

**OPINION 6**  
INDIANS MAKING IT  
BIG IN AUSTRALIA**WORLD 8**  
NO LET-UP IN HOSTILITIES IN  
UKRAINE DESPITE PRISONER SWAP**MONEY 10**  
FLAGSHIP SCHEMES PORTAL TO  
HELP FOOD PROCESSING UNITS

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INDIA BEAT ENG  
BY 88 RUNS IN  
SECOND ODI  
11 SPORT

# NIA, ED swoop on 93 PFI spots in 15 States

Raids on charges of terror funding, radicalisation, supporting ISIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in coordination with the respective State police forces on Thursday conducted coordinated searches at 93 locations in 15 States against top leadership and cadres of Popular Front of India (PFI).

The Centre may impose a ban on PFI after evaluating the finds of the raid.

The raids were carried out in connection with ongoing probes in five separate cases related to alleged terror funding, radicalisation, and organisation of armed training camps besides supporting the international terror group Islamic State (ISIS).

The PFI has been under the radar of security agencies for its role in violent protests in different parts of the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, alleged forced conversions, radicalisation of Muslim youths, money



PFI general secretary Anis Ahmed (second, right) being produced to Patiala Courts, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

laundering and links with banned groups, informed officials said.

The NIA arrested at least 15 top PFI leaders, including Kerala State president CP Muhammad Basheer, national president OMA Salam, national general secretary Nasirudeen Elamaram, national executive member P Koya and State Committee Yahya Thangal among others.

The agency produced at least one person arrested from Thiruvananthapuram, A

Ashraf, at the NIA Special Court in Kochi and got his police custody. About 106 PFI leaders/activists were arrested so far, including 45 arrests by the NIA.

During the searches, many incriminating documents and digital evidence related to terror funding and radicalisation activities were seized by the agencies. The PFI on Thursday called for a State-wide hartal in Kerala on September 23 to protest against the raids.

## Shah discusses action on PFI, terror suspects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday held a meeting of top officials, including National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and is believed to have discussed the searches at premises linked to the PPFI and action against terror suspects, officials said.

## Punjab calls House session, to move SC against Guv order

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Punjab Governor withdrew his consent to summon a special one day Vidhan Sabha session to take up the "trust vote" citing legal reasons, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have come face to face in Punjab.

On offensive, AAP-led Punjab Government on Thursday decided to convene a "regular" session on September 27 "to discuss important issues like the power situation and burning of stubble" besides holding a "shanti march" against the Governor's move to cancel the Thursday special Assembly Session.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has also announced to move the Supreme Court against the Governor's "arbitrary and anti-democratic"

decision to cancel the permission of holding the Assembly's Special Session, after giving permission for the same.

All this came after the Chief Minister held back-to-back meetings with all party MLAs; and later that of the Cabinet.

On the other hand, Punjab BJP too launched a protest against the AAP over its allegations of attempts to topple the AAP Government by offering money to its MLAs or threatening them with ED and CBI probes.

The leaders and party workers, led by Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma, gave arrests after they were made to face water cannons and lathis on their march towards the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh's Sector-2.

## Fortis ex-promoters get 6 months jail for sale of shares

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday awarded six months jail term to former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd, Malvinder Singh, and Shivinder Singh, in a case related to the sale of shares of Fortis to Malaysia-based IHH Healthcare.



A bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit also awarded six months jail term to the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare who were earlier held guilty of contempt. The top court also ordered a forensic audit of the share sale in Fortis Healthcare Ltd. "Everything goes back to the executing court," the CJI said. The former promoters of

Fortis Healthcare Ltd were facing the court battle after a Japanese firm, Daiichi Sankyo, had challenged the Fortis-IHH share deal to recover the Rs

3,600 crore arbitration award that it had won before a Singapore tribunal against the Singh brothers. The IHH-Fortis deal is stuck due to the legal fight between Daiichi and

the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare.

In 2018, when some Indian lenders sold the pledged shares of Fortis Healthcare to the Malaysia-based firm, Daiichi went to court alleging that the former promoters of Fortis had assured them that their shares in the Indian hospital chain will cover the arbitral award amount.



Popocatepetl volcano puffs ash, seen from Cholula, Mexico on Thursday

PTI

## India's veiled attack on China at UNSC for shielding Pak ultras

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India said on Thursday that it is regrettable that in the UN Security Council, when it comes to sanctioning some of the world's most dreaded terrorists, impunity is being facilitated and politics providing cover to evade accountability, in a veiled jibe at China which has blocked blacklisting of Pakistan-based terrorists on many occasions.

"The fight against impunity is critical to the larger pursuit of securing peace and justice. The Security Council must send an unambiguous and unequivocal message on this count," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the 15-nation UN Security Council briefing on Ukraine 'Fight against impunity'.

The briefing, chaired by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna, was held Thursday as



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with other dignitaries during the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting, in New York, USA

PTI

world leaders gathered in the UN headquarters for the 77th session of the UNGA.

Addressing the Council briefing were UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chinese Foreign

Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly and Foreign Ministers of other UNSC members.

## US reiterates support for India as UNSC permanent member

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden supports Germany, Japan and India as permanent members of a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC), a senior official of his administration has said.

At the same time, a lot of work needs to be done in this matter, the official told reports on Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

"We have historically and continue to stand behind the idea that Germany, Japan and India should be permanent members of the Security Council," the official said in response to a question.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Joe Biden in his address at the UN General Assembly reiterated his commitment to reforming the UN Security Council. Biden said he believes the time has come for the institution to become more inclusive



so that it can better respond to the needs of today's world.

Members of the UN Security Council, including the United States, should consistently uphold and defend the United Nations Charter and refrain from the use of veto, except in rare and extraordi-

nary situations, to ensure that the Council remains credible and effective, he said.

"That is also why the United States supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the Council. This includes permanent seats

for those nations we've long supported," Biden said.

The US also praised India for its significant contributions as a member of the 15-membered apex decision making body of the UN.

India has been at the forefront of efforts at the UN to push for urgent long-pending reform of the Security Council, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.

At present, the UNSC comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent member countries which are elected for a two-year term by the UNGA.

The five permanent members are Russia, the UK, China, France and the United States and these countries can veto any substantive resolution. There has been growing demand to increase the number of permanent members to reflect the contemporary global reality.

## CAPSULE

### 6.8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE SHAKES MEXICO, 2 DEAD

**Mexico City:** A powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.8 struck Mexico early on Thursday, causing at least two deaths, damaging buildings and setting off landslides. The earthquake struck at 1.19 am near the epicentre of a magnitude 7.6 quake that hit three days earlier in the western state of Michoacan. It was also blamed for two deaths.

### MUMBAI REPORTS 98 COVID CASES, 2 DEATHS

**Mumbai:** Mumbai on Thursday reported 98 COVID-19 cases, the second time the addition to the tally was less than 100 this month, a civic official said. The metropolis also recorded two deaths, which took the toll to 19,728, he added.

### RAIN LASHES DELHI; ROAD CAVES IN, TRAFFIC JAMS

**New Delhi:** A portion of a road caved in as incessant rains pounded Delhi leading to waterlogging and uprooting of trees that caused massive traffic snarls in many parts of the capital on Thursday.



# Save animals from lumpy virus, get them vaccinated for free

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that a serious crisis has come in front of us in the form of lumpy virus disease affecting livestock. Lumpy virus is spreading in Madhya Pradesh too. We do not consider our animals, especially gau mata as mere animals, but we consider them as mothers and have reverence for them. Be it gau mata, other animals, in a message addressed to the cattle rearers and farmers, said that the government is with you at the time when the animals are in distress, the government staff will extend

full cooperation. The vaccine from this disease is being given free of cost, but you have to be careful. If we do not take precautions, then our livestock will be in serious trouble. Anyway, we see the same consciousness in animals as in humans. That is why we talk about compassion for the living beings and there should be welfare of the world. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the welfare of the world includes the welfare of these animals, whether it is cows or buffaloes. Therefore, it is necessary that we immediately recognise the symptoms of this disease. Animals infected with the lumpy virus undergo many changes. If your animals are showing these symptoms, get them treated immediately. When infected, animals develop fever and become lethargic.



There is swelling in the feet, eyes become watery and saliva constantly comes out of the mouth. The lump starts forming in the body, this lump is round and raised. The weight of the animal starts decreasing and small wound like raised marks start appearing all over the body. The milk of the milking animals is also stopped or reduced. Therefore there is a need to take immediate mea-

sures to save our animals from this disease as this disease spreads from animal to animal. This disease also spreads from one animal to another by mosquito, biting fly, etc, but this disease does not spread from animal to human. Chief Minister Chouhan said that this virus spreads rapidly after the animals get infected. Therefore, it is better to take some precautions to protect the animals from getting infected. While advising the animal owners to take precautions, Chief Minister Chouhan said that if any one animal shows symptoms, immediately isolate it from other animals and contact the veterinarian, besides protecting the animals from parasites like fly, mosquito, louse etc. Keep spraying disinfectant in the infected area, do not

leave the carcass of animals that has died of lumpy virus in the open and bury it in a deep pit. Chief Minister Chouhan said that free vaccination is being done by the government, maximum vaccination can prevent this disease, so vaccination must be done. Our veterinarians and other staff are available to assist you with the treatment and to provide advice about the disease. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the government is standing with you, but we all have to work together. Just as we fought to save humans from Covid-19, similarly we will have to fight this battle to save bovine and all the other remaining animals. Let us gear up and get involved to defeat the lumpy virus completely.



Congress MLA Arif Aqeel addresses party workers dharna protesting against impure water supply and other several demands, at DIG Bungalow square in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

## All the offices under the Gwalior, Chambal divisions become paperless with implementation of e-office module

SATYAPRAKASH SHARMA ■ GWALIOR



In a first in Madhya Pradesh, the offices fall under the Gwalior and Chambal divisions have gone paperless with the implementation of the e-office module to make office operations easier, transparent, and environment-friendly. With the efforts of Divisional Commissioner (DC) Gwalior Ashish Saxena who holds additional charge of the Chambal division, the functioning of all eight Collectorate, 36 Sub-divisions offices and 64 Tehsils fall under both the divisions have started paperless with the adoption of e-office operations. Both the Gwalior and Chambal have become the first digital divisions in the state. The divi-

inaugurated all the e-offices on September 15, during a visit to Gwalior. The eight districts, where all segments in the office working like revenue, development, elections, complaints, arms licences, daily dak etc have turned paperless are Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Ashoknagar, Datia, Morena, Bhind and Sheopur. "Seeing the Covid-19 pandemic situation, we first of all converted both the DC offices and then after worked on to get prepared e-office module for sub-divisions and tehsils", Saxena told The Pioneer. "It not only leads to environment-friendly offices but boosts the productivity and efficiency of employees while saving money and space at. And brings transparency in

office functioning", the DC said. While working with the General Administration Department as a secretary, I had the first experience of the benefits of an office going paperless, Saxena added. As per the latest data, 12,382 e-files and 44,042 e-receipt (daily dak) have been created and they have been moved to 93,418 and 1,17,905 respectively so far. Decision-making has now become fast, the file movement can be tracked at any time and Officials know they have to explain the reasons for any delay in disposal, it also provides better security", he added. Even daily dak in his office now comes online on his system instead of his table, Saxena further added.

