Follow us on: @PioneerRaipur facebook.com/pioneerraipur instagram.com/pioneerraipur

RNI Regn. No. CHHENG/2012/42718, Postal Reg. No. - RYP DN/34/2013-2015

Established 1864

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

Late City Vol.11 Issue 272
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

OPINION 6
IN PURSUIT OF TRUTH AND SELF DISCOVERY

WORLD 8
UKRAINE CLAIMS GAINS IN RUSSIA ANNEXED REGION

MONEY 10
GAS PRICE HIKE: CNG PRICES MAY GO UP BY ₹8-12 A KG

ENG BEAT PAK 4-3 IN 7-MATCH T20I SERIES
12 SPORT

RAIPUR, TUESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Prachand gives IAF unique advantage

It's only light attack copter in world that can take off at 5K m altitude

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JODHPUR

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh after a sortie in the newly inducted indigenously built Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) "Prachand", in Jodhpur on Monday PTI

India on Monday got its fleet of the first indigenously built light combat helicopter (LCH) named 'Prachand' nearly 23 years after the Kargil war. The helicopter is capable of destroying enemy targets, including bunkers, tanks and drones in high-altitude areas.

Built by the public sector aerospace conglomerate Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the light combat helicopter is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16,400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.

The 5.8-tonne twin-engine gunship helicopter is armed with air-to-air missiles, 20 mm turret guns, rocket systems and other weapons.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday presided over the ceremony to induct "Prachand" into service at Jodhpur Air Force station. He also flew in the helicopter and later said, "No need to define 'Prachand', message received by the enemy."

The fleet comprising four helicopters was inducted into the IAF in Jodhpur in the presence of the Defence Minister, IAF chief VR Chaudhari and other senior military officials.

Rajnath described the induction of the indigenously-built LCH into the IAF as a "momentous occasion" for India's defence production. "The IAF has been playing an important role in protecting India's sovereignty and I am confident that its overall capability will enhance further following induction of LCH," he said.

"We have been focusing on boosting the country's defence production following certain developments.... Security of the country has been our foremost priority and it will remain so," he said.

Rajnath also complimented the IAF for reposing confidence in indigenously developed platforms.

He noted the LCH meets the requirements of modern warfare and necessary quality parameters under varied conditions of operations. It is capable of self-protection, of carrying a wide variety of ammunition, and delivering it to the field quickly.

5 killed in pandal inferno

3 kids among the dead, SIT to investigate Bhadohi blaze

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An injured is shifted to a hospital after a fire broke out in a Durga Puja pandal during the festival celebrations in Bhadohi, in Varanasi, on Sunday night PTI

Five people, including three children, have so far died after a fire broke out at a Durga puja pandal in Bhadohi district, police said on Monday.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to probe the cause of the incident from all angles, including it being part of any subversive activity.

Fire broke out on Sunday in a Durga puja pandal in Aurai town during the aarti session to mark the Saptami, or the seventh day, of Navratri festivities.

Bhadohi District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi said on Monday, "The death toll in the Bhadohi Durga puja pandal fire incident has risen to five. Three children and two women have died."

Among the five deceased were one Jai Devi and her two grandchildren and their death has left the family in a state of shock.

Devi's husband said, "Along with my wife, three of her daughters-in-law and two grandchildren had gone to the pandal. While the woman and one of the children died in hospital, one more child died today (Monday) morning at home."

On Sunday night, Bhadohi's Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar had informed about the incident, saying the fire broke at the time of aarti.

"At around 9 pm, a fire broke out at Durga Puja pandal in Bhadohi as it was the time of aarti.

"Around 10-15 people were injured and were immediately rushed to the hospital," the SP said.

"Around 150 people were present during the Durga Puja aarti when the fire broke out. Fifty-two people were admitted to different hospitals.

People having 30-40 per cent burns have been admitted to trauma centres and every patient is stable," he added.

Gandhi-lookalike Mahisasur: Hindu Mahasabha booked

PNS ■ KOLKATA

A day after a controversy erupted over the installation of a Mahishasura idol (buffalo demon) that resembled Mahatma Gandhi at a Durga puja here, the Kolkata police have lodged an FIR against the organisers of the All India Hindu Mahasabha Durga Puja pandal on Monday.

According to mythology, Goddess Durga slew Mahusasur in an epic battle to end his evil reign.

Its organisers, Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM), said the police brought an artist and made some changes to the figurine in view of the furore.

The Mahisashura idol had a bald head and was dressed in a white dhoti and round glasses. "The police got an artist to remove spectacles, put a moustache and hair on the asura," Sundargiri Maharaj, the president of the state unit of the ABHM, said.

UAPA slapped on PFI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday booked the Popular Front of India (PFI) under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in Southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh.

The development comes after Delhi Police's Special Cell unit along with district police conducted raids across six districts in the city last week and nabbed 30 people allegedly linked with the PFI.

The Government has already declared the PFI, Rehab India Foundation (RIF), All India Imams Council (AllC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation (NCHRO) and other organisations as "unlawful associations".

According to the FIR, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora vide a gazette notification dated September 29, declared and notified some addresses in Shaheen Bagh, Abdul Fazal Enclave and Jamia Nagar as being used for the purposes of carrying out unlawful activities of PFI and its associates or affiliates.

"Even after the said prescription and notification, reliable information has been received that certain leaders, members and associates of the referred unlawful associations, in continuation of their unlawful activities, are secretly conspiring to disrupt public order with the ultimate objective of targeting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India," the FIR stated.

"The leaders, members, and associates of the proscribed unlawful association/s are, in continuation of their unlawful activities, conspiring further to cause massive disruption of public order by promoting communal enmity and for the purposes, are mobilising supporters for spreading incitement at various places of worship," it further stated.

According to a senior police official, based on the information, a case under sections 120 B (criminal conspiracy) and 153A (promoting enmity between different groups) 9f the IPC along with Section 10 of the UAPA, has been registered at Shaheen Bagh police station.

"In order to unearth the conspiracy, to prevent deterioration of public order and to curb the intended unlawful activities by the leaders, members and associates of the said proscribed organisations. All these matters will be investigated and the culprits will be caught," police stated.

Russian arrested for JEE (Mains) hacking

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested a Russian national accused in an ongoing investigation of a case related to the irregularities in the JEE (Mains) 2021.

Mikhail Shargin, the accused, was earlier detained by the Bureau of Immigration at IGI Airport, Delhi, after his arrival from Almaty, Kazakhstan.

A lookout circular was issued against him at the behest of the CBI. Shargin is suspected to be the main hacker for the alleged manipulation of the JEE Mains.

"During the investigation, it came to light that some foreign nationals were involved in compromising many online examinations, including JEE (Mains), colluding with other accused in the instant case.

"The role of one Russian national was revealed who had allegedly tampered with the iLeon software (the platform on which the JEE (Main)-2021 examination was conducted) and he helped other accused in hacking the computer systems of suspect candidates during the examination. Therefore, a lookout circular was issued against the said Russian national," the CBI said in a statement.

On September 1 last year, the agency had booked Affinity Education Pvt Ltd and its three directors — Siddharth Krishna, Vishwambhar Mani Tripathi and Govind Varshney — besides other touts and associates/conduits for the alleged manipulation of the JEE Mains 2021.

SU-30s escort Iranian flight out of India after bomb hoax

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A bomb scare on board an Iranian civil aircraft bound for China forced the IAF on Monday to scramble its SU-30 fighter jets. The plane remained in the Indian airspace for nearly 40 minutes.

After Tehran informed India to disregard the bomb scare, the plane was escorted by the fighter jets to the Indian airspace limit for an onward journey to the designated destination. The initial warning about the bomb on the Mahan Air aircraft was sounded by the Lahore Air Traffic Control (ATC) about 9 am, it was learned.

A call regarding the threat was received at 9.20 am, said the Delhi Police. The Delhi airport was subsequently put on alert. The IAF scrambled two SU-30s from Punjab and Rajasthan respectively.

Mahan Air later tweeted that the report was "fake" and that the flight was safe.

"In the name of Allah. Following the publication of an allegation of a 'threat to bomb' a Mahan Airlines flight over India and request an emergency landing the public relations of Mahan Airlines informed that the Airbus 340 passenger plane of this company was traveling from Tehran to Guangzhou in China," read a statement by Mahan Air.

"The pilot, as soon as he learned about the possibility of a bomb in the flight, shared the situation with the control center… and recognised that this story was fake and the flight was completely safe."

"It seems that the design of such reports in the current international and domestic conditions was proposed in order to disturb the security and peace of mind," it added.

Giving details here, the IAF said, "On October 3, intimation was received of a bomb scare on an airline bearing Iranian registration, when it was transiting through Indian airspace. IAF fighter aircraft were scrambled, which followed the aircraft at a safe distance.

CAPSULE

MULAYAM CRITICAL
Gurugram: Former UP CM Mulayam Singh Yadav is admitted to "critical care unit" of Medanta Hospital and is being treated by a "comprehensive team of specialists".

MANGALYAAN MISSION OVER, CONFIRMS ISRO
Bengaluru: The Indian Space Research Organisation confirmed on Monday that the Mars Orbiter craft has lost communication with ground station, it's non-recoverable and the Mangalyaan mission has attained end-of-life.

Sweden's Svante Paabo gets Nobel for insight into human evolution

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Swedish scientist Svante Paabo won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for his discoveries on human evolution that provided key insights into our immune system and what makes us unique compared with our extinct cousins, the award's panel said.

Paabo has spearheaded the development of new techniques that allowed researchers to compare the genome of modern humans and that of other hominins — the Neanderthals and Denisovans.

While Neanderthal bones were first discovered in the mid-19th century, only by unlocking their DNA — often referred to as the code of life — have scientists been able to fully understand the links between species.

This included the time when modern humans and Neanderthals diverged as a species, determined to be around 800,000 years ago, said Anna Wedell, chair of the Nobel Committee.

"Paabo and his team also surprisingly found that gene flow had occurred from Neanderthals to Homo sapiens, demonstrating that they had children together during periods of co-existence," she said.

This transfer of genes between hominin species affects how the immune system of modern humans reacts to infections, such as the coronavirus.

About 1-2 per cent of people outside Africa have Neanderthal genes.

Vegetable prices skyrocketing as rain hits supply

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Rising prices of vegetables are jeopardising the common man's kitchen budget due to the supply crunch caused by heavy rain.

Apple, pomegranate and banana are cheaper than cauliflower, carrot, capsicum, and coriander in most parts of the north India. But there is not much change in the prices of onion, potato and garlic. Traders and vendors have blamed the short supply due to excessive rain in central India for the higher prices of vegetables.

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Agriculture, retail prices of vegetables will remain high till the arrival of the new crops.

The data collected from several vegetable markets across the national Capital showed that average retail prices of vegetables have surged sharply in the past few weeks.

Retail prices of cauliflower have sharply risen to nearly ₹100 per kg from ₹60 per kg a few weeks ago.

Carrot (Orange) is selling at ₹100 per kg; coriander leaves at ₹300-400 per kg; bottle gourd (Lauki) is around ₹55-60 a kg from ₹20-30 a kg a few days ago. Radish is selling at ₹60 per kg which was being sold at ₹30 a kg two weeks ago.

Sponge Gourd is selling at ₹60 a kg which was at ₹30-40 a kg last week. Capsicum price is selling at ₹120-150 a kg. Retail prices of potato and onion are stable being sold at ₹25-30 per kg. Tomato is also being sold at ₹35-40 per kg.

Spinach, a seasonal vegetable, is selling at ₹80 a kg from ₹60 per kg last week. Garlic is selling at ₹25-30 per kg. Lemon prices have gone up from ₹20 per 250 gram to ₹30 per 250 gram. Retail price of radish is at ₹60 per kg.

The retail prices of vegetables at Blinket online stores showed that average retail prices of ladies' finger is at ₹60 per kg; french beans ₹228 per kg; cucumber ₹80 per kg; sponge gourd ₹110 per kg; carrot ₹120 per kg; green capsicum ₹220 per kg; pointed gourd ₹80 per kg; brinjal ₹60 a kg; round gourd (tinda) ₹120 per kg; Radish ₹80 a kg and drumstick ₹360 per kg.

Vegetables	Bigbasket (₹per kg)	Blinkit (₹per kg)	Sabzibhazi (₹per kg)	Local vendors (₹per kg)
Cauliflower	120		120	100
Carrot (orange)	75	120	100	100
Ladies' fingers	50	60	60	60
Radish	44	80	60	60-70
Cabbage	33 per piece	35 per piece	35 per piece	60
Capsicum	80-90	220	140	100-120
Potato	25-30	25-30	25	25

Similarly, in Bigbasket, retail prices of carrot (orange) is ₹75 per kg; tomato ₹39 per kg; lady finger ₹50 per kg; capsicum ₹86 per kg; coriander leaves ₹120 a kg; cabbage one piece (400-500 gram) ₹33; chilli green ₹60 a kg; ginger ₹118 a kg; radish ₹44 a kg; drumstick ₹150 a kg; brinjal ₹60 a kg and cucumber ₹60 a kg.

According to Naseeb Singh, a wholesaler in Ghazipur vegetables and fruits market, the unusually high rainfall in major and trading centres, causing extensive damage to vegetable crops and the high transportation cost due to spiralling diesel prices have significantly contributed to the increase in prices.

The monsoon which was around 8 per cent deficient in June is now 7 per cent excess. Several parts of the country, except Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of Odisha, have experienced good rains this season.

the pioneer
RAIPUR | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2022

Mo Bus service in Rourkela likely soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ BHUBANESWAR

Good news for denizens in Rourkela as the 'Mo Bus' is likely to ply in the Steel City very soon. The Mo Bus service provided by the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) will be available soon in Rourkela through a tour operator.

Sources said a tender has been invited to select the tour operator for launching the Mo Bus service in Rourkela. The CRUT is planning to make the service available there by December this year.

At least 100 buses (70 AC and 30 non-AC buses) will ply in the city in the first phase. The service will be available on routes under the Rourkela Municipal Corporation and on the city outskirts. Later, the service will be extended to places adjoining the Sundargarh district headquarters in view of public demand.

Sources said the CRUT has fixed October 27 as the last date for tour operators for filing applications in the tender process. The selected operator will sign a contract to offer the service for a period of eight years. The operator will launch the service on the basis of 'gross cost contract'. The contract will be extended and renewed for another two years after reviewing the condition of the vehicles and quality services to be offered by the operator. The buses will be registered in the operator's name.

The population of Rourkela with an area of 195 square km stands at around 6.5 lakh. Due to the presence of the steel plant and other employment opportunities, the population continues to grow. Currently, the Sundargarh Urban Transport Trust (SUTT) is providing city bus services in Rourkela.

6 arrested for killing youth in Rourkela

Deceased was in love with minor daughter of prime accused

PNS ■ ROURKELA

As many as six persons including prime accused, father of a minor girl, were arrested by Plant site police station Rourkela, on Sunday, allegedly for abducting and killing a 19- year -old youth for his love affair with the minor girl. Another accused in this case is absconding.

On September 26 evening, one Sibangi Rao of Hatisala Sahi of Deogarh district lodged an FIR at plant site police station that her younger brother Shrinibas Rao alias Sinu(19) was missing.

Sinu had been staying at the house of one Binod Singh alias Babu for last 4 years. Sinu was in love with Rajveer Kau(15), daughter of Babu.

On September 24 night accused persons identified as Binod Singh alias Babu, Shiva Soni, Chandan Soni, Panny alias Vishal Rathor, Ajay Sah and Tuni Jena alias Bharat Jena kidnapped Sinu from Gopabandhupalli area by using one motor cycle with number plate and another motor cycle without number plate and one Tata Ace vehicle with intent to kill him and took him to the house of Binod at Phatapipe and assaulted him brutally and when they knew that the Sinu died on the spot, all the accused taking the help of accused Raj Singh alias Chocolate, threw his body in a coal laden goods train proceeding from Paradeep to Raigarh Jindal plant. Thereafter the body was recovered from rail wagon during unloading of coal from a goods train inside Jindal plant coal siding at JSPL, Patrapali, Raigarh under the jurisdiction of Kotra Road police station of Raigarh, Chhatisgarh on September 26.

Kotra road police informed Plant site police here and a police team from Plant site police reached there. Kotra road police registered an unnatural death case and body of deceased Sinu was handed over to his family in Deogarh district by Plant site police team.

In Bhawanipatna

Animals sacrificed in Chhatar Yatra

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

The Chhatar Yatra of Goddess Manikeswari was held here in Kalahandi district on Monday with the participation of public after a gap of two years due to Covid-19.

The procession of Chhatar of the goddess was taken out to Jenakhol on the outskirts of Bhawanipatna from the Manikeswari Temple following secret rituals. Then, the ceremonial Chhatar returned to the temple in a procession.

Thousands of animals and birds were sacrificed by devotees during the festival while around 30,000 people congregated to witness the event. Notably, the Supreme Court had stayed the Orissa High Court's order of banning animal sacrifice during the Chhatar Yatra.

Meet on 24x7 water supply held in Puri

9 States join; MoHUA all praise for Puri model

PNS ■ PURI

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised a two-day regional workshop on 24x7 water supply system (Drink from Tap Mission) at Puri on September 29 and 30.

In the first such regional workshop, senior officials from the Ministry and from nine States such as Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana participated.

The representatives of the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) and members of the National Task Force on 24x7 Water Supply also joined the workshop.

Additional Secretary, AMRUT, MoHUA, D Thara appreciated the 24x7 water supply project of Puri Municipality. He said that Puri is the first city in the entire country to have such a project and urged others to replicate the model.

State Housing and Urban Development Department Principal Secretary G Mathi Vathanan opined that Odisha became a pioneer State in the sector due to commitment of CM Naveen Patnaik. 'Drink from Tap Mission' called 'Sujal' was first launched on October 13, 2020 in Odisha.

EPF pensioners hold demo in B'pur

Demand minimum pension of Rs 9K

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In a demonstration before the RDC Southern Division recently, the South Odisha Retired EPF Pensioners Association demanded minimum pension of Rs 9,000 per month. In this regard, the demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the RDC South addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The agitation was held as per a call by the State EPF Pensioners Association. They also demanded before the Government of Odisha to include them in the Biju Swasthya Kalyana Yojana. The delegates from Ganjam, Gajapati, Kalahandi ,Koraput and Rayagada etc participated in the stir, that was led by association's Ganjam secretary Prasanta Kumar Satapathy. Among others, CITU leader Yudhistir Behera, Prakash Chaudhury and Rayagada district secretary Jagadisha Tula were present.

Labourer's leg, palm chopped off by middlemen

Accused still moving scot-free

PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

Four persons allegedly chopped off the palm and leg of a migrant labourer Sanka Mumru of Kalaba village of Gajapati district after he demanded his wage.

According to sources, the four middlemen of Kalaba village under the Adaba police station had assured Mumru of high wage and taken him to Uttar Pradesh and engaged him in a cement company.

After working for a week, when Mumru demanded wage from the middlemen, they allegedly thrashed him and forced him to consume alcohol.

When Mumru got drunk, they chopped off Sanka's right hand palm and his left leg. They admitted him to a hospital where he underwent treatment for two days. Recently, the middlemen left him at his home. Before leaving, the middlemen threatened Murmu with dire consequences if he files a police complaint.

District Labour Officer Loknath Panda said, "Let Mumru recover, then we will take necessary action."

Jeypore singer collapses on stage

Declared dead at hosp

PNS ■ JEYPORE

Popular singer Murali Mohapatra collapsed on the stage during his performance at a show here in Koraput district on Sunday evening. He was later declared dead at a hospital.

According to reports, Mohapatra was performing at the show organised at Rajnagar here on the occasion of Durga Puja. After rendering a couple of songs, he sat on a chair on the stage and was listening to other singers, during which he collapsed.

He was rushed to the District Headquarters Hospital, where a doctor declared him dead. He reportedly died of heart attack.

Known as the 'Akshaya Mohanty of Jeypore', Mohapatra was working as a clerk at the office of Jeypore Sub-Collector. A pall of gloom descended on Jeypore after his demise.

Int'l seminar at B'pur Varsity

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A two-day international seminar on "New Edge Innovation in Commerce and Management" was held at the PG Department of Commerce of the Berhampur University on September 28 and 29.

The welcome address was given by Coordinator of the department Dr Maheswar Sethi. The topic was introduced by conference director Prof Gauri Sankar Lal while the presidential address was delivered by Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University Prof Geetanjali Dash.

Chief guest CMA Satya Sundar Mahasuar, chief speaker Prof K Srinivasan and Prof PK Mohanty spoke on the occasion, among other experts, A vote of thanks was given by the conference coordinator Sakti Ranjan Dash.

BeMC gets best practice award

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) received the innovation and best practice award for a third time this year. On the 75th year of the country's Independence, this award was received by the BeMC at the Talkotra Stadium, Delhi, during the celebration of Swachh Sarvekshan Ranking -2022.

Brahmapur Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai, Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida, Ganjam DRDA PD V Kirthi Vasan, BeMC Commissioner J Sonal, Enforcement Officer Tarunakanta received the award from Union Urban Development Minister Kaushal Kishore and Secretary Manoj Joshi,who praised the BeMC for its efforts in keeping the city clean by adopting best practices.

BeMC Mayor Dalai thanked the sanitation department, the Safei workers and all citizens of Brahmapur for keeping the city clean.

In Dhenkanal

Farmer trampled to death by elephant

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

A 55-year-old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Dhenkanal district on Monday. The deceased was identified as Panchu Behera, a farmer of the village.

The incident took place at Mundia Sahi under the Rasol police station in the distrcit when Behera was working in his agriculture field and was attacked by the animal.

Later, his body was recovered and sent to a hospital for postmortem.

On getting information, Forest Department officials reached the spot and began an investigation.

However, the locals expressed strong resentment over the incident and alleged inaction by the forest officials to drive away elephants invading the area in search of food.

Municipal Admn Dir asked

Merge villages in BeMC in 3 months: HC

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In a significant move, the Orissa High Court has directed the Director, Municipal Administration, Housing and Urban Development Department, to carry out its earlier order regarding the merger of Lochapada panchayat and three other villages with the Brahmapur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) within three month.

