

OPINION 6

SHADOW OF F-16
OVER INDIA-US TIES

WORLD 8

PUTIN RULES OUT USING NUCLEAR
WEAPONS IN UKRAINE

MONEY 10

GREEN INVESTMENTS TO SOAR TO
\$12.1 TRILLION BY 2050

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India, UK for fair FTA asap: PM after talks with Sunak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

With a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United Kingdom (UK) facing stumbling blocks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his newly-elected British counterpart Rishi Sunak on Thursday “agreed on the importance of early conclusion of a comprehensive and balanced” pact.

“Glad to speak to Rishi Sunak today. Congratulated him on assuming charge as UK PM. We’ll work together to further strengthen our comprehensive strategic partnership. We also agreed on importance of early conclusion of a comprehensive and balanced FTA,” Modi tweeted after his first interaction with the UK PM.

Sunak responded saying, “Thank you PM Modi for your kind words as I get started in my new role. The UK and India share so much. I’m excited about what our two great democracies can achieve as we deepen our security, defence and economic partnership in the months and years ahead.”

As the Chancellor of the



Exchequer, Sunak had expressed support for the FTA, which, he said, presented enormous opportunities for the fintech and insurance sectors.

Data localisation and UK companies being allowed to bid for Indian Government contracts are among the issues causing a possible deadlock in the final stages of the India-UK FTA negotiations as it missed the Diwali deadline.

Incidentally, UK Foreign Secretary (External Affairs Minister) James Cleverly will arrive in India on Friday for his first official trip to the country

to meet his counterpart S Jaishankar and discuss strengthening the UK-India relationship. He will visit Mumbai on Friday and travel to New Delhi on Saturday. In Mumbai, he will pay his respects to those who lost their lives in the city’s terror attack at the Taj Palace Hotel in 2008.

On Saturday, he will travel to New Delhi to speak at the special meeting of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. He will call on countries to work together to fight online terrorism, including global terror recruitment campaigns and live streaming of attacks.

Modi’s call to Sunak assumes significance as the negotiations of the FTA between India and the UK were earlier scheduled to be over by October 24 coinciding with Diwali. The proposed pact is part of the “Roadmap 2030” envisaged during talks between Prime Minister Modi and then UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in May last year.

This issue was reportedly flagged by External Affairs Minister Jaishankar during his telephone call to his counter-

part Cleverly on Tuesday hours after Sunak assumed charge as the new Prime Minister.

Jaishankar later said they “Discussed counter-terrorism, bilateral relations and the Ukraine conflict”.

Britain has completed the majority of sections of the free-trade agreement with India but will only sign off on the deal once happy that it is fair and reciprocal, Trade Department Minister Greg Hands said on Wednesday.

“We have already closed the majority of chapters and look forward to the next round of talks shortly,” Hands told parliament. The Government had previously said it wanted to complete the deal by Diwali, a deadline which passed earlier this week.

In January, both countries formally launched talks for a free trade agreement to boost bilateral trade and investments. In such pacts, two countries either eliminate or significantly reduce customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides easing norms for promoting investments and services trade.

Continued on Page 2

A first outside Europe, desi C-295 planes soon

Manufacturing of transport aircraft to boost logistical support to Indian troops on borders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In what would give a major boost to its capabilities to maintain logistical support to troops guarding the border with China, India, for the first time, will manufacture state-of-the-art C-295 transport planes, which would also be the first instance of production outside Europe. The Indian Air Force will procure 56 of these aircraft manufactured under a joint venture between global conglomerates Airbus and Tata. The private sector manufacturing military aircraft for India is another first.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the aircraft factory in Vadodra, Gujarat, on October 30 for the project worth ₹21,935 crore. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Civil



File photo of C-295MW transport aircraft

Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and captains of Indian industry will be present on the occasion, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said here on Thursday.

This project will give a major push to the local aerospace industry and self-reliance in this niche sector as the C-295s manufactured here will have nearly 96 per cent indigenous content.

These planes will replace the ageing Avro transport fleet of the IAF and enhance the capabilities to maintain logistical support to troops guard-

ing the border with China. The versatile and fuel-efficient aircraft can land and take-off from semi-prepared airstrips in remote areas in high altitude areas in Ladakh and advanced landing grounds in the north-east, he said.

Moreover, the C-295, used by many countries in Asia and Europe, can carry 10 tonnes of equipment and 40 to 45 paratroopers. Also, it can be used for inserting commandos through para drop behind enemy lines thereby increasing the operational capabilities of the armed forces.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

NIA TAKES OVER PROBE INTO COIMBATORE BLAST

New Delhi/Coimbatore: The Centre on Thursday decided to hand over to the NIA the probe into the recent blast near a temple in Coimbatore and one more man was arrested in the case, officials said.

TERROR BID FOILED: 18 DETONATORS SEIZED

Jammu: Police foiled a plan of terrorists to possibly trigger an IED blast and recovered 18 detonators near the Jammu railway station here. Police were alerted after an abandoned bag was found in an “nallah” (drain) near the taxi stand, they said. It contained 18 detonators, some wires and around 500 grams wax-type material packed in two boxes, SSP (Railways) Arif Rishu told reporters.

AVIAN FLU IN ALAPPUZHA: CENTRAL TEAM RUSHED

Alappuzha: The Union Health Ministry has deployed a high-level team to Kerala to take stock of the avian influenza among ducks in Alappuzha district.

P4

‘RED LIGHT ON, GAADI OFF’ DRIVE PUT OFF

New Delhi: Setting the stage for a fresh confrontation with the Lieutenant Governor, the AAP dispensation in Delhi on Thursday said it is postponing the launch of the “Red Light On, Gaadi Off” campaign as the LG’s office is yet to approve it.

Amid dirty bombs, nuke threat, Jaishankar to visit Russia for talks on Nov 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the escalating Ukraine conflict and its global impact on prices and supply of fuel and fertilisers, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit Moscow on November 8 and hold talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Moreover, Jaishankar’s visit takes place at a time when Russia has claimed that Ukraine plans to use “dirty bombs” and threatened to deploy tactical nuclear weapons to meet this challenge. Also, the Indian embassy in Kyiv has advised all its citizens to leave the country immediately.

The two Ministers will discuss the entire gamut of bilateral ties besides international developments, including the ongoing war in Ukraine, reports from Moscow said.

It will be the first visit to Moscow by Jaishankar since the Russian military action began in Ukraine in February this year. Jaishankar and Lavrov had met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York in September.

Amid Russian claim of

“dirty bomb”, Jaishankar discussed the issue with his UK counterpart James Cleverly on Tuesday. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu held telephonic talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday and expressed concern over the likely use of “dirty bomb”.

Rajnath urged both the countries to defuse tension and cautioned against the use of nuclear or radiological weapons as it goes against the basic tenets of humanity. The “dirty bomb” is a radiological weapon that combines radioactive material with conventional explosives. Russia’s claim of “dirty bomb” was dismissed by Kyiv and the West as misinformation and a pretext for intensifying the war.

Shoigu had underlined the charge of the “dirty bomb” in his calls over the last weekend to his British, French, Turkish, Chinese, and US counterparts. Responding to the Russian tactical nuclear threat, US President Joe Biden said a “serious mistake”.

Russia would be making an incredibly serious mistake were it to use a tactical nuclear weapon, he said.

Mamata, Stalin, Nitish, Naveen skip Shah meet



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Haryana CM Manohar Lal, Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Manipur CM N Biren Singh, Goa CM Pramod Sawant, Uttarakhnd CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, Tripura CM Manik Saha and others during the “Chintan Shivir” of Home Ministers of all States, at Surajkund in Faridabad on Thursday

PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee, MK Stalin, Nitish Kumar and Naveen Patnaik, holding Home Department portfolios in their respective States, on Thursday skipped the Annual Home Ministers’ conference (Chintan Shivir), chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who

pointed to the “big achievement” of a 74 per cent decline in terror attacks and 90 per cent decrease in terror-related killings since 2014. He, however, pointed out “35,000 police and CAPF personnel laid down their lives to keep the unity and integrity of the country intact”.

Shah said the country has made big strides in tackling Left Wing Extremism (LWE), recording a decrease of 77 per

cent in naxal violence and 87 per cent in lives claimed by it after 2014.

“Once upon a time, the red corridor between Pashupati Nath to Tirupati was notorious. States and the Centre have successfully fought this fight and achieved success... In 2014, 113 districts were affected by LWE, now it has come down to 46. It’s a big success,” he said.

Continued on Page 2

BJP, AAP workers slug it out over ‘cleanliness’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP and the AAP on Thursday slung mud at each other on the streets of Delhi on the issue of cleanliness in the national Capital — landfill site at Ghazipur and the pollution in Yamuna ahead of the Chhath Puja.

As Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia headed to the landfill site in East Delhi, much drama ensued as scores of BJP supporters staged a protest, showed black flags and raised slogans against him. The AAP workers, in retaliation, converged just some feet away prompting police intervention even as the Delhi-UP border witnessed traffic jams.

The BJP took on the AAP and Kejriwal over the froth-filled polluted Yamuna. BJP MP Manoj Tiwari accused the Delhi Government of spraying poisonous chemicals to remove froth from the Yamuna ahead of Chhath Puja. Tiwari alleged they have seized about 50,000 liters of poisonous chemical and a complaint has been lodged with the police against Delhi Jal board (DJB) officials and Kejriwal’s own people who were pouring the chemical into the river.

Taking a dig at the BJP



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia visit the Ghazipur landfill site in New Delhi on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer



BJP MPs Manoj Tiwari and Parvesh Verma visit Kalindi Kunj Ghat in New Delhi on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

leaders’ accusation that Delhi Government is spraying chemicals in the Yamuna, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the BJP leaders should learn some science and technology, and

added that the DJB’s anti-foaming technology (so called chemical) has also been recommended the National Mission for Clean Ganga, a Central Government agency.

Continued on Page 2

Azam gets 3-yr jail for hate speech, may lose MLA seat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan was sentenced to three years in jail by an MP/MLA designated court in Rampur which held him guilty of hate speech targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during an election campaign in 2019.

“I have not lost faith in the judiciary. I will appeal before the higher court,” the Samajwadi Party MLA said.

Azam, 74, was granted bail and given a week’s time to appeal against the sentence. He faces disqualification as an MLA for being sentenced to jail for more than two years.

Continued on Page 2

India’s per capita GHG emissions far below world average: UN report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

At 2.4 tCO₂e (tonne carbon dioxide equivalent), India’s per capita greenhouse gas emissions were far below the world average of 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020, according to a new report released by the United Nations Environment Programme on Thursday.

The “Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window”, released ahead of the UN Climate Change conference (COP27) in Egypt next month, also said the international community is still falling far short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius in place.

To address climate change,



countries adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit global temperature rise in this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

“World average per capita

GHG emissions (including land use, land-use change, and forestry — LULUCF) were 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020. The US remains far above this level at 14 tCO₂e, followed by 13 tCO₂e in the Russian Federation, 9.7 tCO₂e in

China, about 7.5 tCO₂e in Brazil and Indonesia, and 7.2 tCO₂e in the European Union. India remains far below the world average at 2.4 tCO₂e. On average, least developed countries emit 2.3 tCO₂e per capita annually,” the report said.

Per capita emissions range widely across G20 members: emissions of India are about half of the G20 average, whereas Saudi Arabia reaches more than twice the G20, it said.

India’s contribution to historical cumulative CO₂ emissions (excluding LULUCF) is three per cent, whereas the US and the EU have contributed 25 per cent and 17 per cent respectively to total fossil CO₂ emissions from 1850 to 2019.

China contributed 13 per

cent, the Russian Federation seven per cent, and Indonesia and Brazil one per cent each. Least developed countries contributed only 0.5 per cent to historical CO₂ fossil fuel and industry emissions between 1850 and 2019.

The report said despite a decision by all countries at the 2021 climate summit in Glasgow (UK) to strengthen nationally determined contribution (NDCs) and some updates from nations, progress has been “woefully inadequate”.

NDCs means national plans and pledges made by countries to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Continued on Page 2

Submit evidence of Yadavs-Muslims’ removal from voter list: EC to Akhilesh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday directed Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav to submit documentary proof by November 10 to substantiate his allegation that names of 20,000 voters from the Yadav and Muslim communities were deleted from almost all the 403 Assembly constituencies at the behest of the BJP ahead of the Uttar Pradesh polls earlier this year.

Akhilesh had on September 29 levelled the allegations but neither he nor anyone from his party ever registered a complaint in this regard. He claimed that if a probe was conducted it will be found that the names of many people were removed.

Continued on Page 2

Gender balance in Team India: BCCI to give equal pay to men, women

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark decision, the BCCI on Thursday announced equal match fee for its centrally-contracted female and male players in a bid to promote gender equality in the country’s most popular sport.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah took to Twitter to announce the significant development.

“I’m pleased to announce @BCCI’s first step towards tackling discrimination. We are implementing pay equity policy for our contracted @BCCIWomen cricketers.

“The match fee for both Men and Women Cricketers will be the same as we move into a new era of gender equality in Cricket,” Shah tweeted.

Detailed report on P12

Conna poses as Maruti GM, dupes labour contractor

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A labour contractor was allegedly duped of ₹2 lakh by a man impersonating a general manager of the country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India, police said on Thursday. The accused first got this money transferred to his account from the accused in different transactions on the promise of opening the vendor code and then getting the tender. Later, the accused switched off his mobile. An FIR has been registered at the cybercrime police station, west.

According to the complaint filed by Devendra Yadav, a resident of Heera Nagar Colony, his friend Neeraj shared with him the contact details of Virender Yadav a few days ago, describing him as a GM in Maruti Suzuki India who can help him get a tender from the company.

"When I contacted him, he claimed to be the GM of Maruti and assured me that he would issue a vendor code of the company. He sent me a QR code and asked me to pay ₹25,000. I made payment of ₹25,000 twice. In the name of providing the vendor code, the accused transferred about Rs 1 lakh by sending QR code", Devendra Yadava said in his complaint.

After giving information



about the issue of vendor code, he said there is scrap worth about ₹80 lakh and to get its tender, he needs to deposit ₹50,000 as advance security amount.

"I transferred a total of Rs 2 lakh through different QR codes. He was asking for ₹50,000 more but my friend Neeraj asked me to not transfer money. Soon after the accused stopped replying to the message and later switched off his mobile. I found myself cheated and moved to police", the complainant added.

Following the complaint, an FIR has been registered against the fraudster under sections 419 (cheating by impersonation), 420 (cheating of the IPC at cybercrime police station, west on Wednesday. "We are verifying the facts and action will be taken in accordance with the law", said inspector Jasvir Singh, the Station House Officer (SHo) of cybercrime police station, west.

India, UK for...

From Page 1

The UK is major investor in India. India's main exports to the U.K. include ready-made garments and textiles, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, petroleum and petrochemical products, transport equipment and parts, spices, metal products, machinery and instruments, pharmaceuticals and marine items.

Major imports include precious and semi-precious stones, ores and metal scraps, engineering goods, professional instruments, non-ferrous met-

als, chemicals and machinery. In the services sector, the UK is one of the largest markets in Europe for Indian IT services.

The bilateral trade has increased to \$17.5 billion in 2021-22 compared to \$13.2 billion in 2020-21. India's exports stood at \$10.5 billion in 2021-22, while imports were \$7 billion.

As regards Cleverly's schedule, officials said here on Thursday, he is due to meet Jaishankar to discuss the latest on the 2030 Roadmap, the landmark commitment to boost cooperation between the UK and India over the next decade under a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Since it was launched last year, huge progress has been made, including the start of ambitious free trade negotiations, the expansion of our

Pleasant day in Delhi as max temp settles at 31 deg Celsius

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites had a pleasant Thursday with the maximum temperature settling at 31.9 degree Celsius, one notch above the season's average even as the city's air quality deteriorated to the "very poor" category.

However, the minimum temperature in the city stood at 15 degrees Celsius, two notches below the normal.

Relative humidity in the weather on Thursday at 8.30 am was 84 per cent, and 38 per cent at 5:30 pm, India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated.

"It will be mainly clear sky on Friday. The maximum and minimum temperatures on Friday are likely to hover around 32 and 15 degrees Celsius respectively," an IMD official said.

The maximum temperature on Wednesday had settled at 32.3 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal.

Relative humidity at 5.30 pm was 38 per cent, the weather office said.

Delhi's air quality also deteriorated to the very poor category on Thursday due to calm winds and cool weather conditions.

According to Central Pollution Control Board's 24 hour Air Quality Index (AQI) bulletin at 4 pm on Thursday, the index value stood at 354 in the "very poor" category.

1 killed, 5 injured as bus rams into truck in Gurugram



PNS ■ GURUGRAM

At least 5 passengers were injured and a driver of Rajasthan Roadways was killed after the bus collided with a truck in the early hours of Thursday near Bilaspur Chowk on the Delhi-Jaipur Expressway.

The incident took place under Bilaspur police station limits at around 5.30 am on Thursday when a Rajasthan Roadways bus collided with a stranded truck loaded with construction material from behind, police said.

"In the accident, the bus

driver identified as Praveen (25) of Pali village in Rajasthan was stuck in the bus cabin and was rescued with serious injuries with the help of a crane but was later succumbed to his injuries," Praveen Kumar, the station house officer (SHO) of Bilaspur police station said.

The remaining injured passengers suffered minor injuries and were discharged after first-aid treatment.

"The highway was cleared for routine traffic," he said. The truck driver fled the spot leaving the truck behind. Efforts are underway to trace his whereabouts of him, the SHO said.

Mamata...

From Page 1

While Shah announced that a decision has been taken to set up NIA branches in every State by 2024, he also cited how after the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir terrorist activities decreased by 34 per cent, death of security forces by 64 per cent and decrease in civilian deaths by 90 per cent.

"We have made important changes in the NIA and UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) to give more powers to the agency. The NIA has been given extra-territorial jurisdiction. The agency has also got powers to seize properties of a terrorist. We have decided that every State will have a NIA unit to develop a strong anti-terror network," he said in his introductory remarks at the two-day Shivir.

Prime Minister Modi will address the "Chintan Shivir" through video conferencing on October 28. Only two non-BJP Chief Ministers, Punjab's Bhagwant Mann and Kerala's

Pinarayi Vijayan, attended the conference. The Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh's Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu attended the meeting but another Opposition-ruled State Telangana's Home Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali did not attend it.

The Government has also amended the FCRA that was being misused by some NGOs to conduct anti-national activities, religious conversion, political opposition of development projects and creating obstacles in development works, the Home Minister said.

"Our internal security is considered strong," Shah said adding it is the collective responsibility of States and the Centre to effectively tackle trans-border crimes.

"We have entered long-term agreements with insurgent groups like NLFT, BODO,

Police foil terror plan as 18 detonators found near Jammu railway station

PTI ■ JAMMU

Police foiled a plan of terrorists to possibly trigger an IED blast and recovered 18 detonators near the Jammu railway station here, officials said.

Police were alerted after an abandoned bag was found in an 'nallah' (drain) near the taxi stand, they said.

A police team rushed to the spot and took possession of the bag. It contained 18 detonators, some wires and around 500 grams wax-type material packed in two boxes, Senior Superintendent of Police (Railways) Arif Rishu told reporters.

"We are investigating it (whether it was a fabricated IED). There is no powder like material, only a wax-type material. It was not a ready IED as detonators were in a separate box," he said.

Rishu said a possible untoward incident has been foiled.

"Had they been able to execute it fully, there could have been an untoward incident but we foiled that as we are alert,"

'The security set up has already been tightened in the wake of the festival period. Checking and frisking was intensified and cameras were installed'

he said.

The SP said there was no specific input related to the recovery of the explosive material.

The security setup has already been tightened in the wake of the festival period. Checking and frisking was intensified and cameras were installed, he said.

Some people were trying to trigger an act of sabotage but alertness of the security forces has prevented their designs, Rishu said.

He said police have registered an FIR into the matter and initiated investigation.

2 women flyers from Dubai held with gold worth ₹1.39 crore at Mumbai airport

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Customs department has seized 2.65 kilograms of 24 carat gold worth ₹1.39 crore from two Indian women passengers, who arrived at the Mumbai international airport from Dubai, an official said on Thursday.

These passengers were arrested on Wednesday following the recovery of the yellow metal from them, he said.

The seized gold was in the form of wax that was concealed with an adhesive bandage-like material, the official said.

"On the basis of profiling and surveillance, officers of the Mumbai Airport Customs intercepted two Indian women passengers following their arrival from Dubai. During their personal search, it was found that something was wrapped below their knees with 'bandage-like material,' he said. On a closer examination, it was found that both the women had wrapped 24 carat gold in wax form around their leg that was concealed with an adhesive bandage-like material underneath their jeans, the official said.

BJP, AAP workers slug it out on...

From Page 1

"It's absolutely stupid & incorrect to say that 'a poisonous chemical' is being used to suppress the foam in the Yamuna. Chemicals don't mean poison. Even chlorine and alum that are used to clean water are chemicals," Bhardwaj said.

Earlier, West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma challenged Kejriwal to take a dip in the Yamuna and alleged that the AAP chief's visit to the Ghazipur landfill site was a ploy to divert attention from the issue of pollution in the river. Kerjiwal said that the BJP is trying to divert the garbage issue.

"I just visited the garbage mountain (at Ghazipur). It's embarrassing - Delhi is the national Capital, people from across the world visit the city. And what do they see? A garbage mountain," he said adding, "BJP, in 15 years, has lowered the heads of Delhiites in shame... In fact, across every street, there's garbage. Even they are embarrassed. They stopped me on the way here, didn't want me to see the Ghazipur landfill"

"I want to ask the mothers and sisters of Delhi that your son made good schools for your children. Now BJP Ministers are coming and abusing your son. Will you put up with this? I want to ask Delhi's senior citizens that your son became Shrawan Kumar to send you on pilgrimage. Now, these Ministers are abusing your Shrawan Kumar. Will you people tolerate this? Time has come for a befitting reply. They deployed police personnel to protect this garbage mountain. All evil forces have conspired against us (AAP). They delayed MCD polls and segregated wards hoping that they will get seats. Let me tell them that this time even the BJP supporters won't vote for them," Kejriwal claimed.

