

OPINION 6

PROSELYTISATION IS A
COLONIAL PRACTICE

WORLD 9

JUDGE: TRUMP KNEW VOTE FRAUD
CLAIMS IN LEGAL DOCUMENTS FALSE

MONEY 10

FINMIN WORKING FOR FASTER
RELEASE OF EXPORT CARGOES

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY OCTOBER 21, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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INDIA TO TRAVEL
B'DESH FOR 2
TESTS, 3 ODIs
12 SPORTModi's LiFE India's
bid to save planet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of next month's mega United Nations (UN) climate meet in Egypt, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment) — a global action plan aimed at saving the planet from the consequences of climate change — in the presence of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) termed it an India-led global mass movement even as world leaders, including United Kingdom's Prime Minister Elizabeth Truss, France's President Emmanuel Macron, and Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez besides the heads of States of India's neighbours among others welcomed his initiative and extended full support.

Truss said, "As democracies, we must work together to secure energy independence and protect our economies."

French President Macron said, "France looks forward to working with India to make this initiative a success, including in the perspective of the Indian presidency of G20 next year."

Backing the move, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said he "strongly supports the movement launched by Modi".

Modi and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres during the global launch of Mission LiFE, in Kevadia on Thursday

PTI

together at Kevadia, Gujarat, launched Mission LiFE, a global action plan aimed at saving the planet from the consequences of climate change.

Modi asked people to adopt the concept of "reduce, reuse and recycle and circular economy and said India is committed to tackling the menace of climate change".

Prime Minister Modi pointed out that the annual per capita carbon footprint in India was only about 1.5 tonnes, compared to the world average of four tonnes per year. Nevertheless, India is working at the forefront to solve global problems like climate change.

Gujarat Chief Minister

Bhupendra Patel and Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar were among those present at the function at Kevadia.

The launch of the mission, aimed at encouraging people towards sustainable living, comes ahead of next month's UN climate meeting in Egypt.

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China at it again,
blocks move to
blacklist Jr HafizUN Secretary Gen
slams Beijing bid
to weaken war on
global terrorismPIONEER NEWS SERVICE/
AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/
UNITED NATIONS

China has blocked a move by India and the US in the United Nations (UN) to blacklist Hafiz Talah Saeed, son of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed.

It is the second time in as many days that Beijing has thwarted any proposal to take action against Pakistan-based terrorists. It has come to Pakistan's rescue five times in the last four months at the world body.

Taking note of China's actions, visiting UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday said, "Geopolitical divides make it difficult for us to work together effectively against terrorism."

He made these remarks after China late on Tuesday blocked the listing of Pakistan-based LeT terrorist Shahid Mahmood as a global terrorist.

The latest block came late on Wednesday in the UN regarding Hafiz Talah Saeed, 46, a key leader of the LeT and son of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz



Saeed. In April this year, he had been declared a terrorist by the Indian Government. China placed a hold on the proposal under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

In a notification, the Home Ministry had said Hafiz Talah Saeed has been actively involved in recruitment, fund collection, and planning and executing attacks by the LeT in India and Indian interests in Afghanistan.

He has also been actively visiting various LeT centres across Pakistan, and during his sermons propagating for jihad against India, Israel, the US, and Indian interests in other western countries, it had stated. Hafiz Talah Saeed is the head of the cleric wing of the terrorist organisation.

On Tuesday, China blocked a proposal by India and the US at the United Nations to list Pakistan-based LeT leader Shahid Mahmood as a global terrorist. Beijing placed a hold on the proposal by India and the US to designate Mahmood, 42, as a global terrorist.

Continued on Page 2

There're other ways to
celebrate, no hurry to
hear cracker ban: SCPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a plea by BJP MP Manoj Tiwari seeking an urgent hearing against the complete ban on firecrackers in Delhi as Diwali is round the corner.

The Bench of Justices MR Shah and MR Sundresh while refusing to entertain the urgent mention said, "Please let the people breathe fresh air. There are so many other ways of celebrating."

Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court also refused to entertain a similar petition. Noting the pendency of issues related to firecrackers before the Supreme Court, the High Court refused to hear a petition by firecracker companies challenging the Delhi Pollution Control Committee's complete ban on the sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers.

Justice Yashwant Varma dismissed the petition by two merchants who sought to "purchase, sell and store only green crackers" during the festive season, and said it was not appropriate for the High Court to independently examine such a challenge when the issue "does appear to be engaging the attention" of the top court.

The court, however, said the petitioners were free to initiate appropriate proceedings under the law to seek redressal of their grievances.

"From the material placed on record, the court notes the issue of pollution as a result of the use of firecrackers during



Diwali was first considered by the Supreme Court (in a case). The petitioner remains pending on the board of the Supreme Court.

Subsequently, another writ petition came to be preferred before the Supreme Court seeking the issuance of guidelines in respect of sale, purchase and bursting of permissible firecrackers. The writ petition also produces some of the banning orders issued by a few States, the court noted.

Green cracker merchants Shiva Fireworks and Jai Mata Stores had approached the High Court last month, assailing the ban imposed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) on the sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers in the city during the upcoming months.

The petitioners had emphasised in their plea that the "last-minute ban" imposed by the DPCC on September 14 was arbitrary and illegal, and adversely affects their livelihood.

CAPSULE

DELHI WITHDRAWS
₹500 NO-MASK FINE

New Delhi: The Delhi Government on Thursday issued an order withdrawing the ₹500 fine for not wearing masks in public places in the National capital. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in a meeting last month decided to stop levying the penalty after September 30, amid a decline in Covid-19 cases.

MAOIST WITH ₹5L BOUNTY
ARRESTED IN JHARKHAND

Medininagar/Latehar: A leader of the banned outfit CPI(Maoist), who was carrying a bounty of ₹5 lakh on his head, was arrested in Jharkhand's Palamu district, a police officer said on Thursday.

HEROIN HAUL: NIA SEIZES
₹1.27 CRORE IN SEARCHES

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency on Thursday recovered ₹1.27 crore cash during searches at the premises of Amritpal Singh, a key suspect in a case of smuggling of 102-kg heroin through the Attari border in April, officials said. The consignment was hidden in the licorice roots by suppliers based in Afghanistan, they said.

Truss succumbs to
eco pressure; fresh
chance for Sunak

IANS ■ LONDON

The ruling Conservatives will race to find a new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in a week after Liz Truss dramatically, though not unexpectedly, resigned as head of government on Thursday after only 45 days in office — the shortest period for any British premier in history.

"I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative party," Truss declared standing in front of the door of her office cum residence — 10 Downing Street. In effect, Britain will have an incredible and unprecedented third Prime Minister in three and a half months.

Truss added she had agreed with Sir Graham Brady, chairman of the 1922 Committee — the body that conducts internal elections in the Conservative party — that the leadership election will be completed within a week.



Liz Truss makes a statement outside 10 Downing Street where she announced her resignation as Prime Minister, in London on Thursday

AP | PTI

What an election of a new Prime Minister in a week means is the vote is unlikely to be extended to the rank and file of the party and may be restricted to Conservative MPs only.

Continued on Page 2

Boy who slit 7-year-old's
throat in school gets bail

Continued detention of accused may have adverse effects on him, reasons SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Three days after a Juvenile Justice Board ruled he will be tried in the case as an adult, the Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim bail to a man who was 16 years old when he killed a 7-year-old boy in a private school in Gurugram.

The incident at Ryan International School was probed by the CBI as the local police had wrongly arrested a school bus conductor in 2017 accusing him of the crime.

Giving reasons for the bail, a bench of Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and JK Maheshwari said the continued detention of the accused until the completion of the trial may have adverse effects on him. "Accordingly, the prayer for interim relief is granted and

until further orders of this court, that is by way of an interim measure, the petitioner-appellant be released on bail on conditions as may be imposed by sessions judge Gurugram.

"It is, however, specifically provided that the petitioner-appellant shall continuously remain under the supervision of a probation officer or any other person appointed by the sessions judge. It is also made clear that the petitioner and his parents would be expected not to create hindrance in the trial of the case and for that matter will not try to contact or communicate with any of the witnesses..." the bench said.

The bench said if there is any shortcoming in the conduct of the petitioner, the probation officer shall be free to report it to the Sessions Judge who shall forward the information to the apex court. The top court will now hear the matter in January 2023.

A Juvenile Justice Board had on October 17 ordered that the accused will be tried in the case as an adult.

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MCD fight 'AAP-Nirbhar' vs
BJP's 'Atamanirbhar': Shah

BJP making excuses for its failure in running civic bodies for 15 years: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government in Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the AAP wants Delhi to be "AAP Nirbhar" while the BJP wants the national Capital to be Atmanirbhar.

Asking the people of Delhi to choose between the two parties in the MCD elections, Shah accused the Kejriwal Government of giving step-motherly treatment to the erstwhile three civic bodies and claimed it owed ₹40,000 crore to the municipal corporations.

Responding to Shah's accusations, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked the BJP not to make "excuses" for its "failure" in running the MCD



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during the inauguration of 'Waste to Energy' plant, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

for 15 years.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, the AAP supremo also said in the next civic elections, people will have to decide whether they want a Delhi filled with garbage or a clean Delhi.

Interestingly, AAP leaders and workers held a protest near north Delhi's Bhalswa landfill site on Thursday to highlight the garbage mismanagement, which is 25-30 kms away from Tehkhand,

South Delhi.

"They (Kejriwal-led party) want Delhi to be AAP Nirbhar. We want it to become Atmanirbhar. In the next Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls, people will have to decide if they want to be AAP-Nirbhar or Atmanirbhar," Shah said at the inauguration event of the MCD's a waste-to-energy (WTE) plant in Tehkhand, Tuglaqabad in south Delhi.

Continued on Page 2

Tharoor is two-faced, alleges
Cong poll panel head Mistry

Tharoor campaign team flags unfair poll conduct in UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Congress central election Authority (CEA) chairman Madhusudan Mistry on Thursday accused Shashi Tharoor's team of having two faces — one for the party's poll body and one for the media — and rejected allegations of irregularities during the just-concluded AICC presidential poll, sources said.

In his response to team Tharoor's letter in which "extremely serious irregulari-



ties" were flagged in the conduct of the election in Uttar Pradesh, Mistry said the poll body satisfied the candidate on every complaint but despite that he raised all those points in the media before bringing them to "our notice".

"I am sorry to say that you had one face before me which communicated that you're sat-

isified with all our answers and action and different face in the media which made all these allegations against us," Mistry said in his letter to Tharoor's chief election agent Salman Soz, according to sources.

The campaign team of Tharoor, who lost the party's presidential polls to Mallikarjun Kharge, had written to Mistry, flagging "extremely serious irregularities" in the conduct of the election in Uttar Pradesh.

Besides demanding that all votes from Uttar Pradesh be deemed invalid, Tharoor's campaign team had also separately raised "serious issues" in the conduct of the election in Punjab and Telangana.

Continued on Page 2

India can't be dictated: Anurag
on Pak threat to skip world cup

MHA will decide on team's travel to Pak for Asia Cup but chances dim: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said the Home Ministry will take a call on the Indian cricket team's travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup next year but feels chances of the players going across the border "aren't much".

Thakur though is expecting that Pakistan team will come to India to compete in the 50-over World Cup next year, saying "all are welcome".



BCCI secretary Jay Shah, who is also the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chief, had on Tuesday said that Indian team will not travel to Pakistan for the continental event and they would like to compete in the tournament at a neutral venue.

It had prompted Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to say that it may affect its team's participation in the World Cup in India.

"All teams who qualify for (World Cup) are invited (to compete on the Indian soil). Many times Pakistan teams have come to India and played. I feel India is not in a position to be dictated (by someone) and there is no reason for anyone to do that.

"I expect all countries to come and compete," Thakur told a select gathering of journalists when asked about the controversy that erupted after Shah's statement.

Asked on the possibility of the Indian team travelling to the neighbouring country for Asia Cup next year, Thakur said, "Possibilities are always there. Anything can happen but the chances are not much."

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CCI slaps ₹1,337 crore
penalty on Google for
anti-competitive practices

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant decision, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Thursday imposed a penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem, apart from issuing a cease and desist order against the tech giant.

Google has been given 30 days' time to submit the requisite financial details and supporting documents. The antitrust watchdog, which began investigating Google several years ago after receiving complaints from home-grown companies, also ordered the company not to offer any



incentives to smartphone makers to exclusively carry its search services.

The Commission examined various practices of Google with regard to licensing of Android mobile operating system and various proprietary mobile applications of Google (Play Store, Google Search, Google Chrome, YouTube, etc).

Continued on Page 2

NCR PULSE

TATA POWER-DDL TO ORGANISE EXTENSIVE SAFETY DRIVE
New Delhi: Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata-DDL), will be organising an extensive safety drive for its consumers and staff to reduce the chances of electricity-related mishaps. "Under this drive, nearly 1.2 Lakh installations including plain cement and concrete (PCC) poles, street light poles, stay wires, towers, rail poles, fencing, substation, feeder pillar, service pillars, PWD Poles, MCD Poles, ATMs and Lights installed in parks were checked for any unsafe situation / hazard & rectifications thereof," a senior Tata-DDL official said.

2-DAY 'RANG DE KOREA' FEST HELD BY KCCI
New Delhi: A two-day 'Rang De Korea' fest was organised here by the Korean Culture Centre in India (KCCI) last week here to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Centre in India. Inaugurating the event, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to India, Chang Jae-bok, said that it was heartening to see that youth of India were becoming better aware of the Korean culture. The festival kicked-off with traditional Korean music named Samulnori and Hageum performance, followed by the first-ever traditional Korean wedding in India and energetic show by pop bands K-Tigers, ID and girl group BugAboo.

BJP protests against Delhi Govt for non-payment of pension

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Thursday staged a protest outside the residence of the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal against the non-payment of the old age pension in the national capital.

Hundreds of the senior citizens and BJP workers participated in the protest. They also raised slogans against the Kejriwal government.

Speaking at the protest, the Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that Kejriwal calls himself Shrawan Kumar but he is Kalyugi Shrawan Kumar, who has killed the pension rights of Delhi's elders.



"Kejriwal has been lying all over the country that the pension has been increased in the capital, while the truth is that the pension of the elderly in Delhi has been stopped for four months," Bidhuri said.

"This pension was a way to earn the basic amenities for these senior citizens and now they are totally helpless in this inhuman situation. The matter would be taken up vigorously in the Delhi Assembly as well,"

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a big moral boost to the beleaguered party, a former minister and leader from Vidarbha Sanjay Deshmukh on Thursday returned to Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray-UBD) along with another leader from leader from Thane in coastal Konkan region Sanjay Ghadigonkar.

Four months after the Shiv Sena led by then chief my chief minister Uddhav Thackeray witnessed a virtual spilt in the

party after then senior minister Eknath Shinde engineered a massive rebellion within its rank and file, Deshmukh and Ghadigonkar joined the Shiv Sena (UBD) in the presence of party president Uddhav, who tied 'Shiv-Bandhan' on their wrists while re-accepting them into his party.

A two-time MLA from Digras in Yavatmal in Vidarbha region, Deshmukh had earlier joined the rebel Shiv Sena (now known as Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena) led by chief minister Eknath Shinde. Welcoming Deshmukh

and Ghadigonkar into his party, Uddhav said that people from different backgrounds, caste and religion were joining his party as they were unhappy with what happened in June when Shinde topped his government, joined hands with the Opposition BJP and formed a government in the state.

"They are telling us to give a tough fight to the rebel Sena and that they will support us in our efforts. They also realise that we are part of the Opposition that is attempting to save democracy in the coun-

try... Whatever may happen to me or the party, it's for you to decide. But what will happen to the country, will there be democracy or not, that's the question we must all ask ourselves and work towards preventing such an eventuality," the Sena (UBD) president said.

Reacting to Deshmukh's entry to Shiv Sena (UBD), Maharashtra Minister and rival Eknmath Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Rathod sought to underplay the development by saying: "After having been inspired late Balsaheb Thackeray, I have been work-



ing in the Shiv Sena for several years now. I will continue to work for the party the same way. Some people leaving or

joining the party does not matter much. I will do my work in the honest way I was doing."

MCD starts preparation for polls as it waits for dates

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has started work at its end in anticipation of the civic polls in the city and is awaiting announcement of the election date.

According to a senior MCD official, the Corporation has started the preparations and the State Election Commission has also set the balls in motion ahead of the polls.

As per a communication issued on Wednesday by the Delhi State Election Commission (SEC), it has asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps and and "finalise tenders" in all respects latest by October 21, sources



said on Thursday.

MCD polls are expected to take place at the bag end of 2022 or early next year.

The Ministry of Home Affairs on October 17 had issued the final gazette notification for redrawing of municipal wards in Delhi.

Soon after the notification, the SEC on Wednesday appointed nearly 70 returning-cum-scrutinising officers for the 250 municipal wards,

setting the wheels in motion for the civic polls. Each officer has a chunk of wards under his jurisdiction.

Earlier, authorities had issued a communication, saying the assistant commissioners of all zones of the MCD have been nominated as respective nodal officers.

"The MCD has started work at its end in anticipation of the civic polls. We are awaiting announcement of the election date," the senior civic official said. As per a Delhi Gazette notification issued on September 10, the central government has fixed the total number of seats in the MCD at 250 from the existing figure of 272 as part of a delimitation exercise.

RERA notice to Ansals for incomplete documentation

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram bench of the Haryana real estate regulatory authority (RERA) has issued a show-cause notice to promoter of Ansal Highland Park after the developer failed to submit adequate documents related to the housing project. Ansal Highland Park is a residential group housing colony being developed at Sector 103, Gurugram.

"The promoter may be issued a show-cause notice for the imposition of a penalty amounting to Rs 10,000 per day for the duration of default under Section 63 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and why the HRERA registration may not be revoked under

Section 7 of the Act, 2016," the authority noted in its proceedings. Granting a month's time, the authority has asked the promoter to remain present in person in the court with reply of the show-cause notice during the next date of hearing scheduled on November 22. The promoter was asked to submit the project's service plans and estimates.

"It is observed that the registration certificate (RC) for the project was issued on April 1, 2019. As per the condition No VIII of the registration certificate, the promoter was required to submit the revised building plans and service plan estimates within a period of three months from the date of the issue of certificate.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aisha Jabeen, W/o. Faisal Siddiqui, R/o. B-27, 3rd Floor, Shehnaz Cottage, Ghafoor Nagar, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name after my marriage as Ayesha Siddiqui for all future purposes.