## National coaching camp in Bhopal to select CABI's 17 blind cricketers for the third T20 World Cup 2022

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and Samarathanam Trust for the Disabled announced the 12 days of IndusInd Bank National Coaching Camp for 29 players at Faith Cricket Club Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, from September 22, 2022 – October 04, 2022. The selection committee of the Cricket Association for the Blind in India will shortlist the best 17-member squad to represent India at the 3rd T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind from December 05 2022. Eight countries will represent the 3rd T20 World Cup, with 39 matches played across multi cities of India. "The stage is set for the beginning of qualification for

the inaugural edition of our third T20 World Cup," said Mahantesh G.K., President, CABI. "Thanks to IndusInd Bank for organizing the coaching camp and supporting the game of cricket for the visually impaired. Coaching camps help the blind cricketers to showcase their talents, improve their techniques and mindset and help them to prepare for the upcoming World Cup." The T-20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind will be held PAN India in multiple cities. Teams from India, Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Pakistan, and Bangladesh will participate. The 29 cricketers for the Coaching camp are: Praveen Kumar Sharma, Sujet Munda, Mukesh Kumar Rawat, Anka Venkateshwara Rao, MD Jafar Iqbal,

Omprakash Pal, Lalit Meena, Nilesh Yadav, Sovendu Mahata and Sonu Golkar (B1), Ajay Kumar Reddy, Venkateswara Rao Dunna, Maneesha A, Nakula Badanayak, Gambheer Singh Chauhan, Deepak Singh Rawat, Irfan Diwan, Lokesh and Surajit Ghara (B2), Deepak Malik, Sunil Ramesh, Tompaki Durga Rao, Prakash Jayaramaiyah, Sukhram Majhi, Amiti Ravi, Deepak, Mohd Azeem, Ghewar Rebari and Dhinagar G (B3). General Secretary of CABI E John David spoke to the Media, "To be the best, our players have to get trained to play the best. Thanks to IndusInd Bank for organizing the National Coaching Camp. I am very confident we will shortlist 17 best Blind Cricketers, to represent the World Cup."

Water resources department clerk caught accepting bribe

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Lokayukta caught in-charge of establishment accepting bribe of Rs 40000 for clearing GFP and other benefits to the nominee whose mother was posted with at Executive Engineer Electricity Department (Water Resources Department), Kolar. The accused identified as Establishment in-charge GK Pillai posted with Executive Engineer Electricity Department (Water Resources Department), Kolar, Bhopal was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe. In the department where the woman worked for 38 years, the officer of the same department, after the death of the woman, demanded a bribe of 40 thousand rupees from her son for GFP clearance. He also threatened the son of not working if he did not get the bribe.

## MP government to double farmers' income

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The MP government will increase from one lakh registered organic farmers to two lakh soon and double exports from Rs 2500 cr to enhance income of farmers in the State. Inaugurating the Organic and Ayurvedic Aahar summit organised by the Confederation of Organic Food Producers and Marketing Agencies Kamal Patel, Agriculture Minister said here on Thursday. He said MP has already attained number one position in the country and passing on the monetary benefits to the farmers. He also said the State is working hard to develop MP ORGANIC BRAND and will popularize them in the highest organic produce consuming countries. He advised

COII to be the developing partner of the state. The NABARD General Manager Nidhi Sharma said the apex Bank will soon launch in the state one- district-one-product to ensure adequate quantity to be viable. NABARD shall extend help for promotion of the scheme. DS Rawat, chairman of COII said the confederation and its knowledge partner BillMart Fintech will adopt two districts in the state for providing handholding in one district to creating agro-based enterprises and in another district MSMEs. He said once these districts become successful Pilot projects, with the support of state government will be implemented all over the State. APEDA regional manager Ashok Kumar Bora said

their organisation has launched many innovative initiatives for promotion of exports in the international market. In the domestic market, the organic products are not fetching the good price. The biggest problem is non-availability of quantity and quality and therefore stressed the need for contract farming. SIDI B AGM Anand Kishore Yadav announced that the bank has decided to promote through various schemes to ensure sustainable development and livelihood. He invited farmers to come forward to avail benefits of their schemes and assure clearance within 15 days. Other speakers were Mukta Sarj from National Institute of Ayurveda, Arvind Kumar, Food Safety Department and anoj Kumar, MP State organic certification agency etc.



Madhya Pradesh Primary Teachers Association members stage a protest demanding jobs against lying vacant posts in the State Government, in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

## After 10 years' gap, SBI's film festival to be held from September 23 to 25

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The State Bank Natya Samvarna will be held again from September 23 to 25. The well-known State Bank Natya Samaroh, which was held continuously from the year 1984 to 2009, is starting again from this year. Notably, it will be held after 10 long years. This was possible due to the good efforts of the Chief General Manager of State Bank's Bhopal Circle, Binod Kumar Mishra and Deputy General Manager, Respected Deepak Jha and their special interest towards plays. The prestigious event of this theatrical function is being organized from September 23 to 25 at the local Rabindra Bhavan. The event will begin on September 23 with play Sandhya Chhaya, directed by Rakesh Sethi. On the same evening, play Kasak directed by Jai Hardia will be performed. Marking the second day on Saturday, play Matadin Chand Par directed by Pramod Borkar

**The event will begin on September 23 with play Sandhya Chhaya, directed by Rakesh Sethi. On the same evening, play Kasak directed by Jai Hardia will be performed**

will be performed. Another play "Anji" directed by Asim Kumar Dubey, Gwalior's play "Putra Yagya" directed by Praveen Sangannerkar will be performed. On last day, Raipur's play "Sparsh" directed by Gaurish Waru will be performed. Bilaspur's play "Bankers Ka Rona: Hi Re Corona" directed by Deepak Kumar Sahu will be performed. On the resumption of this prestigious theatrical function, all the theater workers of the State Bank have expressed their gratitude to the top management.

## State level cycling competition in Gwalior

**Gwalior:** Gwalior District Cycling Association President Keshav Pandey and Greenwood Group of Schools, Gwalior Director Aditya Singh Bhadouria jointly informed the press that the 17th Madhya Pradesh State Level Road Cycling Competition will be held in Gwalior on the 24th and 25th of this month. The event will be held under the joint aegis of the District Cycling Association of Gwalior and Greenwood Group of Schools. They added that participants from the various districts of Madhya Pradesh will take part in this competition. They also said that there will be five categories viz: those in the age groups of 11 to 14 years, 14 to 16 years, 16 to 18 years, 18 to 23 years and male and female participants in the age group of 25 to 35. Pandey and Bhadouria further said that the winners of this competition will participate in the upcoming National Road Cycling Competition to be held in Hyderabad. They added that the Gwalior Police, District Administration, Gwalior Medical Department and Gwalior Municipal Corporation have assured their full cooperation for the event.

## CIIS will prove to be a milestone in cyber crime investigation: DGP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Envision a future where we are thinking ahead of the criminals. The Internet does not have geographical boundaries, so cyber crimes are also global. Only the joint efforts of the country and the world will be helpful in cyber crime prevention. Cyber Crime Investigation and Intelligence Summit (CIIS) will prove to be a milestone in this direction said Director General of Police, Sudhir Saxena on the concluding of the ten-day Cyber Crime Investigation and Intelligence Summit (CIIS-4) organized by Madhya Pradesh Cyber Police at Naronha Academy of Administration, Bhopal on Wednesday. DGP Saxena said that due to the availability of technology, more cyber crimes are taking place than we thought. In the year 2020, more than 50000 such cases were registered. Events like CIIS will play an important role in the prevention of these cyber crimes. CIIS was the extraordinary and difficult task of providing a common platform to the law enforcement officers across the country, which was efficiently accomplished by the Madhya Pradesh Cyber Police team.



At the summit 6819 participants participated in this summit. Over 44 hours of lectures took place over ten days and 57 experts including four international cyber experts delivered lectures. DGP Saxena said that the challenge is big but keeps morale high. Keep in constant touch with the cyber experts to stay updated with the technologies. Cyber cell and district cyber cell remain fully active. Constable and head constables should be selected for cyber cell through talent hunt. Providing special courses and intensive training will also be helpful in the prevention of cybercrime. Additional Director General of Police, Cyber Yogesh Deshmukh while addressing the closing ceremony said that the aim of this summit is to enable the entire system with the speed and complexity with which cyber crimes are increasing.



Puja Saxena, an archaeologist, addresses during 3rd Table Talk on 'History of Bhopal before Nawabs' organised by Kushabhau Thackeray Foundation, at NITTR in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

## JLU student commits suicide by hanging

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 19-year-old youth pursuing BCom from Jagran Lake City University (JLU) in Ratibad area committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling on Wednesday. Two days ago he collected Rs 2 lakh from his brother and was fond of online games but reason for the suicide could not be revealed and is under investigation. Police said that the reason for the suicide of Manoj

Wankhede from Yavatmal Maharashtra can be revealed only after the statement of the family members. His friends told that he was fond of playing online games. Two days back, he had asked for Rs 2 lakh from his elder brother. However, where he spent this money is yet to be found. The student used to stay at his aunt's house. On Thursday, his friends who came for his post-mortem told that Manoj had passed 12th from Delhi Public School. At night he met every-

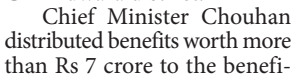
one and had food. Due to his calm nature, no one came to know about being in tension. When the family woke up in the morning, Manoj was found on the noose. The police would investigate the mobile phone and gaming details as possible if he required money for gaming or for some other reason. The statements of the family are yet to be recorded, said police. The friends of deceased would be questioned in the investigation to find the reason behind the suicide.



**STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL**

This campaign will run till October 31 and no eligible person will be deprived of the benefits of 33 identified schemes of the state and Central government. Camps are being organised in Gram Panchayats and urban wards so that the common people do not have to make rounds of the offices and run from pillar to post to take advantage of the schemes of the government. Now the government and

Camp was organised for 5 gram panchayats of development block Saunsar, Khutamba, Ramakona, Kangri, Amla and Pipla Kanhan.



pose the applications received within a week. The Chief Minister also took feedback

Chief Minister Chouhan distributed benefits to the beneficiaries under various government schemes in the camp. Public representatives, officers and a large number of villagers were present in the camp.

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL**

On this occasion, the  
Chancellor of the University,

On this occasion, Mangubhai Patel visited the exhibition which

role in putting Indian culture and heritage on the world map. In this edition of Vishwarang Pustak Yatra, a total of 11 yatras will be organized from September 22 to 30 out of which 7 yatras are in Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Khandwa, Rewa, Raipur, Madhya Pradesh, two yatras will be in Raipur and Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh.

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL**

In the name of selling both the Pattal Disposal making machines, they used to cheat by

On February 22 this year 38 persons had given separate applications to the effect that by Sunil Kumar Tiwari, Director of Classic Machinery Mart, Gulshan Kumar, Finance Handover Mukesh Kashyap, Coordinator Ajay Mishra and Pramod Kumar have cheated lakhs of rupees by depositing advance amount on the pretext of selling patal makh-

The company's chief officer Mukesh Kashyap's address Davas New Delhi's correct name & address, Rana Pratap Singh's address, Patna City, Bihar and other office-bearer Ajay Mishra's address Agra, U.P.

**STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL**

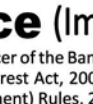
Such hard-core criminals in jail will no longer be eligible for remission in punishment.

He said that according to the new guidelines, male prisoners above 70 years of age, who are serving life imprisonment (punishable for offenses other than ineligible categories), on completion of 12 years and female prisoners above 60 years of age can be released prematurely on completion of 10 years of imprisonment.