The court said this while hearing a contempt petition filed by the Sahara Tali Anchal Milita Kriya Anusthan Committee (STAMKAC) for non compliance and non implementation of its order passed on January1, 2022.

It is worth mentioning that earlier the STAMKAC had filed a writ petition in the HC, seeking a direction to the Director, Municipal Administration, H and UD Department to take a call for the merger of adjacent areas and 18 peripheral villages into the BeMC fold as per the 2008 Gazette notification and as per the promises made by the Government during the formation of the BeMC.

While disposing of the writ petition, the court on September 26 directed the Director Municipal Administration to complete the entire exercise of merger of the Lochapada GP and three other villages such as Sanakusasthali village of Badakusasthali GP, Brhamanpalli village of Ganju GP and Golabandha Army Training College area of Golabandha GP within three months from the communication of the judgement copy of the order.

But the Director Municipal Administration didn't take any action on it for last eight months. After sensing the apathy and indifference attitude of the Government, the STAMKAC filed a contempt of court case.

B'swar manch completes 417th Swachh drive

Weekly cleaning drive began on Gandhi Jayanti in 2014

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Manch, Gopalpur, in its 417th weekly programme on October 2 (Gandhi Jayanti) cleaned the Block office premises of Bahanaga in association with the staff headed by BDO Gouranga Charan Ghosh and Block Chairman Biswanath Mishra.

Manch convenor Sudarsan Mohapatra, Kamala Kanta Das, Biswambar Dash, Harish Jena, Maheswar Senapati, Sanjukta Dash and Labanya Mishra were present. Later, in a meeting, the Block Chairman and the BDO highly praised the selfless service of the volunteers to the nation.

The district Collector of Baleswar also praised the work and cooperated with the volunteers. The manch completed the 415 round of cleaning on September 18 at Gopalpur College with students and staff and the 416-round at Gopalpur Market and Gopalpur hospital.

Notably, the Gopalpur based manch in Bahanaga Block, under Baleswar district, being inspired by Prime Minster Narendra Modi, had started the cleaning and awareness programme on Gandhi Jayanti in 2014. The volunteers have been conducting the cleaning work in the district every Sunday for last eight years.

the pioneer
RAIPUR |TUESDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2022

C'garh making all efforts to expand air services: CM

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh is making all efforts to expand air connectivity and airports, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Monday.

He was speaking after virtually flagging off the flight from the Bilasa Devi Kenwat Airport, Bilaspur, from here. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia did the honour from New Delhi.

Baghel said the Bilaspur airport has been upgraded to 3-C VFR (Visual Flight Rules) category by the state government.

The state spent Rs.25.10 crore to develop the Bilaspur airport and making it functional. With increasing flights and passengers from there, approval has been given to expand the capacity of the existing terminal building, he said.

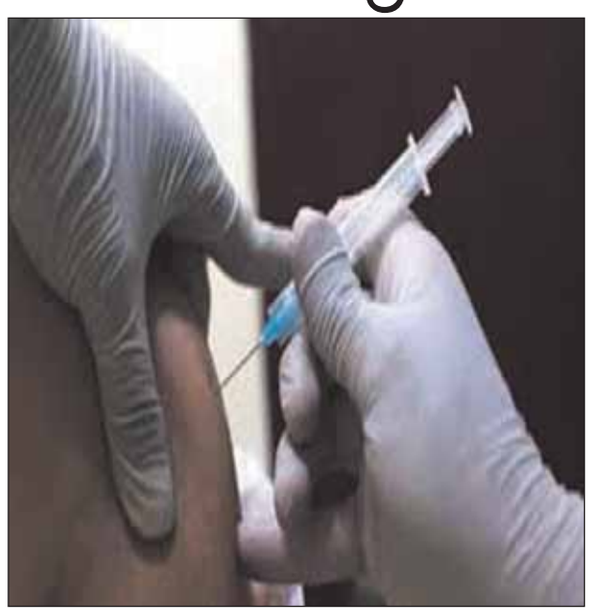
He said approval has been given for works costing Rs 22 crore to prepare Bilaspur airport as per 3-C IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) standard and to develop night landing facility.

To instal PBN (Performance Based Navigation) navigation system for smooth operation of aircraft from the airport, the amount has been paid by the state government to the Airport Authority of India, he said.

Similarly, administrative approval has been issued for works worth Rs 48 crore for runway development and expansion and development works for Ambikapur airport. It will help it to bring it under the 3-C VFR category. Airport development work is going on rapidly. The target is to apply for its licensing by December 31, 2022.

Over 5 cr Covid-19 jabs administered in C'garh

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR



Chhattisgarh crossed another milestone in Covid-19 vaccination drive as its count has crossed the 5 crore mark.

A total of 5,00,10,332 Covid-19 jabs have been administered till Sunday, an official communiqué said.

Among them, 2,24,49,317 were inoculated with the first dose, 2,02,65,772 with both doses and 72,95,293 with the precautionary dose.

Around 94 percent of the total eligible adult population in the state has got both the shots.

Sixty-two percent teens in the 15-18 age group and 55 percent of children in the 12-14 age group have received both shots.

A total of 1,85,13,230 c itizens above 18 years of age, 10,21,128 teens in the 15-18 age group and 7,31,364 children in the 12-14 age group have received both doses.

Besides, precaution doses have been administered to 17,78,411 health workers, frontline workers and people above 60 years of age and to 55,16,822 in the 18-59 age group, the communiqué said.

CS reviews preparations for Chhattisgarhia Olympics

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

With an objective to encourage the traditional sports activities in state, Chhattisgarhia Olympics is going to held for the first time in Chhattisgarh from October 6, 2022 to January 6, 2023.

Preparations for the sports competition are underway in full swing. To review the preparations a meeting of the State Level Coordination Committee constituted for the competitions was held at Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhawan) under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain.

In the meeting Chief Secretary directed the departmental officers to constitute organizing committees for each level of sports by October 5.

Officials were also directed to ensure proper arrangement of sports grounds, venue, necessary sports equipment, referees, judges, first aid, drinking water, cleanliness and mobile toilets etc for each level of the competitions.

According to the guidelines and action plan 14 types of traditional sports have been included for the competition which includes Gilli Danda, Pitthool, Sankhali, Langdi Daud, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Banti (Kancha) for group category, and Billas, Fugdi, Gedi Daud, Bhanwara (spinning top), 100 meter run and long jump for single category.

People of three different age-groups can participate in the sports competition namely age upto 18 years, then 18-40 years, and those above 40 years of age. The competition will be organized separately for male and female categories.

Over a dozen IAS officers reshuffled

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government on Monday reshuffled charges of 13 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers including three district Collectors.

Rajesh Singh Rana (IAS 2008) has been posted as Special Secretary, School Education Department, with additional charge of Director, State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) and Mission Director, State Literacy Mission.

Ritesh Kumar Agrawal (IAS 2012), Collector of Jashpur, has been posted as Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Text Book Corp Ltd.

Gaurav Kumar Singh (IAS 2013), Collector of Balod, has been posted as Joint Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department.

Kuldeep Sharma (IAS 2014), Collector of Korea, has been shifted as Collector of Balod. Vinay Kumar L (IAS 2016), Chief Executive Officer, Surguja, has been posted as Collector Korea.

Ravi Mittal (IAS 2016), CEO of Zila Panchayat in Raipur, has become the Jashpur Collector. Akash Chhikara (IAS 2017) has been posted as CEO, Zila Panchayat Raipur.

Rohit Vyas (IAS 2017) has been posted as Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bhilai.

Kunal Dudawat (IAS 2017) has become Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Bilaspur.

Lalitaditya Neelam (IAS 2019) is posted as CEO Zila Panchayat, Dantewada.

Vishawadeep (IAS 2019) has been posted as CEO Zila Panchayat at Surguja, Namrata Jain (IAS 2019) as CEO Zila Panchayat at Korea and Amit Kumar (IAS 2019) as CEO, Zila Panchayat at Rajnandgaon.

BJP demands action over death of cows

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Chhattisgarh on Monday demanded stern action against those involved in the death of 90 cows in a Gauthan in village Bhaison in district Janjgir-Champa.

After inspecting the Gauthan, Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel told the media that more than 90 cows died over one month.

He said carcasses of 12 cows were found on Monday in the Gauthan. The remaining cows there are ill and need immediate medical treatment. There is no arrangement for fodder and water for the cattle, he added.

He said responsibility should be fixed for the plight of the Gauthans and for the death of the cows.

CM seeks intl flight service from Raipur

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

During the launching of Bilaspur-Indore-Bilaspur air service on Monday,

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday flagged off the Bilaspur-Indore-Bilaspur flight and sought to start international air service from the Swami Vivekananda Airport here and an international cargo hub.

He was addressing the virtual flagging off the service from the Bilasa Devi Kenwat Airport, Bilaspur, from here and by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia from New Delhi.

Congratulating the people of Bilaspur and Indore, Baghel said Bilaspur should also be linked by air to big cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru.

He urged the Union Minister to start air service for cities like Varanasi, Ranchi, Patna and Bhubaneshwar and connecting Ambikapur to Bilaspur, Raipur under the Regional Connectivity Scheme.

Raising the demand for international flights and a cargo hub in Raipur, Baghel said the airport was ready to handle international flights as the Airport Authority of India (AAI) has been handed over 461.20 acres of land free of cost.

Security related problems and other issues have been resolved.

Scindia said the Central government was ready to provide all possible help to expand the aviation services in Chhattisgarh.

He said the demand for night landing facility at Bilaspur airport is justified and additional land would be required to expand its runway.

Baghel said 1,000 acres of land adjoining the Chakarbhata airport is under the Army's possession. Due to non-utilization, the state government is trying to take back the land. The land will be made available to widen Chakarbhata airport.

Bilaspur-Indore-Bilaspur air service four days a week

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Bilaspur-Indore-Bilaspur flight will leave Bilaspur at 11.35 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, reaching Indore at 1.25 p.m.

The flight will depart Indore at 1.55 p.m. and reach Bilaspur at 3.45 p.m.

The maiden flight from Bilaspur to Indore had 50 passengers. Alliance Air is operating the 72-seater aircraft.

Alliance Air started the first regular domestic air service from Bilaspur to Delhi-Jabalpur-Bilaspur-Prayagraj on March 1, 2021. A similar regular air service from Bilaspur to Bhopal was started on June 5, 2022.

Villagers in Bijapur district have adapted the livelihood option of producing tusser silk under the Rural Tusser Worm Keeping Scheme of the Chhattisgarh government's Gramodyog Department. ***Pioneer Photo***

Fencing team wins bronze in Épée event

STAFF REPORTER
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh fencing team bagged one more bronze medal, taking the state's medal tally to five on Monday at the National Games in Gandhinagar.

The fencing team won its third medal on Monday in the National Games in Épée event.

The fencing team of S.N. Shiv Magesh, R.S. Serjin, Yogesh Sahu and Siraj Khan in the Épée event entered the semi-final by defeating Diman Diu 45-34 in the quarter-final. The team lost to Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) 29-45 in the semi-final.

The team has to be satisfied with the bronze medal, said Manager Akhilesh Dubey.

Dubey said that on Tuesday that the Sabre event of fencing will be played in the men's category team championship. The team hopes to win a medal.

Chhattisgarh State Fencing President S. Bharathidasan and General Secretary Bashir Ahmed Khan and the Director of Sports and Youth Welfare Department, Shweta Sinha, congratulated the team.

Animesh Kujur from Chhattisgarh will present his challenge in the final of 200 metres in athletics. The players in archery and aquatics could not perform well, said deputy Chef De Mission, Rupendra Chouhan.

Chhattisgarh now has a medal tally of three silvers (two fencing and one staking), one gold (skating) and one bronze (fencing).

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and Published by Vijay Budhia for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Limited, "The Pioneer Building", 11, Civil Lines, Near Raj Bhavan, Opp. Sanskriti Bhavan, Raipur-492007 Telephone(0771) 2223260/70 and Printed at Kavya Prakashan, Express Tower, Adarsh nagar, Mowa, Raipur-492005, Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay, Resident Editor: Sujeet Kumar, Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900.

Curb stubble fire: Govt to Punjab

'Take crop residue management steps holistically'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday asked the Punjab Government to chalk out a comprehensive action plan at the micro level for effective control of paddy stubble burning during the ensuing season.

Abhilaksh Likhi, Additional Secretary in the Union Agriculture Ministry, told state officials to chalk out a detailed plan while attending a farm demonstration on Crop Residue Management (CRM) at Rangian village in Kharar tehsil of SAS Nagar district in Punjab.

"The states were also told to establish a mechanism to ensure effective utilisation of machines, promote the use of bio-decomposer in a complementary mode with the CRM machines, and promote ex-situ utilisation of straw by way of mapping demand from adjoining industries like biomass-based power plants, etc. ...If all the actions are taken at the State level in a holistic manner, stubble burning can be effectively controlled during the coming season," Likhi said. Dr Likhi further stated that the objectives of the Crop Residue Management Scheme to check air pollution caused by residue burning. The residues burning also impact the soil fertility. He urged farmers to use crop residue management scheme for better future.

To promote the use of bio-decomposer technology, the Centre has revised the operational guidelines of the CRM scheme in August 2022 and provisions have been made for conducting large-scale demonstrations of bio-decomposer on farmers' fields by way of utilising flexi-funds under the scheme.

To support the efforts of the Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to address air pollution caused due to stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue, a Central Sector Scheme on Crop Residue Management has been introduced in 2018-19.

Under this scheme, financial assistance @ 50per cent is provided to the farmers for purchase of crop residue management machinery and @ 80per cent is provided to Coop. Societies, FPOs and Panchayats for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres. The Scheme promote the usage of machines such as Super Straw Management Systems, Happy Seeder, Super Seeder, Smart Seeder, zero till seed cum fertilizer drill, Mulcher, Paddy Straw Chopper, hydraulically reversible mould board plough, Crop reapers and Reaper binders for in-situ management of crop residue and Balers & Rakes which are used for straw collection in the form of bales for other ex-situ uses of straw.

During the period from 2018-19 to 2021-22, ₹2440.07 crores (Punjab – ₹1147.62 crores, Haryana – ₹693.25 crores, Uttar Pradesh – ₹533.67 crores, NCT of Delhi – ₹4.52 Crores and ICAR– ₹61.01 crores) have been released.

During the current year, so far, an amount of ₹240.00 crores, ₹191.53 crores, ₹ 154.29 crores and ₹14.18 crores have already been released to the State of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and ICAR, respectively.

During the last four years, the states have distributed more than 2.07 lakh machines to the individual farmers and to more than 38000 CHCs in these 4 States, which also include more than 3243 Balers & Rakes which are used for ex-situ collection of straw.

Modi to gift ₹3K cr projects to poll-bound Himachal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a slew of developmental projects in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh including an AIIMS at Bilaspur, and participate in the famous Kullu Dussehra celebrations during his visit to the State on Wednesday.

Ahead of the visit BJP president JP Nadda and Union Minister Anurag Thakur visited the spot to oversee the preparation at Luhnu ground at Bilaspur. Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat would be electing new assemblies by the year-end.

The Prime Minister has also inaugurated a number of developmental projects in Gujarat including a super specialty hospital. On September 29, he laid the foundation stone and dedicated various projects worth more than Rs 3,400 crore in Surat, Gujarat.

Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 3,650 crore and also address a public meeting in Himachal Pradesh, an official statement said. It said Modi's vision and commitment to strengthening health services across the country is being showcased again with the inauguration of AIIMS, Bilaspur.

The Prime Minister had laid the hospital's foundation stone in October 2017 and it has been established under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, the statement said.

AIIMS, Bilaspur, constructed at a cost of more than Rs 1,470 crore, is a state-of-the-art hospital with 18 specialty and 17 super-specialty departments, 18 modular operation theatres and 750 beds, including 64 ICU beds.

Spread over 247 acres, the hospital is equipped with 24-hour emergency and dialysis facilities, modern diagnostic machines such as ultrasonography, CT scan and MRI among others. It also has a Jan Aushadhi Kendra and a 30-bed AYUSH block. The hospital has also set up a Centre for Digital Health to provide health services in tribal and inaccessible areas of the state, it said.

Specialist health services will also be provided by the hospital through health camps in the inaccessible tribal and high Himalayan regions such as Kaza, Saluni, and Keylong. The hospital will admit 100 students for MBBS and 60 students for nursing courses every year, it added. Among other development projects, the prime minister will lay the foundation stone for a 31-km-long project for four laning of NH-105 from Pinjore to Nalagarh, worth over Rs 1,690 crore.

Modi will also lay the foundation stone for Medical Device Park at Nalagarh, which will be built at a cost of around Rs 350 crore. Memorandums of Understanding of more than Rs 800 crore have already been signed for setting up industries in this park, it said, adding the project will significantly enhance employment opportunities in the region.

Noting that the International Kullu Dussehra Festival will be celebrated from October 5 to 11 at Dhalpur Ground in Kullu, the statement said event is unique in sense that it is the congregation of worshippers of more than 300 deities of the valley.

ED carries out search op, freezes ₹5.59 cr of E-nuggets app owner, associates

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has carried out a search operation and froze the account balance of Rs 5.59 crore of one Aamir Khan and his accomplices under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with an investigation relating to the mobile gaming app E-nuggets.

So far, an amount of Rs 36.96 crore has been frozen in this case.

The instant case was registered on the basis of an FIR dated February 15, 2021 filed under various sections of IPC by Park Street Police Station, Kolkata Police, against Aamir Khan and others, based on a complaint filed by Federal Bank authorities.

Accused Aamir Khan, who is in police custody now, launched a mobile gaming application namely E-Nuggets, which was designed for the purpose of defrauding the public. It was revealed during investigation that multiple accounts (more than 300) were used to launder the money.

On the basis of information available, the amount of Rs 5.59 crore lying in balance in the said related bank accounts has been frozen.

Job on compassionate ground concession, not right: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Appointment on compassionate ground is a concession, not a right and the object of granting such employment is to enable the affected family to tide over a sudden crisis, the Supreme Court has said.

The apex court last week set aside the judgement of a division Bench of the Kerala High Court, which confirmed the verdict of a single judge directing the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and others to consider the case of a woman for appointment on compassionate ground.

A Bench of Justices MR Shah and Krishna Murari noted that the father of the woman was employed with Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd and died while on duty in April 1995.

At the time of his death, it noted, his wife was serving and therefore not eligible for appointment on compassionate ground. "After a period of 24 years from the death of the deceased employee, the respondent shall not be entitled to the appointment on compassionate ground," the Bench said.

According to the law laid down by the apex court on appointment on compassionate ground, equal opportunity for all Government vacancies should be provided to all aspirants as mandated under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

Article 14 of the Constitution deals with equality before law and Article 16 with equality of opportunity in matters of public employment.

"However, appointment on compassionate ground offered to a dependent of a deceased employee is an exception to the said norms. The compassionate ground is a concession and not a right," the Bench said in its judgment delivered on September 30.

The apex court noted that when the employee had died in 1995, his daughter was a minor. On attaining the age of majority, she made an application for appointment on compassionate ground. It also noted that after a period of around 14 years after his death, his daughter had submitted an application for appointment on compassionate ground. Referring to previous judgements of the top court, the Bench said as per the law laid down, compassionate appointment is an exception to the general rule of appointment in the public services and is in favour of dependents of a person dying in harness and leaving his family in penury and without any means of livelihood.

In such cases, out of pure humanitarian consideration, a provision is made in the rules to provide gainful employment to one of the dependents of the deceased who may be eligible for such employment, the court said.

Delhi court rejects bail plea of ex-DHFL promoters in loan scam of ₹42,871 cr

New Delhi: A Delhi court has dismissed the statutory bail plea of former Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) promoters, Kapil Wadhawan and his brother Dheeraj, arrested by the CBI in connection with a multi-crore bank loan scam case.

The accused had claimed before the court that since the CBI failed to file the charge-sheet against them within the mandatory 60-day period from their arrest, they had "indefeasible right" to statutory bail, also known as default bail, in the matter. The two accused were arrested in the present FIR on July 19. Special Judge Vishal Gogne, however, said the filing of the present charge-sheet in the investigation shall rather be governed by Section 167(2)(a)(i) CrPC, which provides for a maximum period of 90 days. The judge noted that the accused were also charged with section 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent) for which the maximum punishment was life imprisonment, "which brings the period of completion of investigation within the purview of Section 167(2)(a)(i) CrPC i.E. 90 days."

"Since the period of 90 days has not yet expired in the present investigation, which also relates to Section 409 IPC, applicants Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan are not entitled to statutory bail under Section 167(2) CrPC. Both applications are dismissed," the court said in an order passed on September 30.

According to the FIR based on a complaint made by Union Bank of India, DHFL, Kapil Wadhawan, the then CMD, Dheeraj Wadhwan, the then Director, and other accused persons allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat the consortium of 17 banks led by Union Bank of India and in pursuance of the said criminal conspiracy the said accused Kapil Wadhwan and others induced the consortium banks to sanction huge loans aggregating to Rs 42,871.42 crore.

Jaishankar to hold talks with Australia, New Zealand Foreign Ministers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will discuss the entire spectrum of bilateral ties with his New Zealand and Australian counterparts during his weeklong visit to the two countries commencing Wednesday.

Giving details of his schedule, the ministry of external affairs said here on Monday, Jaishankar will hold talks with New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Nanaia Mahuta and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong.

In his first-ever visit to New Zealand as a minister, Jaishankar will join the island country's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Thursday to felicitate members of the Indian community for their exceptional achievements and contributions.

Both leaders will release India@75 postage stamps to commemorate and showcase Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in New Zealand, the ministry statement said.

Jaishankar will also launch the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery'. A book showcasing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special bond with the Sikh community 'Heartfelt - The Legacy of Faith' will also be released on the occasion.

Jaishankar will also interact with several other New Zealand ministers, including Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Minister for Community and Voluntary Sector, Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, and Youth. Radhakrishnan is the first person of Indian origin to become a minister in New Zealand.

Jaishankar will interact with parliamentarians, members of the business community as well as Indian diaspora, including students. In Wellington, Jaishankar will inaugurate the newly constructed building of the High Commission of India.

In Australia, the External Affairs Minister will visit Canberra and Sydney. Jaishankar will hold the 13th Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong.