Countering Kejriwal, BJP MP from East Delhi, Gautam Gambhir, said that the Chief Minister should tell the people of Delhi how many times he visited the Ghazipur landfill site in last 7 years? "I have visited landfill site eight times in last the last three years. Today, when the landfill's height is reducing, you (Kejriwal) are going there to do politics ahead of MCD polls," Gambhir said. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta termed Kejriwal's visit to the landfill site as a political gimmick. "For the last eight years, the Chief Minister of Delhi and no one in his Government remembered the landfill, but only after the flurry of MCD elections, they started remembering the problem of Delhi," Gupta said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that B.P. SINGHAL & SONS, PRAGATI CHANDRYA is owner of THROUGH NOTARIZED GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY of A Built Up Entire Property No. 5446-A, Consisting of Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor & 3rd Floor, Land area measuring 70 Sq. yards, Situated at New Chandrawal, Delhi, Opposite UB Jawahar Nagar, Delhi, vide NOTARIZED GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY DATED 28.12.2018, All persons are hereby informed that SUNIL KUMAR GUPTA, RAHUL KUMAR GUPTA, MUNNI DEVI is purchasing the above-mentioned property from B.P. SINGHAL & SONS, PRAGATI CHANDRYA by way of REGISTERED SALE DEED the said above mentioned property with FULLERTON INDIA HOME FINANCE COMPANY, General public hereby informed that anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present date.

Mrs. Pragati Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm)
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E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8139200837

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Adore Realtech Pvt. Ltd. is in the process of undertaking development of an affordable housing colony in sector-75, Farida bad over an area measuring 5.5125 acres in the revenue estate of village Murtizapur, in accordance with the provision of License No. 20 of 2019 dated 13-02-2019, granted by Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh, And whereas several individuals have made bookings/ entered into purchase agreement for allotment of flat in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees). And whereas, the building plans earlier approved at the time of grant of licence for the said colony and further revised, is now proposed to be revised. And whereas, the office of Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objection against the revision of Building Plans as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the building plans. Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from all of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revision of the building plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved building plans bearing no. ZP-1330/JD(RM)/2019 24114 dated 24.09.2019&the building plans now proposed to be revised bearing no. ZP-1330/JD (NK)/2022/32045 dated 20.10.2022 are available for perusal on our website www.adorerealtech.com. The said building plans can also be perused at the office of under signed at 1F-22-26, Ozone centre, sector-12, Faridabad as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner (Planning), Senior Town Planner, Faridabad Circle, HUDA office Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad. Any allottee having any objection on revised Building plans, may file his objection in the office of Senior Town Planner (Planning), Senior Town Planner, Faridabad Circle, HUDA office Complex, Sector-12, Faridabad with in 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the Building Plans.

Place	Kaptaan Singh Director
Faridabad	

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Patrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise, all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

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DL3SAW5729,	DL4SFB2554,	DAK1352,
DH39769,	DL4SAG0448,	DL8SAE8297,
DL7SAK1984,	DL8SAK2656,	DL4SAA2616,
DL7CE8860,	DL8SH5913,	DL4SAAW7553,
DL3S4405,	UP14H7933,	DL8SR6222,
DL3SX3952,	UN09619,	PR58B2486,
ONE5445,	DL8SAD7495,	OR1AL0575,
DL7SH6409,	DL8SAK0870,	DL8SAB8543,
DL3ST8770,	DL7SAB5542,	HR26Z5774,
DL7SX5447,	DL8SBN1860,	DL4CAS7796,
DL3SAW3599,	DL4SAB4207,	DL3CAR0402,
DL8SE9036,	DL8SAJ0679,	DL13C0788,
UP14AF4319,	DL7SC26690,	DL7CJ0312,
DL6SD3174,	DL8SAE5879,	HR26M1518,
DL7SAD7330,	DL8SR8129,	UK0BAT3467,
DL8CH9911,	HR26F4980,	DL1CX8592,
DL4SFP0628,	PR35EA4133,	DL9CFA209,
HR08E7473,	DL8SY3099,	HR1P18094,
DL8SL7412,	DL8SY4265,	UP16AM5800,
DL8SAJ5897,	DL7SW0109,	DL3CP6894,
DL8SJ6118,	DL3SAB8421,	DL9CQS2488,
DL7SAD2582,	DL7SAS7681,	UP16M6703,
DL8SR1542,	DL7SAX6594,	DL3CN6880,
DL8SP5405,	DL7SBB3559,	DL3CBV4172,
DL8SFAH5609,	DL7SW3820,	PR03Q3321,
DL8SA0857,	DL7SAU1361,	DL7CF3038,
DL8SW5805,	DL7SAK4482,	DL3CAX3388,
DL8SVA969,	DL6SD8765,	DL7CD9595,
DL8SU6136,	DL3SAG1324,	DL1CH5029,
DL8SAF3172,	DL7SAB9956,	HR01M0529,
DL6SL1452,	DL7SN8053,	DL2CAA7767,
DL8SAJ3321,	DL3SPE5227,	DL2FGN0237,
DL8SL8904,	DL4ST0183,	DL4SAN6435,
DL8SAB2129,	DL7SAB0560,	DL3SAK1089,
DL8SJ6118,	DL3SAB8421,	DL9CQS2488,
DL1SD7440,	DL4S88654,	DL5CC0805,
DLY6627,	DL7SAK4164,	DL13C0650,
DL8SAB280,	DL4SR3169,	DL7DC0837,
DL7SH8716,	UP8705910,	DL4CS9424,
DL4SAM0565,	HR51H0783,	DL4CAB4159,
DL5Q3977,	NORF663,	DL9CR0265,
DL3SAZ0210,	DL8SAJ1377,	DL8CY0876,
DL1SF6591,	DL8SAK7454,	DL2FGA0300,
HR06Q0287,	DL8SH3485,	HR07R6160,
DL1D30007,	DL8SAG2531,	DL3CU9556,
DHL8762,	DL4SD7849,	PR08Z6988,
DL7CC6414,	DL8SN9235,	DL2CM8954,
DL7SAA7949,	DL8SV1055,	HR26AL4408,
DL4CAH1065,	DL4SAU2375,	DL2FGA0001,
JK02W8705,	DL8SZ6207,	UP82AH3589,
DL8SU3794,	DL8SU1522,	DL12CB1718,
DL4SR6246,	DL9SU2156,	

A first outside Europe, desi...

From Page 1

As per the contract inked in September last year, IAF will get 16 planes off the shelf from Airbus while Tata will manufacture the remaining aircraft at the Vadodra plant.

While the 16 aircraft in flyaway condition will join the IAF by 2025, the supply of indigenously made planes will commence from 2026 and end in 2030.

Giving details of the venture, the Defence Secretary said it will change the entire ecosystem of aerospace industry in the country and help in Atmanirbhar effort.

Highlighting the effort on self-reliance, he said the entire electronic warfare suite of these planes will be manufactured by the public sector Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company, Kumar said adding the C-295 can also be used for civilian purposes.

The TATA Consortium has identified more than 125 in-country MSME suppliers spread over seven States. This will act as a catalyst in employment generation in the aerospace ecosystem of the country and is expected to generate 600 highly skilled jobs directly, over 3,000 indirect jobs and an additional 3,000

medium skill employment opportunities with more than 42.5 lakh man hours of work within the aerospace and defence sector of India. Nearly 240 engineers will be trained at the Airbus facility in Spain.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on September eight last year approved the procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft from

Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain. On September 24 the same year, Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Airbus.

The Defence Secretary said the project offers a unique opportunity for the Indian private sector to enter into technology intensive and highly competitive aviation industry. It will augment domestic aviation manufacturing resulting in reduced import dependence and

expected increase in exports. He also said this project will unleash ease of doing business in the country.

Also, 96% of the total man hour work per aircraft that Airbus employs at its manufacturing facility at Spain will be undertaken in India by Tata.

Manufacturing of over 13,400 detail parts, 4,600 sub-assemblies and all the seven major component assemblies will be undertaken in India, along with tools, jigs and testers, Kumar said.

Azam gets 3-yr jail for hate speech...

From Page 1

The Assembly can also take a suo motu notice and disqualify him because the rule is clear that if a lawmaker is sentenced to more than two years in jail he or she loses his legislative membership.

Joint Director, Prosecution, SP Pandey confirmed that Azam Khan may lose his MLA status as the imprisonment is longer than two years.

India's...

From Page 1

NDCs submitted this year take only 0.5 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent, less than one per cent, off the projected global emissions in 2030.

Unconditional NDCs are estimated to give a 66 per cent chance of limiting global warming to about 2.6 degrees Celsius over the century. For conditional NDCs, those that are dependent on external support, this figure is reduced to 2.4 degrees Celsius, it said. Current policies alone would lead to a 2.8 degrees Celsius hike, highlighting the temperature implications of the gap between promises and action, it said.

In the best-case scenario, full implementation of unconditional NDCs and additional net-zero emissions commitments point to only a 1.8 degrees Celsius increase.

However, this scenario is not currently credible based on the discrepancy between current emissions, short-term NDC targets and long-term net-zero targets.

"This report tells us in

cold scientific terms what nature has been telling us, all year, through deadly floods, storms and raging fires: we have to stop filling our atmosphere with greenhouse gases, and stop doing it fast," said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

"We had our chance to make incremental changes, but that time is over. Only a root-and-branch transformation of our economies and societies can save us from accelerating climate disaster," Andersen said.

To meet the Paris Agreement goals, the world needs to reduce greenhouse gases by unprecedented levels over the next eight years.

Unconditional and conditional NDCs are estimated to reduce global emissions in 2030 by five and 10 per cent respectively, compared with emissions based on policies currently in place.

To get on a least-cost pathway to holding global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius, emissions must fall by 45 per cent over those envisaged under current policies by 2030. For the two degrees Celsius target, a 30 per cent cut is needed, it said.

Submit evidence of Yadavs-Muslims' removal from voter list: EC to...

From Page 1

The Election Commission has now sent a notice to him seeking substantiation of his "serious" allegations with supporting evidence of such voters, constituency wise, whose names were wrongfully deleted. The EC also asked him to furnish details of any specific complaint in this regard with electoral authorities in the State.

The law doesn't provide for an electoral roll based on caste or religion. The Election Commission noted, "The Representation of People Act 1950 and the Representation of People Act 1951 inter-alia envisage various provisions aimed at ensuring purity of electoral registration/revision/final roll and provisions for penalties and criminal liabilities for undue interference including false declaration knowingly and promoting enmity between classes."

BJP, AAP spar over pollution in Yamuna before Chhath Puja



Heavy pollution and foam seen in Yamuna River ahead of Chhath Puja near Kalindi Kunj in New Delhi on Thursday.

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer



The anti-foaming technology chemicals being used by the DJB that was seized by the BJP on Thursday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Govt spraying poisonous chemicals to clean Yamuna before Chhath Puja: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Thursday accused the Government of spraying poisonous chemicals to remove froth from the Yamuna River ahead of Chhath Puja 'arghya', set to be observed from October 30-31.

Several senior BJP leaders, including MP Manoj Tiwari, West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, Leader of Opposition, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri criticized the AAP and challenged Kejriwal to take a dip in the Yamuna. Tiwari alleged that they had seized about 50,000 liters of poisonous chemical and a complaint had been lodged with the police against the Delhi Jal board (DJB) officials pouring the chemical into the river.

Hitting back at the BJP, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the BJP leaders were trying to divert attention from the garbage issue. "The people

of Delhi have given us five years to clean the Yamuna. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi polls will be an election of Delhi's cleanliness and garbage. The BJP should not deviate from the issue. They should give an account of their 15 years," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Tiwari said, "Since 2013, the Kejriwal Government has been claiming that it will clean the Yamuna in five years and make everyone take a dip, but today 2022 is about to end and in these eight years the Yamuna has only gone from bad to worse. If Kejriwal had understood the seriousness of pollution today, he would have been



on the banks of Yamuna at the time of Chhath Puja, not just campaigning on the basis of false promises."

Verma, too, challenged Kejriwal to take a dip in the Yamuna and alleged that the AAP chief's visit to the Ghazipur landfill site was a ploy to divert attention from the issue of pollution in the river.

Kejriwal visited the Ghazipur site on Thursday and said the MCD polls would be fought on the garbage issue as he promised to clean Delhi in five years if his party wins the civic body election.

"We visited the Yamuna to stock of the pollution there. We were surprised to find that a

poisonous chemical was being sprayed to hide the froth," Verma claimed.

Last year, images of devotees offering prayers in the froth-filled Yamuna on Chhath Puja had triggered a political slugfest between the AAP and the BJP, prompting the Delhi Government to take measures like installing bamboo nets and sprinkling water to dissipate the froth.

Bidhuri said that it was a matter of great shame that the Government was not able to provide clean water to the devotees for the puja. He said the Yamuna will continue to have a toxic white foam floating on its surface as the Government could not work on any plan to clean the river. "Kejriwal has stated that 1,100 ghats would be set up for Chhath Puja. I asked the officials to provide a list of ghats but they did not do it," Bidhuri added.

'DJB using Clean Ganga Mission favoured tech to clean Yamuna'

BJP leaders should learn science, it is incorrect to say that poisonous chemical is being used to suppress Yamuna River's foam, says DJB Vice-Chairman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at the BJP leaders' accusation that the Delhi Government is spraying poisonous chemicals in the Yamuna River in order to clean it before the Chhath Puja, AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that "BJP leaders should learn some science and technology and the Delhi Jal Board's (DJB) anti-foaming technology (so-called chemicals) has also been recommended by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), a Central Government agency."

In a press statement, AAP spokesperson and DJB Vice-Chairman Bhardwaj said, "It's absolutely stupid and incorrect to say that a poisonous chemical is being used to suppress the foam in Yamuna. All chem-



icals don't mean poison. Even Chlorine and Alum that are used to clean water are chemicals."

"Notably, the Delhi Jal Board had started preparations to reduce foaming in the Yamuna over a month ago for Chhath Puja to allow devotees to offer prayers to Surya Devta," Bhardwaj said.

The DJB is regularly monitoring the parameters downstream of Okhla Barrage through its Okhla Sewage Testing Laboratory that is an

ISO and NABL accredited laboratory. The reports of the tests done recently at the lab reveal that the quality parameters of Yamuna water after spraying have improved, he said.

"The reports also reveal that the dissolved oxygen (DO) levels have reached 4.42 mg/litre which authenticates that the chemical is not poisonous and has in fact improved the quality of the Yamuna water post spraying of the approved diluted chemical," he said.

Earlier the AAP convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said issues concerning the Yamuna, schools and hospitals in the national Capital were taken care of in the 2020 Assembly election and the forthcoming civic body polls will be centered

around the city's cleanliness and garbage-related problems.

Bhardwaj said, "All data from various tests shows that the quality of Yamuna water has improved steadily and continuously under the Delhi Government. We are committed to clean the river by 2025 as pledged by our Chief Minister while respecting and protecting the religious rights of all."

"The BJP leaders should give up the dilatory practices and rather answer the real questions concerning the Municipal Corporation of Delhi elections that are about to take place. People want to know what the present local body has done with regards to the issues like garbage and cleanliness in the past 15 years. They can't run away from the real issues," Bhardwaj added.

'Share list, geo-locations of 1,100 Chhath Puja sites with all MLAs'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot on Thursday reviewed the preparedness of ghats for Chhath Puja in the national Capital. At the meeting, the Minister directed officials to share the list of all new sites that are being added for Chhath Puja with local MLAs. He also instructed all the District Magistrates (DMs) to share geo-locations of sites to ensure transparency in all the preparation being done for the occasion.

The Delhi Government has grown the number of Chhath Puja sites from 69 in 2014 to a whopping 1,100 places and increased the budget 10 times from Rs 2.5 crore in 2014 to approximately Rs 25 crore this year to facilitate lakhs of devotees to offer prayers on Chhath.

During the meeting, Kailash Gahlot directed the department to ensure that devotees don't face any inconvenience. He also directed the officers concerned to ensure smooth management and organisation at all the 1,100 sites designated for the puja.

"To ensure transparency, all DMs were instructed to share the list of new sites that are being added with local MLAs. All DMs were further instructed to share geo-locations of all sites compulsorily," he said.

"The Divisional Commissioner directed all DMs to share the list of the top five sites which are expected to have the most gathering. The DMs were advised to manage logistics in a manner that the Yamuna River bank is barricaded and artificial ponds are created in a proper way, ensur-



ing pollution-free celebrations," Gahlot said.

Gahlot also took it to Twitter and wrote, "Today I had a meeting with the Divisional Commissioner and District Magistrates and took stock of all the preparations related to Chhath Puja. I have instructed them to make necessary arrangements at all the ghats including at the Yamuna, so that the devotees do not face any problems. Under the able leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, we are committed to organise an unprecedented Chhath Puja all over Delhi."

"Furthermore, the Revenue Department will ensure the provision for the other required facilities in coordination with other departments of the Delhi Government such as the Irrigation & Flood Control Department and Delhi Jal Board for clean water arrangements, Health Department for primary health services and deployment of ambulance, DUSIB for Mobile Toilet Vans and with agencies such as Delhi Police and CDV for safety and security, Traffic Police for traffic management and MCD/NDMC for sanitation and cleanliness," the Delhi Government said in a press statement.

L-G hasn't approved 'Red light on, Gaadi off' drive yet: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's month-long campaign 'Red Light on, Gaadi off' which was set to be launched in the national Capital from Friday, has now been postponed because it has not got approval from the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena as yet. The campaign was quite successful last year in generating awareness among people regarding cutting down vehicle pollution by switching off the ignition of their vehicles at traffic stops.

Addressing the media, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said, "The file on the campaign was sent to the L-G on October 21. The L-G has the time to write letters to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal daily, but doesn't have the time to sign crucial files. It is very unfortunate that due to the non-signing of the file by the L-G, we have to postpone this important campaign 'Red Light On, Gadi Off' that was due to start tomorrow."

When asked, sources at Raj Niwas alleged that the file was not submitted on time to the L-G's office. "It has received the file only on October 26," sources added. No immediate official reaction was available from the L-G's office.

Rai accused the L-G of doing politics in the matter of signing the file and said that the political fight is in its place but he should not do politics that puts the health of Delhiites at risk.

"He might have no idea that the pollution level is increasing in the national Capital. He is seeing everything on TV and newspapers; he lives in the same city... But he doesn't have the time to sign the file," Rai said.

According to Petroleum Conservation Research Association data, a person unnecessarily burns fuel for 25 to 30 minutes while waiting at traffic signals. If vehicle engines are turned off when the traffic signal is red, then vehicular pollution will be reduced by 15

to 20 per cent, Rai said.

"We run an awareness campaign at 100 intersections in the city in which 2,500 civil defence volunteers tell people about the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign through 'Gandhigiri'. This year, we had planned to start this campaign on October 28," he said.

Meanwhile, reacting on the issue, BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that it would be better if instead of levelling allegations on the L-G the Chief Minister and his Environment Minister cite one scientific research report that says that schemes like 'Odd Even' or 'Red Light On Engine Off' have helped in reducing winter pollution in Delhi.

"During the last 4 - 5 years citizens of Delhi have experienced that these schemes do not help in curbing pollution but definitely have given the Government an opportunity to distribute exchequer money to its party workers by enrolling them as volunteers," Kapoor alleged.

Sisodia to discuss with L-G bids to discontinue free 'Dilli ki Yogshala'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia will meet Lieutenant-Governor VK Saxena to discuss the matter of alleged attempts to discontinue the AAP Government's 'Dilli ki Yogshala' programme. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accused that these people have arbitrarily shut the Yogshala programme from November 1 onwards by putting all kinds of pressure on the officers including threats of suspending them. The Chief Minister assured that he would not let not let 'Dilli Ki Yogshala' be stopped.

Earlier, in a press conference on Wednesday, Sisodia announced that he would meet L-G over the issue of Dilli ki Yogshala. "I will meet LG sir tomorrow (Friday) regarding the closure of Yoga classes in Delhi. The file is with LG sir. Yoga classes in Delhi will be



closed from Tuesday if immediate action is not taken. Thousands of people will suffer," Sisodia tweeted in Hindi.

He accused the BJP of "conspiring" to shut the programme. He had said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has given his nod to continue the programme and has sent the file to Saxena for approval.

During his visit to Ghazipur landfill site, Kejriwal was asked about the controversy around closure of the yoga classes. "There are 17,000 people who are benefiting from this scheme. They are pressuring officials to shut these classes but I assure you not even a single yoga class will be closed from November 1," Kejriwal told reporters.

Delhi gets its first waterfall complex at Neeli Jheel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Thursday got its first waterfall complex at Neeli Jheel, Asola Bhatti Mines in South Delhi, a move aimed at promoting eco-tourism and facilitating growth of flora and fauna in the area. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday inaugurated four artificial waterfalls at the Asola Bhatti Mines. Located at Neeli Jheel inside the Asola Bhatti Mines, the four sites for the waterfalls were carefully selected on the basis of their geological and morphological features.

Speaking on the occasion, Saxena said this initiative, as indeed other incremental efforts being made in Delhi, emanated from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of rejuvenating the City and providing enhanced and



augmented facilities to the Capital's residents.

