the last point he was declared winner on criteria.

Meanwhile, Vikas will fight for a bronze in the 72kg after losing his semifinal by technical superiority to Croatia's Pavel Puklavec. In the 60kg category, Sumit got back to medal reckoning when he made the repechage round. He will be up against Kazakhstan's Olzhas Sultan.

SHAH'S STATEMENT CAN 'SPLIT' CRICKETING COMMUNITIES: PCB

PTI ■ LAHORE

The PCB on Wednesday said BCCI secretary Jay Shah's statement that India won't travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup next year has the potential to split the cricketing communities and requested the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) to convene an emergency meeting on the issue.

Shah, after beginning his second stint as BCCI secretary, said India would like to play the continental tournament at a neutral venue and not tour Pakistan.

In its first official response to Shah's statement, the PCB said, "such statements can split the Asian and international cricket communities" and impact Pakistan's visit to India for the 2023 World Cup.

Shah, who made the statement after the BCCI AGM on Tuesday, also happens to be the ACC president.

"The overall impact of such statements have the potential to split the Asian and international cricketing communities, and can impact Pakistan's visit to India for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and future ICC Events in India in the 2024-2031 cycle.

"The PCB has to date not received any official communication or clarification from the ACC on the statement of the ACC President. As such, the PCB has now requested the Asian Cricket Council to convene an emergency meeting of its Board as soon as practically possible to discuss this important and sensitive matter," the PCB said.

Pakistan has been allotted hosting rights for the Asia Cup which will be held ahead of the ODI World Cup in India in October-November.

The T20 Asia Cup held last month had to be shifted from Sri Lanka to the UAE amid the economic crisis in the island nation.

The 2018 Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in India, was also moved to the UAE after the BCCI couldn't procure clearance from government security agencies to host Pakistan.

India and Pakistan only play each



other in the Asian and the ICC events due to the political tensions between the two countries. India last toured Pakistan in 2008 while Pakistan's played last series in India in 2012-13.

The PCB said Shah's statement was surprising and disappointing at the same time.

"The PCB has noted with surprise

and disappointment of yesterday's comments made by the ACC President Mr Jay Shah with regards to shifting of next year's Asia Cup to a neutral venue.

"The comments were made without any discussion or consultation with the Board of the Asian Cricket Council or the Pakistan Cricket Board (event host) and without any thoughts towards their

long-term consequences and implications.

"After having presided over the ACC meeting during which Pakistan was awarded the ACC Asia Cup with an overwhelming support and response from the ACC Board Members, Mr Shah's statement of shifting of the ACC Asia Cup has clearly been made unilaterally," the PCB

said.

The officials from both the PCB and BCCI will be confronted with the issue at the International Cricket Council's board meeting in Melbourne next month. The ICC is yet to comment on the matter.

A top official from an Asian cricketing nation hoped the matter would be sorted amicably and said there is no Asia Cup without India or Pakistan.

"It is the biggest match of the Asia Cup and with either team missing, the tournament doesn't make sense. There is a lot of time left, but I hope the issue is sorted. The neutral venue is the best option if the BCCI decides against sending its team to Pakistan," the official told PTI.

The PCB is also irked because international cricket has resumed in the country with all top nations like England, Australia, West Indies travelling there to play Test and white-ball series in recent years.

"This is contrary to the philosophy and spirit for which the Asian Cricket Council was formed in September 1983 – a united Asian cricket body to safeguard the interests of the its Members and organise, develop, and promote the game of cricket in Asia," the PCB added.

A PCB source told PTI that the board is ready to play hard ball with the BCCI this time around and will approach the ICC during the meeting in Melbourne. The PCB has also threatened to pull of the ODI World Cup in India if the Asia Cup matter is not resolved.

"It would be wrong to say that only Pakistan will be impacted if India and Pakistan don't play each other in Asia or ICC events. The marquee match creates a sizeable revenue for the ICC and if that doesn't happen, the other cricketing nations (including the associates) also suffer," the source said.

The ICC tends to put India and Pakistan in the same group in world events, with the game between the two teams drawing a massive television audience and full house at the stadium.



Asia Cup title is history, need to get into Super 12s of T20WC: Dasun

PTI ■ GEELONG

The Asia Cup title is a thing of the past now, insists Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka, saying their only focus right now is to produce a perfect performance in their must-win match against the Netherlands to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup.

Stunned by Namibia in their tournament opener, Sri Lanka bounced back strongly to beat UAE by 79 runs in a first round Group A game.

But occupying the third spot in Group A, Shanaka's men will now have to win their last match against table toppers Netherlands on Thursday to ensure their place in the Super 12 stage.

"...I think Asia Cup champions is history, so it's just a title for us. There is no pressure at all. We just need to concentrate on our own performances and what we need to do to make sure that we get into that second round after the next game." "We know our strength. The first game we didn't execute in that match, so we got beaten by Namibia. But we are a far better team from the team we performed in the first game," Shanaka said ahead of the match against the Netherlands.