He will also meet Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles and have interactions with the Australian Navy, the media and think tanks, including the Lowy Institute in Sydney.

This will be Jaishankar's second visit to Australia this year. He had visited the country in February to attend the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Melbourne.

CPWD again cancels bid for PM new house for admin reasons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the second time in the last few months, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on Monday cancelled pre-qualification bids for the construction of the Rs 360-crore new residence for the Prime Minister citing "administrative reasons".

The new PM residence will be constructed as part of the Central Vista redevelopment project adjacent to the Rashtrapati Bhawan and South Block. The bid was floated on October 1. An official said that the agency would soon call for pre-qualification bids again. According to the bid documents that were cancelled, the PM's residence would come up adjacent to Rashtrapati Bhawan and South Block and opposite to DRDO building in Blocks A & B, Dara Shikoh Road.

It stated that the CPWD had estimated the project (construction and maintenance for five years) to cost Rs 360 crore and take 21 months to complete. On July 18, the CPWD, which comes under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, had first floated the pre-qualification bid, but had withdrawn it on July 22 citing "administrative reasons". The redevelopment project of the Central Vista — the nation's power corridor — envisages new triangular Parliament building, a common central secretariat, new PM's residence and prime minister's office, and new vice-president's enclave, among others.

Vaccination only form of protection against polio: Kapur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Rotary International, a non-profit global organization, has expressed concerned over the reemergence of polio in neighbouring countries in recent months with over 27 incidents of wild poliovirus being reported from different parts of the world including Afghanistan (2), Pakistan (19) and Mozambique (6).

"The detection of poliovirus, and even cases of Polio, in places where it hasn't been found for years has demonstrated once again that eradicating a human disease isn't easy, especially in the final stages," said Deepak Kapur, Chairman, Rotary International's National PolioPlus Committee.

"The re-emergence of polio in these places highlights the importance of vaccination as the only form of protection against Polio and many other diseases. It draws attention to the work needed to encourage people to get vaccinated at a time when vaccination rates are dropping in some communities," said Kapur at a cycle rally held here to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's anniversary.

It's been over a decade since the last case was detected in 2011 and 8 years to India being declared Polio-free by the WHO in 2014.

Satish Upadhaya, Vice Chairman, North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), said, "With knowledge about the disease, the ostracization of patients will end, allowing them to live a life of dignity and security."

Among those who participated in the event included Himanshu Gupta, Director of Education, Delhi, Dr Ritu Choudhary, State Leprosy Officer, Padma Srinivasan, Principal, Delhi Public School RK Puram, Dr. N Subramanian, District Advisor Leprosy, District Advisor Polio along with representatives from LEPRA and ACRE.

Rotary Int'l raises concerns over increase in cases of leprosy

NEW DELHI: Rotary International has flagged rising incidents of leprosy with at least 1,27,558 new cases in 2020-21 across the world, of which India accounts for approximately 60 percent. It said the Government must utlize infrastructure and learnings from Polio for control and elimination of the Hensen's Disease. Leprosy is curable and becomes non-communicable with just a few doses of MDT. ***PNS***

IN SHORTS

AVOID ADVERTISING ONLINE BETTING: I&B

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on Monday issued an advisory to publishers of news and current affairs content on digital media advising them to refrain from publishing advertisements of online betting platforms on online and social media.

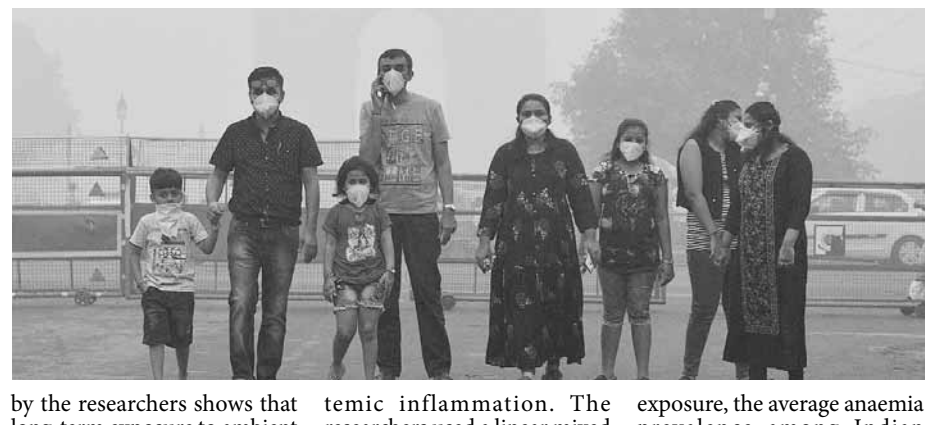
PANKAJ TRIPATHI WILL BE NATIONAL ICON FOR EC

New Delhi: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey on Monday launched a voter awareness radio series in collaboration with All India Radio. CEC Kumar announced that actor Pankaj Tripathi would henceforth be the National Icon for Election Commission keeping in view his commitment to the cause and wide appeal across the country.

Long-term exposure to PM2.5 air pollution may increase anaemia: Study

Nature Sustainability Journal reveals, India has one of the highest, i.e. 53 per cent, global prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI



For every 10 microgram/metre cube increase in ambient pollutant PM2.5 exposure, the average anaemia prevalence among women increases by 7.23 per cent. PM 2.5 pollution are tiny air particles that are hazardous to human health.

On the contrary, says a study as it linked specific PM2.5 pollution to the common blood disorder, if India meets its recent clean-air targets, anaemia prevalence among women with reproductive age will fall from 53 per cent to 39.5 per cent, taking 186 districts below the national target of 35 per cent. The study findings "Reducing the burden of anaemia in Indian women of reproductive age with clean-air targets" are published in journal Nature Sustainability Ironically, India has one of the highest, ie 53 per cent, global prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age.

The NFHS-5 findings too reveal that the prevalence of anaemia has increased among children, women of all age groups including pregnant women, and men. This increase in prevalence was observed in almost all the states barring a few exceptions.

Even as the Government is finding reasons to cut down anemia prevalence, the study by the researchers shows that long-term exposure to ambient fine particulate matter (PM2.5), a type of air pollution, may increase the prevalence of anaemia through systemic inflammation. The researchers used a linear mixed model adjusted for potential confounding factors, showing that for every 10?µg?m-3 increase in ambient PM2.5 exposure, the average anaemia prevalence among Indian women of reproductive age increases by 7.23 per cent. Among PM2.5 species, sulfate and black carbon are more associated with anaemia than organics and dust. Among sectoral contributors, industry was the greatest, followed by the unorganized, domestic, power, road dust, agricultural waste burning and transport sectors.

"Our results suggest that the transition to clean energy would accelerate India's progress towards the 'anaemia-free' mission target," said the scientists led by the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi, who used multiple datasets, including NFHS and satellite data to link pollution and health. Thus, ambient air pollution, which is known to cause not only substantial morbidity and mortality globally but also adverse health outcomes, including cardiovascular and respiratory disease, diabetes and low birth weight, is now known to cause anemia also. The researchers included Ekta Chaudhary, Sagnik Dey, Santu Ghosh and, Srishti Jain (All from IIT-Delhi) and Anura V Kurpad(both from St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru), Sumit Sharma, Nimish Singh, Shivang Agarwal (All from TERI, Delhi) Kushal Tibrewal and Chandra Venkataraman ((IIT-Mumbai), Aaron J. Cohen(Health Effects Institute, USA and Shuxiao Wang (School of Environment, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China).

the pioneer
RAIPUR | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2022

'Seven Assembly bypolls in six States on Nov 3'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bypolls to seven vacant Assembly seats spread across six States will be held on November 3, the Election Commission announced on Monday.

Bypolls will be held on two seats — Mokama and Gopalganj — of Bihar , Andheri (East) of Maharashtra, Adampur of Haryana, Munugode of Telangana, Gola Gorakhnath of Uttar Pradesh, and Dhamnagar of Odisha, it said.

The counting of votes will take place on November 6, the poll panel said in a statement.

The notification for the bypolls will be issued on October 7.

The Andheri (East), Gola Gorakhnath, Gopalganj and Dhamnagar seats fell vacant following the demise of their respective MLAs.

The Mokama seat fell vacant after the sitting MLA was disqualified upon conviction in a case. The Adampur assembly byelection was necessitated following the resignation of Kuldeep Bishnoi as a Congress MLA.

BHARAT JODO YATRA

Religious harmony foundation of future progress: Rahul

RSS concerns over poverty, unemployment due to Yatra, says Cong

PTI ■ MYSURU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday visited the Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi hills here on the third day of the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka.

Gandhi was accompanied by supporters and party leaders as he visited the shrine.

Goddess Chamundeshwari is the tutelary deity of the Mysuru royalty and the presiding deity of Mysuru for several centuries.

In a tweet in Hindi after visiting the temple, Gandhi said, "Religious harmony is the foundation of India's peaceful and progressive future".

Gandhi started the 26th day of his yatra at the crack of dawn, and walked through the streets of the old town which is decked up for the 10-day Dasara celebrations.

People lined up on both sides of the road to welcome Gandhi and chanted slogans hailing the Congress leader, who has so far walked 62 km in Karnataka and 532 km in Tamil Nadu and Kerala legs of the yatra.

In Mysuru, the yatra moved in the form of a procession amid beating of drums and performances by artistes dressed in traditional attire to match the town's festive spirit.

Gandhi had on Sunday night addressed a public gathering here amid torrential rain, and continued his speech even while he was drenched.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, with party leaders DK Shivakumar and KC Venugopal, offers prayers during a visit to the Chamundeshwari Temple amid the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', in Mysuru district on Monday PTI

While the former Congress president declared his resolve to unite India through his journey, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Monday hailed the Wayanad MP's rain-soaked moment in Mysuru as "the defining moment of the yatra."

After walking 22 km through Mysuru, Gandhi entered Mandya district in which the historic Srirangapatna town where Tipu Sultan once ruled is located.

Tipu Sultan's mausoleum is located in this city.

Congress on Monday took a dig at the RSS voicing concern over inequality, unemployment and poverty and credited it to the impact of the Bharat Jodo Yatra spearheaded by Rahul Gandhi.

"Look at the impact of Bharat Jodo Yatra. Even those who break the country and spread poison in the society are raising the issues of poverty, unemployment and inequality," AICC General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

He was referring to the remarks of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale at a seminar on the need to address the challenges posed by poverty, income inequality and unemployment in the country.

However, Hosabale had blamed the "faulty' economic policies of the earlier governments for the "ills" in the economy.

Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh also said that the impact of the yatra was visible on RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Hosabale.

"What was the impact of Bharat Jodo Yatra under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi? Ramdev started praising the Nehru-Gandhi family, Mohan Bhagwat started visiting masjid and madrassas.

"'RSS General Secretary Dattatraya Hosabale ji started worrying about the increasing poverty in the country, the growing gap between the rich and the poor and unemployment," Singh said on Twitter.

Last month, Bhagwat, along with senior Sangh functionaries, met Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, the chief of All India Imam Organisation, at a mosque here, taking forward his outreach to the Muslim community.

Singh said not even a month has passed since the launch of the yatra and the BJP and Sangh Parivar have already started worrying about poverty, unemployment and inflation in the country.

"Dattatreya ji, understand this… it is due to the policies of Modi ji the wealth of 100 big families of the country is increasing and the income of the poor and middle-class families of the country is decreasing," Singh said.

Congress functionary Pawan Khera also took a dig at Hosabale's remarks on poverty, unemployment and inflation at a seminar organised by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

"I have heard that the clouds of worry have started gathering over Nagpur. Now even Hosabale ji has started seeing the unemployed," said Khera, the Chairman of AICC's Media and Publicity Department.

To join the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress president Sonia Gandhi arrived Mysuru on Monday afternoon.

She will participate in the Yatra on Thursday morning when it resumes after a two day break.

Sonia Gandhi had not campaigned for the party during elections in the recent past due to health reasons.

It will be after a long time that Gandhi will participate in the party's public event where a large number of Congress workers are participating.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the 26th day of its almost five month journey from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Kerala bids ex-Home Min Kodiyeri befitting and emotional goodbye

PNS ■ KOCHI

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechuri, Prakash Karat and PK Sreemathi carrying the mortal remains of Kodiyeri Balakrishnan to the funeral pyre at Payyambalam, Kannur on Monday Pioneer photo

Amourning Kerala led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan bade a tearful farewell to Kodiyeri Balakrishnnan, the former CPI(M) State Secretary and former Home Minister of the State who succumbed to cancer in a Chennai hospital last Saturday. Balakrishnan whose name was synonymous with Kodiyeri, his native village by the same name, was cremated at Payyambalam abutting the Arabian Sea with full State honours on Monday. An unprecedented crowd had gathered at Thalassery and Payyambalam to pay homage to the departed leader.

In a hitherto unseen chapter of Kerala's political history, Chief Minister Vijayan, CPI(M)'s all India secretary Sitaram Yechury and former party boss Prakash Karat acted as pall bearers while the mortal remains were carried from the ambulance to the funeral pyre.

Bineesh and Binoy, the two sons of Balakrishnan lit the funeral pyre amidst slogan shouting by thousands of party cadres who chanted the Malayalam equivalent of "Comrade Kodiyeri is immortal, Kodiyeri had not died and He will live through us".

Heart rending scenes were in display throughout the last journey of Balakrishnan as P K Sreemathi, former minister of health too joined the pall bearers. Sreemathi was seen sobbing uncontrollably since Sunday when the body was brought from Chennai by air ambulance to Kannur.

The Kodiyeri family including Vinodini Balakrishnan, the sons, their spouses and grandchildren were in attendance throughput the function.

Conspiracy at Centre to destroy farmers, says Meghalaya Guv

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik strongly targeted the Central Government in the Kisan Panchayat held in Gonda's Bhyamal Kheda. He said that there is a conspiracy to destroy the farmers in Delhi. If the agricultural laws had been enforced, the lands of the farmers would have gone. The eyes of the Government are on our stomach, land and employment. The Government, which sent condolences on the death of the bitch, remained silent on the death of 700 farmers.

Satya Pal Malik called upon the farmers that the battle would have to be fought again. Wherever you need me, I will come to join you in the battle and sit with you . This time the battle will be one-way. If you miss, you will keep asking for the rest of your life. He said that during the farmers' agitation in the last days, I went to meet the Prime Minister keeping my resignation in my pocket. I said sir it has been 11 months, none of your men are talking. You don't know them, they will go when you leave. But then the Prime Minister did not pay heed to me. Malik also took a dig at Adani and Ambani.

Referring to Baba Amani, Charan Singh, Chhotu Ram, he said that Chaudhary Chhotu Ram had left the battle of MSP. He did not obey the orders of the Viceroy. Today the Viceroy is fixing the price of farmers' crops. Every year the farmer of India are getting poorer. Farmers are being ruined in such a way that they are not even aware.

Regarding his tenure as Governor of Bihar, J&K, Goa, he said that when he opposed corruption, then he was removed. He said that he informed the Prime Minister about the corruption happening in Goa, but the Prime Minister supported corruption, not me.

Satya Pal Malik asked the farmers to pay special attention to education, especially the education of daughters.

Nothing more insulting: Cong on Min Misra's continuation on 1st anniv of Kheri killings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh speaks at the launch of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' app, at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Monday PTI

On the first anniversary of Lakhimpur Kheri violence, the Congress on Monday attacked the Modi government over the continuation of Ajay Misra 'Teni' as a Minister as it cited the alleged involvement of his son in mowing down of farmers protesting against the three farm laws that have now been repealed.

"Nothing can be more insulting that the farmers agitating against the black laws were deliberately killed while the culprit remains a member of the Union council of ministers," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh told reporters.

There was clear evidence that the minister's son was involved in the killing, he alleged.

Misra's son Ashish Misra was arrested in the case after four farmers were crushed under the wheels of a convoy of cars and four others, including two BJP workers, were killed in apparently retaliatory violence.

Addressing a press conference, Ramesh also hailed Rahul Gandhi's address to people in Karnataka while heavy rains drenched him as a "defining" moment during the Congress' ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra.

It was a historic day and shows people's support to the yatra, he said. The more Gandhi and people are praised for this, the less it will be, he claimed. Congress delegates who are part of the foot march may vote in the election for the party president through postal ballots, he said, adding there is also a possibility that they can come down to Bengaluru to vote on October 17. The yatra will be passing through Karnataka around that time.

Ramesh claimed that popular support to the yatra has rattled the BJP and slammed the Enforcement Directorate's summons to Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar in the National Herald case as continuation of the government's "vendetta politics".

ED attaches assets of ex-IT Dept officer in PMLA case

Andasu Ravinder was forced into retirement on charges of graft by Centre years ago

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it has attached assets on money laundering charges worth ₹7.33 crore of a former Income Tax Department officer Andasu Ravinder who was compulsorily retired by the Union Government a few years back on charges of corruption.

Five immovable properties of Andasu Ravinder have been provisionally frozen as per an order issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on September 30.

Ravinder, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1991 batch, last served as an Additional Director of the Income Tax (I-T) department in Chennai.

He was arrested by the CBI in August, 2011, when an alleged bribe amount of ₹50 lakh was being delivered at his residence.

Ravinder was compulsorily retired from service, along with a number of other I-T department officers, on charges of corruption by the Union finance ministry in 2019 under Section 56 J of Central Civil Services Conduct Rules.

The money laundering case was filed against the officer on the basis of a CBI FIR against him which which claimed that "during the check period from 01.01.2005 to 29.08.2011 disproportionate assets (DA) of more than ₹ 2.32 crore was generated by the former I-T department officer and his wife Kavitha Andasu."

The CBI had said the DA of the couple was 171.41 per cent more than their known sources of income.

Man playing Hanuman suffers heart attack, dies on stage

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 50-year-old man playing the role of Lord Hanuman in a Ramlila died on stage during his performance in Salempur village of Fatehpur district. The incident happened on Saturday night when Ram Swaroop, who was dressed as Lord Hanuman, suffered a heart attack after his tail caught fire. "During Ramlila's presentation, soon after the tail of Hanuman was set afire, Ram Swaroop, who was playing the character, slumped to the ground and died within a minute. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead," an official said.

According to reports, Ram Swaroop's wife Anusuiya and other family members were present when the incident took place. "He is survived by his wife and two-year-old daughter, Roopa," officials said.

Village head Gulab said Ram Swaroop used to ferry a cart to make his living.

The family performed the last rites of the body on Sunday evening without informing the police. Station House Officer of Dhata, Praveen Kumar, said the incident had come to his notice and a police team would visit the village to investigate the incident.

In yet another similar incident in Mainpuri, a young man, Ravi Sharma, was playing the role of Lord Hanuman in a play staged on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi a few days back. He was seen dancing on the stage during his act when he suddenly slumped on the ground and later died in the hospital.

Man dies while dancing at garba event, shocked father too passes away

Palghar: A 35-year-old man died while dancing at a garba event in Virar town of Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Monday.

Manish Narapji Sonigra collapsed while dancing at the garba event. He was rushed to a hospital and was declared dead. Unhinged by the news, the man's father also collapsed and died on the spot. ***PTI***

Modern themes rule the roost in Bengal Durga Puja

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

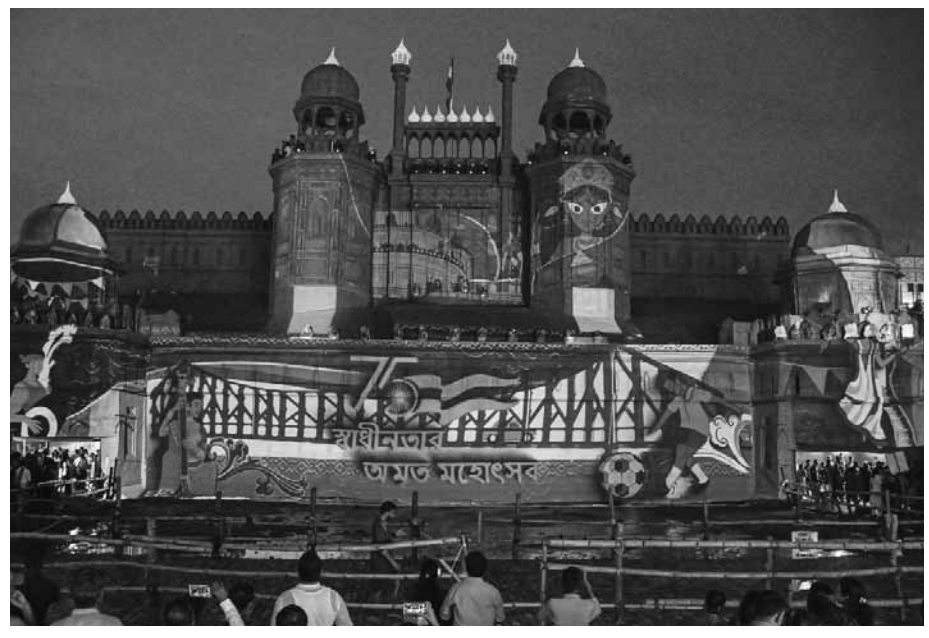
True, if the worship of the Mother Goddess Durga has witnessed any metamorphosis since the Pujas were made Baroari (a term that has itsorigin in Barah Yaari) or a public affair — many hundred years ago — then it has been through the emergence of Themes.

Themes largely depicting Durga Puja in reference to the contemporary period have come to stay in Kolkata though the traditional Durga Pujas too have been pulling crowds in large numbers this year round.

In a year when UNESCO has inscribed the Durga Puja on its intangible heritage list the Puja organisers seem to have been using Themes more extravagantly than ever before.

Welcome to Kabiraj Bagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja Committee in North Kolkata where they have recreated the replica of KK in action at Nazrul Manch where he performed the final show of his life. KK is indeed The Theme of the marquees here.

"Gurudas college for which KK sir had come to perform is here in ourward … so we thought that it would be best to remember the great artiste right under the feet of Durga Maa … this is to tell him that we love him and will continue to do so till we meet him up there in the heavens," said a Puja organiser. Here they have recreated the replica of Nazrul Manch with KK performing live in front of a large crowd before succumbing to a massive heart attack hours later. The singer's cut-outs make the KK show come alive once again. "Tell the detractors of Kolkata that we know how to honour our greats," said oneof the organisers.