According to the official statement released by the L-G, "having come up as a part of the LG's sustained efforts towards creating much needed green and open public recreational spaces in the Capital, these waterfalls are expected to attract domestic visitors,

tourists, schools students, environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts amongst others. Similar projects at various stages of completion in the City

include, Roshanara Bagh, Baansera, Asita East, Najafgarh Drain, and Anang Tal Baoli, etc."

These waterfalls are expected to attract domestic visitors, tourists, schools students, environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts amongst others. The sites have no sediments and are hard rocky patches that have surfaced after erosion of sediments over the last three decades since mining activities were banned at the Bhati Mines.

Woman falls off e-rick during purse snatching bid in Rohini, dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 56-year-old woman died after falling off an e-rickshaw when three scooter-borne men snatched her purse in northwest Delhi's Prashant Vihar area.

According to police, Sumitra Mittal was travelling in an e-rickshaw in Rohini's Sector-14 in Prashant Vihar Police Station limits when three persons on the scooter snatched her purse.

In the process, she fell from the e-rickshaw, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) Pranav Tayal said.

She was admitted with injury in head to Bhagwati Hospital near Bharat Apartments, Rohini Sector-13, where she succumbed around 12 pm, the police said. A case

under sections 397 (robbery, or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) and 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered in Prashant Vihar Police Station, Tayal said.

A total of 15 teams were formed to identify and trace the accused. Police checked the CCTV footage of the area and the three offenders were identified Raju and Rohan, both residents of Rohini Sector-18, and Rahul, a resident of Badli. The scooty used in the crime was found stolen from Badli area, Tayal said.

After identification of the accused, traps were laid and they were apprehended. The house keys and Rs 200 which were in the purse of the victim have been recovered, the DCP said.

Celebs slam Kejriwal for demand to print deity images on currency notes

SAURAV GUPTA ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting hard at the AAP-led-Delhi Government, a host of celebrities expressed anger over the demand made by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for including the pictures of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Laxmi on the currency notes.

Model and actress Gauahar Khan famous for her role in films like Ishqaaqade, Fever and Badrinath Ki Dhulania took to Twitter to comment, "Alas a leader who I thought was focused on development has fallen prey to the race of winning in politics. Religion is used only by the weakest kind of politicians. The greed of wanting to win a state election can make u so different. #sad Time to unfollow."

Without naming the AAP,



singer, songwriter and music composer Vishal Dadlani tweeted: "The Constitution of India states that we are a Secular Socialist Republic. Hence, religion must have NO PLACE in governance. To be completely clear, I have nothing to do with anyone who brings any part of any religion to any aspect of government. Jai Hind."

Dadlani was associated with Kejriwal since the 'India Against Corruption' movement in the early years of the last decade. He was one of the

star campaigners of the party in all elections in 2016. In 2016, he "quit all active political work/affiliation" after a row erupted over his remarks on Jain monk Tarun Sagar. After that under pressure from Kejriwal, he had to apologize. Dadlani composed and sung the AAP's campaign song 'Lage Raho Kejriwal' for the 2020 state Assembly election.

Another famous celebrity, actor Nakuul Mehta commented, "And they all fall down... EVENTUALLY", while quoting the tweet of AAP senior leader Atishi, "I want to say with folded hands in front of BJP, don't oppose this proposal. This is not only @ArvindKejriwal ji's proposal but all 130 Cr countrymen. You hate Arvind Kejriwal, but why hate Lakshmi ji and Ganesh ji? Why hate the prosperity of the country?"

Modi corrected Nehru’s blunder on Kashmir accession: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi corrected the “blunders” of country’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on the Kashmir accession to India by nullifying Article 370 and demanded an apology from the Congress. The Opposition party sought to know the BJP’s “achievements” in the last eight years in Kashmir where it said the Government was not able to hold elections and “stop targeted killings”.

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said that a “historical lie”

was being dished-out that Kashmir too was one of the princely states which created problems and the ‘Raja’ of Kashmir Hari Singh was ‘dilly-dallying on joining India.

Rijiju alleged in an article penned by him that it was Nehru’s insistence on taking “popular approval” that botched the smooth accession of Kashmir to India.

“Two princely states created problems – Hyderabad and Junagarh. But Sardar Patel out-manoeuvred them both, using his exemplary skills of persuasion, tact and willingness to use force if required,” said the BJP leader.



“As documents now reveal, it was Nehru who, in order to fulfil his personal agenda, created these problems and not the Maharaja. In a speech delivered in Lok Sabha on July 24, 1952, Nehru himself conceded the facts. Maharaja Hari Singh, like all other princely



states wanting to join India, had approached Indian leadership in July 1947 itself for accession “The First Nehruvian Blunder on Kashmir, in a series of blunders, is revealed as a clincher in the same speech. Nehru states: “the advice we gave to both was that Kashmir

is a special case and it would not be right or proper to try to rush things there”.

Rijiju further goes on to say “but what is it that Nehru wanted? Who better than Nehru himself to answer? In the same 1952 speech, he further states: “even if the Maharaja and his Government then wanted to accede to India, we would like something much more, that is, popular approval”.

The BJP leader said that there was no requirement to seek popular approval of the people of princely states as per the Indian Independence Act.

Asked about Rijiju’s article titled ‘75th Anniversary of Five

Nehruvian Blunders on Kashmir’, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said those leaders of the BJP who are students of “WhatsApp nursery” need to revisit their history classes.

Khera said the BJP leaders have no idea of contemporary history of the country.

“It is very easy to blame Jawaharlal Nehru for this, Indira Gandhi for something else, PV Narasimha Rao for something else and Manmohan Singh for the rest” , Khera said.

“Give us answers. You have been in power for eight years. What has been your achievement in those years in Jammu

and Kashmir? You cannot hold elections. You cannot protect Kashmiri Pandits. Is that your achievement? You must apologise for what happened in 1989, you must apologise for what is happening now,” he said, attacking the BJP-led Centre.

“If all that they are saying is true, how is it that during the Manmohan Singh era targeted killings stopped and 75 per cent of the people would participate in the democratic process of elections in the state? We would be happy to get the answer to that,” he said.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also attacked Nehru at

a press conference alleging that the first prime minister committed five blunders, including delaying action on the accession proposal of the region’s king Hari Singh.

Jammu and Kashmir, and the country in general had to pay a price for it while this allowed Pakistan to capture a part of the region (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), he said.

Nehru then took an “internal issue” to the United Nations, making Pakistan a party, he added.

Modi has corrected those blunders, and his strong leadership is now showing the way to the world, he said.

9% rise in farm fires in Punjab, 26% dip in Haryana: CAQM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stubble burning instances are on the rise in Punjab but on a substantial decline in Haryana. Between September 15 and October 26 this year, a “significant” nine per cent rise in stubble burning incidents have been reported in the State (Punjab) in comparison to the corresponding period in 2021 which is a “matter of concern”, the Commission for Air Quality Management said on Thursday. The CAQM said the total number of farm fires in Haryana, however, reduced by 26 per cent as compared to last year in the same period.

In view of the spike in stubble incidents, the commission has taken up the matter with the Punjab government for effective implementation of action plan, including strategies for stubble management, the CAQM said.

“As per the standard protocol developed by ISRO for CAQM, between September 15 to October 26, total paddy residue burning events reported in Punjab are 7,036 compared to 6,463 for the same

period during the last year, which is a significant increase of about nine per cent,” the commission said in a statement.

It said about 70 per cent of farm fires during the current paddy harvesting season were reported only from six districts — Amritsar, Firozpur, Gurdaspur, Kapurthala, Patiala and Tarn Taran — accounting for 4,899 of the total 7,036 incidents in Punjab.

“These traditional six hotspot districts had also accounted for about 65 per cent of the total burning incidents during the last year for the same period,” the CAQM said.

The commission further said of the total 7,036 reported cases, 4,315 incidents or 61 per cent were reported during the last six days alone. According to the data up to October 24, only about 39 per cent of sown area in Punjab had been harvested and thus, rising number of fire events is an “alarming situation”.

“Based on a broad framework developed by the commission and learning from the past paddy harvesting seasons,



a comprehensive action plan was prepared by the Punjab government which included diversification to other crops, low straw generating and early maturing paddy varieties, and in-situ and ex-situ crop residue management,” it said.

The CAQM has been regularly following up with the Punjab government since February to sensitize the state administrative machinery towards their preparedness to prevent and control the incidents of stubble burning. The commission has held nine meetings with officials of the Punjab government, including five meetings with the chief secretary regarding various issues related to stubble burn-

ing.

It said the total number of farm fires in Haryana has reduced by 26 per cent as compared to last year. “Total number of farm fire events reported between September 15 and October 26 is 1,495 compared to 2,010 for the same period last year. There is about 26 per cent reduction in paddy residue burning events in Haryana so far during the current year,” the CAQM said.

In a review meeting held with the chief secretary of Haryana and deputy commissioners last week, the commission suggested officials to further intensify efforts to control farm fire events in the state.

Centre rushes team to Kerala to probe Avian flu outbreak; culling of 20K birds begins



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Family Welfare, Bangalore.

The Union Health Ministry has deployed a high-level seven-member team to Kerala to take stock of the Avian Influenza outbreak in the State. The team will investigate the outbreak in detail and submit a report with recommendations.

The central team to Kerala comprises experts drawn from the National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi; the National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi; the National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai; and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The team is headed by Dr Rajesh Kedamani, Sr RD, Regional Office of Health and

the state health departments in terms of public health measures, management guidelines and protocols to manage the increasing cases of avian influenza being reported by the state, the Ministry said in a statement.

With the outbreak of avian influenza confirmed among ducks in Kerala’s Alappuzha district, authorities on Thursday began operations to cull over 20,000 birds in Vazhuthanam ward in Haripad Municipality to check spread of the disease.

The presence of the infection was confirmed after the samples of dead birds were sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal for examination.

CBI books private person, unknown officials of APPSC in question paper leak case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday said it has registered a case against a private person of a coaching institute at Itanagar and unknown officials of APPSC, the CBI said here on Thursday.

The complainant (a candidate) had alleged that the accused (a teacher of the institute) was in possession of questions for the said examination disclosing leakage of paper by him in connivance with unknown officials of APPSC.

“A CBI team has reached Itanagar for conducting further investigation,” the CBI said in its statement.

Akhilesh Yadav of Jeju Institute, Itanagar, Papum Pare City, Arunachal Pradesh and unknown officials of APPSC have been booked in the case.

Swamy appeals to HC on Centre’s failure to give security at pvt home

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Thursday approached the Delhi High Court against the Central Government’s failure to provide security at his private accommodation.

Senior Advocate Jayant Mehta, representing Swamy mentioned the matter before a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad which agreed to list the case for hearing on Monday.

Mehta said that the Government, during the hearing of Swamy’s petition seeking re-allotment of his Government accommodation, had assured continued security cover to the senior leader at his private residence. But no such arrangements have been made till date, he said.

Swamy is a Z category protectee and got accommodation in December 2015 and continued at the same place when he became Rajya Sabha Member in April 2016. But when his Rajya Sabha tenure



ended in April 2022, the Urban Development Ministry asked him to vacate the accommodation. Swamy approached the Delhi High Court in September 2022 arguing for the continuation of the accommodation citing his Z category security.

However, the Central Government had opposed the plea arguing that even though the security perception towards Swamy had not been downgraded, there was no obligation on the Government to provide accommodation to him along with security cover.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay



Jain had appeared for the Centre and stated that the Government would continue to provide security to Swamy, subject to periodical reviews. He had also told the Court that Swamy had a house in Delhi where he could shift and that protecting agencies would take all steps to ensure his safety there.

The Court had, therefore, dismissed that petition after noting that the allotment was made for five years and that it was not shown any material which mandates or requires allotment of Government accommodation to Z category protectee.

Freebies woo voters, welfarism is policy intervention: BJP to EC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Making a distinction between freebies and welfarism, the BJP has suggested in a reply to the Election Commission that parties should place emphasis on voter empowerment and capacity building rather than increase the dependency of people, a party insider said.

The BJP spelt out its stance on the issue in response to the Election Commission earlier this month seeking the views of all parties on its proposal to amend the model code of conduct. It also asked parties to provide authentic information to voters on the financial viability of their poll promises.

Freebies are meant for alluring voters while welfarism

is a policy intervention for inclusive growth, the BJP specified in its reply.

The party, it is learnt, has no objections to the poll panel’s idea that political parties should also submit financial viability of their poll promises.

“The BJP has suggested that emphasis should be on empowering voters, increasing their capacity, imparting them skills to raise country’s human capital,” a party leader involved in the process of drafting the reply told PTI.

“The party feels that the political parties should give more emphasis on empowering people/voters and enhance their capacity for their overall development,” he said.

Giving homes and free rations have a different purpose



and providing electricity another, the senior leader added.

Housing is a basic requirement and providing a home is a one-time help. Free rations started during the Covid crisis when people lost their jobs. Both, the BJP leader explained, are welfare measures and cannot be equated with free electricity.

The tone and tenor of the BJP’s reply echoes Prime

Minister Narendra Modi’s stance on freebies, he said.

The BJP’s government at the Centre has been providing homes and free ration to poor under its various flagship schemes.

The Aam Aadmi Party, with which the party has been engaged in a bitter battle over freebies, has been providing free power in Delhi and Punjab, the two states where it is in power.

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.	VCH Corporation Private Limited, Neha Chauhan, Vineet Chauhan, Office No. 511, Vishwa Sadan District Center, Janakpuri Delhi. A/c No- 008705500503 New Delhi- 110058	Flat No. 803 8th Floor, Block B-2, Sunny Valley CGHS Ltd Plot No. 27 Sector 12, Dwarka West Delhi	02/08/2022 Rs. 6,38,054/-	28/3/ 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 28, 2022**
Place : **Delhi/ NCR**

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Form No. INC-26
Before the Central Government
Northern Region Bench, Delhi
In the matter of the sub-section 4
of Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013
and clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Rule 30
of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules 2014
AND
In the matter of MEHROTRA IMPEX PRIVATE
LIMITED having its Registered Office at HR 29E,
60 FEET ROAD, PULPRHLADPUR, NEW
DELHI-110044
Notice is hereby given to General Public that the company proposes to make the application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of Memorandum of Companies of the company in term of special resolution passed at Extra ordinary General Meeting held on THURSDAY, 27TH DAY OF OCT. 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "National Capital Territory of Delhi" to "State of Uttar Pradesh".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change, may deliver either on MCA portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filling investor complaint form or cause to be deliver or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and ground of opposition to the Regional Director at the Address B-2 WING, 2nd FLOOR, PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, COO COMPLEX, NEW DELHI - 110003, within 14 Days of date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:
Address of Registered Office: HR 29E, 60 Fl. Road, Pulprhladpur, New Delhi-110044
For and on behalf of the
MEHROTRA IMPEX PVT. LTD.
sd/
(Director)
SHYAMJI MEHROTRA
DIN No. 01430320
Delhi
Date: 27.10.2022

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.	Manoj Kumar Grover, Anjali., Flat No. 606, Building No. C3, Pwo Complex, Sector 43 Near Huda Metro Station Gurgaon Haryana. A/c No. LBZM00002009140	Flat No. G-11, 7th Floor Palm Heights Galaxy Developers, Sec-125 New Sunny Enclave Behind Air Force Naval Housing Society Mohali Punjab	26/08/2022, Rs. 39,28,959/-	08/02/ 2022
2.	Manoj Kumar Grover, Anjali., Flat No. 606, Building No. C3, Pwo Complex, Sector 43 Near Huda Metro Station Gurgaon Haryana. A/c No. LBZM00002009640	Flat No. G-12, 7th Floor Palm Heights Galaxy Developers, Sec-125 New Sunny Enclave Behind Air Force Naval Housing Society Mohali Punjab	26/08/2022, Rs. 39,28,911/-	08/02/ 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 28, 2022**
Place : **Gurgaon**

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Centre hands over Coimbatore blast near temple probe to NIA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) the probe into the October 23 terror blast near a temple in Coimbatore.

The decision came after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recommended an investigation by the NIA into the blast in which an engineer was killed.

"The Union Home Ministry decided to hand over the Coimbatore blast case to the NIA," a senior Ministry official said.

The Tamil Nadu Government said the decision to recommend the probe to the NIA was taken as there is involvement of factors "extraneous to the State" and "possible international links".

On Sunday, a car loaded with two gas cylinders exploded near a temple in Coimbatore. It was being driven by one Jamesha Mubin, a 29-year-old engineering graduate. Mubin had attempted to get past a police check post near the temple, but fled after failing to do so, State Police Chief C Sylendra Babu told reporters on Monday.

The police has arrested five persons who had been in contact with Mubin, and charged them under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, including Muhammed Talka, Muhammed



The Tamil Nadu Government said the decision to recommend the probe to the NIA was taken as there is involvement of factors extraneous to the State and possible international links.

Azharuddin and Muhammed Riyaz Mubin was under the NIA scanner in 2019 in the aftermath of the Easter bomb blasts in Sri Lanka, but no case was filed against him, police said.

On Wednesday, the Tamil Nadu Government recommended to the Centre to conduct a probe by NIA into the Coimbatore explosion case after links of ISIS modules merged in the car blast.

The State Government has also announced raising a special police force to foil sabotage and bolster its intelligence wing. The decision to hand over the probe to the NIA was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister MK Stalin on the present status of the investigation into the case.

On Sunday, 75 kg of explosives were seized in Coimbatore from the residence of Mubin who was killed after a gas cylinder exploded. The explosion occurred while Mubin was moving past a temple in a car in the textile city and he had allegedly tried to evade a police check post.

Before the case was formally handed over to the NIA, senior officials of the federal anti-terror agency held discussions in Coimbatore on Wednesday with Tamil Nadu police in connection with the blast case probe.

Gilgit-Baltistan, POK inclusion will complete Mission J&K: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said the mission of full integration of J&K that started on August 5, 2019, will be completed when Gilgit-Baltistan and areas of the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) reunite with India. Singh said the journey will be completed when the refugees of 1947 will get justice and their ancestors' land will be returned to them with respect.

Speaking during the 'Shaurya Diwas' in Budgam district to commemorate the Indian Army's successes made after the landing of soldiers in J&K on October 27, 1947, the Defence Minister said India is committed to implement the resolution passed in the Parliament about retrieving the part of Kashmir under illegal occupation of Pakistan including Gilgit and Baltistan.

"Now we have just started walking towards the north. Our journey will be completed only when we implement the resolution passed unanimously in the Indian Parliament on February 22, 1994, and accordingly, we will reach our remaining parts, such as Gilgit and Baltistan," he added.

The Defence Minister said the region of Kashmir and Ladakh is on the path of progress at a much faster rate than the normal territories.

"This state is touching new heights of development one after the other. But I would like to say here that we have just started the development of this



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief of Army Staff Manoj Pande and General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Chinara Corps Lieutenant-General Amardeep Singh Aujla during 'Shaurya Diwas' celebrations, in Srinagar on Thursday

area," he added.

He further said that after the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir is marching towards success, peace and prosperity.

Questioning the role of Pakistan, the Defence Minister said that Pakistan, which sheds crocodile tears in the name of human rights, is committing atrocities against people in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the country would have to bear its consequences.

"I would like to ask Pakistan how many rights has it given to the people of our areas that it has taken unauthorized possession of. Everyone knows how much Pakistan, which sheds crocodile tears in the name of human rights, cares for the people of these areas. Pakistan is fully responsible for inhuman incidents. Pakistan, which is sowing the seeds of atrocities in PoJK today, will have to face thorns in the coming time," said Singh.

"I am convinced of the strength of the people here and our armies. The day is not far when all these mandates will be successfully fulfilled," he said.

The Defence Minister also slammed the "so-called intellectuals" for bringing the "human rights of terrorists" in the region.

"In order to ensure the safety of the public in this area, whenever any action has been taken on terrorists and their allies by the army or state security forces, some so-called

intellectuals of the country have found a violation of human rights of terrorists in that action," he said.

"I am also surprised that when our forces are attacked, security forces are attacked, or the general public is attacked by the same terrorists and they are treated ruthlessly, then where does the concern for human rights go?" asks Rajnath.

During the event, the replication of the historic event was organised to pay obeisance to the brave soldiers and people of J&K. The Defence Minister, along with the citizens, witnessed the re-enactment of history, covering the violation of the 'Standstill Agreement' by Pakistan. The event also depicted the arrival of the Indian Army on October 27, 1947 to evict the Pakistani Forces. The Next of Kin of war veterans, who travelled from across the country, were felicitated at the event.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was also present at the programme. Singh also visited an exhibition by the Indian Army on the occasion.

Lieutenant Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande; GOC-in-C, Northern Command Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi; Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command Air Marshal S Prabhakaran; General Officer Commanding, 15 Corps Lieutenant General ADS Aujla, along with several other civil and military dignitaries attended the event.

BJP must restore conditions of J&K's accession to India: Mehbooba

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said India's presence in Jammu and Kashmir will be rendered illegal if the conditions of Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh in October 1947 were not restored.

She said the decisions of August 5, 2029 — when the Centre abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir — were illegal.

"Conditions on which Jammu and Kashmir had acceded to India will have to be restored or your occupation here becomes illegal. The guarantees of the 1947 accession cannot be snatched from us legally. If anyone does it illegally, then BJP will have to do a fresh accession. On what terms will that be, I don't know," Mehbooba said at the party office here.

"It was signed by the Maharaja and supported by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. The decision taken on August 5, 2019 was illegal, was illegal, was illegal," she added. Mehbooba said it was ironic that while the government has announced October 26 as a holiday to celebrate J&K's accession with India, it was running over the accession's spirit.

Jawan injured in Baramulla encounter attains martyrdom

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU



A soldier of the Indian Army, injured during an encounter in Wanaseeran Taripora area of Baramulla, succumbed to his injuries in the Command Hospital, Srinagar on Thursday while a terrorist was killed in the encounter with a joint team of security forces in the general area of Kausarnag, Kulgam. In a separate incident, a low intensity blast also took place at Aloosa in district Bandipora while the Army's vehicle was passing through Aloosa area. However, no loss of life was reported. Reinforcement was rushed to the area to launch searches in the general area.