जनजातीय कार्य विभाग अंतर्गत संचालित 04 कन्या छात्रावास (कन्या कैम्पस) बैतुल (01. आदिवासी कन्या छात्रावास बैतुल 02 शास. कर्म. कन्या छात्रावास बैतुल, 03 आदिवासी पोस्ट मैट्रिक कन्या छात्रावास बैतुल 04. आदिवासी उत्कृष्ट कन्या छात्रावास बैतुल) जिला बैतुल म.प्र. में संचालित छात्रावास में निवासरत 210 छात्राओं (बालिका) वर्ष 2022-23 हेतु शासन द्वारा स्वीकृत राशि एवं समय समय पर परिवर्तन शिथ्यवृत्ति दर पर छात्राओं को भोजन व नाश्ता मेंसे उपलब्ध कराने के लिए अनुभवी प्रतिष्ठित फर्मों से एक्टुड राई-एण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र मध्यप्रदेश शासन की वेबसाईट <https://mptenders.gov.in> से ऑनलाईन क्रय किये जा सकते है।

निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन पोर्टल पर राशि रूपये 5000/- (अक्षरी रूपये- पांच हजार मात्र) जमा की जाकर निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 19.09.2022 को प्रातः 9.00 बजे से डाउनलोड एवं दिनांक 30.09.2022 को सांय 5:00 बजे तक जमा की जा सकती है। एवं ध्योहर राशि रूपये 50000/- (अक्षरी रूपये पचास हजार मात्र) ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से जमा की जा सकेगी। निविदा सं संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी एवं अन्य विधियां उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale Of Immovable Properties				
Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IFIL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and Branch Office at: 102/103, Darshan Mall, 15/2 Race Course Road, Andher- 452001 at Madhya Pradesh under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IFIL-HFL had taken the possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of IFIL-HFL's dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: <a href="http://www.bankauctions.com">www.bankauctions.com</a> .				
Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
	02-Feb-2022	All that part and parcel of the property bearing Flat No 108, with built-up area 462 Sq. Ft., Shivkirti Apartment, Gram Nihalpur Mundri, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India- 452001	09-Sept-2022	Rs. 13,33,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Only)
1. Mr. Rahul Shinde 2. Mrs. Sheeba Arpita Shinde	Rs. 14, 78, 084/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Eighty Four Only)		Total Outstanding As On Date 12-Sept-2022	
3. Shinde Ten House (Prospect No 923345 and 765027)	<b>Bid Increase Amount</b> Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)		Rs.16,30,146/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty Thousand One Hundred Forty Six Only)	<b>Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)</b> Rs.1,33,300/- (Rupees One Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Only)
Date of Inspection of property		EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E Auction	
19-Oct-2022 1100 hrs -1400 hrs Contact- Mr.Vibhor Trivedi at 9828036667		21-Oct-2022 till 5 pm.	27-Oct-2022 1100 hrs-1300 hrs.	
<b>Mode of Payment:</b> - All payment shall be made by demand draft in favour of "IFIL Home Finance Limited" payable at Gurugram or through RTGS/NEFT. The accounts details are as follows: a) Name of the Account:- IFIL Home Finance Ltd., b) Name of the Bank:- Standard Chartered Bank, c) Account No:- 9902875 followed by Loan Number, d) IFSC Code:- SCBL0036001 e) Bank Address:- Standard Chartered Bank, 90 M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001				
<b>Terms and Conditions:-</b>				
1. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider <a href="https://www.bankauctions.com">https://www.bankauctions.com</a> , well in advance and has to create the login account, login id and password. Intending bidders have to submit/ send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.				
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.				
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.				
4. The purchaser has to bear the costs, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings related to the property.				
5. Bidders are advised to go through the website <a href="https://bankauctions.com">https://bankauctions.com</a> and <a href="https://www.ifil.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction">https://www.ifil.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction</a> for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.				
6. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E Mail- <a href="mailto:support@bankauctions.com">support@bankauctions.com</a> , Support Helpline Numbers +9219181124/25/26 and any property related query Mr. Jitendra Gupta @ 9999682823, Email- <a href="mailto:jitendra.gupta1@ifil.com">jitendra.gupta1@ifil.com</a> .				
7. Notice is hereby given to advise all bidders to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, after IFIL-HFL shall be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.				
8. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.				
9. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder/ auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be tendered up to sale.				
10. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason therefor. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IFIL-HFL will be final.				
<b>STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFASIEI ACT, 2002</b>				
The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.				
Place : Indore Date : 23-Sep-2022			Sd/-Authorized Officer, IFIL Home Finance Limited	



**BANK OF INDIA**

**Zonal Office : Bhopal Zone, Bank of India**  
**Bhawan, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal**  
**Tel.: 0755-2555169, Fax: 0755-2553779**

## Possession Notice (Immovable Assets) Rule-8(1)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice as on below mention date calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the below mentioned amount mentioned in the notice and other charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 on the below mentioned date. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in the respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India concerned branch for below mentioned amount.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	Demand Notice Dt   Possession Dt. Amount as per Notice	Description of the Immovable Property
<b>Bank Of India Naya Bazar, Branch Gwalior (M.P.).</b>		
<b>Borrower:</b> Mrs. Savita Nagar W/o Late Shri Rajeev Kumar Nagar <b>Legal Heir of Late Rajeev Kumar Nagar</b>	Demand Notice Dt   Possession Dt. <b>22.04.2022   16.09.2022</b>  <b>Rs. 1,91,267.81/-</b> (Rupees One Lakh Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven Rupees and Eighty One Paise ) plus interest and other charges.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.C-89 Part of survey on 461/2/Min-1, 461/3/462/1/1, 462/1/2, 450/1/Min-1, 450/1/Min-2 is situated in Satyam Green Colony SIROld Municipal Corporation Ward No.61 Gwalior (M.P). Total area Admeasuring 65.05 Sq. Mts. <b>Boundaries -</b> On the East by: EWS Plot & Plot No.C-87, On the west by: EWS Plot, On the North by: Plot No.C-88, On the South by: Road Colony
<b>Borrower:</b> Smt. Omwati W/o Shri Vinod, Mr. Kunal S/o Vinod Katare, Mr. Yesh S/o Vinod Katare, Legal Heir of Late Shri Vinod Katare.	Demand Notice Dt   Possession Dt. <b>22.04.2022   16.09.2022</b>  <b>Rs. 7,89,808.78/-</b> (Rupees Seven Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Eight Rupees and seventeen Eight Paise ) plus interest and other charges.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Municipal Corporation House on 365 and ward no.50 situated in Rai Singh ka Bagh Lashkar Gwalior (M.P). Total arera Admeasuring 373 Sq. Ft. <b>Boundaries -</b> On the East by: House of Shri Makhan Lal, On the west by: House of Shri Patiram, On the North by: House of Shri Bhagirath, On the South by: House of Shri Mevaram & Common Gali.
<b>Borrower:</b> Smt. Omwati W/o Shri Vinod	Demand Notice Dt   Possession Dt. <b>22.04.2022   16.09.2022</b>  <b>Rs. 15,93,049.41/-</b> (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Fourty Nine Rupees and Fourty One Paise ) plus interest and other charges.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No. EW519 is situated in Satyam Green Colony SIROld Municipal Corporation Ward No.61 Gwalior (M.P). Total area Admeasuring 39.92 Sq. Mts. <b>Boundaries -</b> On the East by:Plot No. C-89, On the west by: Road Colony, On the North by: Plot No.C.88, On the South by: Road Colony.

Date : 22.09.2022, Place : Gwalior

**Authorised Officer, Bank of India**



**यूको बैन्स**  
 (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)



**UCO BANK**  
 (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**Zonal Office : Plot No.22, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal Tel.: 0755-4046011**

**Appendix-IV A** [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
**E-Auction Security Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**  
 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank the Secured Creditor the **possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is "basis for recovery of Amount mentioned below plus interest and other expenses due to UCO Bank the Secured Creditor from below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors.

**Date & Time of E-auction : 28.10.2022 between 1.00 PM to 5.00 PM** as per (IST) with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each.  
**Last date for submission of online bids is 27.10.2022 upto 4.30 P.M.**

Name of the Borrowers Account & Guarantors	Demand notice Dt. Possession Notice Outstanding Amt.	Description of Property & Name of Property Owner	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increment Amt.
<b>UCO Bank Gulmohar Branch (2813) : Gulmohar Bhopal</b>			
Borrower : <b>M/s Jaidati Sales &amp; Electronics</b> <b>Prop. Shri Chakramani Yadav S/o Vimal Yadav</b> Guarantor : <b>Sh. Raj Bihari Yadav</b>	<b>15.10.2020</b>	Open Residential Plot no-562 Survey no 11,14,15,16 & 17/2, Tapti Vihar Phase-1, Village – Kotra, inside from Bhopal Mandideep Road, Between Ratanpur & Mandideep, Patwari Halka No. 27, Tehsil –Huzur, District- Bhopal (M.P.) Area-800 sq.ft. <b>Owner- Mr. Chakramani Yadav s/o Vimal Kumar Yadav</b> Boundaries: East-Colony Road, West-open plot no 557, South-open plot no 561, North-open plot no 563	<b>₹</b>
	<b>10.12.2021</b>		<b>3,80,000/-</b>
	<b>₹</b>		<b>₹ 38,000/-</b>
	<b>3.72 Lakhs</b> + Any unrecovered interest & expense & charges.		<b>₹ 10,000/-</b>
<b>UCO BANK, Iikchedi Branch (1490)</b>			
Borrower: <b>M/s Raghunath Warehouse Partner: 1. Late Shri Raghunath Kewat</b> <b>2.Kapil Kumar Kewat S/o Thakur Lal Kewat</b> Guarantor: 1. <b>Ramkrishna Kewat S/o Mr. Raghunath Kewat</b> , 2. <b>Ramkumar Kewat S/o Mr. Raghunath Kewat</b> <b>3. Thakur Lal Kewat S/o Mr. Raghunath Kewat</b>	<b>07.03.2017</b>	Warehouse building (Godown shed & office) at Kharsra No.243/2, PH No-11, Hinotiya Road, Village- Nipania Jat, Near Bhopal, Berasia Road, Area-1900 Sq. Meter, <b>Owner- Late Shri Raghunath Kewat</b> Boundaries : North- Land of Mr. Ram Krishna & Laxman Jat, South- Hinotiya Road, East- Land of Mr. Babulal Jain, West-Land of Mr. Ram Krishna	<b>₹</b>
	<b>26.11.2018</b>		<b>72,33,000/-</b>
	<b>₹</b>		<b>₹ 7,23,000/-</b>
	<b>34.42 Lakhs</b> + Any unrecovered interest & expense & charges.		<b>₹ 20,000/-</b>
<b>Panna Branch (3161) : Panna PH. :-07732-250340</b>			
Borrower : <b>Late Mr. Ramesh Kumar Kori S/o Late Shri P.C Kori</b> Guarantor: <b>Smt Nirmala Kori W/o Late Mr. Ramesh Kumar Kori</b>	<b>24-02-2022</b>	Double storied Residential Building no.148, Goyal Avenue, opposite Colony Garden, Behind Amrit Palace Colony, Nipania, ward no -36, Indore (MP) Area 1487.50 Sq. Feet <b>Owners- 1. Late Mr. Ramesh Kumar Kori S/o Late Shri P.C Kori</b> 2. <b>Smt Nirmala Kori W/o Late Mr. Ramesh Kumar Kori</b> Boundaries: North-Colony Road, South-Other Land, East- Plot No 149, West-Plot no 147	<b>₹</b>
	<b>20-06-2022</b>		<b>50,78,000/-</b>
	<b>₹</b>		<b>₹ 5,07,800/-</b>
	<b>30.32 Lakhs</b> + Any unrecovered interest & expense & charges.		<b>₹ 50,000/-</b>

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided below  
 website: <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> & <https://ibapi.in>

Since UCO Bank has taken only symbolic possession of the aforementioned properties, it is the responsibility of prospective bidders to inspect the properties and satisfy themselves about the same and the bidder has to make their own due diligence regarding property.