The skipper lauded the performances of Pathum Nissanka (74) and Dushmantha Chameera (3/15) against UAE on Tuesday, but said it's time he and the big-hitting Bhanuka Rajapaksa score some runs.

"I think we need to have myself (score runs) and Bhanu needs to kick on in this tournament, as well.

"Pathum Nissanka, he really played throughout, and it was an outstanding innings. And Wanindu and Dushmantha and even Maheesh Theekshana, we know how good they are when it comes to these kinds of games. They were performing well. You saw from the time they started their careers," he said.

WI beat Zimbabwe to keep Super 12 hopes alive

PTI ■ HOBART

West Indies kept alive their hopes of reaching the Super 12 of the ICC T20 World Cup with a comfortable 31-run win over Zimbabwe here on Wednesday.

Described as a must-win game by skipper Nicholas Pooran after their shock defeat to Scotland, West Indies posted 153 for seven after opting to bat first at the Bellerive Oval.

The total proved to be enough as the West Indies packed off Zimbabwe for 122 in 18.2 overs, with pacer Alzarri Joseph picking for four wickets for 16 runs in his full quota of four overs.

The seasoned Jason Holder also shone with the ball, taking three wickets for 12 runs in 3.2 overs.

Opener Johnson Charles top-scored for the West Indies with a knock of 45 in 36 balls. Charles came into the line-up in place of Brandon King, who is unwell.

There were useful contributions from Rovman Powell (28) and Akeal Hosein (23 not out).

Sikandar Raza was the most successful bowler for Zimbabwe, finishing with figures of 3/19 in four overs. In their chase, Zimbabwe were off to a flyer but lost their way after scoring 55 runs in the six powerplay overs, losing wickets at regular intervals.

Following the West Indies' victory, Group B has become wide open, with all four teams currently on two points each.



Campher helps Ireland keep T20WC hopes alive

PTI ■ HOBART

Curtis Campher struck his maiden half-century after a fine show with the ball to guide Ireland to a six-wicket win over Scotland and keep their T20 World Cup Super 12 stage hopes alive here on Wednesday.

Campher bailed out Ireland from a spot of bother while chasing a challenging 177-run target and took his side home with one over to spare in the first round Group B match.

The win infused a fresh lease of life to Ireland's T20 World Cup campaign, which had a stuttering start as they lost by 31 runs to Zimbabwe in the

opener.

In trouble at 61 for 4 in the 10th over, Campher (72 not out) joined hands with George Dockrell (39 not out) as the duo shared 119 runs for the unbroken fifth-wicket stand to chase down the target comfortably in the end.

Campher decorated his quick fire 32-ball knock with seven fours and two sixes, while Dockrell hit four boundaries and one maximum.

Lorcan Tucker (20), captain Andy Balbarinie (14) and Harry Tector (14) were the other notable scorers for Ireland.

Campher's exploits with the bat came after the all-rounder turned out to be the pick of

bowlers for Ireland with figures of 2/9 from his two overs of right-arm medium fast bowling.

Earlier, Michael Jones also hit his maiden T20I fifty, a blazing 55-ball 86, to power Scotland to 176 for 5. Captain Richie Berrington (37), Matthew Cross (28) and Michael Leask (17 not out) also played useful hands for the Scots. Scotland did not have the best of starts after opting to bat, losing George Munsey early before Jones and Cross shared 59 runs for the second wicket to stabilise the innings.

After Cross' dismissal, Jones stitched 77 runs with skipper Berrington and a quick 33 runs off just 16 balls.

Rain washes out Ind-NZ warm-up game

PTI ■ BRISBANE

India's second and final warm-up game against New Zealand was on Wednesday abandoned without a ball being bowled due to persistent rain at The Gabba here.

Both the Indian and New Zealand teams failed to hit the ground as heavens opened up during Pakistan's chase of 155 against Afghanistan at the same venue in the first practice match of the day.

India had earlier defeated hosts Australia by six runs in their first warm-up match here on Monday.

Against Australia, India rode on half-centuries from KL Rahul (57) and Suryakumar Yadav (50) to post 186 for 7, a target which they defended despite skipper Aaron Finch's return to form with a 54-ball 76.

Drafted into the side in place of an injured Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami (3/4) starred for India with the ball in the final over, which effected four dismissals, including three wickets for the right-arm pacer.

India will open their T20 World Cup campaign in a blockbuster clash against arch-rivals Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday.

SKY retains No.2 spot in T20I batter's list

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's Suryakumar Yadav will enter the T20 World Cup as the second best batter in the format following an update of the ICC Men's Player Rankings issued on Wednesday.

Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan (861 rating points) has extended his lead at the top of the T20I batter rankings after yet another consistent showing during the tri-series in New Zealand, while Suryakumar (838) is still second ahead of the blockbuster clash between the two neighbours at the MCG on Sunday.

KL Rahul (13), Virat Kohli (15) and skipper Rohit Sharma (16) are all static in the latest update.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam is placed third ahead of South Africa's Aiden Markram and Devon Conway of New Zealand.