According to a Srinagar-based Defence spokesman, "A soldier of the Indian army received a gunshot wound during search operations launched in the general area of Wanaseeran Taripora area of Baramulla on Wednesday".

According to police, one local terrorist of proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) namely Nisar Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Akbar Bhat resident of Shrakwara Kreeri, Baramulla was apprehended alive during the operation. Meanwhile, the security forces have intensified searches in the thickly forested area to track down the foot

prints of a Pakistani terrorist namely Usman of LeT.

Arms and ammunition including 01 modified AKS-74U, 01 Magazine, 28 rounds among other incriminating materials have been recovered from the apprehended terrorist.

In Srinagar, the Defence spokesman said the injured soldier, identified as Rifleman Kulbushan Manta, was immediately evacuated to GMC Baramulla by road and further evacuated by helicopter to 92 Base Hospital, Srinagar. However, Manta suffered a cardiac arrest and could not be revived.

"The braveheart is survived by his wife, Neetu Kumari. His mortal remains will be sent for the last rites to his native place at Village Gaunth, Post Manjholi, Tehsil Kupvi, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh where he will be laid to rest with full Military Honours on October 28," the Defence spokesman added.

BHARAT JODO YATRA: T'GANA LEG Farming issues at centre of Cong manifesto for State polls: Rahul

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress manifesto for the 2023 Legislative Assembly elections in Telangana will have special focus on farming issues, which would be prepared after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, top party leader Rahul Gandhi said on Thursday.

Gandhi, who resumed his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Telangana after a four-day Diwali break, had an interaction with farmers and farmers' representatives from different parts of the state.

The suicides of tenant farmers, lack of crop insurance and disaster relief and problems concerning the 'Dharani' land records portal were discussed, AICC General Secretary, incharge of communications, Jairam Ramesh said.

"@RahulGandhi also promised that the Congress manifesto for the upcoming Assembly elections in Telangana will have a very sharp focus on farming issues

and will be prepared after the widest possible consultations with all stakeholders," Ramesh tweeted.

Observing that 30 per cent peasants in the state are tenant-farmers and they account for 80 per cent of suicides since 2014, Ramesh alleged that the TRS government has failed miserably to provide any relief to bereaved families. Gandhi met the widows who are still struggling to make ends meet as women farmers, he said.

Since Kharif 2020, Telangana does not have any crop insurance scheme nor has it given any compensation for disasters through the 2005 NDMA (National Disaster Management) Act. This has deprived lakhs of farmers of compensation when there is crop loss, the frequency of which has increased due to climate change, the AICC General Secretary claimed.

He further alleged that the "much advertised" 'Rythu Bandhu' investment support scheme of the TRS government meant for farmers does not

benefit tenant farmers and cultivators in any way.

Rahul Gandhi assured that tenant farmers and those who till the land must be registered and get full benefit of government schemes, including bank loans, direct income transfer and crop insurance.

Noting that the farmers also complained of the 'Dharani' scheme in Telangana, Ramesh said it is criminal that a scheme to modernise land records is dispossessing tens of thousands of Dalits, Adivasis and other Backwards castes of their own lands.

After a gap of four days, the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra resumed from Makthal in Narayanpet district of Telangana today.

The yatra kicked off at 6.30 AM from Makthal with state Congress president A Revanth Reddy, MP Uttam Kumar Reddy, CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka and a number of party leaders joining Gandhi.

This is the second day of the yatra in the state.

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Three weeks after he was granted bail in the alleged money laundering case, Maharashtra's former Home Minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh has moved the Bombay High Court, seeking a regular bail in a corruption case lodged against him by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A day after his Advocates Aniket Nikam and Inderpal Singh moved the vacation judge Justice MS Karnik who granted them leave to file the bail plea in the registry, Deshmukh's counsel completed the procedure and mentioned the matter before vacation judge Justice Sharmila Deshmukh on Wednesday.

The Judge asked the CBI to file its reply by November 9 and scheduled hearing of the plea for November 11.

Deshmukh's plea for bail before the high court comes less than a week after a Special CBI court rejected his regular bail plea on October 22.

In his plea, Deshmukh stated that the CBI Court had failed to consider the 's observations of the High Court in its order granting bail to Deshmukh in the alleged money laundering case which prima facie indicated that the former minister might not be ultimately not convicted.

Contending that the trial court's approach over reached the order of the High Court while granting bail to Deshmukh in the money laundering case, Deshmukh stated in his plea: "While it may not be contended that the order granting bail in PMLA case would ipso facto bind the trial court to grant bail in the scheduled or predicate offence, the findings recorded in the order passed by the High Court could not have been brushed aside lightly".

Maintaining that both the alleged money laundering and corruption cases had an "umbilical cord connection", Deshmukh stated in his plea: "Both cases have an umbilical cord connection.

Therefore, it cannot be

countenanced that once bail is granted to the applicant in the PMLA case, he could still be kept incarcerated in the present case".

The CBI, which had registered a case against Deshmukh on April 21, 2021 against Deshmukh, filed a charge-sheet against him, his personal secretary Sanjeev Palande and his personal assistant Kundan Shinde on June 2, 2022.

The CBI told the court in its charge-sheet that the preliminary inquiry conducted by it had revealed that Deshmukh and others allegedly attempted to obtain "undue advantage for improper & dishonest performance of their public duties". It also alleged that Deshmukh and others had "exercised undue influence over the transfers & postings of police officers".

Among other things, Deshmukh contended in his bail application that the trial court indulged in a "copy paste" job in its order denying bail by making verbatim use of the contents of the charge-sheet.

Andaman ex-Chief Secy arrives in Port Blair after HC order to appear before SIT over gangrape charge

PTI ■ KOLKATA | PORT BLAIR

Former Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Jitendra Narain arrived in Port Blair on Thursday, following a Calcutta High Court order to appear before a Special Investigation Team probing alleged gangrape charges against him, by October 28.

Narain was escorted out of the airport amid heavy security cover, officials said. He did not respond to questions from mediapersons, who were waiting for his arrival at the airport.

A Vacation Bench comprising justices Bibek Chaudhuri and Prasennjit Biswas also granted interim protection against arrest to Narain till a date that will be fixed by the Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court in Port Blair on November 14, on its first date of sitting after the Durga Puja vacation.

The court also noted that Narain, who was transferred to Delhi on July 21, has declared that he is ready and willing to cooperate with the investigation.

The SIT is probing an allegation by a woman that she was gangraped by Narain and others on April 14 and May 1, on the basis of an FIR filed at Aberdeen Police Station in Port Blair on October 1.

The Bench allowed the SIT to interrogate and take all other steps such as medical examination of the petitioner in the course of interrogation.

A joint team of police officers from Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi had raided the house of Narain on October 18, following which he filed an application before the Delhi High Court praying for transit anticipatory bail.

A single bench of the Delhi High Court granted interim protection from arrest to Narain till October 28.

He, thereafter, filed an application before the Calcutta High Court praying for an extension of time on the ground that the next circuit bench at Port Blair will start from November 14, so that he gets a chance for anticipatory bail before it in the Andaman and Nicobar capital.

Madras Regiment observes 76th 'Infantry Day'

PNS ■ WELLINGTON | NILGIRIS

A day for the "Queen of Battles"! That was how officers and jawans of Wellington's Madras Regimental Centre describe October 27. Every year the day is observed as the Infantry Day as a mark of respect to the Infantry, rated as the backbone of the Indian Army.

On 27 October 1947 an infantry company of the First Battalion of the Sikh Regiment was airlifted from New Delhi to Srinagar to liberate Kashmir from the invading tribes who were supported by the Pakistan Army. Action was sanctioned after Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of access that acceded Jammu & Kashmir to India.

"This is the day we honour the supreme sacrifice of the infantry soldiers in fighting the Pakistani raiders," said Lt General Virendra Vats, Commandant, Defence Services Staff College, Wellington who along with Lt



General Devraj Anbu, the senior most veteran in the military station led the establishment in Nilgiris in paying homages to the bravehearts of the Infantry on the 76th Infantry Day.

The usually silent morning of MRC Centre woke up to the sound of Army Band and bugles along with the thumping of feet of the marching "Thambis" (as the MRC Wellington soldiers are addressed in military parlance).

Serving and retired officers and soldiers joined the celebrations and shared their reminiscences about the days they spent in Kashmir fighting the enemies whose only mission was the wiping out the last Kashmiri Pandit from the State.

Guj polls: Cong's 'Parivartan Sankalp' yatras from Oct 31

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Opposition Congress in Gujarat will take out 'Parivartan Sankalp' yatras from October 31 across five zones in the State, where Assembly polls are due by the end of this year, party functionaries said on Thursday.

The schedule for the elections to the 182-member

Gujarat Assembly is yet to be announced. Gujarat Congress chief spokesperson Manish Doshi said Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Ministers Digvijay Singh and Kamal Nath, and senior leader Mukul Wasnik will launch the marches from five different

towns. Through the 'Parivartan Sankalp Yatra', the Congress aims to create an atmosphere for change in Gujarat, where the Bharatiya Janata Party has been in power for close to three decades, he said.

As per the party's programme, Gehlot will launch the yatra from Palanpur in Banaskantha district of north Gujarat.

Sunak's core team lad has roots in Jharkhand

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

With Rishi Sunak becoming the Prime Minister of UK, the Pandey family of Sindri has suddenly came in the news. The reason is young lad — Prajwal Pandey, a core team member of Sunak's team and first generation immigrant to the UK has his roots in there. Pandey's parents Rajesh and Manisha Pandey are from Sindri. His grandfather Bagish Dutt Pandey worked in PDIL Sindri and still lives there with his family. Rajesh Pandey is his eldest son.

Amit Pandey, uncle of Prajwal, while talking to media persons informed that Prajwal was invited to join Rishi Sunak's core campaign team when Rishi stood for UK Prime Ministerial contest in August 2022. Prajwal worked with



many senior policy advisers to Rishi Sunak and regularly communicated with MPs, Ministers and Rishi himself. Prajwal worked in the communications and outreach division of the core team, said Amit, a technocrat working in Bangalore, but is now in Sindri working from home. Prajwal's father works in the defence department of Britain and his

mother is a school teacher, said Amit.

Giving details of Prajwal's achievements Amit said, he was elected member of UK Youth Parliament with record vote in March 2019 and gave speech in British parliament as a member of youth parliament in November 2019 when he was just 16 years old.

Prajwal joined conservative

party in 2019, when he was 16 years old. He was elected vice chairman of "Chelmsford Youth Strategy Group" in June 2019. Talking to media persons over phone his father Rajesh Pandey said, Prajwal studied in a prestigious King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford, Essex. He was a bright student and did extremely well in economics and maths.

He also is the winner of Harvard International Economics Essay Contest for the year 2021.

He was also elected co-chairman of Essex Climate Action Commission March 2020 at the age of 17 and there got an opportunity to work with many senior leaders like Lord Randall and UN Chief Scientists, peers of House of Lords in forming climate policy.

Why was no Dalit made India's PM: Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

While congratulating India-origin British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Bahujan Samaj Party national president Mayawati has questioned why no Dalit has been made prime minister of India till date, thus indicating her ambition to adorn the coveted post.

In a tweet, Mayawati said that the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress were waging a twitter war over the appointment of a minority member as prime minister of England but both were silent on one question — why so far no Dalit has been made the prime minister in India.

"Twitter war is going on in India between Congress and

BJP after Indian-origin Rishi Sunak finally created history by becoming the British prime minister.

Allegations and counter-allegations are going on everywhere, but political rights and justice are not being talked about. Due to which no Dalit has been able to become the prime minister in the country so far," she wrote in her tweet.

The BSP chief said that at a time when the rich and developed countries of America and Europe were battling and were constantly doing new experiments to handle the situation, the Indian rulers should also think about the country's interest and the future of the people here.

Scientist proposes...

Scientists have approved GM mustard for commercial cultivation; the Govt must clear that too

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee's (GEAC's) decision to approve genetically modified (GM) mustard for commercial cultivation is a step in the right direction. The GEAC's expert committee on GM mustard has accepted a scientific dossier. Deepak Pental, a former Delhi University vice-chancellor, prepared the dossier. The post-environmental release studies on pollinators like honey bees were cleared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. In short, scientists have approved GM mustard; now the ball is in the court of politicians. And it is here that the shoe pinches; often politicians are unable or unwilling to feel the pinch. It happened in 2009 when Jairam Ramesh, holding the environment portfolio, placed India's first GM food, Bt brinjal, under a moratorium, even though it got the regulatory approval. The scientist proposed, the politician disposed. The reason was the Congress-led



United Progressive Alliance, which was in power at that time, was quite influenced by Leftists. In fact, Congress president Sonia Gandhi had surrounded herself with a circus called the National Advisory Council (NAC) which was filled with professional revolutionaries, incorrigible commies, and anti-development activists. This bunch of people was opposed to anything sensible and reasonable. This was the reason that Ramesh had to bow to their demand and shelved the innovation. Will it be 2009 redux in the case of GM mustard?

To be sure, Prime Minister Modi is no Manmohan Singh; there is no 'super-prime minister' breathing down his neck. And there is no NAC, regularly coming

up with revenue-guzzling entitlement schemes. But Modi also has to face the naysayers—both from the Left and from the Right. The good thing is that Modi has little regard and less time for pinkish *jholawallahs*, the orphaned children of Marx and Mao. But there are also Sangh Parivar apparatchiks who remain opposed to everything that can help the nation. It may not be easy for Modi to dismiss his ideological brethren as antiquated activists. So, Swadeshi Jagran Manch co-convener Ashwini Mahajan has told the media that "GM mustard is neither Swadeshi nor safe. It is neither good for health nor for the environment." He alleged that it is herbicide-tolerant mustard and so there will be greater use of herbicides which have been proven to be carcinogenic. He wondered as to how the GEAC could give such approval when it is proven that glyphosate is carcinogenic. It may be pointed out here that the SJM has been resisting GM mustard for quite some time. It wrote to PM Modi in 2017, calling GM mustard crop as "unscientific, toxic and anti-bio-diversity." The Government must also remember that some people are temperamentally and doctrinally opposed to anything new. They opposed the Green Revolution. The Prime Minister will be well-advised to ignore the views of the opponents of GM mustard.

PICTALK



Enactment of air landed operations of the Indian Army during 'Shaurya Diwas' celebrations in Srinagar PTI

Rule of Law waning

The government's the world over are becoming autocratic and less responsive to people's needs

The rule of law in the world is on the wane and India is no exception. It is a sad commentary on the way world governments are functioning and becoming less democratic and unaccountable for their actions. Rule of Law Index for 2022 prepared by The World Justice Project (WJP) indicates that the 'rule of law is constantly going down. It is a declining trend for the fifth consecutive year. India Ranks 77 Out of 140. The European countries occupy the top positions. We have some solace that we are placed above China, but placed below Nepal. The trend towards autocracy is visible to a naked eye. Elizabeth Andersen, executive director of WJP has pointed out that authoritarian trends that predate the pandemic continue to erode the rule of law. She maintains that checks and balances on the authority of executive power are weakening and this has led to subdued human rights worldwide.

Even without a report, a layman can feel that his worth is shrinking in the government scheme of things. Though the governments trumpet their pro-people image they are usurping people's right at every available opportunity. For instance, people were confined to their homes during the lockdown on the pretext of controlling the pandemic. This curtailed people's right to move freely and they suffered economic hardships. The media in sync with the governments convinced people that it was for their good. The fact remains that several countries like Sweden and South Korea never had a lockdown but did just fine. Several measures could have been taken to control pandemic but were not employed. It is not just the right of the people that are being usurped but the whole process of governance has become mechanical and does not have a human approach to it. You would expect a government to be sensitive to the people's demands and act for their welfare in a democracy, instead, the governments are self-serving and care for their own survival rather than the well-being of the people who elected them in the first place. Many policies and programs have no value but are just an exercise in image building of the government which adds no value to their well-being still that is carried out in the name of development and nation-building. The gullible people are fed through mass media the importance of such projects meanwhile forgetting their sufferings caused due to government actions.

Shadow of F-16 over India US ties

India's unease at the sale of F-16s to Pakistan by USA is understandable but a failing Pakistani state with nukes is everybody's nightmare

In 1981, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi explicitly objected to the US proposal to sell 40 F16 fighter planes to Pakistan under the \$3.2 billion package. She didn't trust either Islamabad or Washington DC. Both Pakistan and the US were knowingly pursuing doublespeak to placate India on its apparent usage, even as this deal followed the unconstitutional takeover of the democratic government in a Military coup by Gen Zia-ul-Haq. Indira's suspicion of Zia-ul-Haq was prove right with his devious misadventures with the Khalistan movement, covert operations in Afghanistan (Operation Cyclone with CIA), fanning Islamic extremism, and accelerating the atomic bomb program. Throughout, the US was complicit with either funding Zia-ul-Haq's nefarious designs or overlooking the same. Almost immediately, Indira Gandhi had to sign a \$3.3 billion deal for Mirage-2000 fighter bombers on the rebound. The centrality of India as the foremost target of Pakistan's machinations was institutionalised and heightened in the Zia days.

Over 40 years later, the same F16s are back as the proverbial bone of contention as the US has yet again approved a \$450 million sustainment program for the upkeep of the same Pakistani F16s that had hacked the Indian government in 1981. Like then, when the rationale of Pakistan's territorial security was banded as the ostensible reason for supplying the same, today's supposed logic of 'current and future counterterrorism threats' is not making sense either, this side of the Line-of-Control (LOC). The External Affairs Minister of India rightfully slammed the move by stating, 'you are not fooling anybody by saying these things. The US above all would know the puerility of its statement with its experience with counterterrorism in neighbouring Afghanistan and the Middle Eastern theatre. The US stand is further exacerbated by the meaningless exercise in semantics that insists that the US



action is a 'sale' and 'not assistance' - as this move reneges on the explicit stand of denialism in security sale or aid, taken by former US President Donald Trump, in 2018. Trump had done some plain speak about Pakistan's patented 'lies and deceit', and of Islamabad giving, 'safe havens to agents of chaos, violence, and terror'.

Ironically, the latest U-turn in US policies comes on the heels of the humiliating withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, barely a year ago. Is the US government naively mistaken or deliberately upping the ante against India, as alluded to by Indian politicians? More likely than not, neither is true - irrespective of the convoluted stated language, the US would surely know the inefficacy of F16 fighter planes in counterterrorism, as also have clarity on the higher importance of India as a regional and strategic 'pivot', as opposed to Pakistan.

So, what explains the counterintuitive accommodation of Pakistani aspirations by the US? The answer lies in the complex interplay of entities that compose and run the Pakistani narrative i.e., the military, politicians, clergy, etc. With taints of 'foreign conspiracy' (read, US interference) surrounding the



ANARCHY IN A STATE WITH NUCLEAR ARMS WOULD HAVE UNIMAGINABLE CONSEQUENCES, SO TO THAT EXTENT, THE US CANNOT ALLOW THE PAKISTANI NATION TO 'FAIL', COMPLETELY

political discourse, the US must drown the accusations of the principal opposition party i.e., the vehemently anti-US, Imran Khan, with visibilised accommodation. Secondly, the incumbent coalition government is reeling under severe governance pressures and desperately needs to demonstrate some diplomatic 'wins', even if the same were to accrue in the space of optics. Thirdly, besides the incumbent coalition government, the US would also be punting on the Pakistani Military to retain a semblance of relevance and legitimacy in the wary eyes of Pakistani citizenry - as the Pakistani Military remains an essential ally to counterbalance the continuing threats from Afghanistan, and to strike therein, just like it did recently by 'taking out' terrorist Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul.

While the Indian External Affairs minister stated the obvious when he reflected on the US-Pakistan equation, 'it's a relationship that had neither ended up serving Pakistan well nor serving American interests well' - what was left unsaid was the cost of complete abandonment of Pakistan which would potentially lead the struggling nation to the status of an Afghanistan, Yemen



BHOPIINDER SINGH

or Somalia and completely destabilize the region. Anarchy in a state with nuclear arms would have unimaginable consequences, so to that extent, the US cannot allow the Pakistani nation to 'fail', completely. Therefore, the US plea that the current 'sale' does not entail any new capabilities, weapons, or munitions towards the Pakistani preparedness is frankly true, albeit, done with a larger purpose that must remain unstated.

Whereas India continues to enjoy unprecedented waiver under CAATSA sanctions (imposed after India bought S-400 missile defense systems from Russia) to purchase cutting-edge weaponry and technological access from the US. With China emerging as the primary enemy of the US, the role and relevance of India in the US calculus can never be overemphasized. India has expectedly called the bluff of the US language in a calibrated manner to demonstrate its diplomatic muscularity without jeopardizing its strategic and growing relationship with the US.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AAP SHEDS SECULAR IMAGE

Sir — We are religious or atheist, it should not affect the country and society. Constitutionally our country is secular. That is, it is wrong to approve or support any religion by the government system. But for the last eight years, or even earlier, 107 years before when the Hindu Mahasabha was formed in 1907. After that in 1925 when the RSS was established. Since then, religion and spirituality started to be made political issues. The ruling BJP at the Centre, which used to do politics of religion in a veiled manner, is now doing it openly.