The borrower/guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered along with interest and cost.

This is also treated as 30 days statutory notice under SARFAESI Act.

Note : Interested bidder have to make user ID & Password them selves & it will take minimum two days time. Therefore bidders are requested to prepare user ID & Password before Last Date.

**Date: 22.09.2022**

**Place: Bhopal**

**Authorised Officer**  
**UCO Bank**



# ED attaches ₹2,747 cr assets of ABG Shipyard

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached assets worth Rs 2747.69 crore in the ABG Shipyard limited money laundering case. "The attached assets include Shipyard at Surat and Dahej located in Gujarat, agricultural lands and plots, various commercial and residential premises in Gujarat and Maharashtra and bank accounts owned by ABG Shipyard Ltd., its group companies and other related entities," the ED said in a statement.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of a CBI FIR dated February 7 against ABG Shipyard Limited and others. The ED probe revealed that ABG Shipyard Ltd. and its Chairman and Managing Director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal availed various cred-



it facilities/loans from consortium of Banks led by ICICI Bank, Mumbai on pretext of meeting its capital requirements and other business expenses.

But ABG Shipyard Ltd. misappropriated the credit facilities availed from the consortium and diverted the funds for the purposes other than its actual cause in the garb of various loans /advances/ investments to various related entities incorporated in India and abroad, that eventually caused monetary loss to the tune of Rs 22,842 crore to the consortium.

The ED has traced movable and immovable assets worth Rs 2747.69 crore belonging to ABG Shipyard Ltd., its group companies, Bermaco Energy Systems Ltd., Dhananjay Datar, Savita Dhananjay Datar, Krishna Gopal Toshniwal, Viren Ahuja and attached them under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), it said.

Further investigation is in progress, it added. The CBI had on Wednesday arrested Agarwal in the ongoing probe against ABG Shipyard.

# SC junks plea seeking modification of 2017 order on compensation to Narmada oustees



tion. We find no merit in this application, accordingly, the application is dismissed," the bench said.

Advocate Sanjay Parikh, advancing the arguments on behalf of an oustee, submitted that in items of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal, the entitlement of the applicant should have been for 4.293 hectares of land.

Parikh submitted that a proper reading of the top court's order would show that the compensation would have to be pegged at 30 lakh per hectare and the actual compensation would come to be Rs 1.28 crore.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, stated that the 2017 order was passed under Article 142 and a modification or clarification order cannot be passed as that would be a substantive review of the court's decision.

The top court on February 8, 2017, cleared the decks for monetary compensation for the oustees of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) on river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh by ordering Rs 60 lakh for each of the families which are likely to be displaced.

Earlier, Narmada Bachao Andolan had told the apex court that 192 villages and one township would be affected in Madhya Pradesh alone and about 45,000 affected people are yet to be rehabilitated.

## Hijab ban: SC reserves verdict on pleas against K'taka HC's order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the Karnataka High Court judgment refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state.

On March 15, High Court had dismissed petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi seeking permission to wear hijab inside the classroom, saying it is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith.

The State Government had, by its order of February 5, 2022, banned wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and public order in schools and colleges.

Several pleas have been filed in the apex court challenging the High Court verdict. A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia reserved its verdict after nine days of hearing.

# General category poor large segment, not covered under any existing quota scheme: Centre to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday vehemently defended in the Supreme Court the 103rd constitutional amendment, which provides a 10-per cent quota in jobs and education to those in the economically weaker section (EWS) category, saying this was "necessitated" to benefit the general category poor, a "large segment" of population not covered under any existing reservation scheme.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit took note of the submissions made by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who said the 10-per cent quota for the EWS category has been provided without disturbing the 50-per cent reservation available to the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The parliamentary wisdom, leading to a constitutional amendment, cannot be set aside without establishing that it violates the basic structure of the Constitution, Mehta told the bench that also comprised justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi and J B Pardiwala.

The top court, which was hearing submissions for the sixth day on a clutch of pleas challenging the validity of the scheme, was told by the law officer that the amendment is "based on the recommendation contained in the report sub-

mitted by the Sinho Commission". "The constitutional vision of equality and equal opportunity is dynamic and evolving -- not in substance, but surely in form. The present amendment is in tune with this dynamic and evolutionary nature, taking the next logical step and providing balance and reasonability to the operative realities of reservations as a whole.

"The present amendment provides for an additional form of affirmative action, without changing the substance of the equality code, while balancing the other anomalies that may arise from the pre-existing forms of affirmative action," Mehta said.

"The impugned amendment Act was necessitated to benefit the economically weaker sections of the society, who are not covered within the existing schemes of reservation and who, as per statistics, constitute a considerably large segment of the Indian population," he added.

The solicitor general argued in detail on the State's power to take affirmative action to elevate the poor among the general category and said the amendment furthers and strengthens the basic feature of the Constitution and its validity cannot be tested on the grounds of some statistics.

"While analysing the basic structure, the principle guide is the Preamble. Considering the Preamble to the Constitution, the amendment does not destroy the basic structure,

rather it strengthens it by giving justice -- economic justice -- to those who have not been the beneficiaries of affirmative action like reservation," the law officer said.

The parameters of judicial review while deciding the validity of a constitutional amendment are very well settled and in case of every constitutional amendment, a change happens in the text of the document itself, he added.

"It is for this precise reason that the doctrine of basic structure has developed.

As per this doctrine, when the Constitution is amended, the validity of the amendment is tested only on the question as to whether it fundamentally changes the basic structure of the Constitution," Mehta said.

Since a constitutional amendment brings in a new provision altogether, it is never permissible to argue that the amended provision is unconstitutional since it is either different from or not completely in tune with other constitutional provisions, he said.

The solicitor general told the bench that a breach of the basic structure of the Constitution should not be a "mere violation" but should be "a shocking, unconscionable or unscrupulous travesty of the quintessence of the Constitution".

"The purported limit of 50 per cent on reservations has always been a rule of thumb, which could be exceeded if circumstances so allowed.

# Mandatory to install alarm system for rear seat belts, says MoRTH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With cases of fatalities rising due to their non-use in cars, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH) has issued draft rules to make it mandatory for car makers to install alarm system for rear seat belts.

As per the proposal, seat belt reminders or alarms will be mandatory in M and N category vehicles, with audio-video warning in case the seat belts, including the rear ones, are not worn. Besides, there will be a speed alert system to check over-speeding and manual override for the central locking system. "Safety-belt reminder" means a system dedicated to alerting the driver when the driver and all other front-facing seat occupant(s) do not use the safety-belt.

The system is constituted by a detection of an unfastened safety-belt and by a driver's alert which is a first level warning and a second level warning.



"First Level Warning" means a visual warning activated when the ignition switch is engaged (engine running or not) and the driver's and front-facing seat occupants' safety-belt is not fastened.

An audible warning can be added as an option, said the proposal. "Second Level Warning" means a visual and audible warning activated when a driver operates a vehicle without fastening of driver and front-facing seat occupants' safety-belt.

The last date for public comments on draft rules is Oct. 5, according to the notification.

The government has been considering enforcing the use of rear seatbelts after Cyrus Mistry, the former chairman of Indian conglomerate Tata Sons, died in a car crash recently.

He was sitting in the rear seat and did not have his seat belt on as per the investigations so far. In India, one person dies every four minutes in road accidents, the World Bank said last year.

While it is already mandatory for all occupants in a car in India, the world's fourth-biggest auto market, to wear a seat belt failing which they can be fined, passengers at the back seldom do and enforcement is also lax.

The draft rules also said that for M and N category vehicles, reverse parking alert system will be applicable. 'M' category vehicles are the ones with at least four wheels used for carrying passengers, while 'N' category vehicles also have four wheels, but are used to carry goods and may also carry passengers.

# Top Opp leaders to attend INLD rally in Haryana

New Delhi: Top Opposition leaders, including NCP's Sharad Pawar, Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray and DMK's Kanimozhi, will be attending the Indian National Lok Dal's rally in Haryana's Fatehabad on September 25.

JD(U) chief spokesperson K C Tyagi said RJD leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury and BJP leader Birender Singh have also given their consent to attend the rally to mark the birth anniversary of former deputy prime minister and INLD founder Devi Lal. The coming together of so many regional satraps is being seen as an effort

towards opposition unity, and Kumar and RJD president Lalu Prasad are also likely to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi after the rally to take the process forward. "It will be a historic meeting that will mark the consolidation of like-minded forces against the ruling BJP in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," Tyagi said.

The presence of so many opposition leaders, all heavyweights in their states, on one platform will be a fillip to the efforts for unity among the non-BJP forces.

Birender Singh's equation with the BJP leadership has soured for some time even though his son Brijendra Singh is Lok Sabha member of the party from Hisar. The rally is being seen as a show of

strength by the INLD, which is itself fighting for survival in Haryana following a split in its ranks after its patriarch Om Prakash Chautala's elder son Ajay Chautala formed Jannayak Janata Party, a BJP ally. The JJP had managed to secure most of the traditional INLD votes in the last assembly polls.

Lok Sabha member and Rashtriya Loktantrik Party's Hanuman Beniwal, a former BJP ally from Rajasthan, will also attend the rally besides former Haryana minister Venod Sharma, he said.

INLD leader and former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala has also sent invitations to several other regional bigwigs, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Telangana Chief Minister K

# MoD signs pact for more Brahmos missiles for Navy



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In order to further enhance the operational capabilities of the Navy, the Defence Ministry on Thursday inked a contract for acquiring additional Brahmos supersonic surface-to-surface missiles in a deal worth over Rs 1,700 crore.

The missiles will be supplied by the Brahmos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL), a joint venture between India and Russia to manufacture these missiles. Giving details here, Defence Ministry officials said the deal will provide

further impetus to Aatmanirbharta in defence production, Induction of these dual-role capable Missiles is going to significantly enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.

The BAPL is making a crucial contribution to augment the new generation Surface-to-Surface Missiles (SSMs) with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks. This contract is going to give a boost to indigenous production of critical weapon systems and ammunition with active participation of indigenous industry.

## IN SHORTS

### BIPLAB KUMAR DEB ELECTED TO RS

New Delhi: Former Tripura Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb was on Thursday elected to the Rajya Sabha on the lone seat in the state that went for by-election. His victory was a foregone conclusion given the BJP's strength in the assembly.

### ALLOCATE LAND, EDU MIN TELLS MAMATA

New Delhi: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday wrote to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seeking her intervention to ensure the state allocates land for permanent campuses of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in South 24 Parganas-1 and Malda.

### RAILWAYS COMPLETES 1,353 TRACK KILOMETRES

New Delhi: The Railways on Thursday said it has completed 1,353 track kilometres (TKM) of new lines, gauge conversion and multi-tracking projects in the current financial year till September 21.

### PCI TAKES COGNIZANCE OF ATTACKS ON MEDIA

New Delhi: The Press Council of India (PCI) has taken cognizance of an alleged incident of assault on some media persons by a police officer recently in Nabarangpur district of Odisha and called for a report on the case from the state government "at the earliest".

### IRCS NEEDS TO MOVE WITH TIMES: MIN

NEW DELHI: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) needs to move with times to refine and redefine itself to reach widest population through innovative and collaborative ventures, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday after inaugurating States and UTs Leadership Meeting of Society here.

### EFFORTS ON TO SEE INDIA IN TOP 5 COUNTRIES: DEF SECY

New Delhi: Efforts are being made to "unleash energy" of the Make-in-India initiative in defence sector to see India among top five countries globally in defence production, Defence Secretary said.