PD(90182)A

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tender through IREPS

128-W/269/OET/22-23/NRCH/INT 07 Dated 20.10.2022

N.I.T. No. 07-22-23-NRCH Dated 20.10.2022

1	Name of work with its location	Washing of used linen and supply of new linen for the period of one year in the section of ADEN/NRCH under Director/ Administration/NRCH.
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 6093918.33
3	Earnest Money	Rs. 121900/
4	Completion period of Work	12 Months
5	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 15.11.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 15.11.2022
6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender from can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Director Admin, Northern Railway
For & on behalf of President of India

2816/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Mukesh Chand, Prashant Nigam, Geeta Devi, Cabin No. 202, Coast Guard Accommodation, Sector 24, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No: LBAGR00004711594	House No. 163, Built Over Plot No. 163, Tulsi Budget Villa, Mauza Patholi, Sadar Tahsil, Agra, Uttar Pradesh	03/09/2022 Rs. 29,67,712/-	03/06/2022
2.	Pramod Kumar, Chandani., 1848, New Pannapuri, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No: LBMRT00004181993	Old Mpl. No. 1464, New MPL. No. 735, Mohalla Old Pannapuri, Hapur, Uttar Pradesh	03/09/2022 Rs. 8,93,849/-	08/06/2022
3.	Rajendra Kumar Patel, Juhi Patel, Amit Rajendra Patel, 49 Factory Area, Fazal Ganj, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No: LBBKAN00001874851	Fiat No.-KS2-06-802, Kassia At Jaypee Greens, Sports City, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh	03/09/2022 Rs. 13,32,889/-	30/06/2022

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 21, 2022
Place : Delhi (Noida, Modinagar)

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Noida

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

A) Re-Tender Work:

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	09/PGM/Sr. M. (E&M-I)/ET 2022-23	Renovation of fountain in A Block Park Sector 92 Noida	34.36
2.	24/PGM/Sr. M. (E&M-I)/ET 2022-23	Providing Lighting Arrangement in instead of missing Poles/Streetlight at Loop Park and Sector Park in Sector 82 & 91 Noida	46.89
3.	07/PGM/Sr. M. (E&M-II)/ET 2022-23	Maintenance of Fire Alarm, PA & CCTV Work for Multilevel Car Parking Sector-1, 3 & 5 Noida	35.13
4.	31/PGM/Sr. M. (E&M-II)/ET 2022-23	Providing G.I Pole and Street Light Infrastructure in Internal External roads at Sector-121, Noida	64.45
5.	36/PGM/Sr. M. (E&M-II)/ET 2022-23	Providing of High Mast Light and Street Light in Vill-Garhi Chaukhandi, Noida	55.64
6.	28/PGM/Sr. M. (E&M-III)/ET 2022-23	Annual Maintenance and repairing of fountain in Sector- 39, 40, 47, and 48, Noida	38.10

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 31.10.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 01.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

B) Fresh Tender Work :

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
6.	36/DGM (E&M)/S. M. (E&M-III)/2022-23	Construction of new fountain in Park Sector-46, Noida	34.19
7.	19/DGM/Sr. M. (E&M-IV)/2022-23	Providing Lighting arrangement of different Parks of Sector-128 Noida	36.43

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 07.11.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 09.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M.

Dy. General Manager(E&M), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

China at it again...

From Page 1
The US Department of Treasury has designated Mahmood as well as another LeT leader Muhammad Sarwar in December 2016 as part of the action "to disrupt LeT fundraising and support networks."

This is the fifth time in four months that China has put a hold on listing proposals to designate Pakistan-based terrorists under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee regime. 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-Tayyeba 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 terrorist organization Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) Abdul Rauf Azhar.

In September, Beijing blocked a proposal moved at the UN by the US and co-supported by India to designate LeT terrorist Sajid Mir, wanted for his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks, as a global terrorist. Mir is one of India's most wanted terrorists and has a bounty of USD 5 million placed on his head by the US for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

In June, he was jailed for over 15 years in a terror-financing case in Pakistan, which is struggling to exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

India can't be dictated: Anurag on...

From Page 1
"...It's a decision that will be taken by the home ministry. Overall, players' safety and security is an important matter." It was pointed out that international teams have started touring Pakistan, of late, but Thakur deflected the question. Asked further, Thakur said, "That is a security concern. The Government will take a call on that. Let the time come, let us see the situation at that time."

Thakur spoke after it was announced that the fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will be held across eight cities in Madhya Pradesh from January 31 to February 11.

A 'disappointed' Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday requested the Asian Cricket Council to convene an emergency meeting

and said "such statements can spilt the Asian and international cricket communities" and impact Pakistan's visit to India for the 2023 World Cup. India haven't travelled to Pakistan since the 2008 Asia Cup, and after the Mumbai terror attack on November 26 that year, the scheduled bilateral series in early 2009 was cancelled.

Pakistan did travel to India for a short six-match white-ball series in 2012, but in the last 10 years, there hasn't been any bilateral cricket. The two teams have only played each other at various ICC and ACC events.

The PCB is irked as international cricket has resumed in the country with all top nations like England, Australia, West Indies travelling there to play Tests and white-ball rubbers.

Tharoor is...

From Page 1
In his letter to Mistry, Soz had said the facts are "damning" and the election process in Uttar Pradesh is "devoid of credibility and integrity".

In his response to team Tharoor, Mistry said, "You say in your letter that 'we kept quiet in the party's interest and we saw unjust and unfair treatment that prevented us from operating on a level playing field'. We satisfied you on every complaint you made to us and you agreed to all of them and expressed that you're satisfied, despite that you raised all those points in the media before bringing them to our notice."

"You tried creating a mountain out of a mole by creating an impression that the entire exercise was unfair to your candidate," he said.

Truss succumbs to economic pressure...

From Page 1
Speculation was swirling in Westminster and Whitehall about the Indian origin former Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak - who lost the contest to Truss in the summer - once again throwing his hat into the ring.

There was, however, no confirmation of this from him. He has of course made enemies within his party for being instrumental for the downfall of Boris Johnson, the Prime

Minister before Truss, and has been lying low since his defeat.

Apart from Sunak, the names of Ben Wallace, the Secretary of State for Defence, Penny Mordaunt, Leader of the House of Commons, and even Johnson are doing the round. Wallace refused to bid for the leadership in the summer, but could be a unifying figure and thereby a frontrunner, if he stands.

Mordaunt said she will "keep calm and carry on".

Another figure of Indian descent, Suella Braverman, who resigned as Home Secretary on Wednesday, could also have ambitions.

BBC reported Jeremy Hunt, the current Chancellor, will not fight an election for the Prime Ministership. Johnson supported Truss against Sunak. It was rumoured he did so because he knew her limitations, expected her to implode soon, which would pave the way for his return.

Modi's LiFE India's...

From Page 1
The action plan - a list of ideas on lifestyle changes that can be taken up as climate-friendly behaviour - along with the logo and tagline for Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) were jointly launched by Modi and Guterres at Kevadia.

The Prime Minister said Mission LiFE will strengthen the concept of a pro-people planet. The mission signifies the "lifestyle of the planet, for the planet and by the planet". Mission LiFE aims to follow a three-pronged strategy for changing people's collective approach toward sustainability.

This includes nudging individuals to practice simple yet effective environment-friendly actions in their daily lives (demand), enabling industries and markets to respond swiftly to the changing demand (supply), and influencing government and industrial policy to support both sustainable consumption

and production (policy).

Modi said the prevailing notion that climate change is an issue only related to policy leaves this all-important issue only to the Government or international organisations. "People are experiencing the effects of climate change in their surroundings, and in the last few decades, unexpected calamities were witnessed. This makes it amply clear that climate change goes beyond just policy-making," he said.

The Prime Minister said the mantra of Mission LiFE is 'Lifestyle For Environment'. The mission will connect the people's power for the protection of the earth, and teach them to utilise its resources in a better way.

Mission LiFE makes the fight against climate change democratic, in which everyone can contribute within their capacity, Modi said.

"Mission LiFE inspires us to do all that can be done in our everyday life to protect the environment. Mission LiFE

believes that the environment can be protected by changing our lifestyle," he said.

For example, a person goes to a gym on a vehicle that runs five kms on per liter (fuel). If the person goes there on a bicycle, then both the goals of protecting the environment and achieving personal fitness will be met, he said.

Modi gave an example of the adoption of LED bulbs in India for reducing electricity bills and protecting the environment.

"This led to massive savings and environmental benefits and this is a recurring permanent benefit," he said.

Modi said Mission LiFE embodies the spirit of the "P3 model- that is Pro- Planet People".

It unites people of the earth as pro-planet people, uniting them all in their thoughts. It functions on the basic principle of "lifestyle of the planet, for the planet and by the planet," he said.

MCD fight 'AAP-Nirbhar' vs BJP's...

From Page 1
Alleging that the AAP Government had been spending heavily on publicity, Shah claimed Kejriwal was under the impression that development comes from advertisements. "This illusion can last only for five to seven years," he said. "People will have to choose between 'Vigyan ki Rajniti' (politics of advertisement) and 'Vikas ki Rajniti' (politics of development)," he said and assured that the BJP would be ready with a plan to make Delhi garbage-free by the time MCD elections are held and that the city would be in a position to process 100 per cent of its daily waste by 2025.

The Home Minister said the WTE plant would help address the problem of waste processing and further strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission. He said the WTE in Tekhand would process 2,000 metric tonne garbage daily and produce 25 MW electricity.

CCI slaps ₹1,337 crore penalty on Google for...

From Page 1
During the course of inquiry, Google argued about the competitive constraints it faced from Apple. "In relation to understanding the extent of competition between Google's Android ecosystem and Apple's iOS ecosystem, the Commission noted the differences in the two business models which affect the underlying incentives of business decisions," the CCI said in a statement.

Apple's business is primarily based on a vertically integrated smart device ecosystem which focuses on sale of high-end smart devices with state-of-the-art software components. Whereas Google's business was found to be driven by the ultimate intent of increasing users on its platforms so that they interact with its revenue earning service, i.e., online search which directly affects sale of online advertising services by Google.

No more ₹500 fine for going maskless

Delhi Govt issues order but urges people to mask-up in crowded places

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday issued an order withdrawing the Rs 500 fine it had imposed for not wearing masks in public places in the national Capital. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in a meeting last month decided to stop levying the penalty after September 30, amid a decline in Covid cases.

The authority in its meeting on September 22 noted that the positivity rate had come down substantially and majority of the population had been vaccinated against Covid, the order read.

"The DDMA has decided that compulsory wearing of masks under the Epidemic Act may not be extended beyond September 30 and hence, a fine of Rs 500 for not wearing masks in public places would also stand withdrawn after September 30," it read. However, the order advised



people to wear masks in crowded, public places. Earlier, even as an official order abolishing the mask mandate was awaited, several district authorities in Delhi had either stopped fining people Rs 500 or had given relaxations. Taking to *The Pioneer*, Special Chief Executive Officer (CEO),

DDMA, Sushil Singh said that despite the fine of Rs 500 for not wearing the mask in the national capital has been revoked, I urge the people of Delhi to wear mask in public places as a preventive measure, amid the ongoing festive season. Delhi recorded 107 fresh Covid cases with a positivity

rate of 1.64 per cent on Wednesday, according to health department data. On Tuesday, the positivity rate was 2.04 per cent, 3.61 per cent on Monday, 1.59 per cent on Sunday, 2.12 per cent on Saturday and 1.75 per cent on Friday. The number of active cases now stands at 488.

The decision to revoke the mask mandate, taken during the September 22 meeting, was anything but unanimous and there were many differences, according to the minutes of the meeting.

Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar had said that the current situation was comfortable but people cannot lower their guard as variants keep coming up.

He had suggested that a "self discipline mode" could be tried now as people are well aware of their responsibilities and about Covid-appropriate behaviour. Niti Aayog member (health) Dr VK Paul had emphasised that surveillance

was still needed as the virus is still present, and its mutations and variants have emerged from time to time. Delhi Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot had reiterated that there were "practical difficulties" in the enforcement of the mask mandate, and had stressed the need to relax the rule.

The meeting, chaired by Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in attendance, had summarily agreed that though wearing of masks was useful in maintaining Covid-appropriate behaviour, the order of compulsory wearing of masks under the Epidemic Act may not be extended beyond September 30.

Experts had mixed views on the lifting of the mask mandate, with some saying the government could have waited for two months for the festive season to end, while others said people should voluntarily be allowed to discipline themselves.

IAS officer lodges plaint of harassment with police

Garima Gupta claims anonymous man is posing as a Govt official on WhatsApp to extract confidential information

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A senior bureaucrat belonging to the 2004 batch on Tuesday lodged a complaint against an anonymous person for allegedly harassing her by posing as a Government official on WhatsApp, intending to extract "confidential information" from her.

According to Delhi Police, IAS officer Garima Gupta, lodged her complaint on October 18 at the Cyber Police Station, north district, alleging that someone threatened and harassed her after posing as a Government official and also tried to extract confidential information about her department. Following her complaint,



Delhi Police lodged an FIR against the accused under Sections 507 (criminal intimidation by anonymous communication) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant section of the Information Technology Act, said police.

"The said person also tried to impersonate as a senior Government official when he talked to her.

This person keeps on changing his assumed name on WhatsApp in an attempt to impersonate someone else in

order to cheat the person he calls, the FIR added. Gupta is currently posted as Secretary, Social Welfare, Women and Child Development. She is also holding the post of Special Commissioner Transport and Managing Director of Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC).

In the complaint, the IAS officer said that for the past 3-4 weeks, she has been receiving WhatsApp calls and messages from a number and a person has been threatening and harassing her, using foul language.

"When I confronted the person stating that I shall be filing a police complaint, he replied that he was using a SIM card acquired using fake/false documents and that the police would not be able to trace him," read the complaint.

Gupta has further in her FIR urged the police to book her complaint under Section 66D (Punishment for cheating by personation.

All 70K seats may be filled in first list: DU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University (DU) is expecting all 70,000 seats for its undergraduate (UG) programmes to be filled through the first admission list, with nearly 61,000 candidates on Thursday accepting their allotted college and course. The university had on Wednesday announced the much-awaited first list of seat allocation, marking the commencement of the third and last phase of the admission process.

"We are expecting all 70,000 seats to be filled in the first list itself. This would mean the entire process will be completed by October 24," DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said.

In the context of provisional seat allocation, 'Allocated Seat' refers to a unique combination of programme plus college. "By 7 PM on Thursday, 60,863 candidates had accepted seats allocated to them,"



Gupta said. The varsity on Wednesday announced the first list of seat allocations with the names of over 80,000 candidates for admission to various UG programmes. The students have been given a three-day window from October 19 to October 21 to "accept" the allocated seat.

The number of seats across DU colleges is 70,000, but the varsity has allocated extra seats in unreserved (OBC-NCL and EWS) and reserved (SC, ST and PWB) categories in the first list, taking the number to 80,164

This year, the university is admitting students on the basis

of their Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores instead of their Class 12 marks. On September 12, the university released the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS), its admission-cum-allocation policy. The first seat allocation list marks the commencement of the third and last phase of the admission process.

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. For the first round of CSAS allocation and admission, the last date for online payment of admission fees is October 24.

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

PM2.5 pollution down by 20% in Delhi

This is compared to pre-pandemic period, early Diwali will also help city, says CSE

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The average PM2.5 pollution in Delhi in the winter season has declined by about 20 per cent as compared to the pre-pandemic period, according to a new report released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Thursday.

It also said Diwali this year is being celebrated early in the season "which means the warmer and windier conditions will help dilute the pollution that is a staple of Diwali night celebrations".

However, concentrated stubble burning due to prolonged rains (in September end and October) may compound the problem. The assessment captured seven successive winters and pre-winter trends, starting from January 1, 2015

in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). It is based on real time data available from 81 operational air quality monitoring stations in the region.

The PM2.5 concentration for winter (October 1 to February 28) used to hover around 180-190 microgram per cubic metre before the pandemic. It has come down to 150-160 microgram per cubic metre since then, the report said.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director of research and advocacy at the CSE, said the objective of the report is to understand the trend and "the starting line of the onset of the winter pollution season or pre-winter levels in this region".

The seasonal average is still over 150 per cent above the 24-hour standard (60 microgram per cubic metre) and almost four times the annual standard (40 microgram per cubic metre) despite the improvement, the green think-tank noted. It said peak pollution showed a similar trend as the seasonal average. "Peak pollution (worst 24-hour aver-



age) used to cross 800 microgram per cubic metre at individual stations pre-pandemic. It has been hovering in the 700-800 microgram per cubic metre range during the last three winters," the report said.

The CSE, however, said the peak pollution numbers did not project the actual level as the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had capped it at 1,000 microgram per cubic metre in 2016-17, greatly compromising its assessment. Researchers said the winter of 2021-22 was less polluted as

compared to 2020-21 for most NCR cities. Ghaziabad registered a 30 per cent improvement, the highest among all major cities, but its PM2.5 level was still about 2.5 times the 24-hour standard. "Greater Noida (28 per cent), Noida (23 per cent) and Faridabad (16 per cent) also registered improvement in excess of Delhi (12 per cent)," the report said.

Gurugram, with 11 per cent improvement, was the worst performer among the core NCR cities. In absolute concentration terms,

Faridabad, with an average of 159 microgram per cubic metre, was the most polluted city of the NCR last winter.

Unlike the previous two years, smoke from farm stubble fires has not overwhelmed the air quality of the region yet and rains in early October have also kept the air relatively clean.

Also, previous years' data shows that Diwali night can add 300-600 microgram per cubic metre of PM2.5 to Delhi-NCR's air if the business-as-usual scenario continues.

BJP only taking up garbage issue as polls are near: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Thursday termed the inauguration of the waste-to-energy (WTE) plant by the Home Minister Amit Shah as an "election gimmick," in the national Capital. AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak said that Delhi Government gave more than Rs 1.5 lakh crore to the MCD in the last 15 years but the BJP gobbled up the entire money. AAP MLA alleged that the BJP is talking about the garbage only due to the upcoming municipal elections.

Terming the inauguration of the WTE treatment plant at Tehkhanda an election gimmick, Pathak said that Amit Shah is making pointless inaugurations as he fears loss in the forthcoming municipal polls.

Pathak further said that despite thousands of requests, Shah did not come to see the garbage mountain of Bhalswa and today he came to inaugurate



AAP leader Durgesh Pathak and party workers protest at a landfill site on Thursday.

rate the WTE plant. AAP leader Atishi said that BJP and Amit Shah must stop daydreaming. "Leave aside three years, Delhiites won't let BJP rule for three more days after seeing their disasters in the MCD," she said.

"Amit Shah must tell Delhiites why his party failed to

clear garbage in the last 15 years. BJP did nothing to clean Delhi and they are only talking about the garbage because the elections are approaching. After creating three humongous garbage mountains right inside the national Capital, the BJP now wants to build 16 more," she added.

Kejriwal clears path for Metro corridor for Janakpuri-Ashram

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday approved a proposal for removal and transplantation of 316 trees for the Janakpuri-RK Ashram metro corridor link at Derawal Nagar.

According to officials, a park was coming in the way of the Janakpuri—RK Ashram Metro Corridor route at Derawal Nagar. The Delhi Metro had sought clearance permission from the Delhi Government on the condition that 3,160 new trees be planted in lieu of removal and transplantation of 316 trees for Janakpur-RK Ashram corridor, which had been stuck for some time.

Kejriwal said that the permission to the Delhi Metro for removal and transplantation of 316 trees on the site on the condition that 3,160 new trees be planted as compensation has been approved. "The Janakpuri to RK Ashram Corridor will run through several densely populated areas of Delhi

including R.K. Ashram, Nabi Karim, Sadar Bazar, Pulbangash, Ghanta Ghar, Derawal Nagar, Ashok Vihar, Azadpur, Majlis Park, Bhalaswa, Haiderpur Badli Mor, North Pitampura, Prashant Vihar, Madhuban Chowk, Deepali Chowk, Pushpanjali Enclave, West Enclave, Mangolpuri, Peeragarhi, Paschim Vihar, Keshopur, Krishna Park Extn and Janakpuri West," Kejriwal said.