The big contribution of bigotry and majoritarianism is also behind its continued success. Perhaps seeing this, Arvind Kejriwal, who once claimed to do a different kind of politics, has to take the help of Lakshmi & Ganesh. Those who once accused the BJP of spreading religious hysteria are now trying their best to be majoritarian and appear themselves. Those who once sought votes for their works, today in the NRC, CAA, and Bilkees Bano case, have kept silent. This simply means that the AAP party is with the BJP.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

DON'T BRUSH ASIDE MPI

Sir — Government is vocal against the report on the Multi-poverty Index which has slipped still further down to 107. Using the income criteria at \$2.1 up from \$1.9 is realistic given the fact cost of living is increasing with inflation which is no less in India as well. To say that MPI should have not been so low because the government is taking care of nutrition, sanitation, health, water, and free food raises a very serious question. The government is expected to spend on social welfare out of the limited budget.

The social welfare out of the budget is meant to meet the gaps in the expenditure each one is expected to do for himself and it cannot be total support for the person to remain idle. Secondly, when the dollar is heading forward leaving other currencies behind, the World Bank cannot afford to overlook the Purchasing

New Congress president



Sonia Gandhi passes off the baton of Congress Presidentship to Mallikarjun Kharge through free and fair elections by setting an example of the true democratic spirit. Hardly surprising because as far as grace and dignity are concerned, perhaps not a single Indian politician can hold a candle to Sonia Gandhi. Far from expressing disgust following the decision of withdrawing SPG cover for her and their family or criticising the Narendra Modi government for it; Sonia Gandhi had not only maintained her immense dignity, she had also thanked the force for accomplishing its responsibility. In these times of vitiated political environment where foul talk, rhetoric, personal attack, mudslinging and character assassination of 'adversaries' have become the norm; Sonia Gandhi, as usual, has again stood tall

among the debris of Indian politics and displayed what the essence of civility is all about! Never does she descend to the gutter level of her political adversaries who leave no stone unturned to launch a vicious filthy personal attack upon her and her family with her sage-resembling silence resembling the greatest retort!

Be it forsaking the platter of Prime ministership in 2004 (though as an Indian citizen, she was fully eligible to don the highest executive chair) to prompt resignation from Member of Parliament following the office-of-profit controversy and getting herself re-elected. Sonia Gandhi is nothing but a picture of ethics, principle values and poise. Coupled with her secular mindset, Rahul Gandhi's 'foreigner' mother has proved herself much more Indian than many Indians (by birth) who lead dishonest and unprincipled lives or divide this multi-religious heterogeneous society by sowing seeds of communal hatred to reap electoral dividend and gain power. It is high time Indians learn to choose their leaders by appreciating the true worth in them and reject those self-obsessed megalomaniacs.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

power parity once the poverty criteria are endorsed by all countries. Therefore condemning the report by the World Bank will not do any favor to the poor. Otherwise, the reality is that there is no support for urban casual workers and spending on MNREGA to take care of the rural livelihood cannot be kept so high because of the budgetary constraint. The people after all are expected to spend on their daily necessities every moment. Therefore, the criteria of \$2.1 should be accepted.

RK Arya | Faridabad

CHALLENGES GALORE FOR SUNAK

Sir — In Rishi Sunak, Britain has received its 57th Prime Minister. He also became the third occupant of No. 10, Downing Street in less than three months, and the

first-ever non-white PM of the country. But the significance of the first person of colour becoming a British PM may get lost in the class dynamics of the country's critical political moment. The past few weeks have seen the UK markets hit with storm and turbulence due to Liz Truss's botched and unfunded plans to cut taxes for higher earners, amid a cost of living crisis and with the country facing a looming black hole in public finances. The challenges before Rishi Sunak are multifarious, the foremost being to shore up an economy sliding towards recession and reeling after his predecessor's brief and disastrous experiment in libertarian economics.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

Till the last minute, efforts were made to make Rahul Gandhi the party president as only he can challenge Modi and the government. We congratulate Mallikarjun Kharge and will work to strengthen the party.

Rajasthan Chief Minister —Ashok Gehlot

Historically, the world was unipolar, bipolar or tripolar, where you had to choose sides. One thing is very clear for both the UAE and India is that we don't need to choose sides. UAE's Minister of State for AI —Omar Sultan Al Olama

Not even Alia has said 'Shiva, Shiva' so many times in the film. I've become a ghost by dancing so much. Alia has lost her voice by singing Kesariya at every event. What more should I do now?

Actor —Ranbir Kapoor

Media and critics have put enough pressure on Virat Kohli- Chup kar diya na sabko?

Former cricketer —Ravi Shastri

It's an emotional moment for me ... I want to thank the Congress for making a worker's son, an ordinary worker, the president of the party.

Congress president —Mallikarjun Kharge

FIRST COLUMN

INDIA HAS TO ENGAGE WITH THE WEST

Xi's re-election spell trouble for India, world



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The National Congress of the Communist party of China last week re-elected Xi Jinping to lead the country for at least next five years. The Congress reiterated that after Mao, Xi was the most powerful leader in China's modern history, even though Xi may like to believe it otherwise.

Xi's vision of China is one which is expansionist, and which will not shy away from using military power to make territorial gains. "We have developed well-conceived and complete strategic plans for advancing the cause of the Party and the country in the new era. We have put forward the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and proposed promoting national rejuvenation through a Chinese path to modernisation. We have made well-coordinated efforts to advance our great struggle, our great project, our great cause, and our great dream," said Xi in his opening speech to the Congress.

What he hinted was using force to, if need be, to reclaim territories, which China considers its own. The model for governance in these reclaimed lands would be what it has been evangelising for nearly two decades, One Nation Two systems" (ONTS). The exhibits of the success of ONTS are Hong Kong and Macao, according to China.



To an external observer what this system has achieved is, provided a highly centralised governance model in place in these two regions with the remote control being operated by the mainland government and local autonomy achieved through China appointed "patriots" in key government positions. Xi warned during the same speech: "We will crack down hard on anti-China elements who attempt to create chaos in Hong Kong and Macao."

The next step for ONTS is resolving the Taiwan issue which emerged as a key commitment from the Congress meeting and Xi's re-election. It was amply made clear that China would not shy away from use of force, if need be, to achieve its stated target of complete reunification and integrate Taiwan with the Mainland. This is the scenario many China watchers had been pointing out in the run up to President Xi Jinping's third term.

The parallels they drew are with Russian President Vladimir Putin who has been at the helm of affairs in another globally powerful region for nearly a decade now. Putin, to stay at the helm of affairs, rekindled the nationalist nerve and vowed on the great Russian past, thereby claiming historical ownership over Crimea and now Ukraine. The world is now aware of what havoc a leader elected through undemocratic processes can bring. Millions of people in Europe are looking at a hard cold winter, while many developing countries across Asia and Africa are staring at starving citizens, all due to high energy and food prices. Now China's stated policy to use force for reunification of Taiwan opens up another war front.

This theatre of war would be closer to India and much of South and Southeast Asia, which is home to nearly one fourth of the world population. This conflict zone, if it blows into a full-fledged war, could be the ground for the Third World War where Western powers would face off China and Russia.

India would have to take a stance, whether it wants to maintain its agile multilateralism, i.e., pick and choose and align with global powers on commonalities or go in with one bloc. At this point of time given Sino-Indian relations at historical lows, over the military clashes in India's north-western regions and China's historical claims over Arunachal Pradesh, chances are bleak that India will partner the Russian-Chinese bloc. Meanwhile India has to engage more deeply with its Western allies and secure their trust in key strategic areas.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

Hindus are pluralistic, and inclusive by nature

The spirit of cultural nationalism, universal brotherhood and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam are ingrained in Hinduism which is essentially pluralistic

The conspiracy to malign Hinduism and Hindutva has been going on for years. For about a thousand years, the Mughals and the British attacked the Sanatana culture and then, after Independence, the Nehru family of the Congress and the leftists who ruled India and enjoyed power for 60 years, carried it forward.

Now, in the last eight years, with the nationalist government cracking down on those who attacked the Sanatana culture of India, some parties practicing appeasement politics have started a campaign to spread propaganda against most of the population in India under their patronage. The Opposition parties have gone as far as to put India's democracy and secularism in jeopardy, but in reality all minorities, including the Muslims, feel secure in India, mainly because of the tolerant and liberal nature of the majority (Hindu) population. India's democracy and secularism will continue as long as the country's majority is Hindu.


The atrocities and mistreatment of minorities, particularly of Hindus, in Islamic countries is well known. There are 57 Muslim-majority countries in the world but none of them is secular. Some Islamic countries like Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Indonesia have a democratic system, but there too democracy is in danger because of Islamic fundamentalism.

History also serves as a living example, telling us that wherever Hindutva and Sanatana culture were under attack, democracy came to an end. Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh are a few examples. Statistics also make this quite evident. Hindus made up 13 per cent of Pakistan's overall population in 1951; by 2017, that number had dropped to 2 per cent.

There have been numerous different civilisations throughout history, including the Chinese, Mesopotamian, Babylonian, Roman, and Greek, as well as the Inca and Mayan civilisations in South America. All of this is now documented in historical records. But the civilisation of India is such that it has remained the same since the earliest days.

Islam is practiced by 25 per cent of the world's population, compared to Christianity, which is practiced by 31 per cent. Hinduism is practiced by roughly 15 per cent of the population, Buddhism by about 7 per cent, and other religions by another 7 per cent of the population. The remaining 15 per cent of people do not practice any religion. Among all religions, Hinduism is the only one where there is freedom of debate on religious subjects with an open mind. In other religions, one cannot question their religion; they must believe what is said to them.

India is a Hindu nation since time immemorial with secularism at its core.



IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE HINDU RELIGION, WHICH PAVES THE PATH FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD, HAS CONTINUED TO SUFFER IN INDIA. EVEN TODAY, THE CONGRESS AND THE LEFT CONTINUE TO GLORIFY THE INVADERS WHO DESTROYED INDIA

(The author is the Vice-President of BJP in Bihar and a Member of Bihar Legislative Council)



Indian civilisation has been such that its culture is nationalism. Except India and Nepal, there is no other country in the world where Hindus are in majority. India has never tended to rule over others; this is India's uniqueness. It has always been told about winning oneself in spirituality here. To illustrate this, the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee wrote a poem.

In 1995, the Supreme Court also commented on Hinduism and Hindutva, saying, "Hinduism and Hindutva is a way of life and to compare it with bigotry would be a falsehood or a flaw." Mohan Bhagwat, the Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, also said, "Hindu and India cannot be separated, because without Hindu there is no India and without India there can be no Hindu. It is a Hindu who practices solitude on the basis of spirituality, benevolence in the world, to be safe everywhere on the basis of power, to harm no one and to elevate everyone, live by this conviction."

This is the reason that till date there has never been an incident in India where the religious and cultural sentiments may have been hurt by the majority—or a mosque, gurdwara, church has been destroyed. Rather, in India, minorities are protected by the Hindu majority.

Not only this, when there was an attempt by Islamic invaders and clergy to destroy the Sanatana culture, it was saved by the Hindus by fighting constitutional and judicial battles for years.

It is unfortunate that the Hindu religion, which paves the

path for the rest of the world, has continued to suffer in India for political reasons. Even today, the Congress and the Left continue to glorify the invaders who destroyed India. The Congress has always been promoting appeasement by propagating Hindu religion. Salman Khurshid, a Congress leader and a former defense minister, compared Hindutva to the Islamic terrorist groups Boko Haram and ISIS in his book Sunrise over Ayodhya P Chidambaram used the offensive term "safron terrorism" while serving as the home minister.

India is still suffering from the consequences of such a narrow mentality. In the land of Maharishi Kashyap, as soon as the population of a section grew unbalanced, there was a massacre against the Hindus and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. Recently, it was reported that schools are being pushed to close on Fridays rather than Sundays in the Muslim-dominated parts of various states, including Jharkhand and Bihar. In 2016, as soon as the population of Hindus decreased in Kairana, Muslims started creating a ruckus. As a result, Hindu families migrated.

Celebrating Durga Puja is prohibited in some Muslim-majority areas of Bengal. Hundreds of Hindu families have migrated from Malpura in Tonk district of Rajasthan. The Mewati region of Haryana is known as Mini Pakistan for these reasons. In July, a conspiracy by PFI to make India an Islamic nation was exposed from Phulwarisharif in Bihar. In the documents recovered, the tar-

get of making India an Islamic country has been set on the completion of 100 years of Independence in 2047.

Today the country is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address on Independence Day, named the period of next 25 years as 'Amrit Kaal'. He asked everyone to work on their goals in that direction. At the same time, some organizations within the country have been working to dissolve poison in this nectar period. In such a situation, if there is no nationalist organization and nationalist government in India, then after 25 years how will India be 2047? If the conspiracy of divisive and separatist organizations continues and the politics of appeasement keeps getting promoted, then imagine what will happen to the Kashmir Valley? What will happen to the North-Eastern states and the parts of Bengal and Bihar which are adjacent to Bangladesh? How dire the situation in Kerala can become?

India cannot be imagined without Hindutva. Today, if democracy is alive in India and secularism intact, then its root-cause is India's Sanatana culture and tradition. The people here have tolerance. India is a secular nation, so we need to respect each other's culture and religion but not forget our own civilization which has Hinduism at its core. If the spirit of cultural nationalism, universal brotherhood and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is to be kept alive in India, we all must keep on cultivating Hinduism and Hindutva with readiness.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

"TODAY, I APPEAL TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT THAT ON OUR CURRENCY NOTES PICTURES OF LAKSHMI JI AND GANESH JI SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

—DELHI CM ARVIND KEJRIWAL



THE BLESSINGS OF LORD GANESHA AND GODDESS LAKSHMI ARE ALREADY ON INDIA. INDIA HAS RISEN TO BECOME THE FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY.

—BJP SPOKESPERSON SAMBIT PATRA

National plan needed to check snakebite fatalities

Reduced snakebite fatalities in India would result from effective interventions by the government and other stakeholders



PRAKASH KUMAR SAHOO JOYITA ROY CHOWDHURY



YASHOBANTA PARIDA

(Prakash Kumar Sahoo is a Lecturer of Economics at Vikram Deb College, Jeyapore, Odisha; Joyita Roy Chowdhury & Yashobanta Parida are Assistant Professors of Economics at FLAME University, Pune.)

snakebite incidents and fatalities globally. This has made India the country with the most prevalent incidence of snakebites. As per the 'Accidental Deaths & Farm Suicides in India' report, 10,450 snakebite cases were reported in India in 2021, out of which 10,382 people died and 64 were injured. Out of the deaths caused by snake bites in India, 6,432 males and 3,950 females lost their lives during the same year. Moreover, the data confirms that Madhya Pradesh ranked first in terms of deaths due to snake bites (2,732), followed by Odisha (1,019), Chhattisgarh (909), and Uttar Pradesh (844) during 2021.

According to the report, "Trends in snakebite deaths in India from 2000 to 2019 in a

nationally representative mortality study,' 2.8 million snakebite cases are reported in India each year. In addition, more than 1.2 million people died from snakebites between 2000 and 2019, accounting for an average of 58,000 deaths per annum. The study shows that up to 94 per cent of all snakebite-related deaths occur in rural India. The report also reveals that eight states, i.e., Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, are responsible for 70 per cent of all deaths related to snakebites during the rainy season.

Snakebites are more common in tropical regions and primarily in agricultural and densely forested areas because

poisonous snakes live in these areas. Even though most of the species of snakes found in India are non-venomous, the Indian cobra, the Common Krait, Russell's Viper, and the Saw-scaled Viper are extremely poisonous snakes. The data shows that poor and rural populations are particularly vulnerable to snakebites. Most snakebites happen while people travel, work in the agricultural fields, or even sleep in their houses at night. Due to the lack of transportation and proper healthcare facilities in many rural parts of the country, the rural population is more susceptible to snakebites.

People who suffered from snake bites died mainly for two reasons: no access to antivenom and considerable delay in getting the antivenom injection.

In some cases, people eventually turn to traditional therapies and witchcraft to treat patients suffering from snakebites instead of modern medical facilities. Many of India's most severely affected states also lack the facilities necessary to access the antivenoms that must be administered immediately.

The number of snakebite-related cases is highly under-reported because of the government's apathy towards proper documentation and lack of research. Another problem is a lack of resources and wide enough antivenom distribution in rural hospitals. Because of the lack of medical equipment and trained personnel in primary health-

care facilities, the situation is worsening.

In 2017, the WHO classified snakebite poisoning as a neglected tropical disease to tackle the issues. In 2019, a global project began to reduce the number of fatalities and disabilities caused by snakebite poisoning by half by 2030.

The Indian Council of Medical Research constituted a National Task Force in 2020 to conduct research on snakebites in India and initiated a program to build adequate capacity in the healthcare system.

Snakebite deaths in India can be decreased through community education, the provision of better health facilities, adequate medical staff training, and better pro-

vision of antivenom. Policymakers and governments must pay attention to the long-term, enduring impacts of snakebites and the financial cost imposed on society due to the same. In 2015, the Government of Odisha declared snakebites 'State Specific Disasters.' It provided ex-gratia assistance of Rs 4 lakh per deceased to the next kin of the victim.

This form of financial assistance is not adequate to save human life against snakebites. In addition to the ex-gratia assistance, there are other critical needs for preventing deaths. These include antivenom availability at the village-level health center, creating a massive awareness campaign, and implementing a national action plan.

Ukraine battles intensify; Russia eyes space retaliation

AP ■ KYIV

Moscow-appointed authorities have fled the capital of southern Ukraine's Kherson region along with tens of thousands of residents as Ukrainian forces attacked Russia's hold on the city Thursday while fighting also intensified in the country's east.

Amid the battles, a senior Russian official warned that Western commercial satellites used for military purposes in support of Ukraine were a "legitimate target for a retaliatory strike."

Ukraine has pushed ahead with an offensive to reclaim the Kherson region and its capital of the same name, which Russian forces captured during the first days of a war now in its ninth month.

More than 70,000 residents from the Kherson city area have evacuated in recent days, the region's Kremlin-installed governor, Vladimir Saldo, said Thursday.

Members of the Russia-backed regional administration were included in the evacuation, the deputy governor, Kirill Stremousov said. Monuments to Russian heroes were moved, along with the remains of

Grigory Potemkin, the Russian general who founded Kherson in the 18th century, that were kept at the city's St. Catherine's Church.

Ukrainian forces were surrounding Kherson from the west and attacking Russia's foothold on the west bank of the Dnieper River, which divides the region and the country.

In eastern Ukraine, Russian forces continued to bombard the Donetsk region city of Bakhmut, making slow gains toward the center.

Amid the heavy combat on two fronts, a Russian official warned that the West could become part of the conflict.

The deputy head of Russia's delegation at a United Nations arms control panel, Konstantin Vorontsov, described the use of US and other Western commercial satellites for military purposes during the fighting in Ukraine as "extremely dangerous."

"The quasi-civilian infrastructure could be a legitimate target for a retaliatory strike" Vorontsov warned without elaborating.

As they have all month, Russian forces carried out attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure that have caused increasing worry ahead of winter.



A Russian drone attack early Thursday hit an energy facility near the capital, causing a fire, said Kyiv region Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba. He said in a video statement that the latest attacks inflicted "very serious damage."

"The Russians are using drones and missiles to destroy Ukraine's

energy system ahead of the winter and terrorize civilians," Kuleba said in televised remarks.

Kuleba announced new rolling blackouts and urged consumers to save power. He said authorities were still pondering over specifics of the blackouts needed to restore the damaged power facilities.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, said rolling blackouts would also be introduced in the neighboring Chernihiv, Cherkasy and Zhytomyr regions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that Russian attacks have already destroyed 30%

of the country's energy infrastructure.

In a likely response to Russia's attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure, a power plant was attacked just outside Sevastopol, a port in the Russian-annexed region of Crimea. The plant suffered minor damage in a drone attack, according to city leader Mikhail Razvozhayev.

Razvozhayev said electricity supplies were uninterrupted.

Crimea, a region slightly larger than Sicily which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has faced drone attacks and explosions amid the fighting in Ukraine. In a major setback for Russia, a powerful truck bomb blew up a section of a strategic bridge linking Crimea to Russia's mainland on Oct. 8.

A senior Ukrainian military officer accused Russia of planning to stage explosions at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and blame them on Ukraine in a false flag attack.

Gen. Oleksii Gromov, the chief of the main operational department of the Ukrainian military's general staff, pointed to Moscow's repeated unfounded allegations that Ukraine was plotting to detonate a radioactive dirty bomb as a possible signal that Moscow was planning explosions at

the plant, Europe's largest nuclear power station.

Russia took control of the Zaporizhzhia plant in the opening days of the invasion. Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of attacking the plant, whose reactors were shut down following continuous shelling.

Gromov also charged Thursday that Russian forces may have staged explosions at residential buildings in the city of Kherson before retreating from the city "to inflict a critical damage to the infrastructure of the areas being reclaimed by Ukraine."

The war in Ukraine and the resulting energy crisis is likely to cause global demand for fossil fuels to peak or flatten out, according to a report released Thursday by the Paris-based International Energy Agency, largely due to the fall in Russian exports.

"Today's energy crisis is delivering a shock of unprecedented breadth and complexity," the IEA said, releasing its annual report, the World Energy Outlook.

The blow to governments, the report said, was forcing the world's more advanced economies to accelerate structural changes toward renewable energy sources.

Russia, NATO hold nuclear drills as Ukraine villages pounded



AP ■ KYIV

NATO and Russia's military alike staged planned annual nuclear exercises Wednesday as the Russian president repeated the unfounded claim that Ukraine plans to set off a radioactive "dirty bomb."

On the battlefield, Russian forces pounded more than 40 Ukrainian villages over the past day. Russian President Vladimir Putin remotely monitored the drills of his strategic nuclear forces, which involved multiple practice launches of ballistic and cruise missiles in a show of force. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin that the exercise simulated a "massive nuclear strike" retaliating for a nuclear attack on Russia.

The Biden administration said Russia provided advance notice of the annual drills.

NATO is carrying out its own long-planned annual nuclear exercises in northwestern Europe.