Light show on a replica of Red Fort installed at a community puja pandal, on 'Maha Ashtami' during Durga Puja festival celebrations, in Kolkata on Monday PTI

Cut to Kashi Bose Lane where a woman artiste Aditi Chakrabarty has created the theme of the marquees. The melodic motif here has beentermed Maati or the earth. Said Somen Dutta, general secretary of the committee, "Mother Earth is embedded in our existence and it is where we go back to after death. It also signifies creation as trees andplants grow on earth."

Down South at Tridhara Sanmilani the organisers have made a superb artistic depiction of Daur (Run) as their theme through chains, amultitude of ladders, cycle handles, car steering and statuette toshow how the mankind right from womb to grave are engaged in the mighty Run to achieve their respective goals be it mundane, be it divine. In the process they are all rendered puppets in the hands of Mahakaal or the Great Time.

"Like puppets are devoid of self conceit … those involved in the Run are expected to dissolve their egotism … this is why the Asura(demon), Mahisha (buffalo) or the Lion here have been depicted in a humble mood with no anger or pride … they are all under the feet of the Mother residing in peace," says Gauranga Quilla the artiste.

The exquisitely designed marquees and the sparkling presence of theMother seem to have driven people mad this year. And with the pandal hoppers ready to compensate for the two-year loss that they suffered "Corona Asura" invaded the earth the Kolkata streets are witnessing overwhelming rush: 24x7 . "It could well be beyond 45-50lakh people on the road anytime," said a senior police officer.

Cut back to North again where Sreebhumi Sporting Club patroned by State Minister Sujit Bose have constructed a Vatican City in a matterof a month. Completely identical to the original one that would make even the Pope thinking of changing his residence. "We sent a team of our workers to Rome from where they imported the idea in minutest ofdetails," says the Minister. Sreebhumi like all other years have beendrawing lakhs of visitors.

At Haridevpur Adarsha Samiti in South Kolkata the organisers have recreated the 5,500-year-old Indus Valley civilization with the GreatBath, paved brick roads and the Granary — all with sand. "But herewe have tried to go beyond the ruins of the civilization … we have recreated the era in its full bloom … and the people are liking it," says Rangajit Roy and organiser.

RAIPUR | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2022

the pioneer

Opinion 06

www.dailypioneer.com

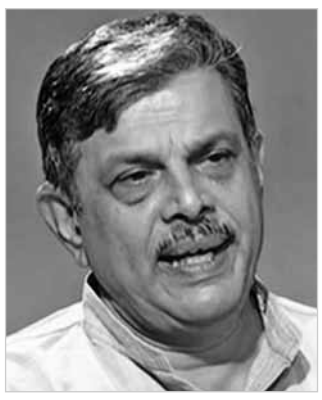
facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Discordant note

RSS leader Dattatreya Hosabale talks about poverty, joblessness, and the growing inequality

Whenever there are reports highlighting some unlovely aspect of India—low human development indices, hunger, press restrictions, *et al*—the Government and the Bharatiya Janata Party go hammer and tongs after the authors and publishers concerned. Often their motives and methodologies are questioned; there are also *ad hominem* attacks on such reports. The BJP's IT Cell greatly relishes in rubbishing such accounts. But what would they do with RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale? On Sunday, he talked about the issues the Government and the BJP dislike to discuss: poverty, joblessness, and the growing inequality in the country. Poverty in the country is standing like a demon in front of us, he said, adding that it is important that we slay this demon. He also talked about 20 crore people who are below the poverty line and 4 crore who are unemployed. The unemployment rate is 7.6 per cent, he said. It is obvious that Hosabale's views cannot be dismissed as the rants of the Khan Market gang or the fulminations of *tukde-tukde* folks; he is one of their own, and that too from the RSS, the nucleus of the saffron family. If he says something, he has to be heard—not just what he is saying but also what he is not. And what is between the lines.



While the Narendra Modi Government has done well on many fronts—infrastructure development, managing the fiscal deficit, privatisation being some of them—its record in other spheres has been less than satisfactory. On individual freedom and civil liberties, for instance, its performance has been, to put it mildly, suboptimal; that, however, doesn't bother the RSS. But poverty and unemployment are visible and palpable; only ardent BJP supporters can say that joblessness or poverty is not a very big issue; apparently, Hosabale is not one of them. Therefore, it is time the Government addressed these grave issues with the seriousness that they call for. To begin with, it should discard the denial mode and accept that there are problems. It should try to get out of the echo chamber that it has built with itself, with its propaganda machinery working round the clock and a large section of the media becoming its cheerleaders. Once out of the echo chamber, the Government should take right steps, which are essentially on the supply side, to take the economy out of the morass it is in. And, by the way, grand announcements and tokenist measures make sound economic policy. As for Hosabale, his candour and straightforwardness regarding the problems of the economy are admirable, but we don't know what kind of solutions he or his organisation, RSS, has in mind. The RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch, at whose webinar he made his remarks, offers something as nebulous as 'Bharatiya Economic Model,' which is nothing but a hodgepodge of homilies. Economic policy needs more than homilies; both the Government and the RSS must realise this.

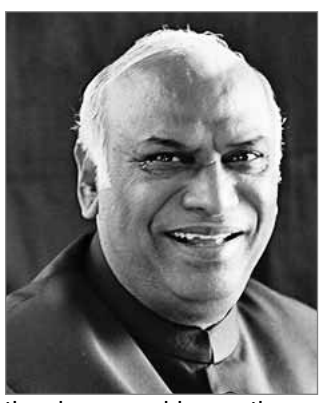
PICTALK

Devotees takes photograph of idol of goddess Durga during Durga Puja festival in Hyderabad AP

Kharge, the right choice

The congress election is turning out to be a match fixed as the Gandhis' back Mallikarjun Kharge

The congress election is drawing attention for all the wrong reasons. Though a benign exercise in making the party more democratic and showing that the Gandhi's are not inflicting, is not carrying much weight. It all started well as Shashi Tharoor and Ashok Gehlot were in the fray but after the Gehlot debacle the high command sort of backed Mallikarjun Kharge as their man Friday. This is as bad as having Gandhi at the helm of affairs. And this is precisely the reason the congress election is being watched so eagerly by one and all. Sonia Gandhi initially said that she did not support any candidate but it all changed after Gehlot revolt. Her covert support to Kharge at the last hour made it clear that Gandhis wanted to have a loyalist as the party chief. This could have been triggered by the open revolt by Ashok Gehlot who played his cards well. In any case, Kharge was cut out for the job and wondered why he was not thought of in the first place. He comes from Karnataka and his scheduled caste status is a bonus in the run-up to the general elections. Besides, the one consideration that weighs in his favor is his unflinching loyalty to the first family. He is perhaps the only dependable guy the congress leadership has.

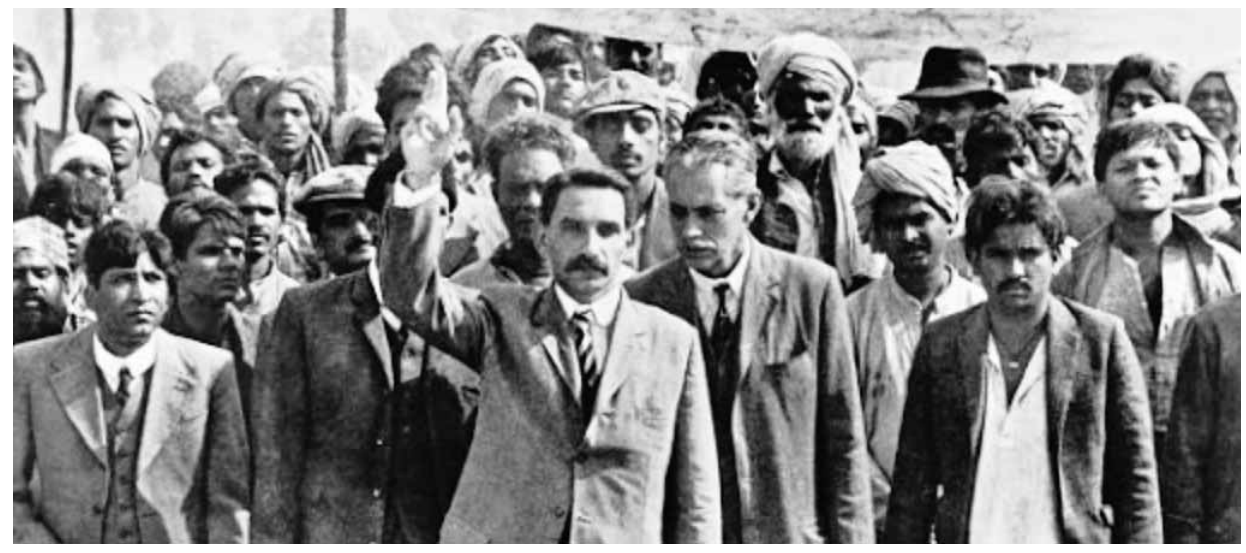


At the age of 80, unlike Shashi Tharoor, he is bereft of ambition and is widely accepted in the party for his nonpartisan stance. Besides, he is noncontroversial and no motor mouth like Digvijaya Singh who has a habit of landing in trouble every time he opens his mouth much to the consternation of the party's high command. Juxtaposed to the congress the BJP got its party chief nominated JP Nadda once again without any fuss. Since it was a decision of the top bosses, it was undemocratic to the core; especially for the party which calls itself 'party with a difference.' In this regard, congress gets some brownie points. Congress often draws flak for being Gandhi-Nehru family's private firm but the fact remains that there has been a number of non-Gandhi presidents in the party and they were no dummies. Even during Jawaharlal Nehru's years a lot of Congress presidents did not endorse his views. The congress has at least shown some semblance of democracy in the party by conducting president elections though if Mallikarjun Kharge is elected with a heavy margin it would look like a match fixed at the behest of the Gandhi family.

In pursuit of truth and self discovery

JS **RAJPUT**

Gandhi ji's experiments with truth continued throughout his life as did his perseverance to purge him of all defilements



The life of MK Gandhi is the unique saga of a person; pure in heart, word, and deed, one who was consistently, consciously growing up. This author of "My Experiments with Truth' grew from 'truth to truth' and, as was inevitable in such a case, had no hesitation in changing his views and comprehension based upon new experiences and insights.

In the current national political scenario, with elected representatives and 'leaders' changing sides and dumping their so-called ideological commitments without any hitch or hesitation, it may be relevant to point out how 'growing up has been stunted in the absence of a principled, value-based approach to public service. When one is committed to truth, the contrast becomes evident, so succinctly articulated by Gandhi Ji in the 'Harijan' of April 29, 1933: "*I am not at all concerned to be consistent in my search after truth. I have discarded many ideas and learned many new things. Old as I am in age, I have no feeling that I may cease to grow inwardly or that my growth will stop at the dissolution of the flesh. What I am concerned with is my readiness to obey the call of truth, my God, from moment to moment*". This statement indicates the purity in thought and words, as also the transparency in approach and action. Only such a person could proclaim unequivocally that 'my life is my message!

It may be worthwhile to recall two of the initial impacts young Barrister MK Gandhi encountered on his arrival in South Africa, one highly painful and humiliating, and the other so inspiring that it overhauled his approach to life. Both of these are well known, the first being so traumatic and devastating that it could unsettle any mature person.

The other is uniquely transformative, inspiring enough to change the very course of Gandhi's life and living. His being thrown out of the first class train compartment despite having a valid ticket simply because of his color, and subsequent human thrashing in a horse-drawn carriage again because of the policy of apartheid, hurt him immensely. Anyone who reads his description of these two in the autobiography would be rattled beyond words. When he was being slapped by a white man in the horse carriage, there were some Englishmen who protested and mentioned that as he had the ticket, he should be allowed to retain his seat, but that was of no avail.

He could discover positivity even during that episode! For a person who trusted in growing up, there was a realization: not all white men are inhuman, and not all of them support color prejudice. Expand it: in every caste, color creed, and religion, not all persons are the same!

Even before alighting from the ship for the first time on the shores of South Africa, he had witnessed how Dada Abdullah was being humiliated when had gone to receive him. The young Barrister, not yet familiar with all that sprung out of color prejudice, was upset, 'why Dada Abdullah' was suffering all that! It was only after the subsequent personal agonies he suffered, a fresh realization dawned upon him, and that expanded his horizons beyond self or individual sufferings.

> FOR A PERSON WHO TRUSTED IN GROWING UP, THERE WAS A REALIZATION: NOT ALL WHITE MEN ARE INHUMAN, AND NOT ALL OF THEM SUPPORT COLOR PREJUDICE. EXPAND IT: IN EVERY CASTE, COLOR CREED, AND RELIGION, NOT ALL PERSONS ARE THE SAME!

What if I get one or two persons punished for the pain and insult inflicted upon me? Generations have suffered for no fault of theirs; they were forced to lead a sub-human life, for no fault of theirs! Why should I not fight against the widespread inhuman malice? And his entire struggle - and stay in South Africa - was a consequence of the thought process that emanated from these tragic experiences. An American Dr. Mote once asked Gandhi Ji: "What was the most creative incident in your life?" To this Gandhi Ji replied that there were several that he could recall as the most significant creative incidents in his life.

However, the most creative one was the throwing out of the railway compartment at Pietermaritzburg! It was at Pietermaritzburg Mohandas Gandhi realized "any indi vidual who lies or is unjust is most scared of his lie or injustice being found out"! And from the womb of fear, cruelty is born! The seeds of the first principle of Satyagrah were born here: The malice; he realized; is deep and such a person is indeed 'diseased'!

So, this person must be treated with care, treated on a human level, and cured! Why have any prejudices towards him? Maybe the seeds of his great conviction 'hate the sin, and not the sinner' were sown during the churning of ideas at that stage. Generations ahead shall continue to study and analyze Gandhi.

The two instances cited above are often casually recalled, but these probably deserve a far deeper comprehension and conviction given their strength and potential. One could conclude with the words of Narayan Desai: "*It is possible that if we want to bring about social change by the methods that Gandhi gave us, it is a mental challenge. Let us accept it.*" And this is not a small challenge; it is the only alternative in times of the global realization that for the survival of humanity and the planet earth, we have to 'learn to live together!

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion, and religious amity. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOR 15 SECONDS OF ATTENTION

Sir — Basking in the glory of their wins, some political leaders take in stride the popularity coming their way, thanks to their conceit consequent upon their stories of success, and so they develop an addiction for targeting their political adversaries. That AAP is known for keeping its election promises notwithstanding, its leaders targeting opponents has become a new normal these days. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has had such a record when he would take his Congress opponent Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit to task. Now he has outlandishly stirred a controversy claiming an IB report has predicted his party's win in Gujarat Assembly elections.

He, however, has not condescended to disclose the source of the findings, if at all, of the report which is really unnerving and being seen as a bid to score brownie points that should be beneath his dignity. The Intelligence Bureau is neither a Ministry nor a department having any political leaning but an independent intelligence agency, having no website to post its documents on. In these acrimonious times, it is incumbent upon our leaders to steer clear of any uncalled for controversy.

Azhar A Khan | *Rampur*

MAJOR BOOST TO IAF'S PROWESS

Sir — In a big boost to the IAF's combat prowess, light combat helicopter (LCH) 'Prachand' has been inducted into service at the Jodhpur airbase. For a long time, there was a need for attack helicopters and during the 1999 Kargil war, its need was felt seriously. The LCH is a result of two-decade research and development. And its induction into the IAF is an important milestone in defence production. LCH is capable of dodging the enemy, carrying a variety of ammunition and delivering it to the site quickly, perfect in meeting the needs of our armed forces in various terrains and it is an ideal platform for both our Army and Air Force.

Add to this, the LCH is a dedicated combat helicopter designed and developed indigenously in India. It is touted to be the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel, meeting the specific requirements of the IAF. Also, the helicopter is equipped with the requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high-altitude performance and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | *Bengaluru*

TRAGEDY WAITING TO HAPPEN

Sir — The stampede at the Kanjuruhan football stadium at Malang, East Java in Indonesia, which killed at least 125 people and injured more than 320, was 'an accident waiting to happen'. They say that creaky facilities at the stadium, archaic policing and fan violence have all combined to produce one of the worst-ever tragedies inside a stadium in the history of Indonesian football, and the third-most deadly such events in a soccer game anywhere in the world. ('*125 die as tear gas sets off rush at soccer match*', Oct. 3).

Supporting football clubs is a way of life in Indonesia. But over the years, the country has also become one of the most violent places to watch the game, with around 80 deaths taking place in football stadiums. Indonesian football has also been afflicted with trouble on the international stage. Proudly enough, Indonesia was the first team ever to represent the Asian continent in a soccer world cup in 1938. But despite having an unflinching passion for the sport, the country has never returned to the global stage due to years of corruption, violence and mismanagement eating into the game.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | *Chennai*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A gesture worth lauding

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi embarked on the Bharat Jodo Yatra earlier this month. A strong display of strength was portrayed by him during one of his speeches. Rahul, who has been under scrutiny for his oratory skills, proved the naysayers wrong when he continued to address the crowd during the pouring rain, with the crowd loudly cheering him on . During the speech, Rahul put forward a strong political display,while braving the rains going viral on social media.

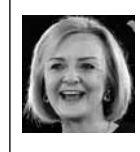
Notably, the Congress leader said in incessant rain, "Neither the heat nor the rain will be able to stop this yatra. This yatra is like a river that will flow from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. This journey will not stop due to heat, storm, rain or cold. In this river, you will not see any hatred or violence. The river will showcase love and brotherhood." Netizens from across the country couldn't stop praising Rahul and his speech in the pouring rain on social media, calling him a "*toofan* (storm)" and a political marvel. People sharing his clips also called it the "most powerful political photo of this year".

Bhagwan Thadani | *Mumbai*

SOUNDBITE

It was a new case in Rajasthan where the MLAs got agitated just at the name of the new Chief Minister.

Rajasthan Chief Minister
—Ashok Gehlot



Moving forward, we have a clear plan both to deal with the energy crisis and to deal with inflation.

UK Prime Minister
—Liz Truss

There were quite a lot of heroes who'd get frightened of me. I don't know why!

Actor
—Asha Parekh

We always try to help him (Haaland) in our environment. The numbers speak for him.

Manchester City manager
— Pep Guardiola

It might be convenient for those in power to appropriate Gandhiji's legacy..but difficult to walk in his footsteps.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi

FIRSTCOLUMN

BID TO POLITICISE VC APPOINTMENTS IS BAD

Tamil Nadu CM is willfully politicising appointments

S **KALYANASUNDARAM**

While addressing a meeting of Vice Chancellors of state-run universities, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin spoke of a Bill passed by the state Assembly which empowers the government to appoint them. Stalin said that the Bill empowers the state government to appoint the Vice-Chancellors. He said that it is the right of the state government to appoint Vice-Chancellors. "This is an issue related to the state government's right; it is the right of the government elected by the people; it is related to education rights of state universities," he said.

The said Bill is still pending with the Governor and it is possible that he may give his assent or he can withhold the bill with him for any uncertain period of time. Can any person holding any office be expected to give his assent to a bill which curtails his power?

Article 200 of the Constitution provides that "the Governor shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom".

In 1976, by the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution, education was placed in the concurrent list. It is also well settled that if there is a conflict between the Parliament and the State Legislature on any law in the Concurrent List, the Union Law will prevail.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) was formulated in November 1956 as a statutory body of the Indian Government via an Act of Parliament which is for the coordination, determination, and maintenance of standards of university education in India and these Act/Regulations shall apply to all recognized Universities as defined under Section - 2(f) of the UGC Act and all such recognised universities as per UGC Norms.

On 5th September 2019, the UGC issued a handbook for vice chancellors. It contains the recommendations of various committees

namely 'The Radhakrishnan Commission (1948)', 'The Kothari Commission (1964)' and the 'Gnanam Committee (1990)'.

As per the Radhakrishnan Commission, the appointment of VC is done by the Governor. Though subsequent committees have prescribed various methods to be adopted while searching for a fit person for the VC's post, there is no change in this.

Since education is in concurrent list and as UGC has been established under a Central Act and as per UGC guidelines only the Governor can appoint VCs, the validity of the present bill passed by Tamil Nadu Assembly is doubtful.

During March 2022, (Writ Petition (Civil) No.1525 OF 2019 Gambhirdan K Gadhv (S) versus The State of Gujarat & Others), the Supreme Court held that appointment of a Vice Chancellor of a University, even under a State legislation, cannot be contrary to the provisions of the UGC Regulations. The apex court noted that in cases where the State legislature is repugnant to the Central legislation, Central legislation is to prevail as per Article 254 as education is in the Concurrent List.

The court said, "It cannot be disputed that the UGC Regulations are enacted by the UGC in exercise of powers under section 26(1)(e) and 26(1)(g) of the UGC Act 1956. Even as per the UGC Act every rule and regulation made under the said Act, shall be laid before each House of the Parliament. Therefore, being a subordinate legislation, UGC Regulations become part of the Act. In case of any conflict between State legislation and Central legislation, Central legislation shall prevail by applying the rule/principle of repugnancy as enunciated in Article 254 of the Constitution as the subject 'education' is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution".

(The author is a retired banker)

Skilling is amplifying capable workforce

VIRJESH **UPADHYAY**

Skilling institutions have seized opportunities to make a difference as new opportunity knocks at India

Even though the first Industrial Training Institute (ITI) was established in 1950 and around 10,000 ITIs were opened in the country in the following seven decades, it took 72 years for the first-ever convocation of ITI students. This fact is another example which proves that in India, skilling has been a neglected area for policymakers.

It was only in the eleventh five-year plan that skill development got a chapter for it. However, since then there had been a steady increase in its importance and a dramatic change happened when Narendra Modi took charge of the country. Enhancing the employability of Indian workers through world-class skill training has been a major thrust area in the past eight years.

If we closely examine the Prime Minister's approach to skilling, three major dimensions appear. One, bring skill development to the centre of policy making. In 2014, a separate ministry to look at skills came into existence and one of the early flagship programmes of the government was 'Skill India'. The efforts paid off and nearly 5,000 new ITIs have been opened in the country and over four lakh seats have been added in the last eight years.