While emphasizing on the importance of the new metro line, Kejriwal took cognisance of the larger interest of the people of Delhi, and gave his nod to speed up the work by clearing the obstruction.

The corridor is of around 29 kms in length. "Approving the proposal, the Delhi Government has noted that out of the 316 trees, the DMRC will transplant 185 trees of indigenous and native species from the site, while it will take up felling of 131 trees only of the non-native species," Kejriwal said.

28 tonnes of fake cumin seeds seized, factory owner arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Crime Branch has busted an illegal factory in Kanjhawala which allegedly made fake cumin seeds and arrested its owner. The 43-year-old accused was identified as Suresh Gupta, resident of Budh Vihar, Phase-I. He was running the factory making fake cumin seeds by using grass, jaggery vinegar and stone powder.

According to police, more than 400 sacks of fake cumin seeds weighing a total of over 28 tonnes were recovered, police said, adding the value of recovered items exceeds Rs 1 crore. Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav said police had received input about the factory in which fake cumin seeds were being made.

Considering it a matter of grave concern related to public health, information was further worked upon, Yadav said. On the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, it



was confirmed that Gupta was running an illegal factory in Kanjhawala area and was manufacturing fake cumin seeds in huge quantity. Police were also tipped off that he will transport a large consignment of the same outside Delhi. Immediate raid was planned to bust the illegal factory, the senior police official said.

"Our team acted swiftly and raided the place of information and Gupta, owner of the illegal factory, was apprehended and more than 400 sacks of fake cumin seeds weighing around 70 kg each were recovered," he said.

"The staff of Food Safety Department was also called at the place of recovery and the samples of fake cumin seeds

were collected. The fake cumin seeds were made so well that nobody can discern that they are not real," he added.

The officer said the workers in the illegal factory used to prepare fake cumin seeds which resembled real cumin seeds in colour, size and overall appearance. These seeds were mixed with genuine cumin seeds in a proportion for selling the same in the market. "Although no previous criminal record has been found against him, it is suspected that on and off Gupta has been involved in this activity for years now.

He used to change his factory addresses frequently. This particular factory was recently started by him. This time he tried to supply a huge consignment but was caught by the Crime Branch," the special commissioner of police (crime) said. Police said that an investigation is in progress to identify the place and people where the consignment concerned was destined to.

Arrest people who are threat to Delhi under NSA: L-G to police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena has authorised the Police Commissioner of Delhi to detain under the National Security Act (NSA) people who pose a threat to the national Capital, sources said on Thursday. The order, which came into force from Wednesday, is effective till January 18 next year.

The L-G has authorised the Delhi Police Commissioner to take into preventive detention those who become a threat to the national Capital, according



to a senior police officer. The Delhi Police, meanwhile, said that it is a routine order and is issued regularly. The official notification cites subsection 2

of section 3 of NSA which states that the Central Government or a State Government, if satisfied that a person can act in any manner prejudicial to the security of the state or the maintenance of public order, can make an order directing that such person be detained as a preventive measure.

The NSA allows preventive detention of an individual for months if the authorities feel that the individual is a threat to the national security, and law and order. The individual also need not be informed of the charges for 10 days.

13,700 kg of firecrackers seized in raids

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Police have seized over 13,700 kg of firecrackers and registered 75 cases in this connection between October 1 and 19. The Delhi Police seized 13,767.719 kg firecrackers for storage or sale and registered 75



cases in this connection. Delhi Police has also registered six cases related to bursting of firecrackers and seized 3,608 kg crackers. Different units of the city police carried out raids in several parts of the national Capital against the sale, storage and supply of illegal firecrackers.

A senior police officer said they were focusing on two angles. "We are spreading awareness, educating people and sensitising them about how harmful firecrackers are? It is dangerous for the environment, human beings and others because of the smoke.

"Second, we are focusing on the demand-supply chain. Strict actions are being taken against those who are found illegally selling, storing and supplying banned firecrackers. Action as the per law is also being taken."

On Thursday, students of a school conducted an anti-cracker rally at Chandani Chowk in cooperation with the local police. Another officer

said, "We have set up special teams at the district and police station level. These teams are continuously working to crack down on the sale of firecrackers. We are also conducting surprise checks in the districts."

On Wednesday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said bursting firecrackers on Diwali would attract a jail term of up to six months and a fine of ₹200.

Production, storage and sale of firecrackers in the Capital will be punishable with a fine of up to ₹5,000 and three years in jail under Section 9B of the Explosives Act of Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Minister said. In September, the City

Government re-imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, a practice it has been following for the past two years due to the resultant pollution caused by crackers.

In a major crackdown, Delhi Police's Crime Branch arrested two men from Mandoli Industrial Area and seized 2,625 kg of illegal firecrackers. The persons revealed that they had procured the firecrackers from distributors in Karnal and Sangrur. In another operation, the police arrested a 53-year-old man from Madangir's central market area on Monday and seized 1,193 kg firecrackers from his shop.

Army to procure Quad copters, RPAs



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to boost surveillance capabilities along the borders with China and Pakistan, the Army will procure quad copters and mini remotely piloted aircraft (RPA). A tender or request for proposal(RFP) was issued on Thursday inviting bids from Indian manufacturers for 1,000 copters and 80 RPAs. The interested parties will have to submit their bids within a month and the Army will procure both these systems through fast track procedure. Quad copter has four rotors and provides relatively stable flight performance thereby enabling surveillance and aer-

ial photography. The RPAs will have a range from 20 km to 60-90 km and help in identifying targets for the artillery for precision strikes in high altitude areas. Moreover, these RPAs weighing about 15 kilos will have endurance of more than 90 minutes and fly during day and night. On Monday, the Army had issued tender for 363 logistics drones or unmanned aerial vehicles(UAV). These drones will provide the Army with the much-needed logistical backup for delivering goods to front line troops in remote and high altitude areas, sources said. The drones will be procured through fast track procedure from Indian manufacturers. While 163 drones will be

deployed for high altitude areas, the remaining 200 UAVS are meant for medium altitude, they said. The RFP for buying 200 medium-altitude drones says the platforms should be capable of withstanding strong winds. The document says each medium-altitude logistics drone should be able to carry at least 20 kgs of payload and the overall weight of each platform would be around 100 kg. The weight of the payload for high-altitude logistics drones has been kept at not less than 15 kg. Both medium-altitude and high-altitude drones would also have a range of 10 km for delivering payloads, officials said.

PM to hand over letters of appointment to 75K newly-inducted officers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Diwali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch on October 22 a 'Rozgar Mela' - recruitment drive - for 10 lakh personnel - of which 75,000 new appointees will be handed over letters of appointments on the same day. The posts on which appointments are being made include Central Armed Force Personnel, Sub Inspector, Constable, LDC, Steno, PA, Income Tax Inspectors, MTS, among others. A total of 75,000 new appointees to be appointed in first tranche with Selection process simplified and Tech enabled to expedite recruitment process in 38 ministries and departments. According to Prime Minister's Office (PMO), at the ceremony on Saturday, appointment letters will be handed over to 75,000 newly inducted appointees and Prime Minister will also address them on the occasion. Selection process has been simplified and Tech enabled to expedite recruitment process.

According to the PMO, the Programme "showcases continuous commitment of the Government towards providing job opportunities for the youth and ensuring citizen welfare". An announcement to fill-up 10 lakh vacancies lying vacant in the government sector has already been made by the Centre earlier this year to improve the employment scenario in the country. As per the directions of the Prime Minister, all Ministries and Departments are working towards filling up existing vacancies against sanctioned posts in "Mission Mode", said the statement. The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 Ministries or Departments of Government of India. The appointees will join the government at various levels viz. Group - A, Group - B (Gazetted), Group - B (Non-Gazetted) and Group - C. These recruitments are being done speedily by Ministries and Departments either by themselves or through Recruiting agencies such as UPSC, SSC, Railway Recruitment Board.

ED seizes ₹149 cr jewellery stock

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized jewellery stocks worth more than Rs 149 crore after it searched Hyderabad-based two gems and jewels groups as part of a money laundering probe linked to alleged cheating with Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), a public sector enterprise. The searches were launched against MBS Jewellers Pvt Ltd, Musaddilal Gems and Jewels India Pvt Ltd, and their directors Suresh Gupta and Anurag Gupta on October 17 at five locations in Telangana's capital city and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. The seizure includes jew-

ellery stocks of Rs 149.10 crore and a cash amount of Rs 1.96 crore, the ED said in a statement issued on Thursday. Suresh Gupta was subsequently arrested by the federal agency on October 18 and a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court, a day later on October 19, sent him to 14 days judicial custody, the agency said. The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR and chargesheet filed against Suresh Gupta and his companies for defrauding MMTC Limited in purchase of gold bullion under buyer's credit scheme. The ED has frozen Rs 7.12 crore worth of Bitcoins and seized Rs 1.65 crore in cash as part of an ongoing money

laundering probe against the promoter of a Kolkata-based mobile gaming app E-Nuggets and promoter Aamir Khan for allegedly duping many people. "The ED carried out a search operation at two premises in Kolkata, leading to the seizure of Rs 1.65 crore cash and freezing of 44.5 Bitcoin (equivalent to Rs 7.12 crore as per market exchange rates) and other incriminating documents," the agency said in a statement. The ED had raided the premises of the app's company and that of Khan and his father Nesar Ahmed Khan in Kolkata last month and had seized Rs 17.32 crore in cash from there apart from freezing bitcoins and some bank deposits in the past. With the latest action, the total seizure amount in this case stands at Rs 51.16 crore. The agency said as many as 300 accounts were used to "launder" funds of gamers. Aamir Khan was arrested by the detective department of the Kolkata Police from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh last month. The agency probe revealed that Aamir Khan launched the gaming application E-Nuggets, which was designed for the purpose of "defrauding" people. In yet another case, the ED attached assets worth over Rs 8.53 crore of a deceased Rajasthan-based narcotics dealer, who allegedly had links

with an African drug lord, his family members and associates, in a money laundering case. The action has been taken against Subhash Dudani in a case linked to manufacture and sale of Methaqualone tablets, a prohibited substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Dudani along with his associates ran an "international and illegal" drug racket, partnering with Late Ronny Jonny Smith, an African drug lord. A provisional order has been issued under PMLA to attach a total of 18 properties located in Mumbai and Udaipur, the ED said in a statement. The book value of the attached properties is Rs 8,53,20,372 and 12 of them are located in Udaipur while the rest are in Mumbai. Dudani had set up separate units at Udaipur, Kandla and Nagpur for manufacturing, transporting and illegal smuggling of methaqualone tablets to African countries under the guise of exports, devising different techniques on each occasion, the ED alleged. The "proceeds of crime" earned out of the illegal sale of these drugs abroad, mainly in African countries, were introduced to various companies floated by him in the UAE and Hong Kong, it added.



6 more candidates announced by BJP for Himachal polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after declaring candidates name for 62 seats, the BJP on Thursday announced candidates for the remaining six seats for Himachal Pradesh polls - renominating two sitting MLAs and allotting tickets to two new faces. In remaining two the BJP interchanged seats of the candidates. The BJP renominated Maheshwar Singh from Kullu and Ramkumar from Haroli, while the party interchanged seats of Ramesh Dhawala and Ravinder Singh Ravi. Dhawala has been fielded from Dehra and Ravi from Jawalamukhi. Prem Singh Dharik has been replaced with Kaul Negi for Rampur constituency while Maya Sharma has been fielded in place of Baldev Sharma in Barsar. The BJP currently has 43 members and the Congress 22. There are two Independents and one CPI(M) MLA.

Interpol meet: Indian team holds talks with nations on intel sharing on fugitives

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the sidelines of the 90th Interpol General Assembly, the Indian delegation has held bilateral meetings with delegations from several countries to discuss matters related to police cooperation for enhancement of criminal intelligence sharing; geo-location of fugitives and criminals; combating terrorism, terror financing and online radicalization; coordinating efforts to prevent cybercrimes and online child sexual exploitation. "Bilateral meetings were already held so far with the UK, USA, Australia, UAE, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Austria, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, Bhutan, Namibia, Bahrain, Russia, Canada, Oman, Serbia, Malaysia and Mongolia," the CBI said in a statement. A bilateral meeting was also held with Europol to discuss strengthening of police cooperation and on a working



arrangement for cooperation with Europol, it said. "Meanwhile, the Austrian delegation met the officers of CBI and communicated their deep appreciation of the prompt investigation undertaken by the Indian agency, due to which the frauds have drastically reduced in Austria and other neighbouring countries. The two agencies will further collaborate in the ongoing investigation, the CBI said. It further said, "As a shining example of International Cooperation amongst police authorities, acting on some inputs from some western countries, CBI registered a case

and recently conducted searches on a call center in Shadi Khampur village, New Delhi, where victims from foreign countries were being duped by the accused, impersonating as law enforcement/Europol officers, telling them that their identities were stolen and crime pertaining to narcotics drugs were committed in their names, it said. In order to clear themselves of this suspicion, the victims were compelled to transfer their assets/money to a trust account through bank transfers, crypto wallets, gift card codes or voucher codes. During the ongoing investigation of the particular case, another call center at Noida was also traced and raided by CBI. During the operation, an amount of 25.83 bitcoins and Rs 30,92,702 available in different wallets of the accused have been frozen along with an amount of Rs 30,43,025 in the bank account of one of the accused.

46 tonnes SUP seized, 2,900 challans issued: Green Ministry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) claims to have seized approximately 46 tonnes of banned single use plastic (SUP) items and imposed a fine of Rs. 41 lakhs on the violators in its three-day special drive launched from October 17. A total of 20036 inspections including 6448 inspections were conducted during which over 4000 violations were observed and 2900 challans issued, according to a statement issued by the Union Environment Ministry here. As per the Ministry notification issued in August, production, sale, stocking & distribution, import and usage of identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items including cutlery items, thin packaging films, candy & ice-cream sticks have been banned. The ban followed several enabling measures such as training of



MSMEs for switching over to alternatives to plastics that have also been taken up by CPCB during this period. Digital interventions including development of SUP Compliance Monitoring Portal & SUP Public Grievance App were taken up to facilitate effective monitoring of activities related to enforcement of ban. Further augmenting its efforts, the CPCB started a special drive from October 17, 2022, and more than 50 teams were deployed for conducting inspections for restricting usage of SUP items by the flower sellers, street vendors, sabzi mandis, fish market, wholesale markets, etc. State Urban Development Department offi-

cials participated during inspections. SPCBs/PCCs have also been asked to conduct similar drives. A total of 20036 inspections including 6448 inspections by CPCB teams have been carried out during October 17-19, 2022. Over 4000 violations were observed and 2900 challans have been issued to the defaulters. Approximately 46 tonnes of SUP items have been seized and a fine of Rs. 41 lakhs imposed by the concerned Authorities. "An attempt has been made to break the supply chain of SUP items in the market through backtracking. Retailers, wholesalers and factories engaged in manufacturing SUP items have been traced and a huge cache of the banned items seized during the inspections. Checks are also being carried out at interstate borders to prevent interstate transportation of banned SUP items," said the statement.

Incomplete platform for Vande Bharat trains endangers passengers



DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to adhere to the deadline for launching the much-touted Vande Bharat train from poll-bound Himachal Pradesh, Railway authorities apparently failed to take a key factor into account while planning its stoppage at the Anandpur Sahib Railway Station in Punjab. The platform at the station is shorter than the train with six of its bogies getting docked outside the platform area "inconveniencing the passengers and making their boarding or de-boarding accident prone". In the last two days, the station authorities have faced rampant complaints and aggression of the passengers who have been risking themselves to board or deboard the

train from the railway tracks. "As many as six coaches of the elite train no 22447 Vande Bharat have to be parked beyond the limits of the platform since it cannot cater to the full rake. The train stops at the station for two minutes and operates only with closed doors," sources said. Vande Bharat Express is a train set rake of 16 Coaches comprising Executive Class and Chair Car coaches. Running between New Delhi to Amb Andaura with stoppages at Ambala, Chandigarh, Anandpur Sahib, and Una, the train started its commercial operations on October 19 to the realisation of the local station authorities and the division about the major technical lapses. Of the 16 coaches of the train of full average length of

about 384 metres, six coaches of the 22447/22448 Vande Bharat have to be stationed beyond platform limits which is about 250 metres. "It is the second day and we observed that this is a big technical problem until the platform is extended. Passengers risk themselves as they have to manoeuvre through the tracks which is dangerous," said a local railway staff. When asked about the vulnerability, a senior railway official requesting strict anonymity, admitted the technical glitch at that particular station and shared that Indian Railways is now trying to address the issue soon. "While the platform redevelopment would take time, Anandpur Sahib-bound passengers will be facilitated travel bookings within the train

coaches that will fit the station length. Until the Rail PRS software is updated to facilitate this particular train reservation bookings, there will be announcements in train for the passengers of Anandpur Sahib to make themselves convenient to move to the middle coaches that will fit the platform and that the train may be given a scheduled halt of more than two minutes," explained the officer. The PM had flagged off the inaugural run of the Vande Bharat Express train at Amb Andaura railway station in Himachal Pradesh's Una district on October 13. It is the fourth in the Vande Bharat series to be introduced in the country. While elections are due in Himachal Pradesh, Anandpur Sahib in Punjab is a religious place.

Kharge, Malviya indulge in bitter war of words

New Delhi: BJP's IT-cell head Amit Malviya on Thursday advised newly elected Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to focus on the "downfall" of his party after the latter tweeted on Rupee's declining graph. Citing Rupee touching the 83 mark against US Dollar, Kharge tweeted that the decline doesn't augur well for "our economy". Some concrete steps need to be taken, he said adding mere statements like the one given by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would not do. Taking to Twitter, the BJP leader said that the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assembly elections are coming, and Kharge will be responsible for Congress party's defeat. PNS

Indian farmers lost \$4 b in 2016-21 due to climate change: Report



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Climate change-induced extreme heat in 2021 resulted in India witnessing an income loss of US\$ 159 billion, which is 5.4 per cent of its gross domestic product, in the service, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction sectors while labour productivity is projected to decline by five per cent from the 1986-2006 reference period if global temperatures increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius in next few years, as per a report. Compiled by an international partnership of organizations, the Climate Transparency Report 2022 notes that heat exposure in the country led to the loss of 167 billion potential labour hours, a 39 per cent increase from 1990-1999. Labour productivity in India is projected to decline by five per cent from the 1986-2006 reference period if global temperatures increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius, it said. The decline in labour productivity will be 2.1 times more if the global temperatures increase by 2.5 degrees Celsius, and 2.7 times at a three degree Celsius scenario. Between 2016 and 2021, extreme events such as cyclones, flash floods, floods, and landslides caused damage to crops in over 36 million hectares, a \$3.75 billion loss for farmers in the country, the report said. The annual damage from river flooding in the country is likely to increase by around 49 per cent at 1.5 degree Celsius

of warming. The damage from cyclones will increase by 5.7 per cent. "The annual expected damage from tropical cyclones and river flooding at three degrees Celsius is 4.6 to 5.1 times that from 1.5 degrees Celsius," the report read. In India alone, 142 million people, roughly 10% of the population, may be exposed to summer heatwaves at 1.5°C. "Precipitation is projected to increase by six per cent from the reference period of 1986-2006, at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming. Under a three degrees Celsius warming scenario, precipitation will increase by three times the precipitation anticipated at 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming," it said. The rainfall pattern in India has changed in the past 30 years, impacting many economic activities such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. "Snowfall in India is expected to decrease under the 1.5 degrees Celsius scenario by 13 per cent when compared with the reference period's snowfall levels. At three degrees Celsius of warming, the decrease is expected to be 2.4 times the 1.5 degrees Celsius scenario," the report said. Earth's global surface temperature has increased by around 1.1 degrees Celsius compared with the average in 1850-1900. To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit global temperature rise in this century to well below two degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

IN SHORTS

BAGHEL NEVER MET ANY JUDGE OF HC: GOVT
New Delhi: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel never met any high court judge, the Chhattisgarh government told the Supreme Court on Thursday, rejecting a top central government law officer's suggestion about his probable complicity in the state's PDS scam. The Supreme Court was hearing an ED plea seeking transfer of a PMLA case related to the 'Nagrik Apurvi Nigam' (NAN) or the PDS scam outside the state.