Without providing any evidence, in remarks carried by Russian TV, Putin said Ukraine plans to "use a so-called dirty bomb" as a provocation" and contended the United States was using Ukraine as a "battering ram" against Russia and its regional allies, turning the country into a "testing ground for military-biological experiments."

It was the first time Putin himself made the unsubstantiated dirty bomb allegation, which his officials have been repeating since last week.

Ukraine and its Western allies have denied the claims and contend that Russia, facing setbacks on the battlefield, might itself try to detonate a "dirty bomb" — which uses explosives to scatter radioactive waste to sow terror — or go further and tap its vast nuclear weapon arsenal.

Shoigu on Wednesday called his counterparts from India and China to share Moscow's concern about "possible Ukrainian provocations involv-

ing a dirty bomb," according to the Russian Defence Ministry.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called Russia's unsubstantiated statements "absurd."

"Allies reject this blatantly false accusation, and Russia must not use false pretexts to escalate the war further," Stoltenberg told reporters at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday.

He underlined that the 30-nation military organisation "will not be intimidated or deterred from supporting Ukraine's right to self-defence for as long as it takes."

Despite the Western dismissals, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov insisted that Moscow had information about "an ongoing preparation in Ukraine for such a terror attack."

Slovenia's government said Russia has been engaging in a disinformation campaign about the "dirty bombs," using a 2010 photo from the European Union country's Agency for Radioactive Waste titled "Ukraine's capacities to create the dirty bomb."

The photo shows bags containing smoke detectors bearing inscriptions in Slovenian reading "radioaktivno," or radioactive.

The Slovenian government says the detectors contain a radioactive source but it isn't one of those listed below the photo in the Russian Foreign Ministry release. Slovenia's government said on Twitter that its radioactive waste is stored safely and is not used for dirty bombs.

While continuing to issue unsubstantiated claims that Ukraine is planning provocations, Putin also is still sending signals that he's open to negotiations with Kyiv.

The latest message came via Umaro Mokhtar Sissoco Embalo, President of Guinea Bissau, who visited Kyiv to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Chinese, Russia Defence chiefs hold telephone conference

AP ■ BEIJING

Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe held a recent telephone call with his Russia counterpart, Sergei Shoigu, to "exchange views on international and regional issues of mutual concern," an official said Thursday.

Speaking at a monthly briefing, Defence Ministry spokesperson Col. Tan Kefei gave no further details and did not say exactly when the call took place.

China has tacitly backed Russia in its aggression against Ukraine, accusing the US and NATO of provoking the conflict and refusing to refer to it as an invasion in deference to Moscow. China has stopped short of providing Russia with arms or becoming directly involved in the conflict, something the US has strongly warned against.

Just weeks before Russia's

February invasion, Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a joint statement with Russian President Vladimir Putin saying their countries had a "no limits" friendship.

Putin reaffirmed that relationship most recently in a congratulatory message to Xi on Sunday on his receiving an unprecedented third term as head of China's Communist Party.

Shoigu called his counterparts in India and China on Wednesday to share Moscow's concern about "possible Ukrainian provocations involving a dirty bomb," according to the Russian Defence Ministry.

China and Russia have increasingly aligned their foreign policies in opposition to the US-led Western world order. However, Russia's setbacks in its invasion have seen Beijing take an increasingly dominant role in



the relationship, although China is also currently dealing with a faltering economy. The Russian

invasion has refocused attention on China's threat to use military force to annex Taiwan, the self-

governing island republic and close U.S. Ally that it claims as its own territory.

Taiwan has joined the US and its allies in backing Ukraine. On Wednesday, its foreign minister, Joseph Wu, said Taipei would offer an additional \$56 million to Kyiv to reconstruct schools, hospitals and other infrastructure destroyed by Russia. Taiwan will also offer scholarships for Ukrainians to study on the island, Wu said.

Ukrainian legislator Kira Rudik, who is part of a delegation visiting Taiwan this week, said the island could be the next front in the fight for democracy.

"This is why we need to support each other, this is why we are getting closer and closer in our relationship. We are going to win this war together," Rudik was quoted as saying by Taiwan's Central News Agency.

Putin rules out using nuclear weapons in Ukraine

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday denied having any intentions of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine but described the conflict there as part of alleged efforts by the West to secure its global domination, which he insisted are doomed to fail.

Speaking at a conference of international foreign policy experts, Putin said it's pointless for Russia to strike Ukraine with nuclear weapons.

"We see no need for that," Putin said. "There is no point in that, neither political, nor military"

In a long speech full of diatribes against the US and its allies, Putin accused the US and its allies of trying to dictate their terms to other nations in a "dangerous, bloody and dirty" domination game.

Putin, who sent his troops



into Ukraine on February 24, has cast Western support for Ukraine as part of broad efforts by Washington and its allies to enforce its will upon others through what they call a rules-based world order.

He argued that the world has reached a turning point, when "the West is no longer able to dictate its will to the humankind but still tries to do it, and the majority of nations

no longer want to tolerate it."

The Russian leader claimed that the Western policies will foment more chaos, adding that "he who sows the wind will reap the whirlwind."

Putin claimed that "humankind now faces a choice: accumulate a load of problems that will inevitably crush us all or try to find solutions that may not be ideal but working and could make the world more stable and secure."

The Russian leader said Russia isn't the enemy of the West but will continue to oppose the purported diktat of Western neo-liberal elites, accusing them of trying to subdue Russia.

"Their goal is to make Russia more vulnerable and turn it into an instrument for fulfilling their geopolitical tasks, they have failed to achieve it and they will never succeed," Putin said.

Poland removes 4 communist-era Red Army monuments

AP ■ WARSAW

Poland on Thursday dismantled four communist-era monuments to Red Army soldiers in a renewed drive to remove symbols of Moscow's post-World War II domination and to stress its condemnation of Moscow's war on neighbouring Ukraine.

Workers used drills and heavy equipment to destroy the 1945 monuments at four different locations across Poland. Most of them were in the form of concrete obelisks dedicated to Red Army soldiers who fell while fighting to defeat Nazi German troops.

The head of the state Institute of National Remembrance, Karol Nawrocki, has called for the removals.

He said the monuments stood for a system that was guilty of enslaving and murdering its own people and other nations, including Poles.

"This is a monument to dis-



grace, a monument of contempt of the winners over the victims," Nawrocki said in Glubczyce, in the south of Poland, as workers were readying to remove the figure of a Red Army soldier prior to dismantling the entire monument.

"In 1945, the Soviets did not bring liberation, they brought another captivity. They were capturing Poland and treating it as booty," Nawrocki said in an emotional speech.

He said the spirit of that system is still present in the Russian Federation, which is killing civilians in Ukraine.

Russia may again block Antarctic marine protections



AP ■ WELLINGTON

Call it a cold war. Delegations from Russia and Ukraine are among those meeting in Australia this week to decide the future of Antarctica's pristine waters.

Conservationists say new marine protected areas and rules to prevent overfishing are desperately needed, but that Russia could use its veto-like powers to once again block progress.

Achieving the required consensus for action among this diverse group of 27, which also

includes China, the United States and the European Union, has always been an immense challenge.

And when two of the members are at war — and relations between China and many Western nations have deteriorated — consensus looms as an even bigger obstacle. Just this month, Russian bombing in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, partially destroyed Ukraine's Antarctic research center.

Yet despite the enormous political hurdles, some remain hopeful that scientific arguments will win through. The U.S. Is paying more attention to the region under President Joe Biden, and this year has sent a relatively high-level delegation led by Monica Medina, an assistant secretary in the State Department.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Medina said Antarctica was "a really fragile, crumbling part of the planet that needs all our help to withstand the challenges we face with climate change."

UN optimistic on Ukraine grain deal; Russia has reservations

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

A senior UN official said Wednesday he is "relatively optimistic" the deal for returning Ukrainian grain and Russian grain and fertiliser to world markets will be extended beyond mid-November, but Russia's UN ambassador said Moscow needs to see movement on its own exports first.

The deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey in July has led to more than 8.5 million metric tons of foodstuffs being shipped from three Black Sea ports in Ukraine.

But Russian envoy Vassily Nebenzia told reporters that "Russia needs to see the export of its grain and fertilisers in the world market, which has never happened since the beginning of the deal."

The deal has a 120-day limit. U.N. Humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths, who has focused on the Ukraine side of the deal, and senior U.N. Trade official Rebeca Grynspan, who



has focused on the Russian side, were in Moscow earlier this month for talks with Russian officials including on an extension.

"We are keen to see that renewed promptly, now," Griffiths said in response to a question. "It's important for the market. It's important for just continuity. And I'm still relatively optimistic that we're going to get that. We're working hard."

Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine cut off shipments of grain and fertilizer from the two key world suppliers, causing food shortages and rising prices

especially in developing countries. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres first raised the critical need to restart the supply of Ukraine's agricultural production and Russia's grain and fertilizer to world markets in late April during meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv.

Guterres then proposed the deal, pointing to fear that the war could further worsen hunger for up to 181 million people, particularly in poorer developing countries.

West and Russia clash over UN probe of drone use in Ukraine

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The U.S. And its Western allies on the Security Council insisted Wednesday that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has the right to investigate if Russia has used Iranian drones to attack civilians and power plants in Ukraine.

They dismissed Moscow's argument that the U.N. Chief would be violating the U.N. Charter. Russia's U.N. Ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, who called the council meeting, argued that only the Security Council can mandate an investigation. He cited Article 100 of the charter, which says the secretary-general "shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the organisation."

U.S. Deputy ambassador Robert Wood called Russia's contention "simply dumbfounding" and an attempt "to deflect attention from its own egregious wrongdoing in



Ukraine." French Ambassador Nicolas De Riviere accused Russia of constantly violating the U.N. Charter "and trampling on its principles by invading its neighbour and claiming to annex its territories."

Britain's deputy ambassador, James Kariuki, called it "another attempt by Russia to distract from its crimes in Ukraine, and Iran and Russia's failure to abide by their international obligations."

The Western envoys said the Security Council's time is being

wasted by Russia, which is engaged in a blitz of activity at the council. Russia called closed-door consultations Tuesday about its unfounded allegations that Ukraine is preparing a dirty bomb.

It called Wednesday's meeting to try to prevent the investigation of its purported use of Iranian drones. And it called a meeting Thursday on its claims that secret American labs in Ukraine were engaged in biological warfare — a charge denied by the U.S. And Ukraine.

XI VISITS MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY BASE AS HE VOWS TO MAKE CHINA MODERN SOCIALIST COUNTRY

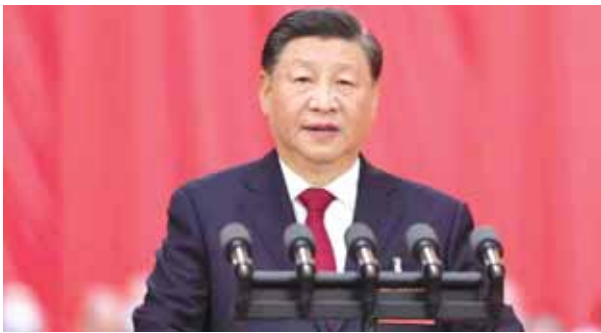
PTI ■ BEIJING

Days after winning a record 3rd five-year term, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday visited the revolutionary base of the ruling Communist Party's founder Mao Zedong at Yan'an as a symbolic gesture to highlight his pledge to make China a modern socialist country.

Xi, 69, was elected as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on October 23 at the once-in-a-five-year Congress of the party, becoming the only leader after Mao to get re-elected for an unprecedented 3rd five-year tenure after completing 10 years in power.

All his predecessors retired after two five-year terms, abiding by a well-observed rule to ensure collective leadership in the party and to avert the one-party state from becoming a one-leader country.

Xi led the newly-elected seven-member Politburo



Standing Committee to visit Yan'an, an old revolutionary base in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. They visited the site where the 7th CPC National Congress was held, Mao's residence and an exhibition at the Yan'an Revolutionary Memorial Hall, which features the history of the 13 years during which the CPC Central Committee was based in Yan'an, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. The other members of the Standing Committee Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi

accompanied Xi on his visit. As he consolidated his hold over the party packing influential posts with his followers, Xi like Mao is widely expected to continue in power for life.

The 7th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party was held in 1945 in Yan'an for safety in view of the second Sino-Japanese war.

In his opening speech at the party Congress on October 16, Xi pledged to make China the first modern Socialist country. "From this day forward, the central task of the

China accused of using overseas bases to target dissidents

AP ■ THE HAGUE

China has reportedly established dozens of "overseas police stations" in nations around the world that activists fear could be used to track and harass dissidents as part of Beijing's crackdown on corruption. Information about the outposts underscored concerns about the ruling Chinese Communist Party's influence over its citizens abroad, sometimes in ways deemed illegal by other countries, as well as the undermining of democratic institutions and the theft of economic and political secrets by bodies affiliated with the one-party state.

Spanish-based non-gov-

ernment group Safeguard Defenders published a report last month called "110 Overseas. Chinese Transnational Policing Gone Wild" that focused on the foreign stations.

The Dutch government said this week it was looking into whether two such stations — one a virtual office in Amsterdam and the other at a physical address in Rotterdam — were established in the Netherlands.

"We are investigating the activities of these so-called police centers. Once there is more clarity on the matter, we will decide on appropriate action," the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Communist Party of China will be to lead the Chinese

people of all ethnic groups in a concerted effort to realise the

Second Century Goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all respects and to advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernisation. Only by taking root in the rich historical and cultural soil of the country and the nation, the truth of Marxism flourish here," he said.

Xi was elected to the Central Committee on Saturday, to the Political Bureau and the Standing Committee and then as General Secretary on Sunday with relative ease as the Congress passed the key amendment to the Party's Constitution reinforcing his core status with the directive that all party members have the obligation to follow his directives and doctrines.

Moderates like Premier Li Keqiang, who was ranked number two, were eased out in the election to the over 300-member Central Committee on Saturday by the CPC .



22nd Amendment falls short of public protest demands: Lanka's lawyers' body

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The 21st Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution adopted last week does not place adequate checks and balances on the powers of the executive president, the country's influential lawyers' body said on Thursday.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) in a statement said the Amendment to the Constitution was caused by the pressure brought on by the months-long protest movement which forced the resignation of the then president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July.

"The necessity to amend the Constitution arose as a result of the public outcry that sprung up throughout the country in response to the present economic crisis. It has been perceived that the causes of the crisis include the lack of checks and balances on the powers of the executive, including the executive presidency," it said.

Sri Lankan lawmakers on October 21 approved the much-anticipated 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, setting the stage for empowering the Parliament over the executive president.

The 22nd Amendment was originally named 21A and meant to replace the 20A.

The bill was introduced a couple of months back as a

means to support stability in Sri Lanka and quell the unrest ignited by the nation's greatest financial crisis in decades.

The BASL said that the 21A "regrettably does not completely restore the status quo" which prevailed prior to the 20A.

It is essential that the Constitutional Council and the Independent Commissions which will be reconstituted under the 21A will be "independent, impartial and be institutions that will help restore confidence in Sri Lanka and its Institutions," the statement said.

The BASL reiterates that it is imperative that those appointed to the Election Commission, the Public Service Commission, the National Police Commission, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, the Finance Commission and the Delimitation Commission be persons who have not only the requisite qualifications and abilities but also be those whose appointments receive wide acceptance.

Sri Lanka's Civil society was critical of the amendment as it was not the comprehensive reforms sought by the protest movement for a system change in the island.

Security official guarding polio vax team killed in Pak's Balochistan province



PTI ■ KARACHI

A Pakistani security official was killed on Thursday by suspected militants while providing security to a polio vaccination team in the restive Balochistan province, the second such attack in a week.

The polio vaccination team was attacked by militants in the Sarki Talri area of Chaman district and the security personnel, identified as Habib u Rehman, was killed in an exchange of fire with the attackers, officials said.

Earlier this week, militants killed a policeman, who was escorting a polio vaccination team in Pishin district of the province.

A spokesperson of the Balochistan government said that after the two incidents, security had been tightened for polio vaccine teams carrying out a campaign in several districts of Balochistan.

In the past also polio vaccine teams have been attacked by militants in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces and also the tribal areas. Attacks have also taken place on polio vaccine teams and their security personnel in Karachi.

Brexit crisis pushes N Ireland to brink of new election

AP ■ LONDON

Northern Ireland politicians will make a last-ditch attempt on Thursday to break a political impasse triggered by Brexit that has stopped the formation of a functioning government in Belfast.

If they fail, the UK government says it will call a new election for Northern Ireland on Friday.

Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly met to try to elect a speaker — the first step toward restoring a power-sharing government that has been on ice since a May election.

The main British unionist body, the Democratic Unionist Party, said it would veto the move as part of its protest over post-Brexit customs

checks.

"We do not believe that sufficient progress has been made to addressing the issues of concern to the people that we represent," party leader Jeffrey Donaldson said.

If no executive is in place by early Friday, there will be an election, which could break the political deadlock but would definitely bring more uncertainty.

"I have consistently been clear that if the executive is not formed by October 28, I will call an election," UK Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris said. "Time is running out, and people in Northern Ireland deserve locally elected decision-makers and an executive who can respond to the issues facing people, families



and communities across Northern Ireland during this challenging time."

The crisis comes at a time of change in Northern Ireland, which has been led by Protestant unionists loyal to the United Kingdom since its formation in 1921.

In May's election, Sinn Fein — which seeks Northern Ireland's union with Ireland — became the largest

party in the 90-seat assembly, entitled to the post of first minister. The DUP came second.

Sinn Fein's Northern Ireland leader Michelle O'Neill said voters wanted "grown-up politicians" to grapple with a worsening cost-of-living crisis. "People need to know that we have their backs," she said, accusing the DUP of wanting to turn the clock back to "yesterday".

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK that shares a border with an EU member — Ireland. When Britain left the bloc in 2020, the two sides agreed to keep the Irish border free of customs posts and other checks because an open border is a key pillar of the peace process that ended decades of violence.

Rebels kill 2 soldiers in quake-hit Philippine province

AP ■ MANILA

Suspected communist rebels killed two soldiers in an attack on Thursday in a northern Philippine province where troops are helping residents recover from a strong earthquake, the military said.

The attack by suspected New People's Army guerrillas in Malibcong town in Abra province also injured one soldier and left another missing, military officials said. It was unclear whether the missing soldier was seized by the rebels.

The province was hit by a magnitude 6.4 earthquake on Sunday that was felt across a wide swath of the country's main northern Luzon

region.

At least 44 people were injured by the quake, which damaged more than 2,000 houses, schools, hospitals and stone churches, and prompted the overnight closure of an international airport, disaster officials said.

While helping the region recover, local officials are also bracing for an approaching storm that may batter Abra and other nearby provinces.

Military officials strongly condemned the rebel assault.

The soldiers who came under attack had been ordered to return to camp from counter-insurgency patrols for possible deployment to quake-hit villages, they said.

Italy's fascist past under scrutiny a century after putsch

AP ■ MILAN

Italy's failure to come to terms with its fascist past has become evident as it prepares to mark the 100th anniversary Friday of the March on Rome that brought totalitarian dictator Benito Mussolini to power, a milestone that coincides with the country's first postwar government led by a party with a neo-fascist roots taking office.

The symbolism looks troubling: Giorgia Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party retains the emblem of a flame used by the fascists; her party's co-founder, Ignazio La Russa, whose middle name is Benito and whose home office is awash in fascist memorabilia, was elected speaker of Parliament's upper house.

Meloni has tried to distance Brothers of Italy from its neo-fascist roots. She made her clearest statement yet this week during a speech to Italy's lower house ahead of confidence votes



confirming her government.

"I have never felt sympathy or closeness to undemocratic regimes, fascism included, as I have always considered the racial laws of 1938 the lowest point in Italian history, a shame that will mark our people forever," Meloni told the lower house of parliament Wednesday, refer-

ring to Mussolini's laws that persecuted Italy's Jewish community.

The question remains, however, whether the moderate voice the premier recently adopted will persevere and if so, how the nostalgic wing of her party that represents a core 4% of her support will tolerate it.

The National Association of Italian Partisans, or ANPI, which preserves the memory of the wartime resistance against fascism, has noted some signs of an emboldened far-right in regions governed by the Brothers of Italy.

The governor of the central Marche region cut off funding to maintain brass-plated Stumbling Stones engraved with the names and dates of Holocaust victims outside their pre-war homes, ANPI national president Gianfranco Pagliarulo said. Social media attacks against his organization have grown more virulent than ever, he said.

Biden zeroes in on economic message as campaign winds down

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is zeroing in on a largely economic-focused message amid raging inflation and recession risks as he takes his closing argument for the November midterm elections to a hotly contested congressional battleground on Thursday and tries to reassure restive voters around the country.

Biden's travels to Syracuse, New York, on Thursday and to Philadelphia on Friday are part of a strategic two-step crafted for a persistently unpopular president: Promote his administration's accomplishments at official White House events while saving the overt campaigning for states where his political power can directly bolster Democratic candidates.

The White House of late has paid outside attention to Pennsylvania, where Democrats are aggressively contesting a Republican-held Senate



seat to help offset potential losses in other marquee Senate races.

Publicly, the White House and senior Democratic leaders express optimism that they'll defy traditional midterm headwinds and retain control of Congress. But in private, there is angst that the House will be lost to Republicans and that control of the Senate is a coin flip.

It's a position that Democrats point out is far more favorable than earlier in the election cycle — particularly before the Supreme Court's

Trump to rally in Iowa ahead of Nov 8 as he teases 2024

AP ■ DES MOINES

Former President Donald Trump is scheduled to return to Iowa ahead of the Nov. 8 midterms, to headline a rally for Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds and Sen. Chuck Grassley, Trump's organisation announced Wednesday.