Annually, more than one crore youth has been joining and benefitting from the 'Skill India' programme, a Mission under the Ministry to equip youth with skills for better livelihood. More than 1.3 crore candidates have been trained under PMKVY, and numbers will surely increase in the future as the Centre is going to open more than 5,000 new 'Skill Hubs' to promote skill development in India.

Increasing the aspirational value of skill development and its integration with formal education has been the second dimension of the Prime Minister's approach. It has been mentioned on many occasions that knowledge must not be limited to academic qualifications only, skill to do something is equally important and this skill must be treated as equivalent to the other qualifications. This idea is best spelt out in the National Education Policy, which encourages experience-based learning.

The Prime Minister considers skill development as the way to develop a future-ready workforce and this brings us to the third dimension of his approach, i.e., research to understand the changing world of work and be proactive and agile in formulating the policies and designing the action. If we look at the recent speeches of the Prime Minister, especially his address to the national labour conference where he not only mentioned Industry 4.0 and robotics but also underlined the change in the employment relations like work from anywhere and flexible working hours. He called these changes opportunities for women's labour force participation and asked the labour ministry which is preparing its vision for 2047 in 'Amrit Kaal' to think in the direction of what can be done for women in the newly emerging sectors in the country.

> MORE THAN 1.3 CRORE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN TRAINED UNDER PMKVY, AND NUMBERS WILL SURELY INCREASE IN THE FUTURE AS THE CENTRE IS GOING TO OPEN MORE THAN 5,000 NEW 'SKILL HUBS' TO PROMOTE SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

When we look from this perspective, the Prime Minister's address at 'Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh' of ITI looks like a follow-up. Unlike the National Labour Conference, this time the PM was talking to a heterogeneous group that consisted of students as well as policymakers. So, this time he had tasks for both of them. Highlighting that job opportunities in the country are also rising with the advancement of technology, he asked students to upgrade their skills in line with the future with the mantra of 'Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling', while keeping an eye on the latest developments in their fields.

At the same time, he also emphasized that as India is taking a lead in the fields of renewable energy, solar power, and electric vehicles, the introduction of courses related to these areas in several ITIs will further facilitate job seekers. If we look at India's journey since independence, it is a sad state of affairs that despite establishing a few institutions that find themselves among the world leaders in research, a culture of research and development with the aim to lead the world failed to develop. It happened in the field of science, social science, business and also in policymaking. The Prime Minister tried to address the issue from the very beginning, and the formation of NITI Aayog was meant for this purpose only.

Besides, there is also PM-EAC that advises the Prime Minister on economic issues. But, similar arrangements at the level of different ministries and institutions, that not only understand the Prime Minister's vision but decode it in the light of the mandate of that ministry or institution needs further strengthening.

If we limit ourselves to the labour ministry, which is responsible for looking after the largest chunk of our population and directly addressing the issues coming up because of the changing world of work, it has two institutions that have the mandate for labour market research -- VV Giri National Labour Institute and Dattopant Thengadi National Board of Workers Education and Development (DTNBWED). These institutions served the country well during the second and third industrial revolutions.

We were laggards during the first three industrial revolutions but one of the leaders in industry 4.0. We are ahead of many developed countries in digital infrastructure and this lead is going to be there at least for the near future. We need a similar lead in terms of labour market regulations and the employability of our workforce. The labour codes especially the one that deals with social security are very much open-ended and have a futuristic approach like the importance of the gig and platform economy. DTNBWED has taken a few steps in this direction, as it signed one MoU with Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology (MNNIT) for resource sharing and another with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) that paves the way for diploma and certification of the workers. The courses aim to promote digital literacy, promote new age trade unionism, produce certified experts on labour laws and build capacity.

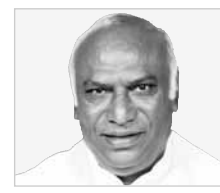
But a lot needs to be done on the employability front to realize the potential of the emerging sector. As the International Labour Organization (ILO) stated that a large part of the success in the era of industry 4.0 depends upon the workers being pre-informed about the new emerging sectors and skilled for new job roles. It enables them to make better educational and training choices, and the country also gets benefited because of better use of skills and human capital development. The proactive identification of the future skill requirement, and their impartation requires a high level of synchronization between different institutions, agility and focus on fundamental research.

We are also looking to certify the skills of the unorganized workers registered on e-Shram with the help of the institutions and schemes meant for this purpose. The era of Industry 4.0 is going to be very different. To successfully meet the new challenges and maintain the position of leadership, not only the Ministry of Labour and Employment, but its institutions also need to immediately re-calibrate themselves for the future, because as the Prime Minister himself said the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' requires quick decisions and fast implementation.

(The author is Chairman, Dattopant Thengadi National Board of Workers Education and Development)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE ARE ALL UNITED. I WILL ALWAYS WORK TO TAKE FORWARD THE PARTY'S PRINCIPLES AND IDEOLOGY.
—CONGRESS PRESIDENT POST CANDIDATE
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE



LEADERS LIKE HIM CAN'T BRING CHANGE AND WILL CONTINUE THE EXISTING SYSTEM. I'LL BRING CHANGE.
—CONGRESS PRESIDENT POST CANDIDATE
SHASHI THAROOR

Lungs bear the brunt of growing air pollution

Reports suggest alarming rise in air pollution in India and the consequent damage because of ailments related to bad air

SURYA **KANT**

Lungs as we know are the primary organs for respiration. They work tirelessly to supply oxygen to the body and expel carbon dioxide. Breathing also assists in the ability to speak and sing. Life begins with the first breath and ends with the last breath. It is important for the functioning of the body and all its organs up to the minutest cellular level. We breathe 10,000 liters of air daily to have 350 liters of oxygen. We can live without food for three weeks, without water for three days, but we can't live without oxygen for more than three minutes. The Covid-19 pandemic revealed the importance of oxygen, lungs and lung specialists. The respiratory system is continuously affected by exposure to various types of harmful agents or pollutants present in the environment. It is estimated that at least two billion people worldwide are exposed to toxic fumes produced by the combustion of biomass fuels. More than seven billion people breathe polluted air.

The respiratory system and lungs are the most affected human organs because of air pollution. Some common effects are cough, wheezing, shortness of breath, asthma, pneumonia and reduced lung capacity in children, airway obstruction, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lung cancer, and many more.

Air pollution is now considered the world's biggest environmental health threat, causing seven million deaths worldwide each year. Every year 17 lakh people die in India due to the air pollution. Air pollution exacerbates asthma, lung cancer, other lung diseases, while also aggravating many ailments such as heart diseases.

Almost all Indians breathe air that is in excess of World Health Organization guidelines. Its 2021 Report highlights that 11 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia were from India. Around 16.7 lakh deaths in India were attributable to air pollution accounting for 17·8 per cent of the total deaths in the country in 2019. This means, three deaths per minute were attributable to air pollution in India.

Among risk factors for early death globally after high blood pressure, tobacco, and poor diet in 2019, air pollution takes the fourth spot. Globally, around 40 per cent of deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), 30 per cent of deaths from lower respiratory infections, and 19 per cent of deaths from lung cancer were attributable to air pollution. In India, lung diseases due to air pollution lead to around 45 per cent of deaths and 40 per cent of loss due to ill-health, disability, or early death. Immediate and proper action is needed to combat air pollution and bring about change.

The impact of respiratory diseases includes both chronic conditions like COPD and acute illnesses like pneumonia or lower respiratory tract infections. More than 2.5 million people died from pneumonia in 2019, making it one of the most prevalent acute illnesses and causes of death in the world. It is also the greatest cause of death for people over 65 and for children under the age of five, who are not newborns.

Additionally, SARS-CoV-2 mortality increased dramatically as a result of Covid-19 in adults who had underlying comorbidities, notably in those who developed respiratory disease or pneumonia, killing more than 6.3 million individuals, mostly from respiratory causes. In 2020, 1.5 million people died from TB, making it the most prevalent lethal infectious disease after the COVID-19 pandemic. Worldwide, more than 10 million individuals contracted TB, while 2.6 million people were affected in India. The onset of chronic respiratory disease may also be linked to such acute respiratory infections and other genetic-environmental interactions, with childhood illness establishing a developmental trajectory for poor health. Globally, an estimated 544.9 million people suffered from a chronic respiratory condition in 2017. In the world, COPD affects almost 200 million people, or four per cent of the population, and kills 3.2 million people annually, making it the third greatest cause of mortality. Asthma affects 350 million people worldwide (35 million in India) and is the most frequent chronic disease in children.

Children are particularly vulnerable because they are still growing and their lungs, brains, and immune systems are developing. Exposure to air pollution at a young age can hinder lung growth, inhibit brain development and increase the risk of conditions such as asthma. Asthmatic children's lungs and airways become easily inflamed, resulting in bothersome daily symptoms that interfere with play, sports, school, and sleep.

LiFE (Life For Environment) movement was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 5, 2022. He said that LiFE's vision is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. Those who lead such a life are known as "Pro-Planet People." Mission LiFE borrows from the past, operates in the present, and looks forward. Our lives are woven with the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

(The author is Professor & Head, Respiratory Medicine, King George's Medical University, Lucknow)

Ukraine claims gains in Russia annexed region

AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian troops continued to push forward Monday with their offensive that has embarrassed Moscow, with Kyiv officials and foreign observers hinting at new gains in the strategic southern region of Kherson that the Kremlin wants to annex.

Kherson has been one of the toughest battlefields for the Ukrainians, with slower progress when compared with Ukraine's breakout offensive around the country's second largest city of Kharkiv, in the northeast, that began last month.

Kherson is one of the four regions illegally annexed by Moscow last week after a "referendum" orchestrated by the Kremlin. The lower house of the Kremlin-controlled parliament is set to ratify the treaties Monday, and the upper house will follow the next day.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that two of those regions, Donetsk and Luhansk, are joining Russia with their administrative borders that existed before a conflict erupted there in 2014 between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian forces.

He noted that the issue of the borders of the two other regions — Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — remains open.

"We will continue to discuss that with residents of those regions," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. He did not provide additional details.

Ukrainian media outlets on Monday highlighted an image of Ukrainian troops displaying flags at a marker for the village of Khreshchenivka, which is in the same area of Kherson where troops apparently have broken through Russian lines.

Ukraine has pressed its counteroffensive in the Kherson region since the summer, relentlessly pummeling Russian supply lines and making inroads into the areas west of the Dnieper River held by the Russians.

The Ukrainian military has successfully used U.S.-supplied HIMARS multiple rocket launchers to repeatedly hit the main bridge across the Dnieper in the city of Kherson and a dam that served as a second main crossing.

It also has struck pontoon bridges that Russia has used to supply its troops on the western bank of the river after the main crossings were made inoperable.

Despite the successful strikes on supply lines, Ukrainian offensive operations in the south so far have been slower and less successful compared with the northeast, as the open terrain easily exposed the attacking force to Russian artillery fire and airstrikes.

Russian military bloggers close to Moscow have increasingly acknowledged that Ukraine has superior manpower, backed by tank units, in the area.

A Russian-installed official in the Kherson region, Kirill Stremousov, admitted in a video statement on Monday morning that the Ukrainian forces "have broken through a little deeper." However, he insisted that "everything is under control" and that Russia's "defense system is working" in the region.

Russia attacked Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelenskyy's hometown and other targets Sunday with suicide drones, and Ukraine took back full control of a strategic eastern city in a counteroffensive that has reshaped the war.

Russia's recent loss of the eastern city of Lyman, which it had been using as a transport and logistics hub, was a new blow to the Kremlin as it seeks to escalate the war by illegally annexing the four regions of Ukraine and heightening threats to use nuclear force.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's land grab has threatened to push the conflict to a dangerous new level.

It also prompted Ukraine to formally apply for fast-track NATO membership

In his nightly address Sunday, Zelenskyy discussed the recent liberation of Lyman, a key Russian node for logistics on the front line in the northeast. "The story of the liberation of Lyman in the Donetsk region has now become the most popular in the media — but the successes of our soldiers are not limited to Lyman," Zelenskyy said.

Lyman, which Ukraine recaptured by encircling Russian troops, is in the Donetsk region near the border with Luhansk. In his broadcast, Zelenskyy also thanked troops from his hometown near Kherson. "To the soldiers of the 129th Brigade of my native Kryvy Rih, who distinguished themselves with good results and liberated, in particular, Arkhanhelske and Myroliubivka," he said.

Those two villages are in the same area where Ukrainian troops have been making advances.

A photo emerged at the weekend showing Ukrainian forces' operation southwest of Novovorontsovka on the banks of the Dnieper River.

Ukraine's presidential office said Monday that Russian shelling of eight Ukrainian regions over the past 24 hours killed two civilians and injured 14 more.

It also reported advances in the Kherson region and said that the Russian authorities in response restricted people from leaving the city of Kherson, introducing special permits for those who want to leave.

Since the Russian offensive started in February, Ukrainian forces have recently managed to retake swaths of territory, notably in the northeast around Kharkiv, in a counteroffensive in recent weeks that has embarrassed the Kremlin and prompted rare domestic criticism of Putin's war.

Fleeing Russians follow path of 1917 refugees to Istanbul

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Vladimir Putin's military draft "changed everything" for the tens of thousands of Russians who have fled their country since the Russian leader's mobilisation was announced last month, according to recent arrivals in Istanbul.

Niki Proshin, 28, left St Petersburg last week, part of a torrent of Russian men escaping their homeland following Putin's September 21 declaration of a "partial mobilisation" for the war in Ukraine.

The Russian military call-up came as some Russian troops have been forced to retreat amid a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

"Last week changed everything for hundreds of thousands of other people who decided to leave Russia," he said. "The main reason is the danger of being drafted into the Russian army."

Turkey, which has maintained air links with Russia while other countries blocked flights and does not impose visa restrictions on Russian visitors, has been a popular destination for those leaving for "any place" they can reach.

Turkish officials have not released data on how many Russians may have arrived in Turkey to flee the draft, but Russia is close to the top of a list of countries that sends tourists to Turkey, after Germany.

Some 3 million Russians have visited the country so far this year.

Turkish media have also reported an increase in the number of Russians purchasing or renting houses in Turkey.

The NATO-member country, which relies on Russia for its energy needs and tourism, has not joined US and EU sanctions against Moscow.

It has tried to balance its relations with both Russia and Ukraine, positioning itself as a mediator between the two.

Proshin, a YouTube vlogger originally from the Siberian city of Omsk, said setbacks on the battlefield in Ukraine had eroded Russian support for the war, even among "patriotic" Russians.

"Right now, when the Russian army is having some trouble and the Ukrainian army is pushing them out of their lands, people who were supporting this war are saying they don't understand why this war is happening," he said.

"They don't want this war and they don't want to lose their friends, husbands, brothers or themselves in this useless war."

Proshin said his family were "very relieved" that he left Russia and now plans to wait for his girlfriend to join him before leaving for another country.

Eva Rapoport, the Istanbul coordinator for The Ark, a group helping Russians fleeing their country, said there had been a significant increase in the numbers arriving in Turkey since Putin's mobilisation declaration.

While those who left Russia in the immediate aftermath of its February invasion of Ukraine were a "well-educated, Western-oriented, cosmopolitan crowd," now her organisation was seeing "just about everyone who can escape the country."

"Many of these people used to support Putin, they used to cheer for the war," she said.

"When it was from the safety of their homes and there was nothing at stake for them it was fine. But now they don't want to support this by their actions.

"They don't want to support it with their lives. They don't want to go and fight and die in this war."

Still, she described the decision by the Baltic states and Poland to block entry for such Russians as "unjust."

"It's literally a life or death situation for them, it's a humanitarian issue," Rapoport said.

Many Russians arriving in Turkey after the start of the war were suffering from shock caused by the invasion, she said, as well as difficulties in finding a place to live or ways to pay for goods due to sanctions on the Russian finance sector. "Everyone was discussing symptoms of psychological distress. They could not eat, could not sleep and could not focus," she said.

New arrivals in Istanbul described the situation in Russia as "rapidly deteriorating," and many feared being trapped.

"If you stay, you may never be able to leave, and if you want to (leave) you better act fast," she explained.

UK and allies meet to discuss pipeline security after blasts

AP ■ BIRMINGHAM

The Joint Expeditionary Force group of northern European nations will meet on Monday to discuss the safety of undersea pipelines and cables after blasts ruptured two natural gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea, British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said.

Wallace said the virtual meeting has been called by the UK and the Netherlands. The force brings together troops from 10 countries, including the Baltic and Nordic nations, and has seen its importance increase since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February.

Wallace also said Britain will acquire two specialist ships to protect undersea cables and pipes, with the first "multi-role survey ship for seabed warfare" operational by the end of next year.

Undersea blasts that damaged the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines last week have led to huge methane leaks. Nordic investigators said the blasts involved several hundred pounds of explosives.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday accused the West of sabotaging the Russia-built pipelines, a charge vehemently denied by the United States and its allies.

Britain has not officially blamed anyone for the blasts, but Wallace told the Conservative Party's annual conference that "Putin's reactions are wider than just Ukraine. His reach goes further. This week, we saw the mysterious damage inflicted to the Nord Stream pipelines. And it should remind us all how fragile our economy and infrastructure is to such hybrid attacks."

Britain has been a major contributor of military aid to Ukraine.

Wallace said Britain would train another 20,000 to 30,000 Ukrainian troops in the UK, in addition to the 10,000 it has trained this year.

Speaking at the UK Conservative Party's annual conference in Birmingham, central England, Wallace said Britain was not seeking to remove Putin as Russia's leader.

"We're not in the business of regime change," he said.

But he also said Putin was unlikely to de-escalate the conflict.

Japan's Kishida vows to regain trust in church controversy

AP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Monday that he will humbly listen to people's "harsh voices" criticising his governing party's cozy ties to the ultra-conservative Unification Church and help victims of its allegedly fraudulent businesses and huge donation collection.

Kishida has come under fire in a widening scandal that has exposed decades of close ties between former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was assassinated in July, his ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the Unification Church, which has been accused of raking in huge donations by brainwashing adherents.

Kishida has split public opinion by honouring Abe with a state funeral, which opponents assailed as a pre-war tradition designed to stir nationalism, without an acceptable legal basis or parliamentary discussion. Abe, on top of his divisive legacy, is now seen as a key figure behind the governing party's church ties.

Sweden sends special diving vessel to area of pipeline leaks

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Sweden has sent a vessel capable of "advanced diving missions" to the Baltic Sea area where ruptured undersea pipelines had leaked natural gas for days, the Swedish navy said Monday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday accused the West of sabotaging Russia-built natural gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea to Germany, a charge vehemently denied by the United States and its allies, who noted that Russia has been blackmailing Europe with reduced gas supplies for months.

Last week, undersea blasts damaged the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines off southern Sweden and Denmark and have led to huge methane leaks, with those governments saying that several hundred pounds of explosives was involved.

The emissions leaks occurred in international waters. Capt. Jimmie Adamsson, a spokesman for the Swedish navy, told The Associated Press that a submarine rescue ship had been sent to the site of the leaks off Sweden and was supporting the Swedish coast guard, which is in charge of the work. It was unclear when anyone or anything would be able to go down to the pipelines, either divers or a submarine. The coast guard said one of its vessels, Amfritrite, was at the site to monitor nearby sea traffic.

It added that bad weather is expected, which will complicate the situation.

Over the weekend, authorities in Denmark said the Nord Stream 1 and 2 natural gas pipelines had stopped leaking.

However, the Swedish coast guard said one of its planes had reported that the smaller leak over Nord Stream 2 "has instead increased somewhat again," was about 30 metres in diameter and it may take "some time" before it stops.

The coast guard offered no explanation as to why the leak had increased. The other one, over Nord Stream 1, has stopped, it said.

Danish authorities were monitoring the two leaks east of the Danish Baltic Sea island of Bornholm — above Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 — with the frigate Absalon, the environmental ship Gunnar Thorson, and a military helicopter.

US SC will hear social media terrorism lawsuits

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court said on Monday it will hear two cases seeking to hold social media companies financially responsible for terrorist attacks.

Relatives of people killed in terrorist attacks in France and Turkey had sued Google, Twitter, and Facebook. They accused the companies of helping terrorists spread their message and radicalise new recruits.

The court will hear the cases this term, which began on Monday, with a decision expected before the court recesses for the summer, usually in late June. The court did not say when it would hear arguments, but the court has already filled its argument calendar for October and November.

One of the cases the justices will hear involves Nohemi Gonzalez, a 23-year-old US citizen studying in Paris. The Cal State Long Beach student was one of 130 people killed in the Islamic State group attacks in November 2015. The attackers struck cafes, outside the French national stadium and inside the Bataclan theatre.

Gonzalez died in an attack at La Belle Equipe bistro.

Gonzalez's relatives sued Google, which owns YouTube, saying the platform had helped the Islamic State group by allowing it to post hundreds of videos that helped incite violence and recruit potential supporters. Gonzalez's relatives said that the company's computer algorithms recommended those videos to viewers most likely to be interested in them. But a judge dismissed the case and a federal appeals court upheld the ruling.

Under US law — specifically Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act — internet companies are generally exempt from liability for the material users post on their networks.

UK PM Liz u-turns on tax cut for wealthiest to avert rebellion

PTI ■ LONDON

The new Liz Truss-led UK government on Monday made its first major U-turn on its central plank of tax cuts by withdrawing a policy to abolish the top rate for the wealthiest, following market turmoil and to avert an expected rebellion within the governing Conservative Party.

Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng declared that the announcement in his mini-budget last month of a proposed abolition of the 45 pence tax rate, which applied to the top tier of income taxpayers from next April, had become a "massive distraction" to an otherwise sound growth plan for the economy.

It came after days of turmoil on the global financial markets spooked by the prospect of huge government borrowing costs and the pound tumbling against the dollar as the Bank of England had to step in to shore up the country's pension funds.

"We get it, and we have listened," Kwarteng tweeted before taking to the airwaves to defend what has been dubbed a screeching U-turn by the newly appointed government. Truss, who replaced Boris Johnson as prime minister after a hard-fought leadership battle with British Indian former Chancellor Rishi Sunak last month, soon referenced her Chancellor's tweet to add: "The abolition of the 45pc rate had become a huge distraction from our mission to get Britain moving.