FAIMA PLEA TO HEALTH MIN ON AIMS ORDER
New Delhi: The Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) on Thursday wrote a letter to Union Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya demanding the immediate revocation of a letter written by AAIMS Director Dr M Srinivas regarding medical care arrangements for sitting MPs at the premier medical institution.

DGAQA APPROVES QMS OF AIRBUS
New Delhi: The Airbus Defence and Space Quality Management System (QMS) for the C-295 aircraft has received approval from the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA), the Indian regulatory authority for aeronautical quality assurance. This is the first time a QMS of a foreign aircraft manufacturer has been approved by DGAQA.

RAIN COULD HAVE MINOR IMPACT ON ONION OUTPUT
New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday said unseasonal rains could have "minor" impact on the kharif onion output, but ruled out possibility of price rise in coming weeks as it has enough buffer stock to make up for shortfall. Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said not only onion, prices of pulses are expected to remain stable till December. "Prices of onion and pulses will not rise till December because we have enough buffer stock available with us," he said.

AFSPA extended in 8 districts, one sub-division of Assam

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam government Thursday said it has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in eight districts and one sub-division for six months after a review of the law and order situation.

The government, however, withdrew the controversial law from West Karbi Anglong district as the situation there has "considerably improved."

The six month extension of AFSPA is effective from October 1, Home and Political Department Principal Secretary Niraj Verma said in an order. The order dated October 15 and released on Thursday stated that nine districts and one sub-division were kept under the AFSPA since April 1 as "disturbed

area" after withdrawing the legislation from the rest of the state.

"A review of the law and order and security scenario in Assam in the recent past indicates that the situation has considerably improved in West Karbi Anglong district of the state ... The Governor of Assam is pleased to withdraw the declaration of 'Disturbed Area' with effect from 01.10.2022 from West Karbi Anglong," the order said.

Districts which continue to be disturbed areas are Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao besides Lakhimpur sub-division of Cachar in the Barak Valley.

The act was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six



months since then after a review of the situation by the state government.

AFSPA allows security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior warrant. It also gives a certain level of immunity to the security forces in case of an operation going wrong.

Civil society groups and rights activists have been

demanding withdrawal of the "draconian law" from the entire North East claiming violation of human rights by the armed forces.

The cry to repeal the act gained momentum after the death of 14 civilians in firing by security forces in a botched anti-insurgency operation and retaliatory violence in Mon district of Nagaland on December 4, 2021.

Pradhan launches National Curriculum Framework for foundational stage education

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday launched the National Curriculum Framework for foundational stage education of children in the three to eight years age group. Early childhood care and education are key areas of development, according to the 2022 framework.

"The NCF (National Curriculum Framework) is an important step taken to implement the New Education Policy-2020. I also appeal to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to complete the curriculum, syllabus, and textbooks by next Basant Panchami," Pradhan said at the launch.

The NCF-2022 has four sections — the National



Curriculum Framework for School Education, the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education, the National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education and the National Curriculum Framework for Adult Education.

Research from across the world on education, neuroscience and economics demonstrates clearly that ensuring free, accessible, high quality early childhood care and education is perhaps the very best investment that any country

can make for its future, according to the NCF for foundational stage.

It said that "brain development is most rapid in the first eight years of a child's life, indicating the critical importance of cognitive and socio-emotional stimulation in the early years".

The framework has listed the 'panchakosha' concept for education of children and its five parts are physical development (sharirik vikas), development of life energy (pranik vikas), emotional and mental development (manasik vikas), intellectual development (bauddhik vikas) and spiritual development (chaitisik vikas).

"Panchakosha is an ancient explication of the importance of the body-mind complex in human experience and understanding. This non-dichotomous approach to human development gives clear path-

ways and direction towards a more holistic education," according to the NCF. The framework noted that while staffing of anganwadis is not complete, it is at high levels.

"Data for private institutions is not available. The number of institutions offering relevant teacher education programmes is low and inadequate. 'Vidya pravesh' has been developed by the NCERT for students entering class 1," it said.

It will be transacted over three months, with four hours a day devoted to familiarising children with school environment and to provide experiences for maintaining wellbeing, the NCF said. 'Vidya pravesh' (entry level education) will enable learning of ethical values and cultural diversity, and interaction with the physical, social and natural environment, it said.

Didi bats for Dada again

Says Ganguly deprived of ICC chief's post to favour someone in the BCCI



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again come out in support of outgoing Board of Control for Cricket in India president Sourav Ganguly saying the former Team India captain was deprived of the International Cricket Council chairman's post to preserve the interest of someone else in the BCCI.

Calling his removal as the BCCI president and not nominating him for the top ICC post an "act of shameless political vendetta" the Chief Minister on Thursday said the people would keep Ganguly's deprivation in mind.

Stopping short of naming BCCI secretary Jay Shah's name Banerjee said "Sourav was not nominated for the ICC chair-

man post in order to preserve the interest of some other person in the Board." When asked as to whether she meant Jay Shah --- the son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah --- the Chief Minister said "I will specify a name ... it is your job to mention the name."

Already under huge pressure in the wake of school recruitment scam that has seen senior Trinamool Congress leaders including ministers and legislators going to jail, Banerjee said "I had spoken to several persons in the BJP Government on the issue ... I had told them about sending Sourav to ICC but now I see that my request was not heeded ... Sourav has been a great cricketer and is known all over the world."

"He was removed as the BCCI president despite having run the Board so successfully -- while some others including the brother of Amurag Thakur was retained ... why this discrepancy ... after all Jagmohan

Dalmiya and even Sharad Pawar had represented India in the ICC ... so where was the problem if Sourav --- who had been a director thrice --- was nominated ... Sourav is a good boy and so he would not tell anything ... but the BJP should remember that the people are watching everything."

The Chief Minister further said that though she did not understand the game of cricket she knew the worth of a cricketer icon iterating "it is not only that I am fighting for Sourav ... had it been someone like Sachin Tendulkar or Azharuddin I would have been equally vociferous about the wrong."

Returning the fire, Bengal BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya said that by raking up the issue the Chief Minister was bringing Sourav Ganguly's name to disrepute. "I am sure she is trying to do politics over the issue --- by fishing in troubled waters --- she is not only harming Sourav but also dishonouring Roger Binny who has also been a great cricketer and the member of the winning Indian squad of 1983 world cup ... she should refrain from doing politics on this issue."

TET scam: SC upholds TMC MLA's arrest by ED

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

In yet another setback for Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress, the Supreme on Thursday turned down TMC MLA Manik Bhattacharya's plea against his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.



Bhattacharya, a former chairman of the West Bengal primary education board was arrested for his alleged involvement in the primary teachers recruitment scam or TET scam.

A Bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bikram Nath turned down Bhattacharya's plea after taking note of ED's arguments that incriminating documents had been seized from his house and that there was an unexplained transaction of more than two crores between his and his son's account.

Earlier the CBI which too was investigating the case had been prevented by the Apex Court from taking strong

action against Bhattacharya. Subsequently he was arrested by the ED. The former TET chairman then went to the Court challenging ED's action on grounds that once one central agency was debarred from arresting him how another central agency could arrest him.

Meanwhile, tensions ran high in front of the Primary Education Board office at Salt Lake after the police acting on a High Court late on Thursday evening directed hundreds of successful TET candidates who were sitting on a hunger strike for the past several days demanding jobs --- that had allegedly been sold off to underserving candidates for cash --- to vacate the place forthwith.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam to be held in Varanasi

Event to discover link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The 'Kashi Tamil Sangamam' will be organised from November 16 to December 19 in Varanasi to discover the link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu, the two ancient centres of knowledge, culture and heritage.



At a joint press conference addressed by Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and L Murugan, it was announced that the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti (BBS) has come up with a proposal to rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate the links between the Tamil culture and Kashi that has existed for centuries.

During the event, academic exchanges such as seminars and discussions will be held between experts and scholars on various facets of the two ancient manifestations of Indian culture, with a focus on bringing out the links and shared values between the two.

The broader objective of

the month-long event is to bring the two knowledge and cultural traditions closer, create an understanding of the shared heritage and deepen the people-to-people bond between the regions.

"India is a symbol of civilizational connectivity. The Kashi-Tamil Sangamam shall be an ideal platform to understand the unity in India's civilizational assets through two historic centres of knowledge and culture. The Sangamam to be organised under the overall framework and spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat' will

create a bridge between ancient India and the contemporary generation. Kashi Sangamam will rediscover the link between these two ancient centres of knowledge, culture and heritage," Pradhan said.

He said that Kashi-Tamil Sangamam will be centred around a series of themes that cover various facets of knowledge -- literature, ancient texts, philosophy, spirituality, music, dance, drama, yoga, Ayurveda, handlooms, handicrafts as well as modern innovations, trade exchanges, edutech and other gen-next technology etc.

JKLF chief Yasin Malik appears in special court in Rubaiya Sayeed kidnapping case via virtual mode

PTI ■ JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik appeared before a special court here via video-conferencing on Thursday in connection with the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of then Union Home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Chief Prosecutor Monika Kohli told reporters, "Malik was to be produced in court as per the production warrant. He appeared virtually."

She added that Malik, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail in a terror financing case, was not produced physically due to a Ministry of Home Affairs order restricting his movement.

Rubaiya did not appear for the hearing after filing an exemption application. "It was approved by the court, so she did not appear," Kohli said.

During the last hearing on July 15, Rubaiya had identified five accused, including Malik, and "the question of identifying the accused again today (on Thursday) was never there", Kohli said.

Malik on Thursday once again insisted on physical appearance to cross-examine the witness.

Rubaiya was abducted from near Lal Ded Hospital on December 8, 1989. She was freed five days later after the then VP Singh government, supported by the BJP, released five terrorists in exchange.



Now living in Tamil Nadu, Rubaiya is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990.

Malik (56) is lodged in Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in May. He was arrested

in early 2019 in connection with a 2017 terror financing case registered by the NIA.

Malik had observed a 10-day hunger strike from July 22 after the Centre did not respond to his plea to physically appear in the Jammu court hearing in the abduction case.

Demand grows in Congress to oust MLA Kunnappilli

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Eldhose P Kunnappilli, the Congress MLA in Kerala Legislative Assembly has emerged as an Achilles' Heel of the party despite the new found enthusiasm and reinvigoration of the party cadres. The Bharat Jodo Yatra undertaken by former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi through Kerala brought in a hitherto unseen camaraderie among party workers and leaders. The recently held election to the post of party president set at rest any suspicions among the cadres and political critics about the capability of Indian National Congress to hold an internal election to choose the party chief.



Whatever reputation regained by the Congress has been tarnished by the action of Kunnappillil who is on the run from law following a case of sexual molestation filed against him by the Kerala Police.

The charges against the MLA are that he sexually molested and abused a young high school teacher. When the lady in question objected to the action of the MLA, he threatened her with suicide. He also

tried to buy over the woman's silence by offering her Rs 30 lakhs, she had told the magistrate as well as the team of investigators.

Kunnappilli, a two time MLA, made the situation further grave by absconding and ignoring the notices issued by the police. His whereabouts are not known and he uses the social media pages to claim that he is innocent and the lady was taking vengeance on him. "Other than being a member of the Jacobite Church, Kannappillil has no political space in Perumbavoor, the constituency he represents in the assembly. He won in 2016 and 2021 assembly elections only because of the internal fights in the CPI(M). His track record is very poor," said S

Jaisankar, political critic.

Though there were allegations against Oommen Chandi by a woman by name Saritha Nair, no one including the person who raised the charges believe in its authenticity. But the Congress leadership said that the party had warned Kunnappillil many times in the past for his wayward life. He did not bother about such warnings and now it is his turn to hear the music," said Jaisankar.

The call to oust Kunnappillil from the party has become shrill. If no action is taken against Kunnappillil as early as possible, whatever good name the party earned through Rahul Gandhi's Yatra would end as a non-event, said a former Congress leader.

Cong only remembers Dalits during its bad times, says Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after Mallikarjun Kharge was elected the Congress president, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, on Thursday, accused the 137-year-old party of remembering Dalits only in its bad times and making them "scapegoats".

Kharge (80), a Dalit leader from Karnataka, trounced his 66-year-old rival Shashi Tharoor in a historic election held four days ago to become the first non-Gandhi to head the Congress in 24 years.

In a series of tweets on Thursday, Mayawati said, "The history of the Congress is a witness that it has always neglected/disdained the messiah of the downtrodden Param Pujya Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and his society. This party does not remember



the safety and honour of Dalits in its good days, but makes them a scapegoat in bad days."

"The Congress party remembers mostly non-Dalits in the long run of good days and puts Dalits in front in their bad days as in the current times. Is this not deceit and pseudo politics? People ask, 'Is this the real love of the Congress towards Dalits?'" she said in another tweet.

Considered a loyalist of the Gandhis, Kharge will take over as the Congress president on October 26 as he seeks to steer the beleaguered party out of its current crisis.

NIA searches 2 places in Punjab in narcotics case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at two locations in Punjab in a narcotics trade and terror funding case and recovered about Rs 1.28 crore cash.

The NIA conducted searches at the residence and office premises of the suspected accused Amritpal Singh of Tarn Taran, Punjab, in a case relating to seizure of over 102 kg heroin that had arrived in the country through Integrated Check Post (ICP), Attari on April 24 and April 26.

The heroin had been concealed in a consignment of licorice roots (Mulethi) by suppliers based in Afghanistan, the NIA said in a statement.

This case was initially registered by the Custom Department, Amritsar and was re-registered by NIA on July 30 to investigate the role of multiple companies and individu-

als who are suspected to be involved in laundering the proceeds of narco-terrorism.

During investigations, three accused persons --- Vipin Mittal, proprietor of Balaji Trading Co. New Delhi besides Razi Haider Zaidi and Asif Abdullah, both residents of New Okhla Vihar area of the national Capital --- were earlier arrested by NIA for their involvement in heroin trade and financial transactions between the arrested accused Razi Haider Zaidi and the suspect Amritpal Singh, the agency said.

"During the searches conducted today, unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 1,27,91,900 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Ninety One Thousand and Nine Hundred) and incriminating digital devices and documents have been seized.

"Further investigations in the case are in progress," it added.



A solar-powered 3D projection mapping and heritage lighting show at Sun Temple in Modhera on Thursday.

FIRST COLUMN

US TARGETS CHINA IN INDO-PACIFIC

US is building on its countering hegemonistic China strategy



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Two important policy directions came out in the past few days with a preview to the changing global narrative on various issues. The United States of America came out with their national security strategy which clearly outlines the direction it wants to take on retaining its numero uno position in the world order. President Joe Biden in his introductory remarks mentions: “The People’s Republic of China harbours the intention and, increasingly, the capacity to reshape the international order in favour of one that tilts the global playing field to its benefit, even as the United States remains committed to managing the competition between our countries responsibly.”

Russia also finds mention in the same paragraph but more as a considerably weakened superpower which is “reckless with its nuclear threats and shattered stability and peace in Europe and everywhere else”.

The US expects the next decade to be critical in the geopolitical show of strength primarily between itself and China, with their distinct models of governance. The idea is to out compete China and constrain Russia. A better part of the NSS has been dedicated to Indo Pacific region, which the US considers to be the most important region in the global order. It states that the prosperity of every American is inextricably tied to the Indo Pacific region.



The US wants a free and open Indo Pacific where “nations are free to make their own choices, consistent with obligations under international law”. The number one threat to a peaceful and prosperous Indo Pacific being a coercive China in the region. On India the NSS states “the world’s largest democracy and a major defense partner, the United States and India will work together, bilaterally and multilaterally, to support our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific”.

The US’s long term strategic allies in the region such as Australia, Japan, South Korea, Philippines and Thailand will continue the privileged status, while working with new partners through alliances like AUKUS (a military alliance between US, UK and Australia) and QUAD (group of four, including the US, Australia, Japan and India).

Towards this the US has pitched the Indo-Pacific economic framework, which is a broad alliance of 14 countries, including India (mostly from South and Southeast Asia) working on four nonmilitary pillars of economic and strategic cooperation. The United

The NSS came a few days before China held a once in a five-year Communist Party Congress, which concluded by reaffirming Xi Jinping as the supreme leader for the next five years. Xi refrained from making personal comments but continued to reaffirm his vision to lead and create China shaped and manufactured world order. He unequivocally reiterated to take quick and complete control over Taiwan.

In a loosely worded translation of his nearly two-hour speech, he mentioned returning to the glorious days with reunification and rejuvenation. This along his ‘Zero Covid Policy’ at home, while using all instruments of political and economic, domestically to control technology companies, which it sees as the game changer and critical element of controlling/reshaping the global order should be watched more carefully. Xi reiterated that he is determined to unilaterally change the sovereignty of nations and reclaim what it considers its own, without giving a second thought to sensitivities of erstwhile friends such as the US.

Also, it shows a dangerous trend to be more aggressive in the maritime waters or high mountains, which is where India needs to be alert.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

How to help visually challenged voters

AKSHAY BAJAD

The ‘image text speech conversion’ tool can help the visually challenged cast their votes in a big way by giving them audio confirmation of their vote

T

here is a need to provide a system by which the voters with disability in seeing can get immediate audio verification of their cast votes. Section 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, states that the Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions shall ensure that all polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process are easily understandable and accessible to them.

The aforesaid act was made to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an international human rights treaty of the United Nations intended to ensure full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.

According to the Strategic Framework on Accessible Elections adopted on July 4, 2018 in the National Consultation on Accessible Elections, the Election Commission of India is committed to building an equal access framework for persons with disabilities, supported by the fundamentals of responsiveness, respect and dignity to enhance elector confidence among them, while making efforts for support initiatives for improved service offerings to enhance the electoral participation.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), United Nations are the enabling framework for provisions that should be made available for the disabled people. The Election Commission recognises the use of accessible technological tools for facilitating persons with disabilities of different categories to cast their votes.