# PM to attend Abe's state funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on September 27 in Tokyo. Abe was shot dead on July 8 while delivering a political

campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillor election on July 10.

The ministry of external affairs on Thursday announced that the Prime Minister will visit Japan on September 27 to attend the state funeral. He will also separately meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

during the visit.

Modi had a close relationship with Abe, the longest serving Japanese Prime Minister. He had consoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.



# Robotic kidney transplant done at Safdarjung Hospital, doctors claim first for a Govt facility

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A 39-year-old man underwent a robotic kidney transplant at Safdarjung hospital here, which doctors claimed to be the first such surgery to have been performed at a Central Government facility.

The patient, a native of Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, had a kidney failure and was awaiting a transplant for the past five years, said Dr Anup Kumar, head of the department of Urology, Robotics and Renal Transplant, who performed the surgery.

He was on hemodialysis, doctors said. The patient's 34-year-old wife wanted to donate her kidney and were trying to get surgery done in other hospitals. Dr Kumar said while they could not afford surgery at private hospitals, there was a long waiting list at government hospitals. They approached Safdarjung hospital three months ago. Both the donor and

the recipient were evaluated and after completing all the protocols, the patient was posted for kidney transplant, Dr Kumar said. "As the patient was obese, conducting a traditional open surgery would have been difficult and so we decided to go for the robotic kidney transplant," Dr Kumar explained.

The surgery took place on Wednesday. In an open surgery, a long incision measuring 12 to 14 cm is required which can cause post-operative pain, infection and hernia formation, he said.

"Doing the robotic surgery in this patient provided the best outcome. During the procedure, four 8 mm incisions were made and the robot was docked over the patient," he said.

During robotic surgeries, surgeon sits on console and movements of his fingers are transmitted on to robotic arms which performs surgery, the doctor explained.

# Govt agencies evict 24 people every hour in India: HLRN study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A recent study has claimed that from January to July 2022 government agencies demolished as many as 25,800 houses affecting at least 124,450 people.

The study, titled 'Forced Eviction in India in 2021', was conducted by a NGO called the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN).

It claimed that Government authorities have evicted at least 567 people per day or 24 people every hour across India. "The eviction occurred despite the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic during January-March 2022," it said. Court orders and their implementation by state authorities resulted in the eviction of over 106,014 people in at least 11 incidents of demolitions in 2021, HLRN said.

The report said that in total number of people who faced evictions over the last five

years (between 2017 and 2021), exceeds one million. The study claimed nearly 15 million people across the country live under the threat of eviction.

According to the report, authorities evicted 207,106 people, including 13,750 during the peak of the COVID pandemic in April and May last year, from their homes citing reasons such as environment protection, infrastructure projects, encroachment removal, and beautification projects across the country in 2021. The report said the government has not resettled or compensated at least 59 percent of them.

The report said that as many as 57 percent were evicted for forest and environment protection, 27.13 percent for infrastructure projects, and 14.31 percent for encroachment removal and beautification projects. The demolition drives were carried out in at least 17 states and three Union Territories. The report said

government agencies demolished 62,330 houses and evicted over 331,560 people from January 1, 2021, to July 15, 2022. It added that over 25,800 homes have been demolished, affecting at least 124,450 people in India until July this year. It has cited incidents showing how demolitions were also used as "punitive measures".

The report said in Punjab Bagh, the railways demolished 250 homes, in February 2022, to vacate its land of 'encroachments'. The families have been living at the same site post-demolition as they have not been resettled.

"Following the communal violence during the celebrations for the Hindu festivals of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti in April 2022 in Madhya Pradesh, 16 houses and 29 shops of Muslim households were demolished in Khargone district, including a house built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) Scheme.



# Another jolt to Maha: Now PhonePe to shift to K'taka

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A little over a week after the Vedanta Group moved its semiconductor manufacturing plant involving an investment of ₹ 1.54 lakh crore from the State to neighbouring Gujarat, the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis Government suffered another setback on Thursday, as Fintech app PhonePe announced through a public notice that that it had decided to shift its registered office from Maharashtra to Karnataka.

In the public notice published in local newspapers, the company said that it had applied to the Centre under section 12 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking permission to shift its registered office from Mumbai in Maharashtra to Karnataka.

The company had at a general meeting held on August 16, 2022 passed a special resolution seeking approval for necessary amendments in the Memorandum of Association



(MoA). The development comes nine days after the Vedanta group signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Bhupendrabhai Patel Government to set up a semiconductor fabrication unit, a display fabrication unit, and a semiconductor assembling and testing unit in Ahmedabad district of the neighbouring State.

As per the MOUs signed between Vedanta and Gujarat Government in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel and Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal, the Vedanta

Group-Foxconn Joint Venture envisages a total investment of Rs 1,54,000 crore, while it promises to provide employment to around 1 lakh people. The proposed semiconductor manufacturing fab unit will operate on the 28nm technology nodes and the display manufacturing unit will produce Generation 8 displays catering to small, medium and large applications.

Vedanta will hold 60 per cent of the equity in the Joint Venture while Foxconn will own 40 per cent. The Joint Venture will look at setting up a semiconductor manufacturing plant in the next two years.

# Lekhi flays Mamata for taking credit for inclusion of Puja in UNESCO list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi on Thursday hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee saying it was "horrendous" that a State Government which "banned" Durga Puja and idol immersion

was taking credit for inclusion of the festival in UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Lekhi, who is the Minister of State for Culture, said a proposal was sent by the Union Culture Ministry to include Durga Puja in UNESCO's list in 2019 which was accepted in December 2021. Addressing a press conference here, she said the Ministry of Culture has also sent a proposal to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to include Garba dance from Gujarat in its list of intangible cultural heritage of

humanity. Earlier this month, Banerjee had led a rally celebrating the inclusion of 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

"The West Bengal chief minister must be very busy and the advice she is receiving from her advisors is questionable. It is horrendous a state government that banned Durga Puja and idol immersion was taking credit for this feat," she said.

She said it was a matter of pride for entire India that Durga Puja was inscribed in UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage and "politics on it was improper".

She noted that all the traditions of the country should be appreciated in one voice, adding that Durga Puja was as much important in southern and western India as it was in eastern India.



# High Court's DA rap on Bengal Govt's knuckles

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Already under intense scrutiny of the ED and CBI in a plethora of corruption related cases the Mamata Banerjee Government received yet another jolt with a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court on Thursday rejecting a petition filed by the State seeking reconsideration of an earlier judgement by the same court to clear the unpaid Dearness Allowance (DA) of Government employees.

Not only the Court directed the Government to clear the arrears of the DA in three months' time but it also fixed November 7 as the date of next hearing when the Chief Secretary and Finance Secretary would be required to file their respective affidavits stating why contempt proceedings would not be started against them for violating the earlier Court order to clear DA.

The same Division Bench of Justices Harish Tandon and



Rabindranath Samanta had on May 20 directed the Government to clear the DA related arrears within the next three months. The State however preferred to file a review petition on the earlier order.

While the Court rejected the petition and directed the Government to clear the arrears within three months hearing a related contempt petition filed by the West Bengal Confederation of Government Employees the Court directed the two topmost bureaucrats to file their respective affidavits regarding why rule of contempt would not be passed against them for disobeying the Court order.

The State advocates however said that an 'appeal will be

preferred before the Honourable Supreme Court."

The High Court had on an earlier occasion upheld a State Administrative Tribunal judgement. Hearing a petition --- seeking 32 percent DA --- filed in 2016 by the State employees unions SAT had in 2020 directed the Government to clear the dearness allowance of the government staff.

Upholding the SAT order the High Court earlier said that "DA is a legal right of the Government employees," Firdous Shamim one of the advocates of the government employees unions said.

"If the Mamata Banerjee Government can give out doles of Rs 250 crore to the 43,000 clubs of Bengal organisation Durga Puja just to ensure that her election machinery remains intact ... then why cannot she clear the DA of the Government employees who are asking for it not as an alms but as a legal right," one of the functionaries of the employees' union said.

# CPI(ML) slams fee hike in Allahabad Univ

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) criticised the fee hike by Allahabad University saying it was a whimsical decision that would mar the future of students.

In a statement, CPI-ML state secretary Sudhakar Yadav justified the agitation of the students against the hike in the fee which has been increased four times of the existing fee.

Expressing concern over the incident in which a student ended his life at the university hostel in protest against the fee hike, Yadav said education was a fundamental right. "The Bharatiya Janata Party govern-

ment's new education policy has caused the students to suffer the most. The government has made education an article of trade and poor students are unable to afford studying at government educational institutions while private institutes are out of their reach already. So an agitation against fee hike is the demand of the hour," he said.

Yadav said due to the novel coronavirus pandemic several people had lost their jobs and businesses and inflation was soaring high. "The fourfold hike in the fee will break the bones of the families who are getting their sons/daughters educated at the Allahabad University and the decision should be taken back," he said.

# UP Govt to launch Matribhumi Yojana from Gandhi Jayanti

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government will launch the Matribhumi Yojana on October 2 to help people connect with their roots.

Under this scheme, if a person wants to construct a community building, hospital, school, common service centre in the name of his or her ancestor in the village, he/she will have to pay 60 per cent of the total cost while the rest will be invested by the Government. The said building would be in the name of the person's ancestor, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said.

While virtually addressing the opening ceremony of Kisan Mela and Rural Development Exhibition organised by Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Mahotsav Samiti in Mathura, the chief minister said that the Bharatiya Janata Party was

celebrating seva pakhwara as September 17 was the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, September 25 was the birthday of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay and October 2 of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Keeping this in mind, many programmes have been designed. High speed internet and free Wi-Fi services will be introduced in many villages. We are going to connect every gram panchayat with better internet service. Once done, the villagers will get 243 types of services related to banks, police stations and tehsils," he said.

The chief minister said the economy of India was rural based and therefore the introduction of new technology in the farm sector was mandatory. He said the emphasis should be on increasing production and reducing the cost of cultivation.

# 75% of Covid patients recover within 12 months: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

At least 75 per cent of the people infected with the SARS-CoV2 virus recover within 12 months, irrespective of the severity, according to a study. However, the remaining 25 per cent of patients still face coughing, fatigue and breathlessness, said the study by Indian-origin scientists from McMaster University.

Researchers also found that patients with persistent symptoms also had antibodies associated with autoimmune illnesses, as well as raised levels of cytokines, which cause inflammation.

They gleaned the results by surveying 106 people recovering from Covid-19 infections at three, six and 12 months after contracting the disease. All patients surveyed were otherwise healthy and had no pre-existing autoimmune conditions or any other underlying diseases pre-pandemic.

This study comes close of the heels of yet another study conducted by researchers at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health which had said

that a person going through phases of anxiety, depression, and loneliness before being infected by coronavirus has a much stronger chance of developing long Covid than those who have good mental health.

"Generally, one should not worry if they are feeling unwell right after their infection, as the chances of recovering within 12 months is very high, and just because you have typical long COVID symptoms at three months does not mean they will stay forever," said senior author Manali Mukherjee, an assistant professor of the Department of Medicine at the McMaster University. "However, the study highlights that at 12 months, if you still feel unwell and the symptoms are persisting or worsening, you should definitely seek medical attention."

Mukherjee said patients with persistent long COVID symptoms should see a rheumatologist, as they specialize in autoimmune disorders and can better assess development of rheumatological complications and the need for an early intervention.

# Yogi sets tone for historic Assembly session dedicated to woman MLAs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, set the tone for a special session of the UP Assembly dedicated to women members. He said this session should have been held long ago but it took 75 years for women to assert their voice in the House.