"Our focus now is on building a high growth economy that funds world-class public services, boosts wages, and creates opportunities across the country."

It came just a day after she had insisted that her government remained committed to abolishing the top rate of tax for the highest earners in a BBC interview on Sunday, despite critics within her own party seeing it as sending out the wrong signal at a time when the majority of the country was struggling with a cost-of-living crisis and soaring household bills.

'We're with you,' Biden tells Puerto Rico ahead of visit

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Monday will survey damage from Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico, where tens of thousands of people are still without power two weeks after the storm hit.

The Category 1 hurricane knocked out electrical power to the US territory of 3.2 million people, 44 per cent of whom live below the poverty line.

Power has been restored to about 90 per cent of the island's 1.47 million customers, but more than 137,000 others, mostly in the hardest hit areas of Puerto Rico's southern and western regions, continue to struggle in the dark. Another 66,000 customers are without water. Biden has pledged that the US government will not abandon Puerto Rico as it starts to rebuild again, five years after the more powerful Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017.

During his visit, Biden planned to announce the administration will provide USD 60 million through last year's bipartisan infrastructure law to help Puerto Rico shore up levees, strengthen flood walls and create a new flood warning system so the island will be better prepared for future storms, the White House said.

"We see what you're going through, and we're with you," Biden told Puerto Ricans and Floridians in a message on Sunday on his official Twitter account.

Florida is cleaning up after Hurricane Ian churned across that state last week, killing more than 60 people, decimating some coastal communities and flooding others. Biden plans to visit Florida on Wednesday to survey damage.

The president, accompanied by first lady Jill Biden and Deanne Criswell, the Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator, was to touch down Monday in Ponce, Puerto Rico, a city on the southern coast. Most of the storm damage is in southern Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico Gov Pedro Pierluisi said he would update Biden on recovery efforts.

"We will make sure to keep working together to ensure the continuity of a reconstruction already underway," the governor tweeted on Sunday.

Fiona caused catastrophic flooding, tore apart roads and bridges, and unleashed more than 100 landslides when it hit Puerto Rico on September 18.

At least two people died after being swept away by floods, and several others were killed in accidents related to the use of candles or generator during the island-wide power outage. Government officials have estimated some USD 3 billion in damages, but warn that costs could rise significantly as evaluations continue.

Some people in Puerto Rico wondered whether Biden's visit would change anything as they recalled how President Donald Trump visited after Hurricane Maria hit as a more powerful Category 4 storm in 2017, and tossed rolls of paper towels into a crowd in a display that riled many.

Iran's supreme leader blames US for anti-hijab protests

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei responded publicly on Monday to the biggest protests in Iran in years, breaking weeks of silence to condemn what he called "rioting" and accuse the United States and Israel of planning the protests.

The unrest, ignited by the death of a young woman in the custody of Iran's morality police, is flaring up across the country for a third week despite government efforts to crack down. On Monday, Iran shuttered its top technology university following an hours-long standoff between students and the police, that turned the prestigious institution into the latest flashpoint of protests and ended with hundreds of young people arrested.

Speaking to a cadre of police students in Tehran, Khamenei said he was "heartbroken" by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody, calling it a "sad incident". However, he sharply condemned the protests as a foreign plot to destabilise Iran, echoing authorities' previous comments.

"This rioting was planned," he told a cadre of police students in Tehran. "These riots and insecurities were designed by America and the Zionist regime, and their employees."

Meanwhile Sharif University of Technology in Tehran announced that only doctoral students would be allowed on campus until further notice following hours of turmoil on Sunday evening, when witnesses said antigovernment protesters clashed with hardline pro-establishment students.

The witnesses, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said the police kept hundreds of students holed up on campus and fired rounds of tear gas to disperse the demonstrations.

The university's student association said that police and plainclothes officers surrounded the school from all sides and detained at least 300 students as protests rocked the campus after nightfall. Plainclothes officers beat a professor and several university employees, the association reported.

King Charles III in 1st engagement since Queen's death

AP ■ LONDON

King Charles III and his wife Camilla, the queen consort, visited Scotland Monday in their first joint public engagement since the royal mourning period to remember Queen Elizabeth II ended. Large crowds turned out on the streets of Dunfermline in Fife, north of Edinburgh, hoping to get a glimpse of the new monarch.

Charles, who wore a kilt for the visit, spent some time shaking hands with well-wishers after he greeted Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and other leaders.

The royal couple were visiting to formally give city status to Dunfermline, the birthplace of another King Charles: Charles I, who reigned in the 17th century before his execution, was the last British monarch born in Scotland.

Dunfermline was among towns that won city status as part of Platinum Jubilee celebrations to mark Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne.

The Oath Keepers' Capitol riot trial, explained

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A trial starting this week in Washington, D.C., is the biggest test yet in the Justice Department's efforts to hold accountable those responsible for the attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, a violent assault that challenged the foundations of American democracy.

On trial is extremist leader Stewart Rhodes, founder of the Oath Keepers extremist group, and four associates.

Prosecutors and defence attorneys will make their opening statements on Monday and the trial will last several weeks.

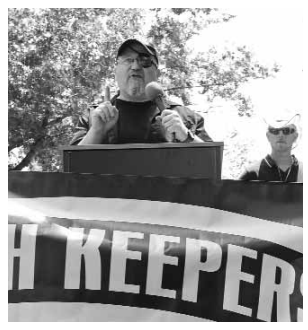
Here is a look at what's to come:

WHO ARE THE OATH KEEPERS?

The anti-government group was founded in 2009 by Rhodes who was educated at Yale Law School and served briefly as a U.S. Army paratrooper before a training accident left him with a back injury.

The group was named after its stated goal of getting past and present members of the military, first responders and police officers to honour the promise they made to defend the Constitution against enemies.

They issued a list of orders that its members wouldn't



obey, such as disarming citizens, carrying out warrantless searches and detaining Americans as enemy combatants in violation of their right to jury trials.

That relatively benign framing and leveraging of social media helped the group grow to one of the largest anti-government militia groups in U.S. History, but the internal dialogue was often darker, experts said.

Oath Keepers participated in the standoff with federal off with officials at Nevada's Bundy Ranch in 2014, and later along rooftops in Ferguson, Missouri after a grand jury declined to charge a police officer in the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

The group would eventually embrace then-candidate Donald Trump's rhetoric and his false claims that the 2020 election was stolen.

WHY ARE THEY ON TRIAL?

On trial with Rhodes are Kelly Meggs, leader of the Florida chapter of the Oath Keepers; Kenneth Harrelson, another Florida Oath Keeper; Thomas Caldwell, a retired U.S. Navy intelligence officer from Virginia; and Jessica Watkins, who led an Ohio militia group.

They have been charged with seditious conspiracy in one of the most high profile cases to come out of the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Prosecutors say they spent several weeks amassing weapons, organising paramilitary training and readying armed teams outside Washington to stop Joe Biden from becoming president.

Stadium tragedy exposes Indonesia's troubled soccer history

AP ■ SEOUL

Gaining the right to host next year's Under-20 World Cup was a major milestone in Indonesia's soccer development, raising hopes that a successful tournament would turn around long-standing problems that have blighted the sport in this country of 277 million people.

The death of at least 125 people at a league game between host Arema FC of East Java's Malang city and Persebaya Surabaya on Saturday is a tragic reminder, however, that Indonesia is one of the most dangerous countries in which to attend a game.

"Do remember that the FIFA U-20 World Cup will be the worldwide spotlight since the event will be joined by 24 countries from five continents," Indonesia's President Joko Widodo said last month as he pushed for thorough preparations for the tournament.

Since Saturday, the domestic league has been suspended. Widodo has ordered the sports minister, the national police chief and the soccer federation to conduct a thorough investigation into the deadly stadium crush. Indonesia was the first Asian team ever to play at a World Cup — participating in 1938 as Dutch East Indies — but despite an undoubted national passion for the sport, it has never returned to the global stage because of years of corruption, violence and mismanagement. Data from Indonesia's soccer watchdog, Save Our Soccer, showed 78 people have died in game-related incidents over the past 28 years. Those accused are often associated with supporter groups that attach themselves to clubs, with the biggest boasting hundreds of thousands of members.

Arema's intense rivalry with Surabaya meant that no visiting fans were allowed in the stadium on the weekend. Yet violence broke out when the home team lost 3-2 and some of the 42,000 Arema fans, known as "Aremania" threw bottles and other objects at players and soccer officials.

'Cities globally warming nearly 30% faster than rural areas'

PTI ■ BEIJING

Cities worldwide are warming by 0.5 degrees Celsius on average per decade, 29 per cent faster than in rural areas, according to a study which suggests that climate change and urban expansion are accelerating surface temperatures.

Researchers from Nanjing University in China and colleagues noted that planting trees and vegetation in cities — also known as urban greening — is reported to offset about 0.13 degrees Celsius of surface warming per decade in European cities.

People who live in cities experience greater heat exposure during heat wave events than the general population due to the urban heat island effect, in which urban land gets hotter than surrounding rural land, they said.

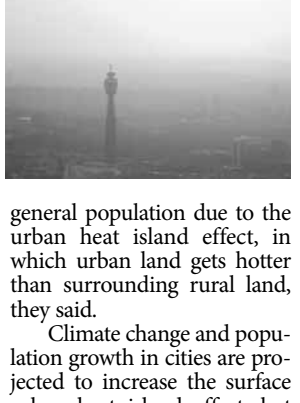
Climate change and population growth in cities are projected to increase the surface urban heat island effect, but many current estimates of future human heat exposure assume equal rates of surface temperature increase between urban and rural areas, the researchers said.

In China and India, they estimated that urban expansion was responsible for over 0.23 degrees Celsius of the observed surface warming in cities per decade. Urban greening is suggested to reduce surface warming, but whether it can slow the accelerating surface urban heat island effect remains unclear, the researchers said.

The study, published recently in the journal Communications Earth & Environment, analysed satellite land surface temperature data for over 2,000 city centers worldwide between 2002 and 2021 and compared them to background rural surface temperatures.

West African mediators head to Burkina Faso following coup

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU



Regional mediators were headed to Burkina Faso on Monday in the wake of the West African country's second coup this year amid concern the latest power grab could further postpone elections and deepen the region's Islamic extremist violence.

News that the delegation from the regional bloc known as ECOWAS is travelling to the capital, Ouagadougou, came after diplomats confirmed that Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba had left for the neighbouring nation of Togo following talks mediated by religious leaders.

Burkina Faso's new leader, Capt. Ibrahim Traore, 34, is officially head of state pending future elections, the junta announced Sunday.

While ECOWAS, a 15-nation West African bloc, had reached an agreement to hold a new vote by July 2024, it remained unclear whether that date would still hold.

Burkina Faso's last democratically elected president was overthrown by Damiba in January amid frustration that his government had not been able to stop extremist attacks. But the jihadi violence, which has killed thousands and forced 2 million to flee their homes, continued and has now brought an end to Damiba's tenure, too.

Al-Shabab attack kills 12 in Somalia

AP ■ MOGADISHU (SOMALIA)

Officials and witnesses say at least 12 people are dead after two explosions by extremist fighters targeted local government headquarters in the capital of Somalia's Hiran region, which has been the centre of a recent mobilisation against the rebels.

The Somalia-based extremist group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack in Beledweyne, about 300 kilometres (186 miles) north of Somalia's capital, Mogadishu.

The Hiran governor, Ali Jayte Osman, who survived the attack, told The Associated Press by phone that the health minister of Hirshabelle state and the deputy governor of Hiran in charge of finance were among those killed in Monday's attack.

"The first explosion occurred at the entrance gate, and after a few minutes a big truck rushed toward the headquarters building and exploded, killing many civilians who came to the office to receive services," the governor said.

Palestinians: Israel military kills 2 during West Bank raid

AP ■ TEL AVIV

The Israeli military shot and killed two Palestinians during a raid in the occupied West Bank early on Monday, Palestinian officials said.

The military alleged that the men tried to ram their car into soldiers, a claim that could not be independently verified.

Palestinians and rights group often accuse Israeli troops of using excessive force against Palestinians, who live under a 55-year military occupation with no end in sight. Israel says it follows strict rules of engagement and opens fire in life-threatening situations.

Application Forms are available for Management Seats in D.EL.Ed. & DPSE Course for Session 2022-2024
At the Institute reception for eligible candidates as per SCERT norms from 03rd October 2022 to 17th October 2022 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on working days and can be deposited upto 17th October 2022 till 4:00 pm.
JAIN BHARTI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
E-Block, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110085

Application Forms are available for Management Seats in D.EL.Ed. Course for Session 2022-2024
At the Institute reception for eligible candidates as per SCERT norms from 03rd October 2022 to 17th October 2022 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on working days and can be deposited upto 17th October 2022 till 4:00 pm.
SAINATH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Plot No. 215, Mungeshpur, Delhi-110039
Phone : 9811755289

Application Forms are available for Management Seats in D.EL.Ed. Course for Session 2022-2024
At the Institute reception for eligible candidates as per SCERT norms from 03rd October 2022 to 17th October 2022 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on working days and can be deposited upto 17th October 2022 till 4:00 pm.
OJAS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Plot No. 213, Outer Firni Road,Mungeshpur Delhi-110039 Ph:9811755679

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concerned that Ms. Sushil Vohra D/o Shri Bihari Lal Vohra R/o Sitapur Eye Hospital, Mall Road, Nainital, Uttarakhand. Has a property in Noida. A-172, Sector-26, Noida U.P. A will is Registered at Sub Registrar office-1st Noida in Bahi No 3, Jild No 738 at Page No 391-410 at Serial No 633 on 16-03-2018. The above property is being transferred in the name of Sh. Praveen Kumar Singh S/o Late Sh. Jagmal Singh R/o A-172, Sector-26, Noida (U.P) on the basis of the registered will. All related people are informed that if someone has any objection about the transfer of the above property, they can submit their objection in Noida Authority Housing department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information. Praveen Kumar Singh

P.M.C. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
(Affiliated to GGSIPU, SCERT, New Delhi)
Pratap Vihar,Kirari Extn., Nangloi, Delhi -110086
Ph:7290037803, 7290037804
Email: pmc_coll@yahoo.com
Admissions available under Management Quota Seats in D.EL.Ed & DPSE
Based on merit basis. Eligibilty 12th Passed with 50%. Forms are available and submit in the college office from 3rd October 2022 to 17th October 2022 at 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Chairman)

SANT HARI DASS COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
(Affiliated To SCERT, Govt.of NCT, Delhi)
Bani Camp, Opp. Air Force Station, Main Najafgarh - Nangloi Road, Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043
PH. 011-25318735, 25318736
Email: santharidasscollege@gmail.com
ADMISSIONS under MANAGEMENT QUOTA are AVAILABLE IN D.EL.Ed. PROGRAMME ON MERIT BASIS
Eligible candidates can apply upto 17th October 2022. Forms are available in the college office between 09.00 am to 04.30 pm Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to bring to the notice of all concerned that Sh. R.K. Chhabra S/o Late Uttam Chand Chhabra (recorded lessee) R/o property No. III/5/43. Survey. No.52/2 Shastri Bazar. Delhi Cantt has requested to the office of Delhi Cantonment Board for mutation & transfer of lease hold rights in respect of property No. III/5/43 comprising of survey No 52/2 Shastri Bazar, Delhi Cantt, being legal heir of the recorded lessee, to the extent of the rights of the recorded lessee. The ownership of the land vests in Govt of India, Ministry of Defence. If any person has objection to the mutation of above property/transfer of lease hold rights in favour of above applicant, may file his/her objections within 30 days of the publication of this notice to the undersigned with documentary proof in support of his/her objection, Failing which the matter shall be referred to the competent authorities for consideration and taking appropriate decision as per law.
Tele: - 011-25693837 011-25695450
Sd/-Chief Executive Officer
Delhi Cantonment Board
Delhi Cantt

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones : 0135-2763508 & Fax : 0135- 2763507
CIN No.:U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website.: www.ujvnl.com
Letter No. 731 **Tender Notice** Dated 03.10.2022
The office of Executive Engineer (E&M), Pashulok Barrage, Rishikesh invitessealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:-
1.NIT No. 10/EE(E&M)/PB/2022-23
2. NIT No. 11/EE(E&M)/PB/2022-23
Name of work/supply/services etc.: 1. Annual Routine Trash Cleaning work at Virbhadra Barrage, Pashulok Rishikesh 2. Annual Routine Sweeping and Cleaning work of Virbhadra Barrage, Pashulok, Rishikesh.
Estimated cost : 1. Rs.12,58,255/- + GST Extra
2. Rs.5,74,237/-+ GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website : 03/10/2022 from 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of tender : 28/10/2022 Up to 15.00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com.
Executive Engineer (E&M) Pashulok Barrage-Rishikesh
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

SVP HOUSING LIMITED
(Formerly Known As MAHABIR METALLEX LIMITED)
Registered Office: A-3, NDSE, Part-1, New Delhi-110049 CIN: L70100DL2003PLC118413
Phone: 011-41070148 Email Id: info@svphousing.com Website: www.svphousing.com
RESULT OF E- VOTING & POLL
It is hereby informed that in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules made there under, the Company had dispatched the Notice of E- Voting for seeking approval of Shareholders as on cut off date i.e. 23.09.2022 through E-Voting and poll for Business listed therein.
Based on the Scrutinizer (Ankit Singhal & Associates, Company Secretaries) Report dated 30th September 2022, the Chairman declared the Results of E- Voting & poll as under:

S. No	Brief Particulars of the Resolution	Number of Total, Valid or Invalid votes received by the Scrutinizer			Number of Shares and % age of total Votes cast in favour of the Resolution		Number of Shares and % age of total Votes cast against the Resolution	
		Total number of Votes Resolved	Total number of invalid votes	Total Number of valid Votes	Number of Shares	% age of Total votes	Number of Shares	% age of Total votes
1	Adoption of Audited Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2022 and Profit & Loss Account for the period ended on that date together with the Reports of Board of Directors and Auditors thereon.	4899400	NIL	4899400	4889400	99.8%	10000	0.20%
2.	Appointment of Mr. Manoj Gupta as Director who is liable to retire by rotation	4899400	NIL	4899400	4836900	98.73%	62500	1.27%
3.	Appointment of Mrs. Chameli Devi ,Director who is liable to retire by rotation.	4899400	NIL	4899400	4836900	98.73%	62500	1.27%
4.	Re-appointment of M/s KPMC & Associates, Chartered Accountants as the statutory auditors of the company.	4899400	NIL	4899400	4836900	98.73%	62500	1.27%
5.	Regularisation of Mr. Rakesh Sharma, as the Director of the company.	4899400	NIL	4899400	4836900	98.73%	62500	1.27%

Accordingly, the above Resolutions have been passed by the Shareholders of the Company with requisite majority.
For and on behalf of SVP Housing Limited
Sd/-
(Vijay Kumar)
Managing Director
DIN: 00369802
Date: 30.09.2022
Place: New Delhi

the pioneer
RAIPUR | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2022

Gas price hike: CNG prices may go up by ₹8-12 a kg

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

CNG prices are likely to be hiked by Rs 8-12 per kg and that of gas piped to household kitchens by over Rs 6 per unit after the government raised the prices of input natural gas to a record, analysts said on Monday.

The government last week raised the prices of gas produced from old fields, called APM gas, to USD 8.57 per million British thermal unit from USD 6.1. The rates for gas produced from difficult fields were hiked to USD 12.46 from USD 9.92 per mmBtu.

APM gas makes up for two-thirds of all gas produced in the country. This gas is converted into CNG for automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking.

Kotak Institutional Equities said APM gas prices are up nearly 5x in just a year - from USD 1.79 per mmBtu till September 2021 to USD 8.57.

"We expect CGDs to raise prices, but only in tranches, impacting near-term earnings," it said. For each USD per mmBtu gas price rise, city gas distribution (CGD) entities need to raise the CNG price by Rs 4.7-4.9 per kg.

"For USD 2.5 per mmBtu price rise, and also for recent currency weakness, CGDs will need an immediate CNG price increase of Rs 12-14 per kg," it said adding CGDs cannot absorb gas price increases.

In the past, CGDs have been able to pass on all cost increases, and per unit margins have been on long-term rising trends for CGDs.

According to ICICI Securities, piped cooking gas, called PNG, CNG prices will need to be raised by Rs 6.2 per standard cubic meter and Rs 9-12.5 per kg to fully pass on the impact of these high input costs. "At best, we see only a slow gradual pass-through of these costs over third quarter (October to December)," it said. Jefferies said Indraprastha Gas Ltd, the firm that retails CNG and PNG in the national capital, will need to raise CNG price by Rs 8 per kg while Mahanagar Gas Ltd - the retailer in Mumbai - will have to increase prices by Rs 9.

"This would reduce CNG's discount to petrol/diesel from 45/30 per cent to 40/20 per cent for IGL. Similarly, the discount for MGL would reduce from 45/30 per cent currently to 40/20 per cent," it said. "This could impact volume growth."

As a key producer of domestic APM gas, a sharp 40 per cent increase in price is positive for upstream producers ONGC and Oil India. The price hike will boost ONGC's earnings by about 16 per cent, Kotak said.

"However, in our view, such high prices may not sustain for long. In addition, there is a risk that the government may take away benefits by imposing additional taxation, like the recent windfall tax on oil prices," it said. But unlike APM gas, the benefits of higher rates for gas from new and difficult fields can sustain. Reliance Industries Ltd, with the largest new gas production, is a key beneficiary. Kotak said there is a serious need to revisit the domestic gas price formula and introduce floor/ceiling price for several reasons.

The current formula, it said, has led to high volatility in APM gas prices - up 5x in just a year while rates stayed below breakeven price of USD 3-3.5 for earlier six and half years (October 2015 to March 2022). "This gas is produced from legacy nominated blocks with low taxation (no profit petroleum, etc.); and APM gas is allocated by the government to price-sensitive segments (CGDs, fertilizers, power), where both high prices and volatility can impact demand, conversion from pollution fuels to gas and future investments," it said detailing reasons for the review.