The only movement inside the top 10 following the latest rankings update for batters saw aggressive New Zealand right-hander Glenn Phillips jump an impressive 13 spots to equal 10th on the back of his strong tri-series efforts against Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Hardik Pandya also remained static at sixth spot in the T20I all-rounder rankings with 173 rating points.

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan will enter the T20 World Cup as the top all-rounder.

Shakib claimed the top billing on the back of an excellent tri-series against New Zealand and Pakistan, with the veteran hitting consecutive half-centuries during Bangladesh's final two matches.

Shakib displaced Afghanistan's



Mohammad Nabi.

There was very little movement inside the top 10 in the updated list for bowlers, with Mujeeb Ur Rahman (up two spots to fifth) and South Africa counterpart Keshav Maharaj (up one place to eighth) climbing up.

Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood (705 rating points) retains his lead at the top of the T20I bowlers rankings, followed by Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (696), Sri Lanka tweaker Wanindu Hasaranga (692) and South Africa veteran Tabraiz Shamsi (688). Indian trio of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel are placed 12th, 22nd and 23rd respectively.

England's Reece Topley ruled out of T20 WC

PTI ■ PERTH

England seamer Reece Topley has been ruled out of the T20 World Cup due to an ankle injury, dealing a major blow to the team's campaign beginning here on Saturday, according to reports.

The 28-year-old left-arm roller rolled his left ankle during a fielding drill in Brisbane on Monday ahead of England's final warm-up match against Pakistan.

He will now play no part in the main tournament, Sky Sports reported.

It is understood that the scans taken after the injury have revealed significant damage.

England, who play against Afghanistan in their opening match here on Saturday, have two fast bowlers among their travelling reserves -- left-armers Tymal Mills and right-arm quick Richard Gleeson.

Mills, who has not played since August because of a toe injury, is most likely to be promoted into the full squad as Topley's replacement.

Topley is England's leading wicket-taker in T20 Internationals in 2022, with 17 scalps in 16



games at an average of 28. He became an integral part of England's T20 bowling attack, operating with the new ball and at the death.

He has had four back stress fractures in five years, most recently in 2018, which led him to consider retirement.

In last year's T20 World Cup in the UAE, Mills played four matches, picking up seven wickets, before his tournament was ended by a thigh injury.

Harmanpreet withdraws from WBBL due to back injury

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur was on Wednesday ruled out of the ongoing Women's Big Bash League due to a back injury according to her side Melbourne Renegades.

Harmanpreet, the reigning WBBL player of the tournament had missed her side's opening two matches due to international commitments as she led India at the Asia Cup, winning the title. English batter Eve Jones may play in place of Harmanpreet in the squad.

"Harmanpreet was fantastic for us last season and we were looking forward to having her as part of our squad again this year, but unfortunately she has been ruled out through injury," Melbourne Renegades General Manager, James Rosengarten said in a statement. "Eve will stay on with our squad for at least the next couple of matches, as we work through the best strategy for our squad for the remainder of the tournament."

Harmanpreet won the player of the tournament award last season after scoring 406 runs at a strike rate of 130.96. With the ball, she scalped 15 wickets from 13 games.

We were backing ourselves, knew had to come here to win: George Dockrell

IAN S ■ HOBART

If one needs to know how much Ireland's six-wicket win over Scotland meant to the side, the tears of happiness rolling out of the eyes of the small number of Irish supporters at the Bellerive Oval on Wednesday will tell the whole tale.

The Irish fans contingent included all-rounder George Dockrell's parents, his Melbourne-based sister, and his girlfriend, with some tears coming from Dockrell's partner at the crease, Curtis Campher, who dedicated the knock to his family after receiving some bad news on the personal front last week.

Dockrell, who was involved in the unbeaten 119-run stand with Campher making 72 not out and remained unbeaten on 39, lifting Ireland out of trouble from 61/4 and successfully chased down 176, a target which seemed highly improbable at one point. The come-from-behind



win over Scotland, coming under immense pressure, ensured that Ireland were still in the reckoning for a spot in the Super 12s.

"I think we were backing ourselves. We knew we had to come here today to win. It's a lot of pressure, but I suppose that's why you play the games it's these kinds of moments. Me and Curtis had a good idea what we needed to do, who we need to score off to be able to chase the game."

"I thought we played it quite well in the end and definitely benefited from the two of us having a bit of a period back together in the first game as well. So I thought we put together plans quite nicely and Curtis played incredible innings and managed to keep that rate going all the way to the end," said Dockrell in the post-match press conference.

The key turning points in Ireland's chase came in the 13th and 17th overs with left-arm spinner Mark Watt going for a combined 29 runs while Michael Leask gave away 11 runs. Fast bowler Josh Davey leaked six boundaries in his last two overs and leaked 32 runs overall while Brad Wheal's final over went for 14 runs. Moreover, from overs 11 to 19, Ireland at least had one boundary which worked well in their favour.

"The two Scottish spinners bowled so well in the first game, we knew we had to be better, I suppose, and find ways to score well off of them.