The chief minister said the 47 women members of the UP Assembly represented half of the state's population of 25 crore and their suggestions would help the government take concrete steps. The chief minister said that the session in the country's largest legislature would set an example.

He initiated the day-long session during which only women members participated in the proceedings. Out of the total 47 woman MLAs, 40 were present in the House.

"Today (Thursday), the largest legislature of the country is moving towards creating



a new history. After 75 years of Independence, the voices of half the population will reach 25 crore people of the state through this House. At the same time, they will get an opportunity to put forward the problems and achievements of the state and other important issues in this House. In fact, this work should have been done long ago," Yogi Adityanath said.

The chief minister said this session would be an example for the country on what women members want to say, adding that any positive suggestions from them regarding the present, future and self-

reliance of the state would help the government take steps in that direction.

The 403-member Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly has 47 woman MLAs, including 22 first-timers.

Advocating that a member representing half the population should be given a chance to conduct the proceedings as presiding officer, even for a short time, Yogi Adityanath said this would help create the right atmosphere.

The chief minister also recited a few lines of Maharishi Ved Vyas dedicated to woman power.

"This is not the first time that an effort is being made to give equal status to women. After Independence, a lot of good efforts were made in this direction. ... The Constitution makers of India had given the right to vote to men and women from the beginning. In England and many other countries, women got this right later," he said.

# Over a dozen dead as rain plays havoc in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Incessant rains played havoc in the State with more than a dozen people, including four siblings in Etawah, losing their lives and several others getting injured during the last 24 hours.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed condolences to the bereaved families and announced Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased. He has directed authorities to make proper arrangements for those injured and undergoing treatment and has wished them speedy recovery, according to a statement from the chief minister's office.

In Etawah, four siblings were killed and two others were injured after a wall of their house collapsed due to heavy rainfall in Chandrapura village in the Civil Lines area of the district on Thursday. "Four siblings, three boys

and one girl, have died and compensation will be given to the family as per the norms," said Etawah District Magistrate Avnish Rai.

The deceased children were identified as Sinku (10), Abhi (8), Sonu (7), Aarti (5) while Rishav (4) and their grandmother Sharda Devi (75) were seriously injured in the wall collapse. Both have been admitted to the district's Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Government Joint Hospital.

Similarly, 65-year-old Ramsanehi and his 63-year-old wife Reshma Devi died when a mud wall collapsed on them in Kripalpur village of Ikdlil. Besides, 50-year-old Jabar Singh died due to the collapse of roof and mud wall of his house in Majra Bungalow area of Andawa gram panchayat of Mahewa block.

The fourth such incident in the district was reported from Kalli Sultanpur village

under Basrehar police station. Three people were injured after the wall of a kutchra house in the village collapsed and they were buried under the rubble. All the injured were admitted to the local hospital.

In Kanpur Dehat, a farmer, Harishchandra, was sleeping in his kutchra house along with his wife Anita and 11-year-old son Sajjan in Kyotra village of Satti when the house collapsed at around 5 am on Thursday due to heavy rain. On hearing a loud noise, the people of the neighborhood rushed to the spot, pulled out the three from the rubble and took them to the community health centre at Pukhrayan where Harishchandra succumbed to his injuries.

In another incident, Mahendra and his pregnant wife Rachna were injured when the roof of their kutchra house collapsed in Pipri village of Bhognipur. After first aid in

CHC, he was sent to the district hospital.

Sunita Devi, wife of a hawker Suresh Kumar, was injured when the wall of a kutchra house collapsed in Ramganj in Akbarpur. The relatives admitted her to the district hospital.

In Banda too, houses collapsed at many places, in which a farmer died while an old couple were buried alive. The elderly couple sleeping in the room were buried under the rubble when the house collapsed in Tolakaji village in Marka due to heavy rain in the night. By the time they were pulled out, 75-year-old Jagmohan Nishad had died while his wife Sukhdeiya (70) was seriously injured.

In Kannauj, a worker died after being electrocuted by the current passing through a set-top box due to heavy rains. His son and daughter also received burns while trying to save



their father. Two children -- four-year-old Mehak and eight-month-old Adil -- died after the wall of Arif's house collapsed in Ghatiya Ajmat Ali locality of the city. Apart from this, eight-month-old Suhana also succumbed to her injuries. Arif's 28-year-old wife Chanda and 90-year-old Qadri, 90, were seriously injured in the accident. Both the women were rescued from the rubble and admitted to the district hospital.

In Shikohabad town of Firozabad, a child died after the roof of the house collapsed due to rain, while eight people were injured. The injured are being treated in the hospital.

Due to heavy rains, four women were seriously burnt in Cheriha Khurd village under Markundi police station of Chitrakoot when struck by lightning. They were admitted in hospital and their condition was stated to be critical.

# Mayawati takes to Twitter to raise public issues

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With Bahujan Samaj Party having only one MLA in the state assembly, party chief Mayawati has taken to Twitter to raise issues during the ongoing monsoon session of the UP legislature.

Continuing her tweets, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, has drawn the attention of the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath government to farmers and agriculture with three tweets on Thursday.

The BSP supremo said that despite India being an agrarian country, the government's very little attention towards agriculture and farmers' interest had always been a



cause of great concern.

She said that now not getting a fair price for their produce, huge arrears of sugarcane farmers and loss of livestock etc. are plaguing rural India and the government should pay immediate attention to this.

The BSP chief said as the Uttar Pradesh government

had accepted in the assembly that the sugarcane farmers of the state had huge arrears, hence the government should take strict steps to ensure payment of these arrears as soon as possible, while fulfilling its responsibility.

She said the death of innumerable domestic animals in the grip of lumpy virus disease in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had put poor rural India in a new trouble.

The BSP chief said livestock was the backbone of self-sufficient rural life and for this reason the governments of other states along with the government of Uttar Pradesh must provide proper financial help to the affected people.



A one-horned rhino grazes inside the Burapahar Range of Kaziranga National Park, on World Rhino Day, in Nagaon district on Thursday.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Curb hate speech

The SC has termed hate speech as ‘poison’ that is hurting the social fabric of the country

When public discourse gets perverted, as is the case in India, sloganeering is confused with eloquence and platitudes with wisdom—and now uncouth blabber as forceful argumentation. So, it is hardly surprising that the incidence of hate speech is on the rise. The Supreme Court is rightly worried about this unsavoury development. On Wednesday, it termed hate speech as “poison” that is hurting the social fabric of the country. The apex court also expressed dismay over the lack of a legal framework that could deter odious remarks in television debates. It directed the Centre to reply in two months whether it (the Centre) intends to bring a law to make hate speech a penal offence. TV news channels are using “hate and all such spicy things” to improve their ratings, the apex court pointed out. Wondering why the government is a “mute spectator,” the court asserted that it was the duty of TV anchors to stop the airing of hate speech. “Where is our nation headed to if



hate speech is what we are feeding on? Hate speech is completely poisoning our social fabric,” observed a Bench of justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy. They said this while hearing a number of petitions which sought guidelines to regulate hate speech.

A few days ago, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had also desired moderation in TV channel debates. He wanted to bring “back neutrality in news.” In fact, he went on to say that the biggest threat to the mainstream media is from mainstream media channels rather than new-age digital platforms. He was correct in his observation that if a news channel invites guests who are polarising, they would spread false narratives and who shout, thus damaging the credibility of the news channel. Unfortunately, the credibility of several news channels is very bad; they are widely regarded as sympathetic to one political party or the other. Debates on political topics suffer from not just the ill-mannered and semi-educated outbursts of various participants but also the irresponsible behaviour of anchors but also biases. Such TV programmes generate a lot of heat and dust but little light. Political parties, including that of Thakur’s, should act proactively to ensure that political debate doesn’t get further degraded. Action on the part of the media should also be oriented around self-regulation. News channels, the Press Club of India, the Press Council, and other organisations related to the media should come forward with guidelines to regulate the behaviour of news anchors and other media-persons. They should draw the red lines which journalists should never cross. There should also be interaction between the Government and the media for bringing sobriety and impartiality back to news. For the alternative, the rules set by the Government or the Supreme Court, is not very appealing. Such rules may curb hate speech but will also be detrimental for free speech. All stakeholders need to exercise caution.

### PICTALK



A one-horned rhino inside the Burapahar Range of Kaziranga National Park, on World Rhino Day

PTI

## Bye, Gajodhar Bhaiya!

Raju Srivastava is gone but will always be remembered for the laughter he spread

Raju Srivastava the king of comedy is no more. He breathed his last on September 21 in AIIMS Delhi. Raju had suffered a heart attack 41 days back when he was at a gym and ever since had been fighting but unfortunately, the death got the better of him. His untimely death has left his fans shocked and condolence messages have been pouring from across the country. Raju was a comedian with many firsts, he started his career by mimicking his idol Amitabh Bachchan and then graduated to small roles in Bollywood. His big break came when he appeared on a TV comedy show ‘Indian laughter challenge’ in 2005. He didn’t win it but became an instant star. His jokes often involved common people from small towns in UP which were till then seen as ‘no no’ on mainstream television. His ‘Gajodhar bhaiya’ became a household name and his eastern UP colloquial language a rage. The USP of Raju was his knack to relate to the common man. He picked the incidents from the lives of the common man and narrated them in his inimitable style which made him larger than life comic star, the highest paid in the country.



Raju’s story is the story of many youths from humble backgrounds in small towns of north India who to chase their dreams reach Mumbai. Many are lost in oblivion while others struggle to make a mark. Raju belonged to the second category He took struggle in his stride and never gave up on his dreams. His laughter came from his understanding of human nature and dealing with the common man. And that is why he is so relatable to each one of us. Raju’s untimely death at 58, leaves a void that would be hard to fill. He was one of the faces of early standup comics who made it to everyone’s heart. Though now stand up comedy is well established in the country and has gone through a metamorphosis with a lot of young comics trying their hand at it and enriching it in their own way, they owe it to Raju as he was the one who took comedy to the masses in the time when this genre didn’t exist in the country. Raju never hesitated to crack a joke on the VVIPs in the audience. Raju is often criticised for joining politics which was not really his cup of tea. It divided his fans and took away his neutrality but he was quick to understand and tried to distance himself from it. Raju Srivastava rest in peace, your jokes will live on.

# Indians making it big in Australia

With its sheer determination and hard work, the Indian diaspora in Australia has carved a niche for itself in the Australian society

They drive cabs in the wee hours, man 7/11 franchises, and gather scattered trolleys at supermarkets, amongst a long list of arduous tasks. But they also teach at schools and universities, lead mega engineering projects, save lives at hospitals and treat the sick at medical centres, manage the information technology in big companies, showcase the best of the cuisines at Indian restaurants, and own micro, medium, and large businesses in Australia. Indian diaspora has entered into business, politics, the judiciary, government, civil society, academia, science, the performing arts, and sporting codes. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 census 783,958 persons declared their ancestry as Indian constituting 3.1% of the Australian population. They constitute the second largest taxpayers and easily outnumber their Australian counterparts in stadiums during the Border-Gavaskar series.

20 years ago, not many may have anticipated their meteoric rise and role in ‘Advancing Australia Fair.’ A data-rich report prepared by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade entitled - “Australia’s Indian Diaspora: A National Asset: Mapping the Community’s Reach into the Australia-India Economic Relationship”- quite timely encapsulates the rise of the diaspora, especially when bilateral relations have hit a historic high.