Sensex, Nifty fall over 1% on selling in banking, auto shares

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Key stock indices Sensex and Nifty declined over 1 per cent at close on Monday due to heavy selling in banking, auto and FMCG shares amid weak global market trends and continued foreign fund outflows.

Reversing its previous session's gains, benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled 638.11 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 56,788.81. During the day, it tanked 743.52 points or 1.29 per cent to 56,683.40.

The broader NSE Nifty fell by 207 points or 1.21 per cent to end at 16,887.35 as 42 of its constituents declined.

Among Sensex stocks, Maruti fell the most by 3.16 per cent, Hindustan Unilever by 2.77 per cent, IndusInd Bank by 2.55 per cent, ITC by 2.32 per cent, Bajaj Finance by 2.26 per cent, State Bank of India by 2.15 per cent and Kotak Mahindra Bank by 2.03 per cent. Dr Reddy's, NTPC, Bharti Airtel and Wipro were the winners.

Sensex had surged by 016.96 points or 1.80 per cent to settle at 57,426.92 on Friday. The Nifty climbed 276.25 points or 1.64 per cent to end at 17,094.35.

"Markets started the week on a feeble note and lost over a per cent, tracking weak global cues," Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 1.24 per cent and smallcap index fell by 0.54 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, power fell by 3.24 per cent, utilities by 3.14 per cent, auto (2.11 per cent), FMCG (2.05 per cent), commodities (2.01 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.26 per cent) and realty (1.24 per cent).

Healthcare and telecommunication ended in the green.

C-DOT 5G mobile antenna to be ready in 6 months for commercial rollout

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Made in India 5G radios will be ready for commercial deployment in six months, a top official of state-run C-DoT said. The technology jointly developed by C-DoT, Jio's Radisys India, VVDN Technologies and Wisig Networks was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Mobile Congress to make a 5G call.

C-DOT Executive Director Rajkumar Upadhyay told PTI during an interaction at IMC that the organisation has completed prototype development and proof of concept of the 5G radios that are for sending and receiving wireless signals.

"Our 5G core and 5G radio are completely indigenously developed which makes India among a few countries that have their own 5G technology. Operators desire multiple integration and call scenario tests in their network before it goes for commercial deployment. We will start these tests soon in BSNL's network and we hope to complete this in the next six months," Upadhyay said.

C-DoT is part of a TCS-led consortium which has been selected for deploying 4G technology.

"C-DOT's role will be limited to technology development. We will sign a technology transfer agreement with vendors who will commercially deploy it," Upadhyay said.

C-DOT has also developed a 5G core (NSA) which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at India Mobile Congress by making an end-to-end 5G call. The Radio Access network used in making this call is also developed indigenously in collaboration with VVDN Technologies, Radisys India and Wisig Networks.

"We have already deployed our 5G core in the BSNL network for trial," Upadhyay said. Talking about network speed, Upadhyay said that 5G can deliver a download speed of 1 gigabit per second and C-DOT 's gears will be able to deliver it depending on the capacity put at the backend.

Rupee plunges 49p to 81.89/$ as crude spikes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell by 49 paise to close at 81.89 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday as heavy selling pressure in the domestic equities and a spike in crude oil prices weighed on the local unit.

Besides, a stronger greenback against key rivals and persistent foreign fund outflows put pressure on the domestic currency, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened weak at 81.65, fell further to 81.98 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 81.89, down 49 paise over its previous close.

In the previous session, the rupee settled at 81.40 against the greenback.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 638.11 points or 1.11 per cent to end at 56,788.81, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 207 points or 1.21 per cent to 16,887.35.

India Inc's credit quality continues to improve in H1, may moderate going ahead: Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India Inc's credit quality showed further improvement in April-September period with the ratio of upgrades to downgrades inching higher.

The credit ratio's improvement to 5.52 in H1FY23 as compared to 5.04 in H2FY22 was driven by leaner balance sheets led by healthy cash flows and muted investments, Crisil Ratings, which rates 6,800 companies, said.

However, the agency clarified that the data may not be fully representative as many small businesses with outstanding ratings have turned non-cooperative in sharing data on a continued basis which can be driven by adverse financial health.

"India Inc has emerged stronger post-pandemic," its managing director Gurpreet Chhatwal said, exuding confidence that the corporate India can weather the current storm caused by global events like higher inflation and monetary tightening which will hurt India's exports.

Crisil's senior director Somasekhar Vemuri said there can, however, be a moderation in the credit ratio going ahead due to some of the challenges faced by companies.

During the first half of the fiscal year, the credit ratio moved ahead majorly driven by the infrastructure sector, which contributed a third of the upgrades, the agency said, attributing the same to higher project work being undertaken and improvement in project clearances and payments.

The six months saw 569 upgrades and 103 downgrades, while ratings on 80 per cent of the companies being reaffirmed, it said.

The ongoing interest rate tightening may result in some of the companies going slow on investments, and the higher interest costs will have an adverse impact on the renewables sector the most with the project viability itself coming under pressure, its chief ratings officer Subodh Rai told reporters.

SBI report warns of freebies time-bomb, urges SC to cap such spends at 1% of state GDP

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With states after states competing to offer freebies, a report has suggested that the Supreme Court-led panel could cap such welfare schemes at 1 per cent of the state's GDP or 1 per cent of its own tax collection.

Citing the examples of just three states, a report penned by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economic adviser to State Bank of India, said annual pension liabilities of the poor states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Rajasthan are estimated at Rs 3 lakh crore.

When looked in relation to these states own tax revenue, pension liabilities are quite high for Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh at 217, 190 and 207 per cent respectively.

While for states contemplating the change, it would be as high as 450 per cent of own tax revenue in case of Himachal Pradesh, 138 per cent of own tax revenue in case of Gujarat and 242 per cent of own tax revenue for Punjab, which is also planning to revert to the old pension system wherein the beneficiaries pay nothing.

Ghosh also points out that according to the latest available information, the off-budget borrowings of states, which are loans raised by state-owned entities and guaranteed by the states, have reached around 4.5 percent of GDP in 2022 and the extent of such guarantees have achieved significant proportion of GDP for various states.

Office space supply up 49% in Jan-Sep in top 6 cities: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New supply of office space rose 49 per cent during January-September period across six cities to 32.8 million square feet on completion of many commercial projects to meet rising demand, according to Colliers India.

Real estate consultant Colliers India said that the same stood at 22 million square feet in the year-ago period across six cities -- Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Pune and Mumbai.

Fresh supply declined in Bengaluru and Mumbai, but rose in other four cities.

As per the data, the new office supply declined 1 per cent to 8.1 million square feet in January-September 2022 from 8.2 million square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year. Mumbai saw a 16 per cent decline in new supply to 1.8 million square feet from 2.1 million square feet.

Among cities that saw uptick in supply, the fresh supply of new office in Chennai jumped to 4.2 million square feet from 0.9 million square feet.

Delhi-NCR witnessed a 133 per cent growth in new supply to 6.3 million square feet from 2.7 million square feet.

New supply of office space in Hyderabad rose 56 per cent to 7.9 million square feet from 5.1 million square feet.

Pune witnessed a 49 per cent rise in fresh supply to 4.5 million square feet during January-September 2022 from 3 million square feet in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The gross leasing of office space nearly doubled to 40.6 million square feet during January-September across six major cities on pent-up demand driven largely by technology and co-working firms. The absorption of office space stood at 20.6 million square feet in the year-ago period across six cities.

Colliers India expects absorption of office space to hit an all-time high in the 2022 calendar year, with gross leasing set to cross 50 million square feet. The previous high was seen in 2019 at 44.8 million square feet.

Gross absorption does not include lease renewals, pre-commitments and deals where only a letter of intent has been signed.

BSNL to start rolling out 4G network from November

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned telecom firm BSNL will start rolling out 4G network from November onwards and gradually upgrade it to 5G by August next year, a top company official said on Monday. The company has plans to roll out almost 1.25 lakh 4G mobile sites in 18 months, BSNL chairman and managing director PK Purwar told PTI at India Mobile Congress.

"The first roll out (of planned 4G network) should take place in November," Purwar said. The company is in discussion with IT major TCS and state-run telecom research and development organisation C-DOT-led consortium to deploy indigenously developed 4G technology in the network.

Purwar said the 4G network gears that the company is purchasing will be upgradable to 5G through software updates.

When asked about the timeline of BSNL's plans to roll out 5G services, Purwar said the company is on its path to deploy 5G as per the deadline of August 15, 2023, set by Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

"The minister has given us a clear path that the 15th of August 2023 should be the date when BSNL should be in the 5G domain. We are working in that direction which we have received. We should be able to meet it (the target timeline)," Purwar said.

Talking about revenue dynamics, all telecom operators should look at digital inclusiveness and connect the unconnected with digital technologies.

"There should be an investment in the network for everyone to get good service and roll out should be faster. Unless operators have enough resources they will not be able to make the investment in the network. Unless investment is not made in network technology, many people will be left out from taking advantage of newer technologies," Purwar said.

Nafed offloads buffer onion of 20K tonnes in different cities to contain prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To check the sudden spike in onion prices, cooperative Nafed has offloaded 20,000 tonnes of the bulb from the government's reserves in the last three weeks across India, official sources said.

Onion is being disposed of at the "going market rate" in major cities like Delhi, Patna, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Chennai and Hyderabad among others, sources said.

Nafed has been creating a buffer stock of onion on behalf of the government under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) for the last few years.

For 2022-23, Nafed has built a record onion reserve of 2.50 lakh tonnes to deal with a potential spike in onion prices during the lean season that runs from August to December.

Sebi: Be wary of investors' portfolio management services promise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Monday cautioned investors against unauthorised money mobilisation by entities claiming to provide portfolio management services.

Further, the regulator noted that these entities have been luring the public, with a promise of high returns, through pamphlets and social media platforms. It was observed that in such schemes, the entities have been mobilising money in relatively smaller amounts and promising assured returns, Sebi said in a statement.

The advisory comes after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) noted that some entities are collecting money from the public claiming to provide portfolio management services.

Some of the entities have names similar to that of Sebi-registered intermediaries, misleading the public, as though the fund raising is genuine and done by entities registered with the regulator.

Sebi, therefore, cautioned "investors not to fall prey to such unauthorised money collection" and advised them to deal only with Sebi-registered intermediaries while investing in the securities market.

Further, Sebi-registered intermediaries, including portfolio managers (who manage portfolio management schemes) cannot offer products with assured or fixed return on investment. Many such unauthorised schemes are run like ponzi schemes without any real investment made in the securities market.

Focus on sustainability, take risks: Radhakrishnan

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Individuals aspiring to become entrepreneurs had words of wisdom during second International Conference on Reinventing Business Practices, Startups and Sustainability (ICRBSS) at SRMIST Vadapalani today. J. Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary of Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection (Government of Tamil Nadu) said those aspiring to turn entrepreneurs must have the required skills and must not stay away from putting the requried hard-work.

Department of Management Studies at SRMIST Vadapalani in association with University of Nizwa (Oman), SRM University Sonepat is organising the two day international conference which is also known as ICRBSS 2022. Conference aspires to encourage quality research in different areas of business practices inclusive of startups and entrepreneurship.

Anuj Dayal, Principal Executive Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), received the Rajat Kamal Award for producing the best promotional Film at the 68th National Film Awards (non-feature) from President of India Droupadi Murmu on September 30 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The film called "Surmounting Challenges" covers Phase-III engineering challenges faced by the DMRC and was directed by Satish Pandey

Financial planning is key amid increasing digitalisation, says FPSB CEO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The financial planning is key to success amid increasing digitalisation, emergence of digital currencies, including cryptocurrencies and the looming concerns of Covid-19, said Financial Planning Standards Board Ltd (FPSB) CEO Noel Maye.

FPSB India Liaison Office, along with its global network of financial planning professional bodies, will host the sixth annual World Financial Planning Day (WFPD) on October 5.

FPSB India has joined hands with the National Stock Exchange of India to organise a bell-ringing ceremony on October 4 to kick off World Financial Planning Day.

Maye said, "This World Financial Planning Day, we want the public to know how financial planning can help them feel more confident and in control of their finances."

Winners of Raj Ratna Award announced

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The Invest Rajasthan Summit is being organised by the State Government on October 7-8, 2022 at JECC, Sitapura, Jaipur.

This summit will be a grand ceremony in which about 3000 participants from India and abroad will participate.

The theme of the Invest Rajasthan Summit 2022 is 'Committed-Delivered', as reiterated by the Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot, in a Press conference held at the CM residence on Monday.

The Chief Minister announced the winners of Rajasthan Ratna Award on this occasion.

He said this year's Rajasthan Ratna Award will be given to Justice Dalveer Bhandari, Justice RM Lodha, Industrialist Anil Agarwal, Industrialist LN Mittal, Sheen Kauf Nizam, and KC Malu.

Minister of Industries and Commerce, Shankuntla Rawat, besides the Chief Secretary, Usha Sharma; Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Veenu Gupta and others were present.

REAL DROP FIRST POINTS

AP ■ MADRID

Karim Benzema missed a penalty for Real Madrid as they finally blinked in the La Liga title race, dropping their first points of the season in a 1-1 draw with Osasuna on Sunday.

Elsewhere Real Sociedad won 5-3 at Girona and high-flying Real Betis fell to a 1-0 defeat at Celta Vigo.

After Barcelona beat Real Mallorca on Saturday, Madrid knew they had to win to stay top but were frustrated by Jagoba Arrasate's well-organised side at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Benzema, on his return to the side after injury, won a spot-kick but then fired it against the crossbar, and also had a goal disallowed for offside as Madrid tried to force a way through.

Vinicius Junior broke the deadlock just before half-time with a cross that snuck all the way into the far corner, but Kike Garcia's well-taken header early in the second period earned Osasuna a point.

"What we were missing was scoring that penalty, normally Karim scores them," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told DAZN.

"He had no problem playing the 90 minutes. It's been a month since he's played, he has to get his best form back. He did his part, he had the chance from the penalty. It's an accident, sometimes it happens."

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez told the club's fans at an assembly on Sunday morning that a European Super League project was essential, but Osasuna showed domestic football can still offer a significant challenge.

Benzema made his first appearance since September 6, while Andriy Lunin and Dani Ceballos started in place of injured duo Thibaut Courtois and Luka Modric.

Madrid probed promisingly down the flanks, while at the other end Abde Ezzalzouli, on loan at Osasuna from Barcelona, crashed a shot into the side netting on a bright display.

Madrid opened the scoring in fortuitous fashion, with Vinicius whipping in a low cross which caught out goalkeeper Sergio Herrera and crept in at the far post.

Benzema, on his return to the side after injury, won a spot-kick but then fired it against the crossbar, and also had a goal disallowed for offside as Madrid tried to force a way through

Osasuna complained that Benzema and Antonio Rudiger were offside and interfering with play, but their protests were dismissed.

The visitors were level five minutes into the second half, when Kike Garcia brilliantly looped a backwards header over Lunin.

The goal meant Madrid have failed to keep a clean sheet in any of the first seven league games.

"We were quite solid at the back," insisted Ancelotti. "We conceded a goal from a deep cross, it was quite strange. The team was balanced, the objective is always to be strong to avoid conceding."

NO WAY THROUGH

Turning up the heat, Benzema drew a stunning save from Herrera, although he was offside, then neatly slipped through Rodrygo Goes, who fired over.

The French striker won a penalty when he was shoved over by David Garcia, who was sent off, but hit the crossbar with his effort. Moments later Benzema had the ball in the net, but it was disallowed for offside.

The draw means Barcelona lead Madrid on goal difference after seven games, with both teams on 19 points and unbeaten. It is the first time the Catalans lead the league at the end of a fixture round since June 2020.

"We have to celebrate, they had won all their games and we came back from a goal down, the team did great work and played a great game," said Arrasate.

"If Madrid's players weren't offside then the goalkeeper's position would have been different (for the opening goal)."

Earlier Real Sociedad, seventh, came out on top after an eight-goal thriller at Montilivi.

Norwegian striker Alexander Sorloth hit a first-half brace for the visitors either side of goals for Girona's Rodrigo Riquelme and Arnau Martinez.

Valentin Castellanos put Girona ahead but Brais Mendez and Martin Zubimendi struck in the space of six minutes to restore the Basque side's lead.

Takefusa Kubo made the game safe for La Real late on.

Real Betis fell to a narrow defeat at Celta Vigo, playing most of the game with 10 men after Luiz Felipe's 20th-minute red card.

Gabriel Veiga slammed home in the opening stages from distance for the hosts at Balaidos and they moved 10th while Betis remained fourth.

Espanyol and Valencia shared a thrilling 2-2 draw which saw both sides reduced to 10 men after red cards for Martin Braithwaite and Marcos Andre respectively.

World TT: Indian men beat Kazakhstan, women get better of Egypt

PTI ■ CHENGDU

The Indian men's team, led by seasoned campaigner G Sathiyan, kept its hopes alive for a knock-out stage berth, beating Kazakhstan 3-2 in a closely fought group league tie of the World Table Tennis Championship here on Monday.

For the women's team, after a heartbreaking close defeat against Germany, Sreeja Akula and company prevailed over Egypt 3-1 to qualify for the pre-quarterfinals.

The men's team now needs to beat France in the final group league match to finish on top of group 2 table.

In case the Indian team loses to France and Germany happens to beat Kazakhstan, then there will be a three-way tie between India, Germany and France.

After the high of beating Germany, Sathiyan started the new tie in earnest, making short work of Denis Zholudev in straight games. Sathiyan won 11-1, 11-9, 11-5.

However, Harmeet Desai had a poor outing against Kirill Gerassimenko to lose 6-11 8-11 9-11 in quick time.

But, young Manav Thakkar beat Alan Kurmangaliyev 12-10, 11-1, 11-8.

With 2-1 lead, Sathiyan was expected to close the tie in the fourth rubber but Kirill pipped the Indian ace 6-11, 11-5, 12-14, 11-9, 11-6 to restore parity.

However, Harmeet was in his element against Kazakhstan's weakest link Jholudev whom he beat 12-10, 11-9, 11-6.

In the women's event, the Commonwealth Games mixed doubles gold medallist Sreeja Akula won the first and fourth rubbers to clinch a place for India in the knock-out stages.

After a poor outing against Germany, Manika Batra won the second rubber while Diya Chitale ended second best against her opponent.

Sreeja beat Goda Han 11-6-11-4, 11-1 and Dina Mishref 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6 while Manika struggled past Dina 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, 2-11, 11-8 in five games to help India win the match.

Coman returns to Bayern training

AP ■ MUNICH

Kingsley Coman gave world champions France a much-needed boost after the forward returned to training with his club Bayern Munich on Monday following an absence of almost a month.

The 26-year-old missed France's Nations League matches against Austria and Denmark in September due to a torn thigh muscle.

However, on Monday Coman was able to pass the ball around with team-mates Benjamin Pavard, Dayot Upamecano and Matthijs de Ligt, earning a slap on the back from coach Julian Nagelsmann and applause from his team-mates.

Bayern will be expected to make it three wins form three Champions League group matches when they host pointless Czech side Viktoria Plzen on Tuesday.

Nagelsmann may save Coman for Saturday's high-profile Bundesliga clash between his third-placed side and Borussia Dortmund -- who are fourth level on points with Bayern -- instead of giving him a run out against Plzen.

Coman's return is welcome news for France who are struggling both on the pitch and off it with several stars injured and battling to be fit for the World Cup finals which begin in Qatar in less than two months.

Paul Pogba, who scored in the 4-2 win over Croatia in the 2018 World Cup final, is among the players sidelined and another key midfielder N'Golo Kante also missed the recent Nations League matches through injury.

Presnel Kimpembe, Lucas and Theo Hernandez, Lucas Digne and captain and first-choice goalkeeper Hugo Lloris were other absentees from the Nations League matches which were coach Didier Deschamps final preparation games before the World Cup.

Lyon face Arsenal in tough women's CL draw

AP ■ PARIS

Holders Lyon were given a tough draw in the women's Champions League on Monday in a group which includes Arsenal and Juventus.

Lyon beat 2021 champions Barcelona 3-1 in May, and are in a Group C which includes the Gunners, the 2007 champions, powered by star Dutch striker Vivianne Miedema, Juve and Swiss side Zurich.

Barca benefited from a more lenient draw in a Group D alongside Germans Bayern Munich, Rosengard of Sweden and Portuguese club Benfica.

English giants Chelsea, vice-champion of Europe in 2021, and with a star line-up including Pernille Harder and Sam Kerr, headline a tough Group A which also includes Paris Saint-Germain, semi-finalists in the last three editions, and the ambitious Real Madrid.

Outsiders in the group are Vllaznia Shkoder, the first Albanian women's football club to climb into the European top-16.

In Group B, the Germans of Wolfsburg are favourites ahead of the Czechs Slavia Prague, Austrians St. Poelten and the Italy's Roma, novices in the elite European competition.

Group stage matches take place between October 19 and December 22 with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the quarter-finals.

WOMEN'S CL DRAW

Group A: Chelsea (ENG), Paris Saint-Germain (FRA), Real Madrid (ESP), Vllaznia Shkoder (ALB).
Group B: Wolfsburg (GER), Slavia Prague (CZE), St. Poelten (AUT), Roma (ITA).
Group C: Lyon (FRA), Arsenal (ENG), Juventus (ITA), Zurich (SUI).
Group D: Barcelona (ESP), Bayern Munich (GER), Rosengard (SWE), Benfica (POR)

TIAFOE 'FLYING HIGH' AFTER TOKYO OPENER

AP ■ TOKYO

US Open semi-finalist Frances Tiafoe said he was "flying high on confidence" after beating Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the Japan Open on Monday.

The American made a name for himself when he stunned Rafael Nadal on his way to a shock final-four appearance at Flushing Meadows last month before playing a starring role at the Laver Cup.

The world number 19 is playing his first singles tournament since the US Open this week in Tokyo and he dispatched Japanese wild card Uchiyama with little fuss.

Tiafoe said he was "not really feeling any pressure" despite his recent achievements putting him firmly in the spotlight.

"Every day is different, guys may play well and they may beat you -- you've got to live with it," he said. "I'm flying high on confidence and I'm just staying with my process."

Tiafoe will play Bernabe Zapata Miralles in the second round after the Spaniard beat Japan's Taro Daniel 7-5, 7-5.