Article 15 of the Indian Constitution also prohibits discrimination by the State against any citizen (including disabled) on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. Yet, persons with disabilities have been fighting for long for their right to vote on a par with other citizens.

As per Census 2011, there were about 2.68 crore disabled persons in India, while 50 lakh persons have disability in seeing. Voters with disability in seeing are still able to cast a vote with the assistance of a companion. An assisted vote, while not a secret and independent vote, still allows such voters to participate in the electoral process. However, in the present system of voting through EVMs, there is no way of knowing if the assisting person has indeed cast his/her vote for the candidate picked by the voter with disability in seeing.

For the convenience of voters with disability in seeing, there is Braille signage on the balloting unit of EVM. On the right side of the balloting unit along the candidates’ vote button, digits 1 to 16 are

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AS PER CENSUS 2011, THERE WERE ABOUT 2.68 CRORE DISABLED PERSONS IN INDIA, WHILE 50 LAKH PERSONS HAVE DISABILITY IN SEEING. VOTERS WITH DISABILITY IN SEEING ARE STILL ABLE TO CAST A VOTE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A COMPANION

(The author is an academic writer)



embossed in Braille signage for the guidance of such voters. However, a voter with a disability in sight can press a button but cannot ascertain the actual voting. The voter is not sure whether his/her vote is recorded or not, if recorded, whether it is recorded in favour of the candidate to whom it was intended or not.

Moreover, not every person with a disability in seeing understands Braille. Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) is an independent system attached with the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended. However, there is no such facility by which the voters with disability in seeing can verify their voting. There is a need to provide a system by which the voters with disability in seeing can get immediate audio verification of their cast votes.

The basic idea of the proposed stand-alone real-time system is to capture the image of the paper slip generated by the printer in VVPAT, extract text from it and convert the text into speech that can be listened to through the headphones.

The ITTS device consists of four main components: camera, programmable system (optical character recognition software and text-to-speech engine), headphones and battery. As the optical character recognition software can not recognise and convert the image of the symbol of the candidate printed on the paper slip in VVPAT into text, the name of the symbol needs to be loaded in the VVPAT machine along with the serial number, the name of the candidate and the image of the symbol.

The ITTS device shall be fixed inside the VVPAT machine in such a way that the voters’ clear view through the transparent window of the VVPAT remains unobstructed and the printed paper slips displayed for seven seconds in VVPAT come within the field of view of its camera lens.

Externally, it requires a set of headphones with volume controls in them. Upon entering the booth, the voter puts on the headphones. When a vote is cast, a paper slip is printed in the VVPAT containing the serial number, the name of the candidate and the image and name of the symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through a transparent window for seven seconds. The ITTS device captures the image of the paper slip using its camera. The extraction of the text from the image is done by optical character recognition software and the process of converting text to speech is done by the text-to-speech engine. The audio output is then listened to through the headphones. It states the serial number, the name of the candidate and the name of the symbol of the candidate. The voter listening at

the headphones can instantly verify that his/her vote is cast as intended.

Thereafter, the temporary files created in the ITTS device during this process get eliminated automatically creating space for new files. The proposed stand-alone system is not vulnerable to manipulation. The manufacturers of EVMs (Bharat Electronics Ltd. and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd.) are capable of making inexpensive and efficient image text to speech conversion (ITTS) devices using current technologies.

Voting is an act of expression which has immense importance in a democratic system. With an intent to have fullest transparency in the electoral system and to restore the confidence of voters with disability in seeing in the EVMs, it is necessary to provide them the facility to verify their voting. It is the voters themselves who must consider their voting experience to be a success. To have confidence in the outcome of an election, they must believe that they successfully used the voting system. Without this belief, the outcome of the election may be questioned.

Therefore, in order to empower the voters with disability in seeking to verify their cast votes, the Election Commission of India should incorporate a system of “image text to speech conversion” in the Electronic Voting Machines.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THOSE WHO ARE SAYING THAT BOTH RAHUL AND RAM START WITH AN R ARE OVERLOOKING THE FACT THAT RAVAN’S NAME ALSO CONTAINS AN R.

—BJP SPOKESPERSON GAURAV BHATIA



...LORD RAM HAS ‘R’ IN HIS NAME & SO DOES RAHUL GANDHI. IT IS A COINCIDENCE BUT WE’RE NOT COMPARING LORD RAM TO RAHUL GANDHI.

—MAHARASHTRA CONGRESS CHIEF NANA PATOLE




Gut health has impact on immunity and ageing

It’s essential that the health of gut is paid attention to, for it is must to fight ailments and ensure well being

M

ost of us are aware of the concept of gut health and understand its importance to our overall wellbeing, but what exactly does having a healthy gut mean? Our gut is home to millions of microorganisms, with about 1,000 distinct species, including various types of viruses, bacteria, yeast and other fungal bodies. Some of these microorganisms are harmful to our health and the others are very beneficial and important for a healthy body. Studies on people who have lived to be 100 years old in Blue Zones around the world have also shown that the structure and function of the gut microbiome determine whether or not a person will live to be 100 years old in good health.



DARSHIT PATEL

(The author is Chief Scientific Officer, Decode Age)

These people also appear to have high populations of good bacteria.

A healthy gut is said to be when there is a good balance between the good as well as the bad bacteria and viruses. In other words, if your gut health is poor, your immune system, hormones, and general health will suffer as a result. Some of the research has also indicated that having a variety of bacteria in your gut may lower the risk of diseases, including psoriatic arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and diabetes.

According to studies, the secret to healthy aging may lie in maintaining a healthy gut. Everything starts with our gut. It facilitates the breakdown of the food we eat, takes in nutrients, and utilizes them to energize and sustain our body. It is, therefore, more difficult to maintain good health and healthy aging if our gut is out of balance and our immune system isn’t functioning properly. Our body eliminates metabolic waste and pollutants in our gut.

However, our body will find it difficult to eliminate those toxins if we have a poor digestive system. People, therefore, encounter symptoms, including brain fog, constipation, joint discomfort, etc. Some of the tips to improve gut health and boost immunity and aging recommend consuming a variety of fruits, vegetables, and legumes (fruits and vegetables are the best sources of nourishment for a healthy microbiome since they are high in fiber).

Fiber may be broken down by certain bacteria in our stomach, which encourages the growth of those bacteria. Legumes and beans both contain a lot of fiber.

Bifidobacteria, for instance, are beneficial bacteria because they may lessen intestinal inflammation and enhance gut health. It has been proven that eating foods including apples, artichokes, blueberries, almonds, and pistachios increases a person’s Bifidobacteria levels.

The majority of the bacteria in our guts have a symbiotic connection with our bodies, which means that both of our systems contribute to the health and growth of these microorganisms as well as their support of bodily functions. They generate vitamins, fatty acids, and amino acids that are necessary for a variety of processes, including immune system health, digestion, mood management, and more. Exercise on a regular basis quickens the process, increasing the variety of microbial species in the stomach and promoting the growth of bacteria.

Microbiome may also be badly impacted by excessive drinking. Recurrent alcohol consumption is connected to gastritis, an inflammation of the gut that causes discomfort. Heartburn, ongoing pain, ulcers, and bacterial infections can all result from such inflammation. Additionally, excessive drinking is linked to intestinal inflammation, which is an indication of a bad gut.

According to research, this form of inflammation can upset the microbiota’s balance and change how well it functions.

Probiotics may improve or prevent gut inflammation as well as other intestinal or systemic disease phenotypes by reestablishing the balance of the gut microbiome and introducing beneficial functionalities to gut microbiome. Probiotics may be very useful for elderly people, notably in terms of infection prevention and potentially also in the prevention of a number of age-related disorders.

It is important to make sure that the body has adequate levels of vitamins, minerals, enzymes, and even microorganisms to make sure we perform and function at our peak. Different supplements like Glutathione, Magnesium complex, NAD+ booster, Alpha KetoGlutarate, Probiotics, Colostrum and Omegas constantly help our body manage this network of metabolism and make sure that no processes in our body are short-circuited because of lack of an important molecule.

Modern diets are heavy in fatty, salty, or sugary processed foods, which may impair the aging gut, whereas higher fiber foods like fruits, vegetables, seeds, beans, and nuts, together with regular exercise, may assist maintain a healthy gut microbial balance as we age. As a result, it may serve as a warning sign for a variety of chronic illnesses.

Russia seeks to regain ground, hits Ukraine’s infrastructure

AP ■ KYIV

Russia's troops fought on Thursday to regain lost ground in areas of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin has illegally annexed while Moscow tried to pound the invaded country into submission with more missile and drone attacks on critical infrastructure.

Russian forces attacked Ukrainian positions near Bilohorivka, a village in the Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine. In the neighbouring Donetsk region, fighting raged near the city of Bakhmut. Kremlin-backed separatists have controlled parts of both regions for 8½ years.

Putin declared martial law in Luhansk, Donetsk and southern Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions on Wednesday in an attempt to assert Russian authority in the annexed areas following a string of battlefield setbacks and a troubled troop mobilisation. The unsettled status of the illegally absorbed territory was especially visible in the Kherson region's capital, where military officials have replaced Kremlin-installed civilian leaders amid a mass evacuation and an ongoing Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Kherson city was one of the first urban areas captured by Russia when it invaded Ukraine, and it remains a prime target for both sides because of its key industries



and major river port. Thousands of the city's 250,000 residents streamed out of the city in anticipation of intensified assaults.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said on Thursday that Ukrainian forces continued to engage the enemy, mounting 15 attacks on Russian military strongholds in the Kherson region.

Meanwhile, Russia continued its stepped-up attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, dispatching drones and

missiles to eight regions.

At least three civilians died and 14 were wounded in overnight attacks across Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian president's office.

In Kryvyi Rih, Russian strikes damaged a power plant and another energy facility, cutting electricity to the central Ukraine city of about 600,000 residents.

Apart from being Zelenskyy's hometown, Kryvyi Rih is home to several large metallurgical factories that are

key to Ukraine's economy. Regional governor Valentyn Reznichenko said the city sustained serious damage.

Ukrainian authorities said missile and drone strikes ignited several fires in the southern city of Mykolaiv, with four drones hitting a school. Another school in Komyshevakha, a village in the Zaporizhzhia region, also took four drone strikes and sustained damage. Authorities reported no casualties.

Russia's sustained attacks

on Ukraine's infrastructure prompted authorities to ask residents to reduce their energy consumption from 7:00 am to 11:00 am starting Thursday and to dim city street lights. They warned of rolling blackouts. "Now, every illuminated business sign, billboard or washing machine can lead to serious emergency shutdowns," Reznichenko said.

Despite the Kremlin's claims to the contrary, a leading Russian military expert unwittingly acknowledged that Iran has supplied Russia with drones it uses in Ukraine.

Ruslan Pukhov, head of the Moscow-based think tank Centre for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, asked journalists before a television interview not to ask him where the drones came from, unaware that he was live on air. Pukhov said that "we all know that they are Iranian-made, but authorities haven't acknowledged that."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova on Thursday dismissed reports that Moscow is using Iranian-made drones in Ukraine as "rumours" and "far-fetched assumptions."

In Brussels, the European Union on Thursday imposed sanctions on Iran's Shahed Aviation Industries as well as three Iranian armed forces generals for undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity by helping to supply Russia with drones.

Ukraine’s utilities threatened by Russia in war’s new phase

AP ■ KYIV

When a missile struck a power station less than a mile from his apartment on the outskirts of Kyiv, Oleksander Maystrenko didn't panic, run to a bomb shelter or consider evacuating, even though he lives close to what suddenly has become the Russian military's main target in the war: anything related to Ukraine's vital infrastructure.

His neighbours also haven't budged, despite the fact that Tuesday's attack — marked by a loud explosion — killed three people, severely damaged two facilities inside the plant's compound and temporarily knocked out power to about 50,000 households, according to Kyiv Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko.

"We aren't afraid because we aren't just prepared logistically; we are morally prepared," Maystrenko said outside his apartment building, where he and two neighbours sat on a bench and smoked only hours after the attack. This is what the latest phase of Russia's nearly eight-month-old war in Ukraine looks like.

Moscow has openly declared its intention to increasingly strike power stations, waterworks and other key infrastructure.

One Ukrainian energy official said on Wednesday that 40 per cent of the country's electric power system had been severely damaged, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russian forces have destroyed 30 per cent of



Ukraine's power stations since October 10.

But Maystrenko and his neighbours say they are prepared. If the Russians knock out the power, there are stocks of flashlights and candles, he said. If there's no gas for stoves, he has a plan to build a rudimentary stove in front of the building's entrance and use firewood that has been collected to heat it. Water has been bottled and jars of pickled vegetables and canned goods have been safely stored.

Everyone knows to have plenty of blankets and warm clothes for the winter, he added.

"It's never been a secret that this power plant is a target, but we've been preparing since this war started," Maystrenko said.

The preparations have created a sense of community as well as a united front among neighbours, who once knew each other only in passing and are face a common enemy, he said.

The attacks have come at a critical time, with winter approaching. Klitschko said that Thursday marks the start of the heating season for Kyiv, which like most urban centers in Ukraine and even Russia uses a Soviet-era central system controlled by the city that provides heat for apartment buildings and businesses.

Following a meeting between Zelenskyy, government ministers, members of energy enterprises and some local officials, presidential adviser Kyrylo Tymoshenko said there would be power supply restrictions across Ukraine from 7 am to 11 am beginning on Thursday, along with the use of street lights being limited in some cities.

"Please take this seriously," Tymoshenko said on his Telegram channel. "This applies to residents of ALL regions of the country. ... These are forced steps. Therefore, we all work together on our front!"

Fire destroys refugee shelter for Ukrainians in Germany



AP ■ BERLIN

A fire that destroyed a shelter for Ukrainian refugees on Germany's Baltic coast could have been arson, the country's top security official suggested on Thursday, warning that any kind of violence toward people fleeing war would not be tolerated.

The 14 residents and three employees who lived in the shelter were rescued from the

flames when the former hotel in the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Pomerania burned down on Wednesday night, local police said.

Nobody was injured, and the refugees were taken to other shelters, according to authorities. Among the refugees who had to be evacuated were two children, two teenagers and an elderly woman.

"This is terrible news. People who found shelter with

us from (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's war had to be rescued from the flames," German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said.

"If arson is confirmed, it is an inhumane crime that will be prosecuted with all severity," she said, adding that she would travel to the site of the fire later on Thursday.

The police unit that looks into politically motivated offenses in the nearby city of Rostock took over the investigation of the blaze in the town of Gross Stroemkendorf from local police, who had started looking into arson as the cause, German news agency dpa reported.

While the cause of the fire was still under investigation, it appeared to have started on one of the outside walls of the building, dpa reported.

The state's governor, Manuela Schwesig, also expressed shock.

Pence warns of ‘unprincipled populists,’ ‘Putin apologists’

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former Vice President Mike Pence has warned against the growing populist tide in the Republican Party as he admonished "Putin apologists" unwilling to stand up to the Russian leader over his assault on Ukraine.

Speaking at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington less than a month before November's midterm elections, Pence addressed the growing gulf between traditional conservatives and a new generation of populist candidates inspired, in part, by former President Donald Trump.

"Our movement cannot forsake the foundational commitment that we have to security, to

limited government, to liberty and to life. But nor can we allow our movement to be led astray by the siren song of unprincipled populism that's unmoored from our oldest traditions and most cherished values," he told the think tank audience on Wednesday.

"Let me say: This movement and the party that it animates must remain the movement of a strong national defence, limited government and traditional moral values and life," he said.

To that end, Pence criticised those in the party who have pushed a more isolationist foreign policy, particularly when it comes to Russian aggression.

Earlier on Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared martial law for



four illegally annexed Ukrainian regions as his forces have suffered stinging battlefield defeats and renewed attacks on Ukrainian cities and vital infrastructure.

"Now, I know there is a rising chorus in our party, including some new voices to our movement, who would have us disengaged with the wider world," Pence said.

4-day global Congress for tropical medicine, malaria from Oct 24

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 3,000 international scientists, researchers and experts working for elimination of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) like dengue are all set to congregate at a four-day 20th International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria (ICTMM 2020) at Bangkok in Thailand from October 24.

The delegates will discuss threadbare challenges and research in NTDs sector which afflict at least one in six people worldwide.

The conference is being held in the backdrop of Covid-19 induced dwindling funds

and disruption of health care services and programs directed towards combating the NTDs.

NTDs are a group of bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases which disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. But due to unawareness and known as disease of marginalised communities, the NTDs continue to damage the lives of over one billion people worldwide, said Associate Prof. Pratap Singhasivanon and Chairman and Secretary, ICTMM2020.

The neglected tropical diseases which especially affect India include ascariasis, hook-

worm infection, trichuriasis, dengue fever, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma, melioidosis, cysticercosis, leprosy, echinococcosis, visceral leishmaniasis, and rabies.

ICTMM is one of largest tropical-medicine conferences in the world held every four years.

The Congress will cover topics and updates on tropical medicine, malaria, infectious diseases, neglected diseases, drug resistance, parasitology, zoonoses, and travel medicine, to name just a few. A string of researchers will be presenting their oral/poster scientific presentations during the conference.

US busts network providing technology to Russian military

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration has announced a round of criminal charges and sanctions related to a complicated scheme to procure military technologies from US manufacturers and illegally supply them to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

Some of the equipment was recovered on battlefields in Ukraine, the Justice Department said, and other nuclear proliferation technology was intercepted in Latvia before it could be shipped to Russia.

The Justice Department charged nine people in separate cases in New York and Connecticut, as well as two oil brokers for Venezuela.

The defendants are accused of acquiring the military technology from US companies and then laundering tens of millions of dollars for wealthy Russian businessmen and other sanctioned entities. Some of the defendants are also accused of brokering illicit oil deals for the Venezuelan state-owned oil company.

"As I have said, our investigators and prosecutors will be relentless in their efforts to identify, locate, and bring to justice those whose illegal acts undermine the rule of law and enable the Russian regime to continue its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement.

The five defendants charged in New York are all Russian nationals, and two have been arrested. All four defendants in the Connecticut case — three Latvians and one Ukrainian — were taken into custody months ago at the request of US authorities.



The criminal charges complement the latest round of Biden administration sanctions targeting Russia.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control announced sanctions on Wednesday against one of the men charged by the Justice Department, designating Yuri Orehkov and two of his firms, Nord-Deutsche Industrieanlagenbau GmbH and Opus Energy Trading LLC, for procuring advanced semiconductors and microprocessors used in fighter aircraft and ballistic and hypersonic missile systems among other military uses.

Orehkov and the firms ultimately sent the materials to Russian end-users, including companies designated by various federal agencies, in violation of US export controls.

The Justice Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control worked in coordination to identify the Russian network.

Along with sanctions on members of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner-circle, the US has frozen Russian Central Bank funds and imposed aggressive export controls.