Australia’s rapidly transforming demography wherein one in four Australian has been born overseas, the Indian diaspora is now turning heads. Calling the diaspora ‘aspirational’, the report shows that a comparatively younger diaspora is vital for meeting Australia’s skills shortage, technological development, and exports. Largely concentrated (70%) in the states of Victoria and New South Wales, the diaspora has moved interstate into Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. In any



developing suburb, the Indian family is a common sight. The DFAT report indicates the cumulative effect of a generally highly educated youthful, linguistically diverse, and growing community, plugged into networks of innovation, and well represented in business, across services and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sectors with strong export potential. It is a key contributor to not only bilateral trade and investment but Australia’s international competitiveness.

According to the 2021 Orbis database of company information collated by Bureau van Dijk, a Moody’s Analytics Company - people of Indian heritage are employed in at least 996 Australian organizations of which an estimated 2,840 (13%) as directors and managers (12.5% women), constituting 3% of the Australian population. The report says that 964 of these 2,840 could potentially drive bilateral business and trade engagements in health, tourism, ICT, and resources, across companies with a gross \$250 billion annual turnover.

Surprisingly, in the flagship sector of education, and



AS OF 2021, NUMBERING OVER 780,000, INDIAN MIGRANTS HAVE OVERTAKEN CHINESE AND NEW ZEALAND BORN IMMIGRANTS. THEIR NUMBERS DOUBLED DURING 1996-2006, AND QUADRUPLED DURING 2006-2020

in agribusiness their role remains below par. But that may change rapidly as international education and student migration drive bilateral relationships. Indians were the largest source of skilled migrants in 2019-20 and the second largest source of international students in 2019-20 Australia. The DFAT report estimates that the diaspora’s role in senior academic positions roles at the lecturer level and above has increased from 1.75 per cent in 2016 to 1.92 per cent in 2020. Of the 721,000 Indians (2016 census) approximately 88% are of working age and 61% are in full-time and 27% in part-time employment making them the second highest tax-paying migrant community after the UK-born migrants, contributing over \$12 billion to the Australian economy.

As of 2021, numbering over 780,000 Indian migrants have overtaken Chinese and New Zealand-born immigrants. Their numbers doubled during 1996-2006, quadrupled during 2006-2020, and were Australia’s fastest growing large diaspora community in 2020. Australia’s Department of Home Affairs has even established a Global Talent Officer

for South Asia, eying India as a source of global talent.

A 2013 path-breaking research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America entitled, ‘Genome-wide data substantiate Holocene gene flow from India to Australia’ established that a substantial gene flow occurred between the Indian populations and Australia well before European contact, 4,230 years ago. The study links changes in tool technology, food processing, and the appearance of dingoes in the Australian archaeological record to migration from India.

In sum, over 4,000 years ago Indians made Australia their home and now they ‘toil with hearts and hands to make this Commonwealth of ours renowned of all the lands’. As India rises as a Vishwa Guru, Indians assume their long-due place in Australian society.

*(The author is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement, Brisbane, National Sports Chair {Australia India Business Council} and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TIME FOR PEACE

Sir — It is not the time to war, world need peace and delight, these are the lines of PM Modi that are grabbing global headlines and repeated lip sing from the leaders of the different nation. On the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in the bilateral dialogue with the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Narendra Modi has stated that we need we need global coordination not work for peaceful performance of this whole world.

It is good to see that even Russian President Vladimir V Putin, also agreed to the understanding of Indian PM. As we are in the Midst of tensed political narrative, thus we need corporation not war. We need dialogue not disturbances towards each other. Mr. Putin too understand the need of the hour, and tried to halt the tense situations by de escalating the military forces to stop the war like situations. Ultimately we need global peace for happy world. But for that to happen we have to build pressure on our leaders to be more proactive for world peace and care about the issues like climate change, hunger and poverty rather than on the use of military to destroy peace and cause unimaginable sufferings on the humans. After all we are all humans and the planet is our only home where each one has equal right to live and flourish.

**Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur**

### DUSSEHRA RALLY

Sir — The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has denied permission to both the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena as well as the Shinde’s faction for holding Dussehra rally at the iconic Shivaji Park on 5 October As the Mumbai Police raised law and order concerns.

The Shivaji Park police in their feedback said the permission for the rally to any of the two factions could lead to a “serious problem of law and order in

## Fair chance for guilty?



Supreme Court calls for providing accused a ‘meaningful’ hearing of their mitigating circumstances in death penalty cases. The

Supreme Court referred to a Constitution Bench the question of how to provide accused in death penalty cases a “meaningful, real and effective” hearing of their mitigating circumstances before a trial judge. Instead of safeguarding human dignity and life of poor, marginalized, women and minorities and saving democracy from dictatorship, someone is pursuing unimportant tasks and creating work for themselves for nothing. Like in the West why they are thinking too much on human rights of the guilty and accused? What about the ones who died owing to the murderer’s recklessness, anger, ego etc? How many lives he destroyed? If there is no fear of one’s life and capital punishment, then crimes will surely increase. Rapists and murderers when they are released and garlanded, they are a threat to the society at large.

**CK Subramony | Kozhikode**

the sensitive Shivaji Park area”. The civic administration has sent letters to both factions of the parties about the decision. With this the open fight between Thackeray and Shinde faction getting bitter and bitter every day and may take ugly turn in coming days which will be very serious and dangerous for the citizens of the capital city Mumbai.

**Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai**

### FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Sir — One of the long-standing challenges that India has been facing when it comes to safety and well-being of its people is the appalling fire safety standards prevalent in workplaces, public buildings and homes. The fire tragedy that occurred in a hotel in Telangana very recently and fire that broke out in a commercial building near the Mundka metro station in outer Delhi in May this year, are stark reminders of how fire safety norms are flouted by building owners with impunity. Buildings must be planned, designed and constructed to ensure that fire safety measures are in

place in strict accordance with National Building Code of India’s guidelines which regulate the building construction activities across the country.

Even though NBC makes these measures mandatory, the majority of multi-storey buildings continue to ignore and violate the safety norms, and often play with human lives. In fact, many buildings lack even basic fire safety systems, like fire extinguishers. Also, there is no statutory provision for regular verification of adherence to fire safety norms in multi-story buildings.

To reduce fire accidents, First Safety Audit should be made mandatory across the country, and it must be entrusted to third-party agencies, who have the expertise in it. A comprehensive fire safety audit can address the inherent fire hazards associated with the day-to-day activities in an occupancy and recommend measures to reduce the potential fire accidents.

**Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai**

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUNDBITE

It would have been better had the Congress started its Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gujarat where elections are due later this year,



**Election strategist**  
—Prashant Kishor



If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will without doubt use all available means to protect Russia and our people — this is not a bluff.

**Russian President**  
—Vladimir Putin

He (Raju) was my friend for 30 years. Big loss to his family, daughters, wife. He was a good husband, good father and a good friend.



**Actor**  
—Ravi Kishan



**Former cricket coach**  
—Ravi Shastri

These speeches in media are unregulated. It’s (the anchors’) duty to see that hate speech doesn’t continue.



**Supreme Court judge**  
—KM Joseph



## FIRST COLUMN

# BANKS AS GROWTH CATALYSTS

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources



S **KALYANASUNDARAM**

Speaking at the 75th AGM of IBA on September 16, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that if India wishes to grow at a particular speed over the next 25 years, banks will have to play the role of a catalyst.

It is good that the importance of banks is recognised by the Finance Minister. But what is happening at the ground level is entirely different. The banks are made to bleed due to wrongful importance given to the borrowers at the cost of depositors who sacrifice their present consumption and enable banks to lend.

What is a catalyst? In chemistry, we call a catalyst a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. But banks' borrowers extract everything from the banks and try to finish the 'catalyst'. Initially, corporate borrowers want maximum finance from banks. They want it at concessional rates of interest too. Then they default and want the banks to reschedule the payment obligation. They want further credit by threatening that otherwise the previous loan cannot be recovered. Finally, they want waiver of interest, write off, one-time-settlement etc. This process goes on and on and to keep the banks viable, banks pass on this cost to the depositors by way of real negative interest.



Recently, the RBI released a handbook on statistics on the Indian Economy. This contains a table showing Weighted Average Domestic Term Deposit Rate and it pertains to the end of the respective financial year. For the years from 2014-15 to 2020-21, the following are the WADTD Rates respectively in percentages 8.57, 7.73, 6.97, 6.67, 6.89, 6.38 and 5.28. The following are the annual consumer inflation rate during the same period, again in percentages: 4.91, 4.95, 3.30, 3.94, 3.73, 6.62 and 5.13. When we adjust for inflation the real interest the depositors got for their Term Deposit will be as follows: 3.66, 2.78, 3.67, 2.73, 3.16, 0.76 and 0.15 per cent of returns. This is the fate of persons who keep their savings with banks as fixed deposits. For persons who are leaving their surplus in a Savings Account, the real return will be negative. If this trend is not corrected, a day will come that the retail depositors will desert banks and there may not be any role of finance intermediation by banks.

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources. As per Financial Stability Report of RBI released in June 30, 2022, after reaching a high of 11.9 per cent in March 2021, aggregate deposit growth (y-o-y) of Scheduled Commercial Banks moderated gradually through 2021-22 reaching 9.9 per cent in March 2022 and further to 9.1 per cent by June 3, 2022. This should be a warning signal for policy makers. By paying pittance, you cannot expect depositors to patronise banks forever.

Banks have to mandatorily maintain a Cash Reserve Ratio of 4.5 per cent and Statutory Liquidity Ratio of 18 per cent of their deposits. When CRR can be in the form of cash holding or balance the RBI, it does not earn any interest for banks. The SLR is maintained by investment in permitted government securities, which earns low yield for the banks. In other words this is government borrowing from bank deposits and this in turn reduces the lending capacity of banks to others.

Banks are again mandated to lend to priority sectors like agriculture, small scale industries, etc., for which they charge a concessional rate of interest. Banks are targeted to provide 40 per cent of their credit to the priority sector with various sub targets for agriculture, etc.

*(The author is a retired banker)*

# Equality remains an elusive dream

The fundamental right to equality stays on paper, for there exist several reasons for negation of the abiding dream of the Constitution

The idea of equality in India goes back to the days of the Vedic wisdom, which treated every individual as an embodiment of the divine spark. Equality as a spiritual and philosophical precept was founded on this theory of the divinity of humans. The Upanishads and the Dharmastras insisted that every individual should be given an equal opportunity to pursue the Purusharthas (the four-fold legitimate goals of life) without any arbitrary interference from any external agency, including the state, in order to enable him or her to realise his or her full personality.

Perhaps the notion of legal equality can be traced back to the natural law doctrine of the Stoics, which, in the name of universal reason, postulates equality of individuals, races and nations. However, only on a spiritual and philosophical plane it may be said that all people are equal, but in the actual world of material and social life it may not appear to be so.

There may exist natural inequalities as well as artificially created social inequalities and economic disparities among people and groups of people in society. In such a society, to pursue the principle of formal or legal equality, which insists that all people are to be treated equally by law, would be only to perpetuate the existing inequalities, for the same law for the ox and the lion is oppression. Therefore, the concept of equality to be meaningful and intelligible should essentially be a dynamic and relative concept, capable of accommodating the necessary equalisation strategies as permissible means to remove the existing social and economic inequalities and to secure the goal of equality and social justice.

While we celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, there still remains glaring inequalities in the society around us. The beloved dream of the makers of the Constitution is far from materialisation.

The adoption of our Constitution was also a declaration of a desire for a society where everyone would enjoy equal access to education, good health, freedom of speech and dissent, employment, and political participation.

Some people experience inequity from the beginning, because they are born blind, physically impaired, or mentally ill. We must be given exactly equal opportunity, intelligence, strength, health, and money if we were to be born equally.