The event, set for Nov. 3 in Sioux City, the hub of Iowa's conservative northwest, comes as Trump has continued to tease interest in a White House comeback

campaign as he has campaigned around the country for Republican candidates.

Returning to Iowa, where the 2024 Republican presidential caucuses are scheduled to launch the GOP nominating sequence, would likely further stoke speculation of Trump's future.

"In order to make our country successful, safe and glorious again, I will probably have to do it again," Trump said in Robstown, Texas, on Oct. 22.

decision overturning Roe v. Wade ended constitutional protections for abortion and upended the political landscape — yet many in the party are

nonetheless bracing for the loss of at least one chamber.

"I will say, as the president has said, that we are quite confident that

we'll continue to have a Democratic House and a Democratic Senate as we move forward," Jen O'Malley Dillon, a White House deputy chief of staff, told MSNBC on Tuesday night.

Biden has had a steady uptick in travel in recent weeks, although he has avoided states such as Nevada and Arizona in which Democratic candidates prefer not to be tagged with the national party brand.

He has appeared with a smattering of vulnerable House Democrats at official White House events in California and New York and raised campaign cash for candidates in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Oregon, as well as millions of dollars for the Democratic National Committee at fundraisers in Washington and elsewhere.

He held a trio of virtual fundraisers Wednesday night for congressional candidates in Iowa, Nevada and Pennsylvania.

Syria reports Israeli airstrikes on targets in Damascus area

AP ■ DAMASCUS

Israeli airstrikes targeted sites in the vicinity of Damascus early Thursday, marking the third such strikes in a week, Syrian state media reported.

The Syrian military said that Israeli missiles were fired at posts near Damascus around 12:30 a.m. And that its air defences had "confronted the missile aggression and downed most of them." There were no casualties reported.

The attack follows similar strikes Friday and Monday. Monday's rare daytime airstrike



wounded a soldier, according to the Syrian army.

The strike Friday was the first such attack since Sept. 17, when an attack on Damascus

International Airport and nearby military posts south of the Syrian capital killed five soldiers.

The Israeli army did not

release a statement on the airstrikes.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of Syria in recent years, but rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations.

Israel has acknowledged, however, that it targets bases of Iran-allied militant groups, such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has sent thousands of fighters to support Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

The Israeli strikes come amid a wider shadow war between Israel and Iran.

Syrian and Russian troops conduct joint drills in Syria

AP ■ DAMASCUS

Syrian and Russian troops conducted joint military drills in Syria involving ground and air forces, Syrian state media reported Wednesday.

Russian and Syrian troops simulated attacking enemy positions under the cover of artillery shelling and airstrikes by warplanes and helicopters, according to a

video released by Syria's Defence Ministry.

Paratroopers also took part in the war games, taking over positions on overlooking hills.

The maneuvers were attended by the commander of the Russian forces in Syria, Lt. Gen. Alexander Chaiko, and Syria's Defence Minister Gen. Ali Mahmoud Abbass.

Russia is a main backer of President Bashar Assad.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)	
Name of work with its location	Interlocking of LC no.31 and 72 having TVUs more than 20,000 underADSTE/MUT.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 74,61,641/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 1,49,200/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi - 110 055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 18.11.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice Board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110 055.
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1380 Dated : 26.10.2022 2866/2022	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
01923-246100 (O) 01923-246740 (F)	E-mail: sspsamba@jkpolice.gov.in dposamba@jkpolice.gov.in
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SAMBA	
" LOOK OUT NOTICE".	
I/C PP SIDCO intimated vide his letter No. 98/S-1 dated 30.08.2022 that an Unidentified male dead body found lying in a Nallah Near Rex Hotel SIDCO Phase-1 Samba in the jurisdiction of PP SIDCO. In this regard, an Inquest Proceedings U/S 174 Cr.PC has been initiated vide DDR No. 10 dated 29.08.2022 at P/S Samba. During the Course of investigation, besides conducting other legal formalities, the Dead body has been taken into Police custody for post mortem /identification and kept in mortuary room of District Hospital Samba for identification. Since the dead body has not been identified till now for which photographs of the unidentified male dead body is required to be published/telecast on print/electronic media for his identification. Efforts on the part of the District Police Samba are being going on for identification but no clue has been struck out till now. As such, photograph of unidentified male dead body is being published for information of Police Establishments/General Public so that he could be identified and any information related to it may be communicated on following contacts:-	
1. PCR Samba -01923-246333, 9541649001. 2. SSP Samba's email ID : sspsamba@jkpolice.gov.in 3. SHO P/S Samba :- 9419102969 4. I/C PP SIDCO, Samba :- 7051127772	
The description roll along with photograph of missing person is as under:-	
Name:- Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age 42-45 Years. (Approx.) Height 5'-6" Clothes:- Wearing check shirt and Grey colour pant	
No. CB/Look/2022/26457 Dated :- 31.08.2022	Sr. Superintendent of Police, Samba DIP No: DIP/J-10636/22

Green investments to soar to \$12.1 trillion by 2050

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India can accelerate green investments to USD 12.1 trillion by 2050 and reap a host of benefits, a consultancy firm said on Thursday.

With the ongoing rate, India's net Green House Gas (GHG) emissions will rise to 11.8 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2070 from the 2.9 gigatons in 2019, Mckinsey & Co said in a report.

However, India has the potential to create 287 gigatons of carbon space for the world if it accelerates its efforts to fight climate change, the report said, adding that this amounts to almost half of the global carbon budget for an even chance at limiting warming to 1.5 degree celsius.

"India's decarbonisation will require an estimated USD 12.1 trillion (5.9 per cent of GDP) of green investments until 2050 for the 'accelerated scenario,'" it said.

India has committed to net zero emissions by 2070. As per earlier estimates, the shift to net zero by 2070 will require USD 10 trillion worth investments.

Mckinsey said there are tailwinds which would be of help to a country like India, including reducing costs of renewables, electric vehicles and progressive policies.

However, there are chal-



lenges as well, including renewable capacity addition of 10 GW increasing to 40-50 GW per year, and the reduction needed in battery and hydrogen costs, it added.

The consultancy firm said over 80 per cent of India of 2070 is yet to be built, and underlined an urgency to act in the ongoing decade for the right kind of investments to come in 2030s and 2040s for an orderly transition.

It said India can cumulatively have USD 1.7 trillion forex savings till 2070 from reduced energy imports of crude oil and coking coal if it transitions well.

The country can also become a manufacturing and research and development base for cleantech, including electric vehicles, batteries and electrolyzers, it said.

The firm's senior partner Rajat Gupta said the benefits of a well-planned, orderly, accelerated transition would outweigh the downsides, given India's growth outlook.

"But it would require the nation to act within this decade, using its growth momentum to build India right for the decades thereafter," Gupta said, adding that while the actions can seem to be challenging, the journey is doable as most of the actions are economically viable.

The firm also suggested a ten-point agenda for accelerating the de-carbonisation, starting with laying out a detailed medium-term decarbonisation plan with sector-specific priorities and policy frameworks that provide the demand signals and a steady hand.

Sensex climbs 212 pts amid mixed global cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty darted up on Thursday, propped up by robust buying in metal, realty and energy stocks amid a mixed trend in global equities.

A strengthening rupee further bolstered sentiment, even as relentless foreign capital outflows restricted the gains, traders said.

The 30-share BSE benchmark climbed 212.88 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at 59,756.84. During the day, it jumped 415.98 points or 0.69 per cent to 59,959.94.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 80.60 points or 0.46 per cent to end at 17,736.95.

"Trading session was marked by extreme volatility on the monthly F&O expiry day, but a sharp rally in metals, realty and oil & gas stocks helped markets maintain the bullish sentiment seen in the recent trades.

"Investors are positive about the India growth story, which is driving markets higher despite several headwinds from the external front," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Tata Steel was the biggest



gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.02 per cent, followed by Power Grid, Sun Pharma, Bharti Airtel, Titan, Axis Bank, Dr Reddy's and NTPC.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Tech Mahindra and Nestle were among the laggards.

Realty, oil & gas, metals and power indices rose the most, while the IT index was the biggest loser. Broad markets indices mildly underperformed the Nifty even as the advance-decline ratio was positive at 1.23:1, Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

India to see biggest jump in energy demand globally: IEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to see the world's biggest rise in energy demand this decade, with demand climbing 3 per cent annually due to urbanisation and industrialisation, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its World Energy Outlook released on Thursday.

While the push for renewable energy will see it meeting as much as 60 per cent of the growth in demand for power, coal will continue to meet a third of overall energy demand by 2030 and another quarter will be met by oil.

"India becomes the world's most populous country by 2025 and, combined with the twin forces of urbanisation and industrialisation, this underpins rapid growth in energy demand, which rises by more than 3 per cent per year in the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS) from 2021 to 2030," IEA said. "It sees the largest increase in energy demand of any country."

Even though India continues to make great strides with renewables deployment and efficiency policies, the sheer scale of its development means that the combined import bill for fossil fuels doubles over the next two decades, with oil by far the largest component.

"This points to continued risks to energy security," IEA



said.

IEA said the world is in the midst of the first global energy crisis, triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Pressures in markets predated Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but Russia's actions have turned a rapid economic recovery from the pandemic - which strained all manner of global supply chains, including energy -- into full-blown energy turmoil," it said.

Russia has been by far the world's largest exporter of fossil fuels, but its curtailments of natural gas supply to Europe and European sanctions on imports of oil and coal from Russia are severing one of the main arteries of global energy trade. All fuels are affected, but

gas markets are the epicentre as Russia seeks leverage by exposing consumers to higher energy bills and supply shortages.

In India, coal meets a third of growth with demand rising above 770 million tonnes of coal equivalent (Mtce) by 2030, and continuing thereafter before peaking in the early 2030s. Oil demand meets a further quarter of the energy demand growth and rises to nearly 7 million barrels per day by 2030 from 4.7 million bpd in 2021.

Coal generation is projected to continue to expand in absolute terms, peaking around 2030, though its share of electricity generation falls from just below 75 per cent to 55 per cent over this period.

RBI to hold special MPC meet to prepare inflation report on Nov 3



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has called a special meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee on November 3 to prepare a report on its failure to keep retail inflation below 6 per cent for three consecutive quarters.

"Under the provisions of Section 45ZN of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act ...An additional meeting of the MPC is being scheduled on November 3, 2022," the central bank said in a statement on Thursday.

Section 45ZN of the Act deals with failure to maintain the inflation target.

The inflation has remained above the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent for nine straight months or three quarters.

Sebi clarifies on block mechanism facility pertaining to demat accounts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said block mechanism facility pertaining to demat accounts will not be applicable for clients having arrangements with custodians for clearing and settling trades.

In order to safeguard investors' demat accounts, the Securities and Board of India (Sebi) in August said the facility of block mechanism will be mandatory for all early pay-in transactions from November 14. Currently, the facility is optional for investors.

The early pay-in mechanism is used by traders to reduce their margin obligations. Under the block mechanism, shares of a client intending to make a sale transaction will be blocked in the client's demat account in favour of the clearing corporation concerned.

"In view of the representations received from deposi-



tories and custodians, it is clarified that the block mechanism shall not be applicable to clients having arrangements with custodians registered with Sebi for clearing and settlement of trades," the regulator said.

Sebi asked depositories and clearing corporations to put in place an appropriate system to ensure compliance with the new rules.

In July, the regulator

decided to introduce the concept of a block mechanism, whereby investors have an option to block securities in their respective demat accounts for sale transactions from August 1. The option of an early pay-in method is also available. Under this option, shares are transferred from a client's demat account to the clearing corporation concerned's account.

Vegetables, fruits' prices likely to soar amid potato, tomato production decline

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India's vegetables and fruits prices are expected to rise in the coming days, with a decline in the production of potatoes and tomatoes. The prices of the two vegetables have always been volatile.

The Ministry of Agriculture's third advance estimate of horticulture highlighted that potato and tomato production is estimated to have declined by 4-5 per cent during the crop year that ended July 2022, while onion output remained higher than the previous year. The production of overall vegetables is projected to be higher at 204.84 million tonnes as against 200.45 million tonnes in the said period. These crops include those sown in the last fiscal year and harvested or marketed in the current one, depending on harvesting cycles.

Releasing the third advance estimate of production of hor-



ticultural crops, the government said potato production is pegged to be lower by five per cent at 53.39 million tonnes in 2021-22, as against 56.17 million tonnes in the previous year. Similarly, production of tomato is estimated to have declined by four per cent to 20.33 million tonnes as against 21.18 million tonnes in the comparable period.

However, production of onion is pegged higher at 31.27 million tonnes during the 2021-22 crop year as against 26.64 million tonnes in the previous year.

The estimate showed that production of fruits is also estimated to be higher at 107.24 million tonnes during 2021-22 crop year as against 102.48 million tonnes in the previous year.

Adani Green Energy gets shareholders' nod to appoint Ahlem Friga Noy as director

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Green Energy said it has received shareholders' approval to appoint Ahlem Friga Noy as a non-executive, nominee director in the company.

Shareholders of the company has approved the appointment of Ahlem Friga Noy as a director (non-executive, nominee director) in an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the company held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, a BSE filing showed.

According to the notice for the EGM, the board had recommended for the approval of the members for the appointment of Ahlem Friga Noy as a director of the company, from

27th July, 2022.

The approval of shareholders for the appointment of a person on the board of directors has to be taken either at the next general meeting or within a time period of three months from the date of appointment, whichever is earlier.

Accordingly, it explained that the approval of the shareholders is sought to comply with the listing regulations.

Ahlem had given her consent to act as a director of the company. She is a seasoned public affairs, geopolitical adviser and negotiation expert with 20 years' experience in the public as well as private sector.

From August 2019, she was appointed as Total's

Country Chair in Kazakhstan and Managing Director - Total E&P Kazakhstan.

Earlier, from May 2012 to July 2016 she was the corporate affairs manager at Total E&P Uganda and from July 2016 to August 2019, she held the position of the Vice President Public Affairs - Africa Division for Total Group, based in France. Before joining Total Group, she was advisor on sub-Saharan Africa to the French minister of foreign and European affairs and to the French minister for cooperation.

Ahlem speaks English, Italian, Arab and Swahili, and holds a master's degree in public law and bachelor's in international law.

Rupee rises 34 paise to close at 82.47 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 34 paise to close at 82.47 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday as the greenback retreated from its elevated levels.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 82.15 and witnessed a high of 82.14 and a low of 82.51.

It finally settled at 82.47 against the American currency, registering a rise of 34 paise over its last close.

In the previous session on Tuesday, the rupee appreciated by 7 paise to 82.81 against the

dollar.

The forex market was closed on Wednesday on account of Diwali Balipratipada.

"Rupee rose sharply as the dollar plunged against its major crosses. Weaker-than-expected economic data from the US led to a retracement in the dollar," said Gaurang Somaia, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The expectation is that the US Federal Reserve will slow the pace of its rate hiking cycle. This sent the euro back above parity with the greenback for the first time in a month, Somaia added.

Gold falls ₹101; silver declines ₹334



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price fell by Rs 101 to Rs 51,024 per 10 gram on Thursday amid weak global trends and appreciation in rupee, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 51,125 per 10 gram. Silver also declined by Rs 334 to Rs 58,323 per kg. The rupee appreciated 67 paise to 82.14 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday as dollar retreated from its elevated levels.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,664 per ounce while silver was down at USD 19.41 per ounce.

"A stronger rupee and weaker COMEX spot gold prices pushed domestic gold prices lower today," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst at HDFC Securities.

Hindustan Motors, European partner complete due diligence for EV project

PTI ■ KOLKATA

CK Birla-owned Hindustan Motors Ltd and its European partner have completed due diligence for the proposed electric two-wheeler project, a senior official said on Thursday.

The joint venture is likely to launch the electric vehicles in the next financial year at Hindustan Motors' Uttarpara plant in West Bengal.

"The due diligence between HM and the European company is now complete. The name of the foreign partner will be announced shortly," the official of the Indian company told PTI.

The combined investment for the EV project will initially be around Rs 600 crore, following which the two companies would explore the possibility of entering the electric four-wheeler space.

FinMin extends query submission deadline for IDBI Bank stake sale till November 10

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Thursday extended the deadline for potential bidders to submit queries on IDBI Bank privatisation by 13 days till November 10.

The ministry on October 7 had floated the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) inviting bids for selling about 61 per cent stake in IDBI Bank.

The deadline for raising



queries and submission of bids by interested bidder was October 28 and December 16, respectively.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on

Thursday issued a corrigendum to the PIM and extended the deadline for submission of queries till November 10.


The government is expecting to get the financial bids for IDBI Bank by March and complete the process of privatisation in the first half of next fiscal beginning April 2023.

After the stake sale, the government's and LIC's stake jointly will come down to 34 per cent, from currently 94.72 per cent.

BUSINESS BRIEF


RAJAN KANWAR TAKES NFL DIRECTOR (TECH) CHARGE

Noida: Rajan Kanwar today took over the charge of Director (Technical) of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL). Prior to this, he was serving as Chief General Manager in the company at the Corporate Office, Noida. Kanwar is associated with NFL for more than 33 years and has an extensive experience in Project Management, Operations and Maintenance of fertilizer plants.



DELHI AIRPORT DEPLOYS 57 ELECTRIC VEHICLES

New Delhi: In a bid to achieve the status of a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport, the Delhi Airport has deployed 57 Electric Vehicles (EVs) at the airport and its vicinity. According to the official statement released by the Delhi Airport, the deployment of EVs will help in reducing approximately 1,000 tonnes of Green House Gas emissions annually. With this move Delhi Airport has become the first airport in the country to deploy EVs in the airport ecosystem, it said.



INDIAN HOTELS CO INSTALLS 224 EV CHARGING STATIONS

New Delhi: Tata Group hospitality firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) on Thursday said it has installed 224 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations at its 92 properties. These EV charging points have been installed in collaboration with Tata Power across various Taj, SeleQtions, Vivanta, Ginger and amā Stays & Trails properties in India, the company said in a statement. These chargers can be accessed by guests staying at various IHCL properties. It is in line with 'Paathya', the company's environmental, social, and governance framework to drive its sustainability and social impact measures, it added.

AIR INDIA EXP TO BEGIN VIJAYAWADA-SHARJAH FLIGHT

New Delhi: Air India Express on Thursday said it is set to launch its flight services to Sharjah from Vijayawada, starting October 31. The international budget carrier, which is now owned by Tata Group along with full service airline Air India, currently offers flight services to Muscat and Kuwait from Vijayawada. The airline said it will operate two flights per week from Vijayawada to Sharjah with a Boeing 737-800 NG plane. The availability of direct flights to the three locations will be beneficial for many residents of nearby areas who seek connectivity with the Middle Eastern nations, Air India Express said.

NHIDCL ENTERS INTO PACT WITH NIT, SILCHAR

New Delhi: National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) has entered into a pact with NIT, Silchar to use innovative technologies to overcome challenges posed in the construction of highways facing extreme climatic conditions.

BARCA, ATLÉTICO OUT OF CL; LIVERPOOL, INTER ADVANCE

AP ■ PARIS

Liverpool booked their place in the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday as Jurgen Klopp's men saw off Ajax 3-0, while Inter Milan also qualified to eliminate Barcelona who slipped to a tame defeat by Bayern Munich.

Much of the drama came elsewhere on a breathless night of action, as Porto became the 12th team to secure a berth in the knock-out stage but Tottenham were forced to wait.

Last season's losing finalists Liverpool knew a draw in Amsterdam would be enough to clinch a last-16 spot for a sixth straight season.

The Reds, struggling in the Premier League this term, weathered an early Ajax storm before Mohamed Salah gave them a half-time lead.

Darwin Nunez, who had earlier missed an open goal from six yards out, headed in to double the advantage shortly after the break and Harvey Elliott rounded off the scoring with his second goal in as many Champions League games.

"Darwin was really angry with himself at half-time," Liverpool left-back Andy Robertson told BT Sport.

"I sat next to him at half-time and told him I would put a cross in to his head for him to score."

Liverpool join Napoli in progressing from Group A, but need a four-goal victory at Anfield in six days' time to pip the red-hot Italians to top spot after their 3-0 win over Rangers.

INTER FINISH JOB

Inter Milan romped to the win they needed to go through and eliminate Barca from Group C, thrashing Czechs Viktoria Plzen 4-0 at the San Siro.

Romelu Lukaku came off the bench to score on his return from injury late on, after Henrikh Mkhitaryan's opener and a double for Edin Dzeko.

That left the financially strug-



gling Catalans digesting a group-stage exit for the second straight season.

The five-time champions were unable to at least lay down a marker on their way out, falling to a 3-0 home loss by Bayern Munich at a subdued Camp Nou.

Sadio Mane, Eric Maxim

Liverpool join Napoli in progressing from Group A, but need a four-goal victory at Anfield in six days' time to pip the red-hot Italians to top spot after their 3-0 win over Rangers

Choupo-Moting and Benjamin Pavard scored as Bayern wrapped up first place in the group with a fifth successive win.

"On a night like this, you don't go out to play the game with the same motivation," admitted Barca midfielder Pedri.

"We wanted to give the fans a

victory but it wasn't to be."

LATE VAR DRAMA

Porto earlier beat Club Brugge 4-0, although knew an Atletico Madrid victory against Bayer Leverkusen would set up a deciding Group B match between the Portuguese and Diego Simeone's

team next week.

But Atletico's Yannick Carrasco missed a penalty, which was awarded by VAR after the initial final whistle, in a remarkable 2-2 draw to send Porto through.

Xabi Alonso's Leverkusen led twice thanks to goals from Moussa Diaby and Callum Hudson-Odoi. But Carrasco's first-half strike and Rodrigo de Paul's equaliser gave Atletico 40 minutes to find a winner and keep their Champions League campaign alive.

In chaotic scenes, the players were called back onto the pitch after VAR spotted a handball from the final attack of the game.