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Kartari has acquired the Property bearing area measuring 650 sq. yds. out of Kharsa no.1534, 1535, 1536 and 1537. Khata No. 853, situated at Gram Dankaur, Dohal, Outer Municipal Town area, Pargana Dankaur, Tehsil & Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar by way of Gift Deed dated 01.10.2022 Docnos. 22043. Now, Mrs. L. K. Constructions, Mr. Leetraj & Mrs. Karan are mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no. 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-38), Noida Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9967701772/9818228636(M).

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location:-	30-Elect-27-T-R1-22-23-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (CAMC) of 04 nos. Escalators of Automatic make installed at FOB-2 Ajmeri Gate side & Paharganj side at New Delhi Railway station for three years.
Approx. cost of the works in:-	Rs. 41.97 lacs
Address of the office:-	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security:-	Rs. 64000.00
Date & time of submission of tender:-	14.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:-	14.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board:-	www.irops.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location:-	30-Elect-45-T-2022-23-E3 Electrical work in connection with renovation of 3rd floor D-wing (room no. 301 to 313) & A-wing (room no. 346 to 375) including corridor at Rail Bhawan.
Approx cost of the works in:-	Rs. 214.72 lacs
Address of the office :-	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security :-	Rs. 257400.00
Date & time of submission of tender :-	14.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender :-	14.11.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board :-	www.irops.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
2811/2022	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Judge: Trump knew vote fraud claims in legal docs false

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump signed legal documents challenging the results of the 2020 election that included voter fraud claims he knew to be false, a federal judge said in a ruling.

US District Court Judge David Carter in an 18-page opinion ordered that four emails between Trump and attorney John Eastman be given to the House committee investigating the January 6 attack on the Capitol. He said the emails cannot be withheld because they include evidence of potential crimes.

Though the judge's conclusion has no practical bearing on a separate Justice Department investigation into efforts to overturn the election, any evidence that Trump signed documents he knew to be false could at minimum be a notable data point for criminal prosecutors trying to sort out culpability for far-ranging efforts to undo the results.

The judge specifically cited claims from Trump's attorneys that Fulton County in Georgia had improperly counted more than 10,000 votes of dead people, felons and unregistered voters. Those false allegations were part of a filing that Trump's legal team made in Georgia state court on December 4, 2021.

Later that month, Eastman warned in a message that Trump had been made aware that "some of the allegations (and evidence proffered by the experts) in that Georgia filing "has been inaccurate."

Yet even after the message from Eastman, Trump and his team filed another legal complaint that had "the same inaccurate numbers," the judge wrote. Trump under oath verified the complaint was true to the best of his knowledge.

"The emails show that President Trump knew that the specific numbers of voter fraud were wrong but continued to tout those numbers, both in court and to the public,"



Carter wrote. He said the emails are "sufficiently related to and in furtherance of a conspiracy to defraud the United States."

Representatives for Trump and Eastman did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The ruling is the latest development in a monthslong legal battle between Eastman — a conservative lawyer and lead architect of Trump's last-ditch efforts to stay in office — and congressional investigators.

Eastman has been trying to withhold documents from the committee on the basis of attorney-client privilege claims. The committee has argued that there is a legal exception allowing the disclosure of communications regarding ongoing or future crimes. And Carter has mostly agreed, ordering the release of hundreds of emails to the House committee since the spring.

In a stunning ruling in March, the judge had asserted that it is "more likely than not" that Trump committed crimes in his attempt to stop the certification of the 2020 election.

Carter in his ruling on Wednesday said the messages he has reviewed from Eastman and other attorneys show that the "primary goal" for some of their litigation was delaying or disrupting the certification of President Joe Biden's election win.

The totality of the evidence makes clear that "Trump filed certain lawsuits not to obtain legal relief, but to disrupt or delay the January 6 congressional proceedings through the courts," the judge wrote.

The emails from Eastman are part of the House committee's investigation into a multi-part plan by Trump and his allies to overturn the 2020 election and the ensuing violence at the Capitol.

The judge ordered Eastman to give the documents to the committee by the afternoon of October 28.

China hints at Xi's participation in G20 summit After CPC Congress endorsement for record 3rd term

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Thursday dropped a subtle hint that President Xi Jinping, who is widely expected to get endorsed by the ongoing Congress of the ruling Communist Party for a record 3rd term, will attend next month's G20 summit in Indonesia.

Also, the Chinese Foreign Ministry flaunted the "diplomatic success" achieved under the 10-year rule of Xi, saying during his reign China has "robustly" upheld its sovereignty and security.

The once-in-a-five-year Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) being held here from October 16 is widely expected to endorse an unprecedented 3rd five-year term or perhaps a lifelong tenure in power to Xi later this week besides enhancing his powers through constitutional amendments.

Barring 69-year-old Xi, the Congress would endorse a whole set of new top-level leaders and officials, including the Premier, heralding a new administration under the Chinese President who is all set to breach the



mandatory retirement for CPC leaders after 10-year tenure.

Xi, who is completing 10-year tenure this year, will be the first Chinese leader after party founder Mao Zedong to continue in power, formally ending three decades of rule followed by his predecessors to retire.

In a special media briefing here on Thursday, officials of the CPC and Foreign Ministry claimed that Chinese diplomacy has achieved "unprecedented and historic" breakthroughs during Xi's tenure.

"We give active support to the G20 Presidency of Indonesia and support Bali summit's theme of 'recover stronger, recover together,'" Ma Zhaoxu, a member of the CPC Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Vice Minister, said when asked whether Xi will attend next month's G-20 summit in Bali.

"China hopes the summit will play a constructive role in enhancing international cooperation against COVID-19, promoting world economic recovery and safeguarding global food energy security," he said.

"As far Chinese leader's participation in the summit, we will release the relevant information in due course," he said.

Though the Congress endorsement of Xi's continua-

tion in power is officially projected as a done deal with officials projecting him as the "Core Leader" of the party, an official resolution on leadership is expected to be passed on October 22, the last day of the meeting.

The new set of leaders will appear before the media on October 23, according to a media advisory.

Xi's attendance at Bali is regarded as significant as he is expected to meet US President Joe Biden. It will be their first in-person meeting after Biden's election, though the two leaders have held several virtual summits.

Xi skipped foreign travel in early 2020 after an outbreak of coronavirus in Wuhan. After that, he travelled outside China for the first time last month to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit at Samarkand in Uzbekistan.

A host of world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are expected to attend the Bali summit of the G20, providing an opportunity for one-on-one meetings on its sidelines.

Bolsonaro struggles to sway Brazil's poor voters with aid

AP ■ ARACUAÍ (BRAZIL)

After Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro boosted welfare payments in August by 50 per cent, many people in the Jequitinhonha Valley, one of the poorest regions of the country, felt they could once again afford some meat, keep electricity running and repair leaky roofs.

Even if it was an obvious election-year gambit, needy Brazilians are grateful for the extra 200 reais (USD 38) per month -- but perhaps not enough to switch their political allegiance to the far-right leader in large numbers.

Bolsonaro has struggled

to gain support among the poor, but with less than two weeks to go before a runoff vote against former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva — the left-ist front-runner — he is betting the bump in welfare will pay off.

In the Jequitinhonha Valley's impoverished city of Aracuaí, part of the northern Minas Gerais state that has been a bellwether for presidential races, it is hard to find a single voter who flipped their support to Bolsonaro because of the bigger welfare payments.

Before sunrise at a state-owned bank where people waited to collect their aid, many said they voted for da

Silva in the first round of voting on Oct. 2 and planned to do so in the Oct. 30 runoff. Some said they knew someone who planned to switch to Bolsonaro in the runoff or were considering it.

"Some people are that easy when they're in dire straits," said 60-year-old housekeeper Luzia Martins. "But I don't sell my conscience."

In the first round of this year's presidential election, national results matched those of the state. Da Silva — known throughout Brazil as Lula — got 48% of the vote and Bolsonaro received 43%. The remainder was split among other candidates and will be up

for grabs in the runoff.

At Bolsonaro's urging, Brazilian lawmakers declared a state of emergency in July, waiving a constitutional cap on spending to allow about \$7.6 billion in additional welfare benefits, plus a subsidy for cooking gas and assistance for truck and taxi drivers.

The extra government aid to nearly a quarter of Brazil's population may not sway many voters to switch sides. But political scientists say the Bolsonaro campaign is hoping it might placate a sizable number so that they abstain from voting. Abstention rates are already higher among poor voters.

Lanka's Parliament finally takes up debate on 22nd constitutional amendment

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The much-anticipated parliamentary debate for the adoption of the 22nd Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president started on Thursday after two previous postponements due to strong opposition from the ruling SLPP party.

The debate was earlier fixed for October 6 and October 7, but it was deferred as Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena told the House that the government will have more discussions to seek views of the opposition to make it a "meaningful" exercise.

The vote on the Amendment will now take place on Friday, parliamentary officials said on Thursday.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe had pledged constitutional reforms to



appease the demand from the street protesters who ousted his predecessor Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The 22A was to restore the powers of Parliament which were taken under the executive president by Rajapaksa through the 20th Amendment of 2020. Rajapaksa had reversed the 19A which had empowered parliament over presidency.

Wickremesinghe who has only one seat in the 225-member Assembly relies on support from the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) parliamentary group for his legislative capacity.

SINGAPORE TO DEPLOY POLICE TO 'MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER' IN LITTLE INDIA DURING DIWALI

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore Police and Auxiliary Police officers will step up patrolling in the Little India precinct to "maintain law and order" during Deepavali as large crowds are expected in the locality on Sunday at the eve of the festival of lights.

In an advisory issued on Thursday, the Singapore Police Force reminded the public about restrictions on drinking alcohol in the area, setting off sparklers, and illegally discharging fireworks. With heavy vehicular and human traffic expected this weekend along Serangoon Road — the thoroughfare of the precinct — Auxiliary Police officers will be deployed to regulate traffic and assist motorists, said the police.

Iran's Olympic chief claims no punishment coming for climber without hijab

AP ■ SEOUL

The president of Iran's national Olympic committee claimed Thursday that competitive climber Elhaz Rekabi will not be punished or suspended after competing in South Korea over the weekend without wearing her nation's mandatory headscarf. Supporters of Rekabi, however, remain worried for the 33-year-old climber as other athletes have been targeted by the government for supporting the weeklong protests rocking Iran. Activists say security forces already have killed over 200 people and arrested thousands in an ongoing crackdown on dissent.

Speaking to The Associated Press in the South Korean capital of Seoul, Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa said there was no reason to take disciplinary measures against Rekabi because not wearing a headscarf, or hijab, was an "unintentional" act on her part.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my Client Sh.Ajay Bhardwaj S/o (Late) BS Bhardwaj R/o SP 70, Subroto Park, New Delhi-110010, has severed his relations with his brother Sh. Rajiv Bhardwaj due to his immoral activities and unruly conduct and has further disowned him from any and every immovable and movable properties owned by my client. Anybody dealing with Sh.Rajiv Bhardwaj shall do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be liable/responsible for any act, deed or dealing done with or by Sh. Rajiv Bhardwaj.

MATYANK RAJAWAT (Advocate)
D/1853/2017
Ch. No.393, Block-II, Delhi High Court ND-03

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that the Flat No. 28, First Floor, Block-F, Jai Vayu Vihar, Sector-21, Noida, has been allotted in the name of Shri Umesh Chandra S/o Late Dr. S.R. Sinha R/o F-28, Sector -21, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to the following persons: A GPA was executed in favour of Mrs. Ritu, Puri W/o Shri Vidhu Puri R/o 32, Mall Avenue, Amritsar, (Punjab), at SR Noida Vide Book No.IV Volume No. 3597 on pages 144-148 at Document No.10444 dated 16.04.2004 and the Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above flat goes in favour of Mr. Vidhu Puri Resident of 32, Mall Avenue, Amritsar, (Punjab). If any one has/have any objection helshs may submit his/her, objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along-with sufficient proofs within15 days of the publication this notice.

Mr. Vidhu Puri

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Lalita W/o Late Shri Gauri Ram, Cont. 9711973586, Email: nathi.mamta@yahoo.co.in, R/o. Flat No. 66/B,Block-R, Dishad Garden, Delhi-110095, has applied for the conversion of aforesaid property. The documents like original Allotment/Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession and NDC for Water & Electricity, issued by DDA, of aforesaid property have been lost. An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in police station on dated 19/10/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice & can personally contact- Deputy Director (LAB housing) D- block, 3rd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110092, India.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy.Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites **open e-tender under Single Packet System** for the under noted work:-

1 Name of work and Location	Overhauling of Tamping Band of 09-3X (Tamping Express) Machine Qity-01 Set (04 Units) under Dy.CE/TMC/Line, Northern Railway .
2 Completion period of the work	135 Days
3 Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 1,15,45,000/-
4 Cost of Tender Document	Nil
5 Earnest Money Amount (to be deposited online)	Rs. 2,30,900.00
6 Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender bid may be uploaded upto 15.00 hrs. on 18.11.2022 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened soon after 15.00 hrs. on 18.11.2022 .
7 Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document:	The detailed e-tender notice and tender document is available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.11.2022 to 18.11.2022 . The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificates (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No.: 1-W-DyCETMCL-TU 09-3X-07-22-23 Date, 20.10.2022 2809/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MESTECH SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED

(CIN: U72900DL2008PTC384304)
(Transferor Company)

Registered office at 131, Block 2, Functional Industrial Estate, Patparganj, East Delhi, New Delhi-110092, India

AND

ROCKWELL AUTOMATION INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

(CIN: U31200DL1991PTC045425)
(Transferee Company)

Registered office at 131, Functional Industrial Estate, Patparganj, East Delhi, New Delhi-110092, India

(Notice of final hearing of the Company Amalgamation Petition Pursuant to Rule 16 of Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016)

Notice is hereby given to public at large that a Petition CP(CAA)12/N/D/2022 under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 for an order sanctioning the Scheme of Amalgamation of Mestech Services Pvt. Limited (Transferor Company) with Rockwell Automation India Pvt Limited (Transferee Company) and their respective share holders and creditors is pending adjudication before the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi Bench (NCLT). The said Petition is fixed for final hearing before the NCLT on 4th November 2022.

Everyone is hereby informed that representations, if any, in connection with the proposed Scheme of Amalgamation may be made to the Tribunal on receipt of this notice, not later than 2 weeks from the date of publication of this notice in the newspaper. Where anyone seeks to oppose the Petition for Amalgamation, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit should be furnished with such notice.

Copy of the representation may simultaneously be served upon the Transferor and Transferee Companies.

Dated this 20th day of October, 2022.

Mestech Services Private Limited
Sd/-
Name: Chitrabhanu Ghosh
Designation: Director
DIN: 01292481

SRF LIMITED

Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Phase, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091

Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003

Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870; Fax : (+91-11) 49482900

E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority :-

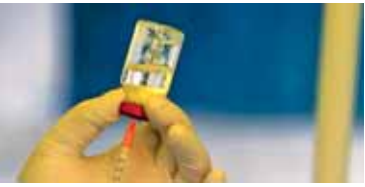
Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (from)	Dist-No. (to)	Lost Shares
1	SRF0102311	VERINDER MEHTA	90109849-50	6299138	6299237	100
2	A 0005035	ANJU GUPTA	303412-5	15759409	15759533	125
		MR PAWAN GUPTA (Jt. Holder 1)	452412-5	23779201	23779325	125
			90129308-9	6211042	6211141	100
3	SRF0145660	NAVIN JAIN	675896-903	54923023	54923422	400
4	P 0002011	PREMA SABAPATHY	330285-7	16318185	16318255	71
5	G 0002025	GOPAL KRISHAN KAPOOR (CLAIMANT)	119192	5082967	5082978	12
		GOVERDHAN LALL KAPOOR M A L B (DECEASED SHAREHOLDER)	975570	18559155	18559179	25
		SMT SHANTI DEVI KAPOOR (DECEASED JT. HOLDER 1)				
6	H 0001577	GEETA NARANG (CLAIMANT)	47750	2640251	2640275	25
		HANS DASS (DECEASED SHAREHOLDER)	47752	2640301	2640325	25
			62559	3315006	3315013	8
			120296	5109796	5109824	29
			312780-4	15957366	15957444	79
			461780-4	23977158	23977236	79
			90157801	11959810	11959859	50

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

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

for **SRF LIMITED**
Sd/-
RAJAT LAKHANPAL
Place: Gurugram
Date: 20-10-2022

Vice President (Corporate Compliance) & Company Secretary



AP ■ KAMPALA (UGANDA)

Uganda's Ebola outbreak is "rapidly evolving" a month after the disease was reported in the East African country, a top World Health Organisation official said on Thursday, describing a difficult situation for health workers on the ground. "The Ministry of Health of Uganda has shown remarkable resilience and effectiveness and (is) constantly fine-tuning a response to what is a challenging situation," Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the UN health agency's regional director for Africa, told reporters. "A better understanding of the chains of transmission is helping those on the ground respond more effectively."

Uganda declared an outbreak of Ebola on September 20, several days after the contagious disease began spreading in a rural farming community. Ebola has

since infected 64 people and killed 24, although official figures do not include people who likely died of Ebola before the outbreak was confirmed.

At least three of the confirmed patients travelled from the virus hot spot in central Uganda to the capital, Kampala, about 150 kilometres (93 miles) away, according to Moeti. Fears that Ebola could spread far from the outbreak's epicentre caused authorities to impose a lockdown, including nighttime curfews, on two of the five districts reporting Ebola cases.

Ebola "numbers that we are seeing do pose a risk for spread within the country and its neighbours," Dr. Ahmed Ogwell, the acting head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a separate briefing on Thursday.

While the risk of cross-border contamination is there, "it's a manageable risk," Ogwell said, adding that the outbreak does not yet necessitate going into what he called "full emergency mode."

Ugandan officials have documented more than 1,800 Ebola contacts, 747 of whom have completed 21 days of monitoring for possible signs of the disease that manifests as a viral hemorrhagic fever, Ogwell said.

FinMin working for faster release of export cargoes

To integrate custom systems with other regulatory agencies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry is working to integrate the Customs systems with other regulatory agencies to ensure faster clearances of export consignments, a senior official said on Thursday.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Vivek Johri said the department is working on web registration of exports, which would reduce the average release time of consignments/cargoes from ports and airports.

“You are familiar with single window in import side. We are trying to introduce something similar in the export side. There are export consignments that require regulatory intervention, say drug controller, other agencies.

“We are trying to integrate Customs ICGATE with these agencies. This will further compress time taken to release export consignments,” he added.

He said the average release time, which is measured by the time of arrival of goods to the port and their actual departure, of export cargo has been



halved.

The Trade Facilitation Action Plan, which ends in 2023, has set a target of average release time of 24 hours and 12 hours for exports through sea port and airport, respectively.

“There is need for further compression in release time taken by regulatory agencies... The target is quite steep... We are very consciously working on reducing the average release time,” Johri said while address-

ing the CII National Exports Summit.

He also said 80-85 per cent of the average release time of export cargo is on account of the time taken after Customs clears the consignments.

Johri said there is a need to share real time information with exporters, such as the time when the vessel is docking at port for taking the consignment, which will also help cut down on the time to release export consignments.

Markets extend gains for 5th session on fag-end buying

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices ticked higher for the fifth straight session on Thursday, buoyed by fag-end buying in IT stocks despite a largely downbeat trend overseas.