Tiafoe did not lose a single service game against Uchiyama and closed the match out in 1hr, 12min.

"I hit the ball well from the ground, I moved well, made first serves when I needed them," he said. "It was straight sets, I didn't get broken -- it could be worse."

Spain's Pedro Martinez also advanced to the second round with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Australia's Alexei Popyrin, while American Brandon Nakashima beat Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki 6-3, 6-2.

Norwegian top seed Casper Ruud will play Spain's Jaume Munar in his opening game on Tuesday, while Australian Nick Kyrgios takes on Taiwan's Tseng Chun-hsin later in the day.

Djokovic wins Tel Aviv final for 89th career title

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Novak Djokovic claimed his third title of 2022 and 89th of his career with an impressive straight-sets victory over Marin Cilic in the Tel Aviv final on Sunday.

The 35-year-old Djokovic triumphed 6-3, 6-4 to add the Israeli trophy to victories in Rome and Wimbledon this season.

It was Djokovic's 19th win over Cilic in 21 meetings in a rivalry stretching back to 2008.

Djokovic was playing his first singles tournament since wrapping up a seventh Wimbledon crown and 21st Grand Slam title in July.

On Sunday, Djokovic broke Cilic in the second game of the final and pocketed the first set with a fourth ace after 47 minutes on court.

Former US Open winner Cilic, chasing a 21st career title but first of 2022, was broken in the first game of the second set and the 34-year-old never recovered.

Sai Praneeth edges out HS Prannoy as Telangana beat Kerala to win team Gold

PTI ■ SURAT

Former world championships Bronze medallist B Sai Praneeth showed nerves of steel to outwit in-form HS Prannoy in a thrilling three-setter as Telangana blanked Kerala 3-0 to win the coveted mixed team badminton Gold at the National Games here on Monday.

Enduring a dip in form for over a year now, Tokyo Olympian Praneeth finally had something to cheer about as he dug deep into his reservoir to see off Kerala's top shuttler Prannoy 18-21, 21-16, 22-20 to give Telangana a 2-0 lead.

His victory came on the heels of another brilliant show by the husband-and-wife duo of B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy, who got the better of the youthful pair of MR Arjun and Treesa Jolly 21-15, 14-21, 21-14 in a thrilling battle.

In the women's singles, Samiya Farooqui beat TR Gowrikrishna 21-5, 21-12 to seal the win for Telangana.

Telangana's decision to field the experienced Sumeeth and Sikki in the opening mixed doubles match ahead of Vishnuvardhan Goud and Gayatri Gopichand, who had lost against Maharashtra, paid dividends as they put the team ahead.

"We only gave the coach the option of trying us out," Sumeeth said, even though they had last played together way back in the 2021 Thailand Open.

The couple fumbled at the start as the speedy Arjun and Treesa jumped into an early 5-2 lead.

"We were playing after a long time. We don't even practice together as we quite often get into arguments. It took some time to get into a rhythm. But once we found our groove, we got into a good rhythm," said a smiling Sikki.

The Kerala pair, however, fought back to win the second game, with Arjun sending powerful smashes from the backline and Treesa being efficient at the net.

The third game went close till 12-all before a change of strategy did the trick for Telangana.

"I think the turning point was when I went for variations in my service, not giving them any length," Sikki explained.

The next match was crucial with Prannoy, who is currently ranked 15th in the world and is enjoying a dream season, starting as the favourite against Praneeth, whose BWF world ranking has slipped to 40 due to his poor form.

"I knew it would be a tough match, especially as we know each other's game as we often train together. But gradually I found my strokes," said 2017 Singapore Open champion Praneeth.

The first game was played fiercely. A tentative Praneeth made a few unforced errors while Prannoy looked good with his all-round game. They went neck-and-neck till 18-18 before Prannoy clinched it with a couple of well measured shots.

Praneeth was in full flow in the second game, with his repertoire of strokes catching Prannoy on the wrong foot. He surged ahead 13-7 and held on to it to make it 1-1.

In the third game, Praneeth built a healthy lead of 13-7 before Prannoy clawed his way back to make it 18-18 all.

"I was suddenly blank as Prannoy began to play a fast game. With the shuttle also coming off slowly, I was little taken back. But luckily, I held on to my nerves and pulled off this crucial win. It will boost my morale," Praneeth said.

Indian men's hockey team to play 5-match 'Test series' in Aus

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's hockey team will tour Australia to play a five-matcFh 'Test series' in November-December.

The Indians, currently ranked fifth, will face the world number one Australians in five matches between November 26 and December 4 at the MATE Stadium in Adelaide.

The second, third and fourth matches will be played on November 27, November 30 and December 3.

It will be the first time the two sides will be meeting since the Kookaburras beat India for the Gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in August.

The five-match 'Test series' will be invaluable outings for both the side in preparation for the 2023 Men's World Cup to be held in Odisha in January next year.

The Indian women's team will also be playing against the Australian women in a series of matches in May next year, for which the dates are yet to be confirmed.

A senior national Indian hockey team has not played in Australia since the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast.

"From the moment we raised the prospect of hosting these matches in Adelaide, the South Australian Government has shown enormous enthusiasm and eagerness to host, so we are delighted to bring these series to South Australia," said Hockey Australia CEO David Pryles in a statement.

"Australia and India have developed a fierce rivalry on the hockey pitch in recent times. Coupled with there being a large and passionate Indian population in Adelaide, there is no doubt this series will be a hot ticket to get hold of and attract terrific crowds," he added.

the pioneer
RAIPUR | TUESDAY | OCTOBER 4, 2022

INDIA AIM TO WHITEWASH PROTEAS

PTI ■ INDORE

It may be an inconsequential game on paper but Indian bowlers await another tough test against South Africa ahead of the T20 World Cup when the two teams meet in the final game of the three-match series here on Tuesday.

Having sealed their first-ever series against South Africa at home, Indian team management has decided to rest its premier batter Virat Kohli and vice-captain KL Rahul for the final game.

"Yes, both Virat and Rahul have been rested from the final T20I," said a BCCI official.

After the final game against the Proteas, Kohli and Rahul will link up with the squad in Mumbai from where the team is scheduled to leave for Australia on October 6 for the T20 World Cup.

It is expected that standby batter Shreyas Iyer will replace Kohli for the final game in the playing XI. With Rahul also rested, either Suryakumar Yadav or Rishabh Pant will open alongside with Rohit Sharma.

With no second reserve batter in the squad, Shahbaz Ahmed or one among Mohammed Siraj or Umesh Yadav could get a look-in.

Since their early exit from the T20 World Cup 12 months ago, the Indian batting has come a long way and looks formidable ahead of the next edition beginning later this month.

Majority of the batters remain the same from the UAE edition but it is the drastic change in approach which has made the difference.

Heading into the ICC event, India's high-profile top-three have hit top form including Rahul who allayed concerns about his strike rate with a sublime effort on Sunday.

Kohli has batted a 140 plus strike rate since the Asia Cup that includes three 50s and a much-awaited hundred. Skipper Rohit has come up with impactful innings over the course of the six games at home against Australia and South Africa.

Number four Suryakumar Yadav is in a league of his own and seems to be batting at a much higher level than his teammates, so much so that Rohit is contemplating to play him straight in the team's World Cup opener against Pakistan on October 23.

Having sealed their first-ever series against South Africa at home, India has decided to rest its premier batter Virat Kohli and vice-captain KL Rahul for the final game

Pant is yet to bat in the series and though Dinesh Karthik got seven balls in the second T20, he too would be hoping to get a hit in the middle.

Jasprit Bumrah's absence has compounded India's bowling woes, especially in the death overs, but the team needs to find a way if the star pacer doesn't get fit in time for the ICC event.

Deepak Chahar, who is among World Cup reserves, has been impressive with the new ball but question marks remain over his efficacy towards the back end of the innings.

Arshdeep Singh has made an impact both with new and old ball but was unusually expensive on Sunday. Having bowled as many as three no balls, it was a forgettable night for the left-arm pacer who would be eager to bounce back.

The variations that Harshal Patel relies on to keep the batters in check have not been producing the desired results since his return from injury.

Red ball great R Ashwin is yet to get a wicket in the series and India will be looking to him for wickets in the middle overs.

Drafted into the squad in Bumrah's absence, Siraj could also get to play at Holkar Stadium but India might continue with the out of rhythm Harshal Patel as he would need more game time post injury.

In the extreme humidity of Guwahati, the South Africa pacers struggled to grip the ball and ended up offering far many full tosses to the Indian batters. They would want to rectify that.

Despite the series loss, there has been plenty of positives for the visitors in the batting department. Continuing his menacing form this year, David Miller smashed an unbeaten hundred while Quinton de Kock got much needed runs before the World Cup.

The biggest concern for the Proteas is the form of their skipper Temba Bavuma, who is yet to score a run in the series.

Bumrah out of T20 WC: BCCI

PTI ■ INDORE

India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the ICC T20 World Cup due to a back injury, the BCCI announced on Monday.

That Bumrah is ruled out of the big-ticket event due to a stress fracture was first reported by the PTI on September 29.

Bumrah's absence will certainly affect India's chances in the marquee event in Australia as death bowling still remains a grey area.

The BCCI was awaiting medical reports while the pacer did his rehab at the National Cricket Academy but it was a foregone conclusion that he would be out for months.

"The BCCI Medical team has ruled out Team India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup squad. The decision was taken following a detailed assessment and in consultation with the specialists," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

Bumrah was initially ruled out of the ongoing three-match T20I series against South Africa due to a back injury.

While the BCCI will be naming a replacement for Bumrah in the squad for the marquee tournament soon, one among Mohammed Shami and Deepak Chahar will make it to the main squad. Jammu and Kashmir pacer Umran Malik is expected to be named in the standby list.

India beat Malaysia by 30 runs via D/L method

PTI ■ SYLHET

Opener Sabbhineni Meghana (69) batted with authority to record her maiden T20I half-century as India defeated Malaysia by 30 runs via the Duckworth-Lewis method in the rain-curtailed Asia Cup match here on Monday.

Replacing vice-captain Smriti Mandhana at the top, Meghana hit a career-best 69 off 53 deliveries to help India post 181 for 4.

In reply, Malaysia were tottering at 16/2 in 5.2 overs when rain stopped play, far behind the 46-run mark which was the D/L par score when the match was called off.

With the win, India moved to the second spot on the points table -- with four points -- behind Pakistan.

Meghana took the Malaysian bowling attack to the sword as she brought up her career-best score in the format after India were asked to bat.

The big-hitting Shafali Verma, who is struggling for form, also pitched in but the teenager looked scratchy for the most part of her 46-run knock.

Meghana made most of the opportunity provided to her as she donned the role of the aggressor from the very first ball.

She milked boundaries every over, hitting the ball all across the ground in the powerplay as India fetched 47/0 in the first six overs.

She was dropped on 14 by skipper Winifred Duraisingam (2/36) in the third over and the right-hander made the Malaysian's pay for the error as she raced to fifty with a boundary.

Poor fielding only added to Malaysia's woes as the Indian women looked on course for a 200-plus score.

However, Duraisingam got the big-wicket of Meghana. The Indian looked to drive only to chip the ball straight into the hands of extra cover, sending the entire Malaysian team into frenzy.

Shafali, who had played the second second fiddle to perfection, smashed a couple of sixes but failed to carry on the momentum once Meghana was out.

Richa Ghosh was elevated to the number three spot and the young wicketkeeper played a fluent 33-run knock, finding the gaps beautifully.

But Shafali struggled to accelerate as Malaysia tightened their bowling and fielding while also triggering a mini-batting collapse.

In the eventful penultimate over, Shafali was bowled by 17-year-old Nur Dania Syuhada (2/9) off the first delivery before the spinner got rid of Kiran Navgire (0) in the next ball.

It would have been three-wicket haul for the teenager had Richa not been dropped at deep mid-wicket on 31.

Defending 181, spinners Deepti Sharma (1/10) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (1/6) got rid of openers Winifred Duraisingam (0) and Wan Julia (1) before rain stopped play.

Malan, Woakes star in England's T20I series win

AP ■ LAHORE

Dawid Malan hit a brilliant half-century and pace bowler Chris Woakes took three wickets as England thrashed Pakistan by 67 runs in Lahore on Sunday to win the seven-match T20 international series 4-3.

Malan hit a 47-ball 78 not out and was ably supported by Harry Brook (46 not out) and Ben Duckett (30) to lift England to 209-3 in 20 overs.

The visitors then restricted the home team to 142-8 to end their first tour to Pakistan in 17 years with a series victory.

England won the first, third, sixth and seventh games while Pakistan won the second, fourth and fifth.

Pakistan never recovered from losing the in-form Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, their top run-scorer in the series, in the opening two overs.

Woakes had Azam caught at short cover for four before Reece Topley bowled Rizwan for one with his second delivery.

Shan Masood's 43-ball 56 came in vain as Pakistan were never in the hunt for their highest successful chase.

Pakistan's best chase in a T20I was the 208 they achieved against the West Indies in Karachi last year.

Khushdil Shah made 27 off 25 balls and added 53 for the fourth wicket with Masood but leg-spinner Adil Rashid removed him to break the stand.

Woakes, who took 3-26, dismissed Asif Ali (seven) and had Masood caught brilliantly by Adil Rashid in the 19th over to end Pakistan's hopes.

Earlier, Malan and Brook led England's recovery from a jittery 39-2 with openers Alex Hales (18) and Phil Salt (20) gone after a quick 39-run start -- both falling in the fifth over.

Dropped twice by Pakistan skipper Azam on 29 and Mohammad Wasim on 62, Malan struck eight fours and three sixes in the 13th half-century of his T20I career.

Kohli thanks Guwahati for 'terrific atmosphere'

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Just as Virat Kohl's 'selfless knock' won the hearts of cricket lovers here on Sunday night, the boisterous crowd that cheered the game drew praise from the ace player too.

Kohli missed a half-century by a whisker as he remained unbeaten at 49 with India setting a target of 238 for South Africa.

The capacity crowd of nearly 39,000 at the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) Stadium here had the loudest cheers reserved for the former Team India captain.

Praising the massive support, Kohli expressed his gratitude to the crowd on Twitter.

"Great game. Terrific atmosphere. Thank you Guwahati," the star player wrote, sharing pictures of the game, in a post-midnight Tweet.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was among the crowd for the match, shared the Tweet and wrote: "Thank you so much @imVkohli ."

Kohli's fans, who ignored humid conditions and missed Durga Puja festivities on Sunday to watch their favourite cricketer in action, also responded with the same love on the micro-blogging site.

Cricket follower and journalist Bidisha Singha wrote: "Thank u Champ! What a selfless knock..."

Kohli had also posed for photographs with fans during net practice at the stadium on match eve, drawing praise from the game lovers.

Miller not much worried about South Africa's form

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Formidable South African batter David Miller has a firm belief that the series-defeat against India won't make them a lesser force at the fast-approaching T20 World Cup as he cited Australia's title triumph in the previous edition despite their wretched run ahead of the big-ticket event.

South African top-order batters struggled badly while their bowlers were also not at their best on Sunday as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series with a 16-run win in the second game here.

The loss will hurt them little, said Miller, saying Australia had also struggled badly in 2021 but eventually they became the world champions. Australia had entered the World Cup after five back-to-back series defeats in the format.

"There're a lot of stories in the past with one being Australia not doing too well before the World Cup, and then they end up winning the World Cup. So I don't think it's too much to worry about," Miller told reporters at the post-match interaction here.

"We've built up a really good squad over the last year and a half. We get on really well with each other. We've linked in nicely, great partnerships. We've won a lot of series last year.

"To have lost the series tonight was obviously very disappointing, but in the past we've really competed well and at least we can walk away with our heads held high, but it is still disappointing losing the series."

The Temba Bavuma-led side was set a stiff target of 238 but the skipper departed without bothering the scorer for the second successive time. Rilee Rossouw also scored a duck.

However Miller produced a counter-attacking knock of 106 not out from 47 balls and was well-supported by Quinton de Kock's 48-ball 69 not out to make a match of it.

"We didn't bat well the previous game. We didn't start this game too well but we managed to get a really good partnership and put on a competitive game at the end of it," he said.

Miller, though, chose not be very "harsh" on his bowlers.

"There were over 400 runs in the game, I don't want to be too harsh on the bowlers, but I think that there was a little bit of lack of execution at times.

"But they were really good in the previous game -- extremely good. A few areas that we can work on still leading up to the World Cup, so we still have time."

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance | **Registered office:** ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: Sky Park, Ground floor, Unit No.1, Near Canal Road Raipur - 492001
Branch Office: 1st Floor, Indira Tower, A-26, Zone Ii, Main Road Vyapar Vihar Bilaspur (C.G.) 495001

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction 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.	Suryakant Agrawal (Borrower), Chandrakant Agrawal (Co-Borrower), Ramesh Kumar Agrawal (Co-Borrower), H No 106K Bas Stand Ke Pichhe Vill Balauda Bazar, Teh Balauda Bazar Raipur Raipur 493332. NHDRG00000823978	Kh No.1173/12 Grd Floor P H N 77 A B N 2/3 R N M Baloda Bazar Raipur Raipur-493332 Bounded By:- North:- 40 Feet Wide Road, South:- Owner Plot, East:- Other Plot, West:- Other Plot.	08-09-2022 Rs. 23,22,981/-	03/09/ 2022
2.	Arun Kumar Agrawal (Borrower), Ekta Agrawal (Co-Borrower), House No.30 Bazar Road Bazar Chowk Pali Korba 495005. LHBSR00001298894	30 Mauja Pali Ph No.25 Khasra No.190/5 Rnm Pali House No.30 Ward No.5 Bazar Chowk Nagarpanchayat Pali Khasra No 190/5 Bilaspur-495001 Bounded By:- North:- H/o Agarwal Ji, South:- Gali, East:- Road, West:- H/o Dr KC Ray.	08-09-2022 Rs. 16,65,181/-	03/09/ 2022
3.	Arun Kumar Agrawal (Borrower), Ekta Agrawal (Co-Borrower), House No.30 Bazar Road Bazar Chowk Pali Korba 495005. LHBSR00001298983	30 Mauja Pali Ph No.25 Khasra No.190/5 Rnm Pali House No.30 Ward No.5 Bazar Chowk Nagarpanchayat Pali Khasra No.190/5 Bilaspur-495001 Bounded By:- North:- H/o Agarwal Ji, South:- Gali, East:- Road, West:- H/o Dr KC Ray.	08-09-2022 Rs. 18,62,988/-	03/09/ 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 Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : October 04, 2022
Place: Raipur, Bilaspur
Authorized Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd.(IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of theBorrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Name of the Borrower(s). /Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mrs. Mousami Tandi, Mr. Sahdev Dip **(Prospect No. 860379)**	**22-Sep-2022 Rs. 5,83,082/-** (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Three Thousand and Eighty Two Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : House No. 130, admeasuring 558.87 Sq. Ft., Chhattisgarh Housing Board, Atal Avas Yojana, Situated At Gram Dhansuli, P.H. No. 13, Arang, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India-492001

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers.For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office : IIFL HFL 1st Floor, Lal Ganga City Mart, Banjari Chowk, Opposite Hotel Amit Regency, Raipur, CG 492001/or Corporate Office : IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Raipur Date: 04.10.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd**

PHOENIX ARC PRIVATE LIMITED — **POSSESSION NOTICE**

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Dani Corporate Park, 158, C.S.T Road, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai -400098

Whereas, the authorized officer of **M/s. Phoenix ARC Pvt Ltd. (acting as trustee Phoenix Trust FY 19-5 Scheme I)** under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the security interest (enforcement) rules, 2002 issued demand notices to the borrowers, co-borrowers, guarantors as detailed hereunder, calling upon the respective borrowers, co-borrowers, guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the same. The said borrowers, co-borrowers, guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, co-borrowers, guarantors and public in general that the authorized officer of the company has taken physical possession of the property described hereunder in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act r/w rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned along with. The borrowers, co-borrowers, guarantors in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Phoenix ARC Pvt Ltd. (acting as trustee Phoenix Trust FY 19-5 Scheme I)** for the amount specified therein with future interest, costs and charges from the respective dates. Details of the borrowers, co-borrowers, guarantors, properties mortgaged, name of the trust ,outstanding dues, demand notices sent under section 13(2) and amounts claimed there under are given as under:

Name and Address of The Borrower, Co-Borrowers', Loan Account No., Loan Amount	Details of The Securities	1. Date of Physical Possession. 2. Demand notice date. 3. Amount due in Rs.
Mr. Deepak Kumar Jha S/o Mr. Kamleshwar Jha At: R/o Sakamni Mandir Nakul Garage, Poddar Talab Ramkund Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. **& Mrs. Shalini Jha W/o Mr. Deepak Kumar Jha At:** R/o Beside Poddar Talab, Ramkund, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. **& M/S V.K. Sales And Services Through Its Proprietor Mr. Deepak Kumar Jha At:** Podhar Talab, Near Nakul Garage, Ramkund, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. **Loan Account Number:** 454LAP31418152 **Loan Amount Sanctioned:** Rs. 65,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lakh Only).	All that piece and parcel of land along with RCC structure on it having old Khasra No. 465/2 and New Khasra No. 465/4 admeasuring 1548 sq. feet situated at Ward No. 16, PH No.106, Revenue Inspection No. 1, Shaheed Churamani situated at Chirhuldih, Ramkund Behind Vandana Auto and by the side of Rainbow TVS Vehicle Garage Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. Property Bounded As: North: House of Some Other, South: House of Savitri Bai Jauje Roopchand Sindhi, East: Road, West: Others Plot. **Name of the Mortgagor:** Mr. Deepak Kumar Jha S/o Mr. Kamleshwar Jha.	1) 30.09.2022 2) 17.06.2019 3) Rs.75,36,626/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Six Only) due and payable as of 17.06.2019 with further interest applicable from 18.06.2019 along with costs and charges until payment in full.

For any query please contact Mr. Pankaj T. Rai (+91 7768003567) & Mr. Gobinda Podder (+91 9073697729)

Place: Raipur, Date: 04.10.2022 **Authorised officer: For Phoenix ARC Private Limited (Acting as trustee of Phoenix Trust FY 19-5 Scheme I)**