But Carrasco's spot-kick was saved by Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky, Saul Niguez headed the rebound off the bar and Reinildo Mandava's following effort was denied by a last-ditch block.

Porto, trailing leaders Brugge by one point, could still snatch top spot, while Atletico and Leverkusen will fight over a Europa League place.

Spurs thought they had won against Sporting to qualify from Group D when Harry Kane found the net deep into added time, only for the goal to be ruled out for off-side after a lengthy VAR delay as it finished 1-1.

Sporting took a deserved first-half lead through former Tottenham youngster Marcus Edwards' fine strike, but Rodrigo Bentancur scored with 10 minutes left to set up a grandstand finish.

Kane celebrated wildly with the home fans in London when he scored what appeared to be a last-gasp winner, but VAR had other ideas.

"VAR is doing a lot of damage," said Tottenham manager Antonio Conte, who was sent off for his protests.

"I want to see if in another stadium of a big team if they are ready to disallow this type of goal. I'd like to know this."

All four teams in the group can still qualify heading into the last games after Eintracht Frankfurt beat Marseille 2-1 in Germany.

Kerr scores 4, Real hold PSG in women's CL

AP ■ LONDON

Australia's Sam Kerr kept Chelsea top of Group A in the women's Champions League on Wednesday with four goals in an 8-0 thrashing of Albanians Vllaznia, as Real Madrid held Paris-Saint Germain to a draw.

Chelsea backed up an excellent victory over PSG in their opening group game six days ago.

The 29-year-old Kerr broke the deadlock after 10 minutes thanks to Pernille Harder's assist.

Kerr then had her double on 37 minutes, benefitting from winger Guro Reiten's deflected cross.

Reiten was also the provider for the Blues' third as she found Denmark's Harder two minutes later.

Kerr's third and fourth followed just before the hour and Harder then added her second and replacement Katerina Svtkova got on the scoresheet with 12 minutes remaining.



Harder completed the rout and claimed her hat-trick with two minutes left to put Chelsea two points clear of Real.

Earlier in the Spanish capital, France midfielder Khkira Hamraoui played her first game in six months in PSG's 0-0 draw in Madrid.

Hamraoui has been absent since she suffered an attack in November 2021 and was suspended after an altercation with a team-mate during training.

Her fellow PSG player Aminata Diallo was suspected along with five men of being behind last year's attack.

India eye gold at Para Badminton World Championships

PTI ■ TOKYO

Top Indian players Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam will eye gold medals at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships, to be held here from November 1 to 6.

Bhagat, a five-time world champion, is the defending champion in both singles and doubles, having won the twin

titles in the 2019 edition.

"This is the biggest tournament of the year, and I will put in everything I have. Expectations are always high not only from people but also from myself. I set a very high bar for myself, and I try to keep to better it," Bhagat said.

"The aim is to defend my twin gold. I have been putting in hours of work honing my



skills and working on certain aspects of my game and building stamina. This year has been a little on and off for me and I would like to end the year on a high."

World No. 3 Kadam, who has been training with Bhagat in Bengaluru, won a bronze in the last edition and he would like to upgrade it to gold this time.

"I have been putting a lot of time in the gym and enhancing my stroke play and game. The goal is to win gold medal at the world championships."

"This year has been good for me, I won some big tournaments and reached World No. 3 which is a major boost for me, and I will keep striving till I become world no 1."

Verstappen aims to claim record win in Mexico

AP ■ MEXICO CITY



Max Verstappen will be seeking a party-poop record this weekend when he aims to beat Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez in front of his passionate home fans at the Mexican Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old world champion, whose triumph in Texas last Sunday secured the constructors' world title for Red Bull 24 hours after the death of team founder and co-owner Dieter Mateschitz, is bidding for an unprecedented 14th win of the season.

He currently shares the mark of 13 successes in a year with two Germans, seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher and Sebastian Vettel, but knows another victory, especially at Perez's expense, might wreck a famous fiesta.

"It's my job. I think about that and want to be perfect this weekend and look for victory" said Max Verstappen

The popular Mexican, who has won twice for Red Bull this season -- on the streets of Monaco and Singapore -- would relish a third, and his long-awaited first on home turf,

but accepts it will not be easy.

He said he knows that Verstappen should and will race to win even if the contest is a dead rubber in terms of the two main championships for Red Bull, whose own celebrations may be muted when the punishment for their 2021 over-spend is finally announced.

"I don't want to be given anything," he said. "I have achieved everything without gifts for so many years now and, in the end, I don't think about it."

"It's my job. I think about that and want to be perfect this weekend and look for victory."

He dismissed suggestions that Verstappen might repay him for his role in holding up Lewis Hamilton in Abu Dhabi last year, when Verstappen claimed his controversial first world title on the last lap.

Alcaraz cruises into Swiss Indoors last 8



AP ■ BASEL

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz eased into the quarterfinals at the Swiss Indoors by beating Botic van de Zandchulp 6-4, 6-2.

The 19-year-old Spaniard clinched the win with his only ace in a second-round match where he had 20 winners and made just nine unforced errors.

Alcaraz's serve was broken once

and he trailed 2-0 in the second set before reeling off six straight games against the 35th-ranked Dutchman.

Third-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime was on court before Alcaraz in a first-round match and won 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-4 against Swiss wild-card entry Marc-Andrea Huesler.

Two seeded players lost their first-round matches, with No. 7 Alex de Minaur falling 6-2, 7-5 against 25th-ranked teenager Holger Rune.

Bopanna-Middelkoop enter Erste Bank Open Q/F

PTI ■ VIENNA

India's Rohan Bopanna and Dutch Matwe Middelkoop beat the Argentine pairing of Pedro Cachin and Diego Schwartzman in straight sets to progress to the quarterfinals of Erste Bank Open here. The Indo-Dutch combination defeated Cachin and Schwartzman 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday. Bopanna and Middelkoop will face Andres Molteni and Santiago Gonzalez next. The Argentine-Mexican pair of Molteni and Gonzalez defeated second seeds Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski 7-6(6), 7-5 in another match.

Eighth-seeded Lorenzo Musetti cruised through the first set before losing 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 against Albert Ramos-Vinolas, the 34-year-old Spaniard.

India's WC preparations start with FIH Pro League opener against NZ

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian men's hockey team will look to kick-start their World Cup preparations in right earnest when it takes on New Zealand in its opening game of the FIH Pro League's new season at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

After New Zealand, the Indians will take on Spain in their next game on Sunday, followed by return fixtures against New Zealand on November 4 and Spain on November 6.

"It has been a busy last couple of weeks preparing for the four games we will play in the Pro League and the five-matches against Australia in Adelaide in a Test Series next month," India's chief coach Graham Reid said.

"All these matches are part of our preparations for the World Cup. Our goal of course is to play our best hockey but we want to be better in our attacking, we want to



try a few new things in the way we execute our attack. We are looking forward to these games."

Captain for the upcoming matches, Harmanpreet Singh, said India would look to replicate their last season's performance in the new one.

India finished a creditable third in the last season of FIH Pro

League. "Last season went very well for us and the aim is to pick up from where we left in the previous season," said Harmanpreet, the top-scorer of the previous season.

"Right from the first match we want to build the right momentum into the new season. These are extremely important matches for us ahead of the big event in January,"

he added.

New Zealand head coach Greg Nicol said the upcoming matches will provide them not only good understanding about India but also about the conditions ahead of the World Cup to be co-hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29.

"With the World Cup happening here in the next few months, playing these away games in Pro League matches in Odisha is a massive plus for our players to understand the atmosphere and the conditions here," Nicol said.

"India is performing consistently in all major tournaments, they did well in the Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games. We need to be on top of our game if we have to do well against a team like India."

New Zealand opted out of last season's Pro League due to COVID-related travel restrictions, and coach Nicol said it is a fresh start for the Black Sticks.

Surya lights up Sydney SKY-line in India's win

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Suryakumar Yadav bullied an inexperienced attack as the Indian team not for once took its foot off the pedal to thrash Netherlands by 56 runs for its second win in the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

A target of 180, riding on half-centuries from skipper Rohit Sharma (53 off 39 balls), Virat Kohli (62 not out off 44 balls) and Surya (51 not out off 25 balls), was good enough for the Dutchmen who were never in the contest once India's powerplay overs ended.

The 'Orange Brigade' huffed and puffed its way to 123 for nine in 20 overs as the relative slowness of the track post the Bangladesh-South Africa game effected its approach.

The Netherlands was the fourth team to bat on the track, and although there wasn't any considerable wear and tear, it slowed down enough for Axar Patel (2/18) and Ravichandran Ashwin (2/21) to tighten the noose on the opposition batters.

On expected lines, Mohammed Shami (2/9), Arshdeep Singh (2/37) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/27) had an easy day at the office.

Most of the Netherlands batters are not used to consistently playing an attack of this quality.

Indian origin opener Vikramjit Singh (1), whose roots are in Punjab's Cheema Khurd, didn't look like he belonged to this level before Bhuvneshwar Kumar ended his painstaking stay with a perfectly pitched length ball.

Once Ashwin and Axar were pressed into the attack, there was no chance that the Dutchmen would make a match of it.

Axar didn't even turn a single delivery but the fast and tight wicket-to-wicket lines was good enough.

When India batted, Suryakumar once again provided the final flourish



ish with a breathtaking knock and overshadowed senior pros Kohli and Sharma.

The Indian batting save all but one fired in unison as skipper Rohit became the pace setter, while the team's No. 1 batter Kohli played the role of an anchor to perfection and also ended as the game's top-scorer.

Kohli conjured two vital partnerships -- 73 for the second wicket with Rohit and 95 for the unbroken third wicket with Surya -- as KL

Rahul's (9 off 12 balls) second successive failure stuck out like a sore thumb.

But Rahul can consider himself a touch unlucky as right-arm seamer Paul van Meekeren's delivery angled into his pads and seemed like missing the leg-stump, but he was advised against taking the review by the skipper.

To be fair, the Netherlands bowlers did a reasonable job during the powerplay, when India scraped to 32 for one.

India were 67 for one at the halfway stage, but after Surya came in, the Dutch bowling unit looked intimidated, and once Kohli started putting pressure there was no escape.

The back-10 yielded as many as 112 runs, courtesy Surya, who again hit some breathtaking shots including a lofted extra cover drive and a lap scoop over deep fine leg.

With as many as seven boundaries and a six off the last ball in his kitty, Surya showed why he is India's

most important batter in the format.

After opting to bat, Rohit initially struggled with his timing and left-arm seamer Fred Klaassen was unlucky that Tim Pringle made a hash of an easy catch when the Indian captain had mistimed a pull-shot.

But once he connected a hook shot and then drove through the cover point region, he found some rhythm going his way, as the fifty came off 35 balls. His innings had four boundaries and three sixes.

When I get out in nets during simulation, I don't bat again: SKY

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Suryakumar Yadav firmly believes that he can push the boundaries when it comes to mastering the art of handling pressure in match simulation, something that has given him fantastic results in past one year.

Surya has caused mortal fear among the global bowlers' union with an insane strike-rate of near 178 in 36 games and 11 fifty-plus scores (1 century and 10 half-centuries).

But if you find Surya's swivel off his hips to send the ball into the deep mid-wicket stand amazing, do know that there is a method to his madness, like the 25-ball 51 not out in India's 56-run win against the Netherlands in the T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Asked about his preparation that brings about this manic consistency, Surya said: "What I do is to try and put a lot of pressure on myself whenever I am going for a few practice sessions or playing a match scenario.

"So, for example, if I am targeting a few balls, and I have to (suppose) get 'N' number of runs, if I get out, I just come out. That day, I don't go in to bat again."

The simulation helps him prepare better for the match. "The same thing I'm been

reflecting when I go into the games, and my plans have been very clear. What shots I have in my kitty, I just go out and express that. I won't do anything out of the box. It has been helping me, and hopefully try and do the same thing in the coming games," he elaborated. "It feels really good to have numbers around, but at the same time, what I have been doing in the last few years is just eating fruits of that hard work maybe," the contented smile said it all.

Situational awareness Having enjoyed some great success while batting at top-order in the IPL, Surya clearly understands his role.

"I think from my point of view, the number that I am batting, I have practised that in the last three or four years. Whatever the situation is I have to just bat accordingly," he said.

"It is simple because as a No. 4, I either come in when we have lost two wickets and there aren't too much on the board. Then I have to raise the tempo in the last 10 overs.

"The other situation is that the team has scored a lot of runs when I come in and I have to maintain that tempo," he said.

One couldn't but get impressed with the clarity in his thought process.

While Rohit attacked, Kohli was happy to let him take the lead but remained alert while taking the singles and converting the ones into twos.

Once Rohit was dismissed, Kohli showed some aggression as his

running between the wickets put pressure on the Netherlands attack.

Kohli's fifty came off 37 balls, with three fours and two sixes. But he ran the opposition ragged before allowing Surya to pounce on them for a delicious run-feast.

Rossouw, Nortje script Proteas 104-run win over B'desh



Hossain (9) pilled 26 runs off the first two overs, including 17 of the first Kagiso Rabada (1/24) over.

Skipper Temba Bavuma's move to replace Rabada with Nortje immediately paid dividends as the pacer blew apart the Bangladesh top order within the first five overs.

Nortje struck twice in his opening over, sending both openers packing. Soumya was first to go after he was caught behind and Hossain soon followed.

Nortje returned to trap Shakib Al Hassan (1) leg before to leave Bangladesh reeling at 39 for 3.

A bit of pace and extra bounce got the better of Afif Hossain (1), who was next to depart as Rabada joined the party. It could have been two for the pacer had Trsitran Stubbs not dropped Litton Das.

Once spin was introduced, Mehidy Hasan (11) looked to play big but got the toe of the bat as Aiden Markram pounced it without problem at wide long-on. He was Tabraiz Shamsi's first victim as the spinner grabbed three wickets at the back.

Bangladesh batters struggled to get any partnership going.

Earlier, while the rain gods threatened to play spoil sport, Rossouw and de Kock were raining sixes in their 168-run partnership, the highest for South Africa in a T20 World

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Rilee Roussow's belligerent century was complemented by a fiery spell from Anrich Nortje (4/10) as South Africa trounced Bangladesh by 104-runs in T20 World Cup here on Thursday.

Rossouw showcased his batting prowess, blasting the first century of the ongoing showpiece with a 56-ball 109, while Quinton de Kock struck a fifty to power South Africa to an imposing 205 for 5.

Nortje then returned with his best T20 figures as the bowlers rallied to bowl out Bangladesh for 101 in 16.3 overs.

Chasing a 200 plus total, Bangladesh openers looked up for the task. Soumya Sarkar (15) and Najmul



Zimbabwe beat Pakistan by one run

PTI ■ PERTH

Zimbabwe punched above their weight and stunned Pakistan by one run in a nail-biting T20 World Cup match here on Thursday.

Defending a modest 131, Zimbabwe stifled the Pakistani batters and picked up wickets at regular intervals to stop their fancied rivals at 129 for eight.

Pakistan-born all-rounder Sikandar Raza turned the match on its head in the middle overs with figures of 3 for 25 from his four overs, which included the wickets of Shan Masood (44), Shahdab Khan (17) and Haider Ali.

Right-arm pacer Brad Evans returned with figures of 2/25, while Blessing Muzarabani (1/18) and Luke Jongwe (1/10) also picked up wickets, to help their side to an incredible win.

For Zimbabwe, it was their first win from two matches.

The African side had earlier split points with South Africa following a washout.

Babar looked tentative before he was squared up by a seaming fuller length delivery from Evans.

An over later, Rizwan played on to the stumps a Muzarabani delivery while trying to cut a ball, which was too close to his body.

Ifthikhar Ahmed, who scored a brisk fifty against India, didn't last long either, leaving Pakistan reeling at 36 for three in 7.4 overs.

But Shan Masood held one end up and together with Shadab Khan, shared 52 runs for the fourth wicket to take Pakistan forward.

Leg-spinning all-rounder Raza had other plans, as he brought Zimbabwe back into the contest with three quick wickets, including two in the 14th over.

Raza first initiated a mishit from Shadab as he was holed

out at long-off and then sent back Haider Ali for a duck.

Raza's best moment came in his next over when he got the wicket of Masood, who was brilliantly stumped by Chakabva, as Pakistan slumped to 94 for six in 15.1 overs.

But Nawaz (22) kept Pakistan in the hunt in the company of Wasim and brought down the equation to 11 in the last over.

Nawaz started by picking up three runs and then clobbered a slower delivery from Evans over his head for a maximum.

Evans bounced back brilliantly and dismissed Nawaz in the penultimate ball to bring down the equation to three runs from the final delivery.

Shaheen Shah Afridi, though, was run out as Pakistan went for a non-existent second run in an attempt to tie the scores, handing Zimbabwe a famous win.

Srikanth suffers defeat in pre-QF of French Open



PTI ■ PARIS

Top Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament after losing to Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in the pre-quarterfinals here on Thursday.

Kidambi lost 21-19 12-21 19-21 in the match that lasted one hour and 15 minutes.

In the first game, Kidambi made a remarkable fightback after trailing 10-16 as he won nine straight points to take a 19-16 lead before going 1-0 up.

The scores were levelled at 10-10 in the second game and Gemke won six straight points to zoom ahead and take the match to the decider.

The decider was a neck-to-neck affair before the Dane emerged victorious.

In the men's doubles, seventh-seeded Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat the Malaysian duo of Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee 21-16 21-14 in a round of 16 match that lasted 40 minutes.

The Indians now run into the top-seeded Japanese pair of Takuro Hoshi and Yugo Kobayashi in the quarterfinals.

BCCI announces equal pay for men and women



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark decision, the BCCI on Thursday announced equal match fee for its centrally-contracted female and male players in a bid to promote gender equality in the country's most popular sport.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah took to Twitter to announce the significant development.

"I'm pleased to announce @BCCI's first step towards tackling discrimination. We are implementing pay equity policy for our contracted @BCCIWomen cricketers.

"The match fee for both Men and Women Cricketers will be same as we move into a new era of gender equality in Cricket," Shah tweeted.

As per the newly introduced system, the Indian women's cricketers will now receive Rs 15 lakh per Test, Rs 6 lakh per ODI, and Rs 3 lakh per T20I, the same as their male counterparts.

"The @BCCIWomen cricketers will be paid the same match fee as their male counterparts. Test (INR 15 lakhs), ODI

(INR 6 lakhs), T20I (INR 3 lakhs). "Pay equity was my commitment to our women cricketers and I thank the Apex Council for their support," Shah added.

Earlier this year, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) had struck a deal with the country's players' association, which enabled the women cricketers to earn as much as the male players, while Cricket Australia (CA) is also working to do away with gender disparity.

On expected lines, the decision was welcomed by the cricket fraternity. "It's a historic move. It's a new dawn for women's cricket. Things were already moving ahead. WIPL together with pay equity policy are steps to get women's cricket to where men's cricket is today," the legendary Mithali Raj said.

"As a member of the women's cricket fraternity I thank the BCCI and honorary secretary Jay Shah for this announcement. We are already witnessing the growth and popularity of women's cricket from 2017 till now. It's a great move in the right direction."



‘Doesn’t get bigger than this’: Finch relishes England MCG showdown

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Australia captain Aaron Finch on Thursday said that he couldn't wait to face England in a T20 World Cup clash that is shaping up as a must-win showdown for the Ashes rivals.

The cavernous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is set for another carnival atmosphere on Friday night after hosting more than 90,000 raucous fans when India edged out Pakistan in a thriller on Sunday.

"It doesn't get bigger than MCG with a full house with a lot on the line," Finch told reporters, with the only dampener being the threat of rain, which affected both matches at the famous venue on Wednesday.

"It will be a great occasion and hopefully the weather clears up and we can

have a great game," Finch said.

Australia got their title defence back on track in Perth on Monday when they bounced back from their opening drubbing by New Zealand to hammer Sri Lanka by seven wickets on the back of a 17-ball fifty from power-hitting all-rounder Marcus Stoinis.

Jos Buttler's England opened with a win against Afghanistan but were then shocked by Ireland on Wednesday in a rain-hit Super 12 match.

"I think the group is wide open, absolutely," said Finch of Group 1 where all six teams are separated by just two points with three matches each to play.

"Any team can win on their day, that's the thing about T20, you can't take anything for granted in the game."

Only the top two teams in the group will qualify for the semi-finals.

WADE TESTS COVID +VE, BUT LIKELY TO PLAY

APTI ■ MELBOURNE

Wicketkeeper Matthew Wade on Thursday became the second Australian player to test positive for COVID-19, a day ahead of the defending champions' crucial T20 World Cup match against England.

The 34-year-old, who is the only wicketkeeper in the 15-member squad, is showing mild symptoms but is expected to feature in the match against England at the MCG.

The International Cricket Council

(ICC) rules don't bar a player from taking part in a match if he is COVID positive.

Wade opted out of Australia's optional indoor session on Thursday afternoon.

If he misses out, David Warner or Glenn Maxwell is expected to take the gloves against England.

Maxwell put on the wicketkeeping gloves during practice to do the drills. While skipper Aaron Finch had earlier stated that Warner would likely keep wickets in case of an emergency.

"Afghanistan, they are a really skillful, talented side. Ireland have got the skills there. Sri Lanka on their day can beat anyone as well. It's a tough group to get through no doubt," said Finch.

Australia's Adam Zampa missed the Sri Lanka game with Covid but Finch expected his leading T20 spinner to be back to face England, reporting he was "feeling a lot better".

England coach Matthew Mott said England were likely to stick to the same team that underperformed against Ireland, unless a bowler pulls up sore after Wednesday's efforts.

"We have played really solid cricket for the last month. We are not going to throw the baby out with the bath water," Mott said Thursday. "It is very unlikely to change the structure of the team."