A recovery in the rupee also boosted investor confidence.

After swinging between gains and losses throughout the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex saw robust buying towards the fag-end to close 95.71 points or 0.16 per cent higher at 59,202.90.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 51.70 points or 0.30 per cent to 17,563.95.

HCL Technologies topped the Sensex gainers' chart, spurt- ing 2.22 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, NTPC, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle India, Bharti Airtel, TCS and Infosys.

However, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, Titan and Axis Bank were among the prominent laggards, dropping as much as 4.71 per cent.

The market breadth was in favour of the bulls, with 18 of the 30 Sensex components closing in the green.

Despite global headwinds, sentiments were positive ahead of Diwali festival and healthy earnings so far. Nifty has found support above 17,400 zones for the 3rd con-



secutive day indicating strong base formation.

“We expect the strength in the market to continue in the near term. Stock specific action would continue as companies keep announcing results,” said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said markets are digesting the recent gains and the tone is still positive, thanks to noticeable buying interest on every dip.

“However, we’re seeing limited participation across sectors so the focus should remain on stock selection. Needless to say, further recovery in the global indices, especially the US, would strengthen the trend and help the Nifty to inch toward the 17,800 lev-

els,” he noted.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell 0.30 per cent and the smallcap index ended marginally lower by 0.01 per cent.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, oil & gas climbed 1.69 per cent, followed by utilities (1.66 per cent), power (1.50 per cent), energy (1.39 per cent), IT (1.20 per cent) and teck (1.19 per cent). Services, bankex, capital goods, consumer durables, industrials and financial services posted losses.

World stocks were largely negative ahead of a slew of central bank meetings. Among other Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a mixed note in mid-session deals.

Coal import to be stopped by 2024: Joshi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Coal minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday said that the import of dry fuel which has declined considerably will be stopped by 2024.

Speaking at an event at the office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India here to release a ‘Compendium of Asset Accounts on Mineral and Energy Resources’, the minister said commercial coal mine auction which was institutionalised by the present government has made the auctioning process totally transparent.

Joshi also complemented CAG’s office for bringing out the first ever compendium of asset account on mineral assets of the country.

The minister said that the report presents comprehen-

sive picture of the mineral resources spread across different states in the country.

He said that the compendium will help in further strengthening sustainable mining process which is of great importance for ecology and future generation.

Collating the information of the state asset accounts, the government accounting standards advisory board has prepared the compendium of asset accounts on mineral and energy resources in states.

The compendium includes details of all four fossil fuels, 40 major minerals and 63 minor minerals in 28 states and one Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir, and also covers the innovations and good practices noticed during the course of the study.



UFO Moviez promoter Kanwar settles insider trading case with Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

UFO Moviez India Ltd promoter Raaja Kanwar on Thursday settled with capital markets regulator Sebi a case pertaining to alleged violations of insider trading rules after paying ₹15.92 lakh through a settlement order.

This came after Kanwar approached Sebi to settle the pending proceedings through a settlement order “without admitting or denying the findings.” “The instant adjudication proceedings initiated against the applicant vide SCN (show cause notice) dated January 20, 2022 is disposed of,” the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in the settlement order.

It was alleged that Kanwar, as the promoter and director of UFO Moviez India Ltd (UMIL), was involved in the discussions and aware of the

unpublished price sensitive information (UPSI) relating to financial results of the company till the date of the public announcement.

Kanwar allegedly entered into contra trades on three occasions during the investigation period (January to June 2019), thereby violating the code of conduct of UMIL and minimum standards for code of conduct specified under insider trading rules. The trading window was closed at that time.

Also, he bought shares exceeding the threshold stipulated by the company’s code of conduct without obtaining pre-clearance from the firm while the trading window was open, in violation rules.

This came after the regulator had conducted an investigation to examine whether there were any violations of the provisions of insider trading rules by certain entities.

IDBI Bank privatisation: LIC to recover its ₹21,624 crore investment by time of sale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned insurance behemoth LIC is expected to recover its ₹21,624 crore investment it had made in IDBI Bank as share prices are likely to rebound to 2019 levels by the time the lender is privatised, an official said.

The official said that since the commencement of the IDBI Bank privatisation process in May last year, the share price has jumped from ₹35 a share to ₹45 a piece currently.

“We are expecting IDBI Bank scrip to move up further. The price is expected to move up closer to the price at which LIC had picked up stake in 2019,” the official told PTI.

The government and Life Insurance Corp (LIC) together hold 94.72 per cent in IDBI Bank. Of this, LIC’s holding is 49.24 per cent, while the government holds the rest 45.48 per cent stake. Public shareholders hold 5.28 per cent.

LIC had bought a 51 per

cent stake in IDBI Bank in 2019 for ₹21,624 crore at an average price of ₹61 per share. Following a QIP issue in December 2020, the stake of LIC came down to 49 per cent.

Besides, the government and LIC together infused Rs 9,300 crore in IDBI Bank to bring it out of RBI’s Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework. “IDBI Bank privatisation will be a win-win for both the government and LIC,” the official added.

Shares of IDBI Bank closed at ₹44.95, up 2.16 per cent over previous close on the BSE. At the current market price, sale of 61 per cent stake would fetch about ₹29,000 crore to the exchequer.

The announcement of IDBI Bank privatisation was first made in the Union Budget of 2021-22, following which the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment.

Tata Consumer Products Q2 profit rises 36% to ₹389 cr; revenue up 11% to ₹3,363 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Thursday reported a 36.25 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹389.43 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2022. The company had posted a net profit of ₹285.80 crore for the July-September period a year ago, TCPL, earlier known as Tata Global Beverages Ltd, said in a BSE filing.

Revenue from operations climbed 10.87 per cent to ₹3,363.05 crore during the quarter under review as against ₹3,033.12 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Total expenses of the Tata group’s FMCG arm were at ₹3,021.90 crore, up 11.55 per cent from ₹2,708.91 crore earlier. TCPL Managing Director and CEO Sunil D’Souza said: “We delivered another quarter of double-digit revenue growth while balancing margins despite inflationary pressures,

weakness of currency and some lag in pricing in International Markets.” TCPL’s revenue from the Indian market in July-September rose 9.19 per cent to ₹2,159.95 crore, as against ₹1,978.08 crore in the year-ago period.

While the branded tea category in India was tepid, TCPL continued to gain volume market share, he said.

“In our other core business of salt, despite significant inflation-led pricing, we have continued to gain market share and strengthen our leadership position,” D’Souza added.

Its international business contributed revenue of ₹838.87 crore, up 7.37 per cent compared to ₹781.27 crore earlier. “While unprecedented inflation and adverse currency movements in our International business have weighed on our margin this quarter, we will be driving structural cost saving initiatives to improve the trajectory going forward.

Central Bank of India profit jumps 27% to ₹318 crore in July-Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Public sector lender Central Bank of India on Thursday reported a 27 per cent jump in net profit at ₹318 crore in the second quarter ended September, helped by a decline in bad loans.

The lender had posted a net profit of ₹250 crore during the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

Total income of the bank during July-September period of 2022-23 went up to ₹7,064.96 crore, as against ₹6,762.36 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing.

On the asset quality front, gross non-performing assets (NPAs or bad loans) reduced to 9.67 per cent as of September 30, 2022, from 15.52 per cent by end of the same month last year.

Similarly, net NPA too declined to 2.95 per cent from

4.51 per cent at the end of second quarter of previous fiscal.

As a result, provisions for bad loans declined to Rs 1,070.13 crore as against higher provisions of ₹1,113.81 crore made in the same quarter of previous fiscal.

The Mumbai-based bank exited the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework of RBI after demonstrating sustained performance under all the parameters during the last five quarters.

The performance has further improved during September 2022 quarter, the bank said in a statement.

Giving details of the other parameters, it said the bank’s net interest income rose to ₹2,747 crore, as against ₹2,495 crore earlier.

Net interest margin (NIM) improved to 3.44 per cent from 2.97 per cent on a year-on-year basis, it added.

Gold falls ₹66; silver climbs ₹101

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national capital fell ₹66 to ₹50,516 per 10 grams on Thursday due to weak global trends, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had settled at ₹50,582 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, climbed ₹101 to ₹56,451 per kilogram from ₹56,350 per kg.

In the international market, gold was trading in red at USD 1,630.8 per ounce while silver was up at USD 18.46 per ounce.

Rupee bounces back by 25 paise to close at 82.75 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee rebounded from its lifetime lows to close 25 paise higher at 82.75 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday amid weakness in the greenback overseas.

Fag-end buying in domestic equities also bolstered sentiment, forex traders said.

However, rising crude oil prices in the international market capped the rupee’s gain, they added.

The local currency recovered on suspected RBI intervention after hitting a record low of 83.29 during the session.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 83.05 against the greenback but later lost ground to quote at 83.29. It also touched an intra-day high of 82.72.

The rupee pared all its losses to end at 82.75 (provisional), registering a gain of 25 paise over its previous close.

In the previous session, the rupee had settled at an all-time low of 83 against the dollar.



In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 95.71 points or 0.16 per cent to close at 59,202.90, and the broader NSE Nifty climbed 51.70 points or 0.30 per cent to 17,563.95.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, slipped 0.17 per cent to 112.79.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, surged 1.17 per cent to USD 93.49 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets as they offloaded shares worth ₹453.91 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Axis Bank net profit jumps 70% at ₹5,330 crore in July-Sep quarter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Axis Bank on Thursday reported a jump of 70 per cent in its standalone net profit at ₹5,329.77 crore in quarter ended September 2022 on healthy core income aided by trimming of bad loans.

The country’s third largest private sector lender had posted a net profit of ₹3,133.32 crore in the year ago same quarter ended September 2021.

Total income on standalone basis rose to ₹24,180 crore in September quarter of 2022-23 as against ₹20,134 crore in same period of 2021-22, Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.

CII urges Govt to consider lowering freight, power costs for exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body CII on Thursday suggested the government a number of measures, including lowering freight and power costs for exporters and setting up a shipping regulator, to promote outbound shipments.

CII National Committee on EXIM Chairman and Patton Group’s MD Sanjay Budhia also asked for fast-tracking establishment of an export promotion body.

There is also a need to do an internal export promotion and marketing exercise to get more businesses on the export markets, he said at the CII’s



national exports summit here.

“Can we consider lower freight and power costs for exporters? It is not required to have subsidies but calibrated rates so that exporters are not cross subsidising other consumers. In this regard, including electricity costs under GST could be a way out to lower tax

incidence,” Budhia said.

He added that the government can consider a carve-out under the national logistics policy for investments in trade-related infrastructure.

States should be encouraged to work on industrial park infrastructure, connectivity modes and faster clearances, he said.

“Last year Indian exporters faced huge issues due to shortage of containers and high freight charges...With situation stable now, we should have our own shipping regulator and shipping line, which can protect Indian exporters during such turbulent times,” he added.

Huge scope for India to move in global value chain systems: Commerce Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is a huge scope for India to move in the global value chain systems and have high value-addition in global exports, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Thursday.

India’s share in global exports is less than 2 per cent. So, huge potential is there to boost the shipments despite global headwinds and low trade growth predictions, he added.

“So, we can easily aim for doubling our exports and increasing our exports (share) to 10 per cent over a period of time and these opportunities exist even if somebody is saying that global trade scenario is looking bleak,” he said here at the CII National Exports Summit.

The domestic exporters should not be pessimistic about this scenario, he added.

“There is a huge scope for India to not only move in the

global value chains systems but also to have high value-addition and contribution in the world’s exports,” Barthwal noted.

The growth in world trade is expected to slow down to one per cent in 2023, due to global uncertainties, according to a WTO forecast.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has also projected a growth of 3.5 per cent in global trade this year against the April estimate of 3

per cent. The commerce secretary also said that global firms are looking at India as an alternative destination for investments.

Barthwal said that e-commerce is strengthening the capabilities of MSMEs to join the supply chains and they should reap the benefits.

He also said that a coherent trade strategy that promotes greater integration and participation of India into global value chains is imperative and

such a strategy will help India achieve USD 2 trillion exports target by 2027-28 and USD 8 trillion by 2047.

The secretary mentioned that the strategy for export promotion going forward will be more specific and that would include strengthening the data and analytical exercise; increased interaction with exporters; and developing country and sector related strategies as well as targets, among others.

GlobalFair raises USD 20 million

New Delhi: Building materials supply chain startup GlobalFair on Thursday said it has raised USD 20 million (over Rs 165 crore) in a funding round led by Lightspeed. The Series A funding round, which was a mix of equity and debt, also witnessed the participation of Saama Capital, India Quotient, AUM Ventures and Stride Ventures, GlobalFair said in a statement. The fresh funds will help deepen manufacturing base across India and Vietnam, launch capital finance solutions and build a sustainable end-to-end synchronised cross border supply chain accessible online to global buyers, it added.

Lord’s Mark forays into defence manufacturing

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Lord’s Mark Industries, a diversified business group, has forayed into defence manufacturing by launching Brahamastra Defense Techno Products Limited. Anil Kakodkar, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India, has joined the advisory board to provide strategic guidance to build defence technology for the new venture. The Mumbai-based business group invested ₹50 crore for R&D and to set up the 25,000 sqft defence manufacturing facility in Mhape. “This is our modest contribution to making India atmanirbhar,” said Sachidanand Upadhyay, founder of Lord’s Mark Industries.

MAN UTD TOO GOOD FOR SPURS

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United dealt a blow to Tottenham's Premier League title aspirations with a dominant 2-0 win at Old Trafford, while Liverpool's upturn continued with a 1-0 win over West Ham on Wednesday.

Chelsea's winning run came to an end in a 0-0 draw at Brentford, which allowed Newcastle to close within two points of the top four with a 1-0 win over Everton.

United are now just one point off the Champions League places and could leapfrog Chelsea when the sides meet at Stamford Bridge on Saturday after their most impressive display under Erik ten Hag.

The Red Devils had 28 shots on goal against a Tottenham side that been beaten only once in their opening 10 league games of the season.

Signs of progress for United since losing their opening two games of the campaign have been hampered by a lack of killer instinct up front. But they finally got their rewards in front of a delighted full house when Fred's deflected effort found the bottom corner two minutes into the second half.

Bruno Fernandes then doubled United's lead with his first club goal since August.

Tottenham could have moved to within a point of leaders Arsenal with



victory, but had no response to remain in third.
DARWIN DELIVERS
Darwin Nunez has endured a dif-

ficult start to life at Liverpool, but the Uruguayan was the match winner as Jurgen Klopp's men moved up to seventh.

Nunez powered Kostas Tsimikas' cross into the far corner for the game's only goal on 22 minutes.
However, the Reds had Alisson

Becker to thank for the three points as the Brazilian saved Jarrod Bowen's penalty in first-half stoppage time.

Alisson was needed once more to deny Tomas Soucek from point-blank range late on as Liverpool held out.

Chelsea missed the chance to close within five points of the top as the in-form Blues were blunted by Brentford.

Graham Potter is still to experience defeat as Chelsea boss, but he has goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga to thank for maintaining that record.

The Spaniard is finally delivering on his tag as the world's most expensive goalkeeper following a £72 million move from Athletic Bilbao in 2018 as he twice denied Ivan Toney a winner for Brentford.

Newcastle continued their impressive form as Miguel Almiron's stunning strike was enough to see off Everton at St. James' Park.

A third consecutive defeat leaves the Toffees just a point above the relegation zone.

Bournemouth's six-game unbeaten run under caretaker boss Gary O'Neil came to an end as Che Adams' seventh-minute strike earned a much-needed 1-0 win for under pressure Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl.

The Saints' first win in six lifts them up to 14th, but still only two points clear of the bottom three.



Benzema on target as Madrid crush Elche

AP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema celebrated his Ballon d'Or win this week with a goal in Real Madrid's comfortable 3-0 win over Elche on Wednesday night, in which they also had three strikes disallowed for offside.

Fede Valverde and Marco Asensio scored the other goals as the La Liga leaders cruised to victory.

Benzema, though, was the star turn: he hit the back of the net three times in total but had two scratched off while David Alaba also had an effort ruled out.

It has been a spectacular week for Carlo Ancelotti's side. They sealed qualification for the Champions League last 16, beat Barcelona in the Clasico, saw Benzema crowned the world's best player, and then moved six points clear at the top of La Liga with this comfortable victory.

Fresh from the glitzy Paris gala on Monday night, reigning champions Madrid brought that same swagger to Spain's east coast and bottom-of-the-table Elche never stood a chance.

"The team played well, they were very good in attack. We had a lot of mobility," said Ancelotti.

"It's an important moment in the season, the team is doing well, we don't have doubts, we don't have problems."

Benzema appeared to send Madrid ahead in the sixth minute after a slick team move

but Vinicius Junior had edged offside in the build-up and it was disallowed.

Los Blancos did not have to wait long for the opener, with Valverde continuing his own superb form by blasting home from the edge of the box.

Alaba had a goal ruled out later on in a half in which Madrid dominated, but Elche started the second period strongly, with Lucas Boye slapping a volley narrowly over.

At the other end Benzema bit back with a long-range strike which Edgar Badia beat away. The Elche goalkeeper has made more saves than any of his counterparts in La Liga, and this was another busy night.

The officials in the VAR booth were kept busy too, with Benzema seeing another goal disallowed for offside. After 75 minutes Benzema eventually got one which counted, his fifth of the season in La Liga, set-up by a sweet backheel from Rodrygo to complete a one-two.

Madrid substitute Marco Asensio wrapped up the victory in the final stages with a hooked finish from Rodrygo's cross.

Elsewhere Mikel Merino's strike earned Real Sociedad a 1-0 win over Real Mallorca to help the Basque side displace Atletico Madrid and move third.

Real Betis, fifth, could only draw 0-0 at 19th place Cadiz, while Real Valladolid thrashed Celta Vigo 4-1.

DFB- Pokal: Bayern, Dortmund in last 16

AP ■ AUGSBURG

Bayern Munich reached the last 16 of the German cup for the first time in three seasons, thanks to a 5-2 comeback victory away at Bavarian neighbours Augsburg.

Bayern returned to the venue of their only loss in all competitions so far this season, having gone down 1-0 away at Augsburg in mid-September in the Bundesliga.

When Danish left-back Mads Pedersen put Augsburg 1-0 up after nine minutes, it looked like the 20-time German Cup winners Bayern could be eliminated in the second round for the third consecutive year.

Former Paris Saint-Germain striker Eric Maxim Chupo-Moting equalised after 27 minutes to calm Bayern's nerves, with the sides going into halftime locked at 1-1.

Sadio Mane had a chance to give Bayern the lead a minute after the break but dragged the ball wide of goal.

With pressure building and the home crowd in full voice, midfielder Joshua Kimmich finally gave Bayern the lead early in the second half.

Chupo-Moting scored again just minutes later and despite a late own goal for Munich's French defender Dayot Upamecano, Bayern's teenage sensation Jamal Musiala scored a fourth



with 10 minutes remaining.

Canadian defender Alphonso Davies added a fifth in injury time to secure Bayern's spot in the next round.

Earlier on Wednesday, English teenager Jude Bellingham won and converted a penalty within 10 minutes of being subbed on to guide a ner-

vous Borussia Dortmund to a 2-0 victory over Hannover on Wednesday and a place in the last 16.

With visiting Dortmund clinging to a 1-0 lead only thanks to some acrobatic goalkeeping from Gregor Kobel, manager Edin Terzic made four changes in a six-minute period during the second half, including bringing Bellingham on from the bench.

Bellingham - who had previously played every minute of Dortmund's season - made an immediate impact, winning a penalty and duly converting it to give the nervous visitors a 2-0 lead.

After the game, Dortmund captain Emre Can admitted "world-class" Kobel - who later won man of the match - kept the visitors in the game.

"We did not play a good game, but in the Cup, you just need to get to the next round, therefore it's OK."

Also on Wednesday night, Bundesliga sides Union Berlin, Stuttgart and Freiburg also made it through to the next round, while second division Paderborn defeated Werder Bremen on penalties.

Second division sides Sandhausen and Duesseldorf also qualified for the last 16 with wins on Wednesday.

Denmark Open: Satwiksairaj-Chirag advance to Q/F

PNS ■ ODENSE

The Indian men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the quarterfinals of the ongoing Denmark Open 2022, defeating the Indonesian duo of Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana in their round of 16 match on Thursday.

Satwiksairaj-Chirag prevailed within two straight games by 21-14, 21-16. On the other hand in the women's doubles category, the duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand bowed out of the competition after a defeat to Thailand duo of Rawinda Prajongjai and Jongkolphan Kittharakul in their round of 16 match.

The Indian duo lost their match by 21-23, 13-21.

Prannoy HS, Lakshya Sen will be in action later this night.

Earlier, ace Indian shuttler Prannoy HS advanced to the next round of the ongoing Denmark Open 2022 after defeating Zhao Junpeng of China in his first-round match in the men's singles category on



Wednesday.

The Indian defeated his opponent by 21-13, 22-20 within two straight games in a match that lasted 43 minutes.

The Indian contingent started their second day of Denmark Open 2022 on a winning note with men's doubles duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeating the South Korean duo of Kang Min-hyuk and Seo Seung Jae in

the first-round match on Wednesday.

The India duo defeated their opponents 21-15, 21-19 in two straight games in a match that lasted 44 minutes.

The CWG 2022 medalist Lakshya Sen also made a winning start to his campaign, defeating Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in the first round 21-16, 21-12.

The match lasted 33 min-

utes. Indian women's badminton star Saina Nehwal crashed out of the women's singles competition in the first round after a loss to China's Zhang Yiman. She lost the match 17-21, 21-19, 11-21. After being a game down, Nehwal made a comeback in the second game but lost the final one.

Denmark Open started on October 18 and will conclude on October 23.

India have everything they need to win WC: Cornelius

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former champions India have improved drastically over the last two decades and possess the "courage and determination" to go all the way at the upcoming World Cup, feels Charles Cornelius, a member of the 1973 edition silver medal winning team.

India are set to host the men's hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year.

"The Indian team has drastically improved over the past couple of decades... Today, the Indian team is beating all top teams and giving them a tough time. This team is well prepared and extremely confident about their skills," Cornelius told Hockey India's Flashback Series - World Cup Special.

"Hockey has come along in a very good way in India. I have to appreciate the players and the Coaches who have trained them. Today, these young players have courage and determination to win."

Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists India, who are currently world No. 5 in the FIH rankings, are clubbed alongside England (6), Spain (8) and World Cup debutants Wales (16) in pool D.



"They have the courage, the quality, the determination to reach the Semi-Finals, after which any of the four teams can win, as a lot depends on luck. But I am confident that this Indian team have the tenacity to go all the way through and win the trophy once again."

India have won just three medals (bronze in the inaugural, silver in 1973 and gold in 1975) at the World Cup since the event's inception in 1971.

We've enough talent to reclaim Johor Cup: skipper Singh

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Having lost the title narrowly last time, Indian men's junior hockey team will be keen to reclaim the Sultan of Johor Cup which is returning after three years following the COVID-19 pandemic, said skipper Uttam Singh.

The two-time former champions squandered a 1-0 lead to go down 1-2 to Great Britain and settle for a silver medal in 2019.

"We have held several discussions at the training camp and we are confident that we have enough talent in our squad to win the title," the Indian Colts skipper said before leaving for Kuala Lumpur late on Wednesday.

The CR Kumar-coached side will open their campaign against hosts Malaysia at Johor Bahru on October 22.

MP to host 5th edition of KIYG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The fifth edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) will be held in Madhya Pradesh (MP) across eight cities from January 31 to February 11, Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced here on Thursday.

The announcement was made in the presence of MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhhan, who said the athletes and the fans will also get to explore the state, which has beautiful heritage sites.

The action will unfold in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Mandla, Kharagone (Maheshwar) and Balaghat while Delhi will host cycling events.

The Games will feature a total of 27 disciplines, includ-

The Games will feature a total of 27 disciplines which will make entry for the first time

ing rowing, canoeing, canoe slalom, kayaking, which will make entry for the first time.

"Madhya Pradesh will be holding the next edition of Khelo India Youth Games. I am happy that states like MP are coming forward to build and promote our sports eco-system. All the states should learn from it. Sports is a state subject and they need to contribute as

a whole to develop it from the district to the state level," Thakur said.

He also mentioned that indigenous games will once again be part of the upcoming KIYG.

"I congratulate Madhya Pradesh for adopting Mallakhambh as official state sport. It will be one of the five traditional sports that will part of the Games," he added.

Madhya Pradesh CM thanked PM Narendra Modi for giving his state a chance to host the Games and promised to make the event "special".

A group of 15 children performed Mallkhamb while another group came up with a break-dance, which is now a part of the 2028 Olympics roster during the event.

AP ■ MANCHESTER

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SL, NETHERLANDS SEAL SUPER 12 BERTH

PTI ■ GEELONG

Kusal Mendis stood tall with a gritty 79 as Asian champions Sri Lanka bounced back from their early debacle to seal their Super 12 berth with a 16-run win over the Netherlands in the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Despite the loss, the Dutch joined the Lankans in the Super 12 with UAE handing them a huge favour by winning against Namibia in the group A finale here later in the day. This was UAE's first ever victory in the T20 World Cup.

Facing an early elimination after being shocked by Namibia in the T20 World Cup opener at the same venue on Sunday, Sri Lanka first crushed UAE by 79 runs and then on Thursday they come out on top against the Dutch to post a stiff 162 for six with wicketkeeper-batter Mendis leading the show in his 44-ball knock.

In reply, the Dutch, who led group A with wins over Namibia and UAE, managed 146 for 9 as the Lankan spin twins Wanindu Hasaranga (4-0-28-3) and Maheesh Theekshana (4-0-32-2) stymied their chase with perfect death over execution.

For the Dutch, opener Max O'Dowd came up with a valiant 71 not out from 53 balls (6x4, 3x6) but he lacked the final flourish with hardly any support from the middle and lower order batters.

Sri Lanka join England, Australia, New Zealand and Afghanistan in Group 1 while Netherlands move to Group 2 comprising India, Pakistan, South Africa and Bangladesh.

2014 champions Sri Lanka, who were fresh from winning



the Asia Cup in UAE, faced a difficult road in the T20 showpiece after being stumbled by Namibia in the opening match.

Since then, the Lankans came back strongly to crush UAE to lift their NRR but only to face injury woes to star seamer Dushmantha Chameera (torn calf), Pramod Madushan (hamstring) and Danushka Gunathilaka (hamstring).

But the Shanaka-led side showed amazing resilience in the match that mattered most with opener Mendis leading the way.

Opting to bat, Sri Lanka had a slow and cautious start and lost Pathum Nissanka (14 off 21b) and Dhananjaya de Silva (0) off successive deliveries right after the power-play.

Paul van Meekeren (2/25) impressed with his raw pace and hostility, while spinners Tim Pringle (3-0-22-0) and Roelof van der Merwe (3-0-16-0) were at their tidy best.

The Dutch had complete control early on as the Lankans struggled to get going in the middle overs and it seemed Sri Lanka won't get past that 140-run mark but Mendis had other ideas.

He smashed five fours and five sixes and went on to equal his career best score before getting out in the second ball of the final over as the Dutch bowling fell apart in the death.

Thanks to Mendis' show, Sri Lanka scored 102 off the last 10 overs to set up a stiff chase for the Dutch.

In reply, Theekshana gave the first breakthrough, removing Vikramjit Singh inside the fourth over, while Lahiru Kumara (1/28) dismissed Bas de Leede (14) inside the powerplay.



UAE knock Namibia out with historic win

PTI ■ GEELONG

Muhammad Waseem came up with an all-round show as UAE scripted their first ever T20 World Cup win, defeating Namibia by seven runs in the concluding group A match here on Thursday.

Courtesy UAE's win, the Netherlands qualified for the Super 12 from Group A, along with Sri Lanka, while Namibia, who were in the reckoning before the match, got also eliminated.

UAE were already eliminated after Sri Lanka beat the Netherlands by 16 runs earlier in the day.

Chasing 149 for a win on a two-paced pitch, Namibia lost half their side inside 10 overs and it was then left to the seasoned David Wiese to steer their ship with 55 from 36 balls. He hit three fours and as many sixes.

But, the effort proved insufficient as Waseem (1/16 from two overs) came out on top with a perfect final over and dismissed Wiese to seal a memorable victory.

Wiese had a superb 70-run eighth wicket partnership with

Ruben Turmpelmann who played the perfect foil with occasional boundaries and clever rotation of the strike in his 25 not out of 24 balls.

Namibia needed 20 runs from the last two overs, but Zahoor Khan came up with a perfect penultimate over and conceded just six runs, cleverly mixing up his deliveries and bowling with cross-seam.

With pressure getting on him, Wiese went for a big hit in the final over and holed out at the long on boundary.

Earlier, Waseem slammed a composed 50 (41b; 1x4, 3x6) while skipper CP Rizwan remained unbeaten on 43 from 29 deliveries to take UAE to a fighting 148 for three after electing to bat.

They got off to a slow start with Vritya Aravind struggling to step up and was dismissed for 21 from 32 deliveries. But once Rizwan joined Waseem at the crease, runs started flowing.

After Waseem's departure, Basil Hameed (25 not out; 14 balls) provided the late push, scoring 33 runs in the last two overs, along with Rizwan who remained not out.

Home Ministry will decide on Indian team's travel to Pakistan but chances aren't much: Anurag Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said the home ministry will take a call on the Indian cricket team's travel to Pakistan for the Asia Cup next year but feels chances of the players going across the border "aren't much".

Thakur though is expecting that Pakistan team will come to India to compete in the 50-over World Cup next year, saying "all are welcome".

BCCI secretary Jay Shah, who is also the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chief, had on Tuesday said that Indian team will not travel to Pakistan for the continental event and they would like to compete in the tournament at a neutral venue.

It had prompted Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to say that it may affect its team's participation in the World Cup in India.

"All teams who qualify for (World Cup) are invited (to compete on the Indian soil). Many times Pakistan teams have come to India and played. I feel India is not in a position to be dictated (by someone) and there is no reason for anyone to do that."

"I expect all countries to come and compete," Thakur told a select gathering of journalists when asked about the controversy that erupted after Shah's statement.

Asked on the possibility of the Indian team travelling to the neighbouring country for



Asia Cup next year, Thakur said, "Possibilities are always there. Who thought there will be COVID-19. Anything can happen but the chances (of Indian team travelling to Pakistan) are not much."

"...It's a decision that will be taken by the home ministry. Overall, players' safety and security is an important matter."

It was pointed out that international teams have started touring Pakistan, of late, but Thakur deflected the question.

Asked further, Thakur said, "That is a security concern. The government will take a call on that. Let the time come, let us see the situation at that time."

Travelling to Pakistan not BCCI's call, govt will decide: Roger Binny

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The BCCI can't take a call on its own on whether the Indian team will travel to Pakistan for the 2023 Asia Cup or not as it relies on the government to make such decisions, new Board president Rogery Binny said on Thursday.

Speaking at an event organised by Karnataka State Cricket Association here, Binny said the BCCI has not approached the government yet on travelling to Pakistan

next year but eventually the central government will only decide on the matter.

"That is not BCCI's call. We need government's clearance to leave the country. Whether we leave the country or teams coming into the country, we need clearance."

"Once we get clearance from the government then we go with it. We can't make decision on our own. We have to rely on the government. We have not approached them yet," said World Cup winner Binny.

Pant and Karthik can be accommodated in playing XI if Hardik is fifth bowler: Gavaskar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The great Sunil Gavaskar feels India can accommodate both Dinesh Karthik and Rishabh Pant in the playing XI by making Hardik Pandya the fifth bowling option in the upcoming T20 World Cup.

The Rohit Sharma-led side, who will open their campaign against Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday, have two wicket-keeper-batter options in Karthik and Pant, both of them vying for a spot in the XI. As the India think-tank ponders over its team combination ahead of the Pakistan clash, the legendary 73-year-old feels both could be accommodated. "It's just that maybe, if they decide to go with six bowlers, with Hardik Pandya being the sixth bowler, then he (Pant) may not be able to find a place," Gavaskar said on Star



Sports show 'Cricket Live'.

"But if they decide to go with Hardik Pandya as a fifth bowler, then Rishabh Pant has an opportunity to bat at number six and Karthik maybe at number seven, followed by the four bowlers. So, that could well happen, we just have to wait and see."

"They would certainly want a left hander in the middle, but looking at the top four, who are

in such good form, you sometimes say to yourself, 'How many overs Rishabh Pant is going to get in?'

"Is he going to get three or four overs? And for three or four overs, is Karthik or Rishabh better? So, these are all the situations they will look at and they'll take a call on this," he said.

Gavaskar also spoke about Pakistan pace gun Shaheen Shah

Afridi and said the he looked to have returned to full fitness in the warm-up match against England.

Shaheen returned with figures of 2-0-7-0 in his comeback match against England on October 17.

"I think that's what their main concern was, about his fitness and how he will shape up. And certainly, in the two overs that he bowled, he's shown that he's back to full fitness."

"So, clearly that is one headache gone. I think with their catching, they were much better than what we saw against England. 'Their ground fielding was very good. So, these are two aspects that was worrying them and they have shown improvement in those areas. So, I don't think they'll have any doubts when they'll take on India on Sunday," Gavaskar concluded.

GREEN REPLACES INJURED INGLIS IN AUSTRALIA T20 SQUAD

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Explosive all-rounder Cameron Green on Thursday replaced injured reserve wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis in Australia's T20 squad.

The 27-year-old Inglis sustained an injury in a freak accident while playing golf when his six-iron snapped and cut his hand open at the New South



Wales Club in La Perouse.

"The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 has approved Cameron Green as a replacement for Josh Inglis in the Australia squad," ICC said in a statement. "Green, who has played seven T20Is, was named as a replacement after Inglis was ruled out due to a right hand injury which has required

surgery."

A genuine allrounder who can bat at any position and bowl medium pace, Green was in red-hot form against New Zealand and India last month.

The 23-year-old had slammed two fifties at strike-rates around 200 during his maiden T20 series in India. He has played 7 T20Is, scoring 136 runs and taking five wickets.

India to tour Bangladesh for three ODIs, two Tests in December

PTI ■ DHAKA

India will tour Bangladesh for the first time since 2015 for three ODIs and two Tests beginning December 4, the country's cricket board (BCB) announced here on Thursday.

Dhaka's Mirpur Stadium will host all the three ODIs on December 4, 7 and 10 and the series will then move to Chattogram for the first Test from December 14 to 18.

The teams will be back in Dhaka for the second and final Test from December 22 to 26, Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan said in a statement.

"The Bangladesh-India matches in recent history have given us some epic contests and fans from both countries are eagerly waiting for another memorable series," Hassan said.

"I thank the Board of Control for Cricket in India for



working closely with the BCB in confirming the schedule. We look forward to welcoming the Indian team to Bangladesh," he added.

The two-match series will have crucial World Test Championship points at stake. Last edition's runners-up India are currently placed fourth in the standings.

A four-Test series against Australia at home in February-March 2023 will be their final assignment in the 2021-23 cycle.

India lost the ODI series 1-2, while the one-off Test was a drawn affair in their last multi-format tour of Bangladesh in 2015.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah stressed on the series' importance.

"The India-Bangladesh contests generate tremendous interest among the fans thanks to the massive fan following the two teams enjoy. We know how passionate the fans in Bangladesh are and I am sure they will be treated to some exhilarating contests both in white-ball and red-ball cricket."

"With the crucial World Test Championship points at stake, the two Test matches are very important and both teams will go hard for the win," said Shah.

Brad Haddin joins Trevor Bayliss at Punjab Kings



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Australia wicket-keeper batter Brad Haddin has joined Punjab Kings as assistant coach ahead of the 2023 Indian Premier League.

The 44-year-old joining Punjab franchise was on the cards after the IPL franchise roped in World Cup winning coach Trevor Bayliss as the new head coach, replacing Indian great Anil Kumble.

Both Haddin and Bayliss share a good working relationship and were together even at Sunrisers Hyderabad. Haddin

represented Australia in 66 Tests, 126 ODIs and 34 T20s.

"Haddin has been appointed as assistant coach. The rest of the support staff will be appointed soon," an IPL source said on Thursday.

Besides Kumble, the team did not renew the contract of assistant coach Jonty Rhodes and bowling coach Damien Wright. Former South Africa batter Rhodes had joined Punjab ahead of the 2020 edition, while Wright came on board the following year.

With the team not able to make the play-offs for the past three seasons, the management has decided to part ways with the support staff members after not extending Kumble's contract.

Punjab are hoping to win their maiden IPL trophy under Bayliss who coached Kolkata Knight Riders to two titles in 2012 and 2014.

Healy appointed vice-captain, likely to lead Australia in tour of India

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Alyssa Healy is likely to lead Australia in the tour of India in December after the star wicketkeeper-batter was named the vice-captain of the women's team on Thursday.

Healy takes over from Rachael Haynes, who retired from international cricket last month.

With World Cup-winning captain Meg Lanning still on her indefinite break, Healy could be donning the skipper's cap for the team's upcoming assignments that include five T20Is in India before the home series against Pakistan and the T20 World Cup in South Africa next year.

Lanning had taken an indefinite break to focus on herself following Australia's successful Commonwealth Games campaign which saw them win the title in August.

"It's a privilege to have been offered the vice-captaincy of any Australian team, let alone one that's tasted as much success as this one," Healy was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au.

"Rach played a key role in supporting Meg as well as driving the values and culture of the team and while she leaves big shoes to fill, I'm looking forward to helping lead this side alongside Meg and Shell."

"It's a really exciting time to be involved with



this team; we've seen personnel changes as well as the emergence of incredible young talent, and with a T20 World Cup and away Ashes just around the corner, I'm looking forward to this next chapter of my career."

The 32-year-old is not new to the roll having served as the temporary vice-captain in the multi-format series against India last year in Haynes absence.

"We're delighted that Alyssa has agreed to take on the role of vice-captain and look forward to the contribution she can make in tandem with Meg," said Shawn Flegler, Head of Performance, Women's Cricket and National Selector.