Legality became a synonym for justice in the Athenian republic because it was derived from the Greek/Latin word aequalis, which meant the sameness of two objects in amount or value or as in the Islamic algebra, which is still in use today. It later came to be used interchangeably with the concept of liberty, which was first articulated by influential thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries like John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Hegel, and later by Frenchmen like Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who



ANY VIBRANT SOCIETY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRE THAT ALL HUMANS ARE TREATED EQUAL AND WITH DIGNITY. SUCH A CONVICTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY WARRANT A WISE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY ON THE GROUNDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

*(The author is a lawyer)*



are known for the statement "Man is born free".

These concepts had a significant impact on our ancestors. It had a profound impact on the society, which was a colony of the British Empire. They battled against their oppressors after rising up in rebellion, won the war, and then went on to draft the clause that reads, "All men are created equal".

People who have lived in abject poverty are given hope when we say that there will be equality. However, if this hope is not realised, there will be strife between the "haves and have nots" in society. Additionally, according to Karl Marx, this disturbs society and may therefore spark a revolt. This is the fundamental idea of the disharmonic society that India has accepted, which implicitly includes the idea of conflict.

The overarching principle of equality is established in Article 14, which calls for equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws and forbids unjustified discrimination against individuals. It is acknowledged as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution. No discrimination should exist on any grounds. The phrase "equal protection of the law" is a good one. Simply put, it means that everyone in comparable situations should be accorded the same rights and obligations. In essence, it means that everyone should be treated equally.

Equals and unequals cannot coexist on an equal footing or get equal treatment. The concept of equality before law does not mean absolute equality among human

beings which is not possible to achieve. It is a concept implying absence of any special privilege by reason of birth, creed or the like in favour of any individual, and also the equal subject of all individuals and classes to the ordinary law of the land. Equal protection of the laws does not postulate equal treatment of all persons without distinctions. What it postulates is the application of the same laws alike and without discrimination to all persons similarly situated. It denotes equality of treatment in equal circumstances.

The rule of law, in Dicey's opinion, is equality before the law. It means that no one is above the law and that ordinary courts have jurisdiction over everyone, regardless of status or circumstance. All people with identical circumstances must be treated equally in terms of the rights granted and obligations imposed by the law. There shouldn't be any distinction between one individual and another, and everyone should be subject to the same laws in the same circumstances. The rule is that similar things should be handled similarly rather than dissimilar things similarly.

In the case of Stephen's College v. University of Delhi, the court determined that the phrase "Equal protection of the laws" is now understood to be a positive obligation on the state to ensure equal protection of the law by enacting the necessary social and economic changes to ensure that everyone can enjoy equal protection of the law and nobody is denied such protection. The state violates its obligation to offer everyone the

same protection under the law if it ignores the existing inequality. Citizens of India and those who are not will get equal protection from the state.

The US Constitution's 14th Amendment serves as the foundation for the concept of "equal protection of the law". It stipulates that everyone in India should receive equal legal protection so they can exercise their legal rights without any exceptions or favouritism. This is a good idea since it suggests that the State has a responsibility to take steps to guarantee this right to all citizens. It makes the State responsible for taking all necessary actions to ensure that the promise of equal treatment of everyone is upheld. This rule states that like individuals should be treated similarly, yet it also states that unlike people shouldn't be treated similarly.

It hardly needs any mention that any vibrant society would undoubtedly require that all humans are treated equal and with dignity and that all must be supported to the fullest possible development. Such a conviction would obviously warrant a wise affirmative action policy on the grounds of social justice and equity. Here, one needs to know that while access could be ensured in a variety of ways, it is the equality of opportunity which is much more important than anything else as it requires the support of whole range of antecedental variables commencing from curriculum to pedagogy, differential inputs, assessment, remediation, feedback, attitude, institutional care, etc.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE STUDENTS FACE THE WORLD, THEY WILL FACE THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY. SO THIS (HIJAB) CAN BE A CHANCE TO PREPARE THEM.  
—KARNATAKA HIGH COURT JUDGE  
SUDHANSHU DHULIA



IN A SCHOOL, HOW WILL YOU INCULCATE THE VALUES? THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE CLAIMS AND WHERE WILL YOU DRAW THE LINE?  
—ADVOCATE  
VENKATARAMANI

# New King of Britain has deep India connections

King Charles III understands the importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals

Prince Charles, who held this title for a long time, acceded to the British throne after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last week. He has a robust Indian connection and has been familiar with Indians for decades. After his accession, he became Head of the Commonwealth, a group of 56 independent countries, representing 2.4 billion people, including India. India was a "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire.

To go back in history, the East India Company came to India in 1600 for trade, and by the 1800s, it had generated almost half of England's commerce. Soon India became a British colony. So, it is not surprising that several members of the British



KALYANI **SHANKAR**

*(The author is a senior journalist)*

royal family visited India at various times.

Charles came to India 10 times as heir to the British throne, while his parents also visited thrice during the Queen's long reign. Charles indeed developed a warm relationship with India and its age-old traditions like Yoga, Ayurveda, and diversity. He once stated that "having had the pleasure of visiting India so many times, I've always been struck by her extraordinary diversity and the deep well of creativity, ingenuity and resilience upon which she draws. This is a source of great inspiration to me personally".

Charles has been a strong advocate for global environmental concerns and climate change. He understands the

importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals. Over the decades, Charles developed close relations with many cities in India. They include Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Puri, and Punjab, apart from Delhi and Agra. He was comfortable with the Jaipur and Patiala royal families, who hosted him during his visits.

There were some embarrassing moments when the 16-year-old Bollywood actress Padmini Kolhapure gave him a peck on his cheek when he visited a Bollywood studio in 1980. The same year Charles had visited Hariipur village in the Puri district, going through the bumpy roads in the heat and dust. He showed interest in coconut

plucking, basket weaving, and paddy harvesting.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana's first visit to the country revealed a strained marriage. The unhappy Diana sat alone outside the Taj Mahal on a bench in February 1992, while Charles was in Hyderabad. King Charles and his present Queen Camilia have a Bengaluru connection. Dr Issac Mathai has been the holistic physician of the Royal couple for the past 15 years. Another memorable event was his interaction with Mumbai's 'Dabbawallahs' in 2003. He was curious about how they ride bicycles, lift crates full of tiffins and provide them to many people with punctuality. He invited them for his second marriage

to Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005, where they presented a nine-yard Paithani saree for the bride and a kurta lehenga for the groom.

Charles even celebrated his 71st birthday with school children at the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai in November 2019.

The Jullianwallah bagh carnage in Punjab has popped up often, even during one of the Queen's visits. Before his tenth visit, to mollify the Sikhs, Charles sent good wishes to them across Britain and the Commonwealth on the 550th Birth Anniversary of the religion's founder Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Long-time patrons of the Asian Elephant Alliance, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall wit-

nessed an official preview of the colourful elephant parade at the residence of the British High commissioner in Delhi in 2017. India has been changing since Independence with no fascination for colonialism. Colonial-era street names, redundant laws, and even flag symbols are changed. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the iconic Rajpath in Delhi to Kartavya path, claiming that "a new history has been created". The renovated avenue now has a statue of Subhash Chandra Bose in place of King George V.

Barely hours after the Queen's death, Indian social media made renewed calls to return the famous Koh-i-Noor, the 106-carat diamond discovered in India, which

has become part of the British crown jewels.

Charles hosted Modi in April 2018 at the Science Museum in London to establish a first-of-its-kind global network for evidence-based research on Yoga and Ayurveda. He spoke of his "great love for India" when he launched an emergency Covid appeal last year and helped raise millions for India.

Beyond his involvement with the Bharatiya Yuva Shakti trust, an NGO set up by Lakshmi Venkatesan, daughter of former President R. Venkataraman, he also helped farmers through his British Asian Trust and his encouragement of practitioners of Indian traditional medicine in India and the UK.

# No let-up in hostilities in Ukraine despite prisoner swap

AP ■ KYIV

Russian and Ukrainian forces exchanged missile and artillery barges that killed at least six people Thursday as both sides refused to concede any ground despite recent military setbacks for Moscow and the toll on the invaded country after almost seven months of war.

Russian missile strikes in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia left one person dead and five others wounded, Ukrainian officials said. Officials in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk said Ukrainian shelling killed at least five people.

Demonstrating that neither side was ready to ease up or pause the fighting, the exchange of fire came hours after the two sides made a major prisoner swap and the day after Russian President Vladimir Putin called up reserve troops to supplement his forces.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy of the Ukrainian president's office, said a hotel in the central part of Zaporizhzhia, said a hotel in the center of the city was struck and rescuers were trying to free people trapped in the rubble.

The governor of the Zaporizhzhia region, Oleksandr Starukh said Russian forces targeted infrastructure facilities and also damaged nearby apartment buildings. The region is one of four where officials installed by Moscow plan to hold referendums starting Friday on becoming part of Russia, but the city itself is in Ukrainian hands.

Meanwhile, the mayor of the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk, Alexei Kulemzin, said at least five people were killed when Ukrainian shelling Thursday hit a covered market and a passenger minibus.

Just hours before Thursday's attacks, a high-profile prisoner swap saw 215



Ukrainian and foreign fighters exchanged — 200 of them for a single person, an ally of Putin's. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov wouldn't confirm if the lone Putin ally - pro-

Russian Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Medvedchuk - was part of the swap.

Among the freed fighters were Ukrainian defenders of a steel plant in Mariupol during

a long Russian siege and 10 foreigners, including five British nationals and two U.S. Military veterans, who had fought with Ukrainian forces.

A video on the BBC news

website Thursday showed two of the released British men, Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner, speaking inside a plane. It said they had arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"We just want to let everyone know that we're now out of the danger zone and we're on our way home to our families," Aslin said in the video, as Pinner added: "By the skin of our teeth."

The speed with which the Russian missile attack came after the swap suggested that the Kremlin was seeking to dispel any notion of weakness or waning determination to achieve its war aims following recent battlefield losses and setbacks that gravely undercut the aura of Russian military might.

Those losses culminated Wednesday in Putin's order for a partial mobilization of reservists to bolster his forces in Ukraine. The order sparked rare protests in the Russia and was derided in the West as an

act of weakness and desperation.

The partial call-up was short on details, raising concerns of a wider draft that sent some Russians scrambling to buy plane tickets to flee the country.

Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said the mobilization was needed because Russia was "de facto facing all of NATO," a reference to the military aid and other support that alliance members have provided to Ukraine.

A senior Kremlin official on Thursday repeated Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons if Russian territory comes under attack.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council, said on his messaging app channel Thursday that strategic nuclear weapons are one of the options to safeguard Russian-controlled territories in eastern and southern Ukraine. The remark appeared to serve as a warning that

Moscow could also target Ukraine's Western allies.

Pro-Moscow authorities in Ukraine's Russian-controlled regions are preparing to hold referendums on becoming part of Russia — a move that could allow Moscow to escalate the war. The votes start Friday in the Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions.

Foreign leaders have called the votes illegitimate and non-binding. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said they were a "sham" and "noise" to distract the public.

— One person was killed during Russian shelling overnight in the center of Nikopol city, across the river from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, according to Dnipropetrovsk region governor Valentyn Reznichenko.

— The office of Zelenskyy's office said five people were killed by shelling in the Donetsk region over the past day.

## Zelenskyy: Russia not serious about ending Ukraine war

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy suggested Wednesday that Russia's decision to mobilize some reservists showed that Moscow isn't serious about negotiating an end to its nearly seven-month-long war.

Speaking by video to the UN General Assembly meeting of world leaders hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement, Zelenskyy insisted his country would prevail in repelling Russia's attack and forcing its troops out. "We can return the Ukrainian flag to our entire territory. We can do it with the force of arms," the president said. "But we need time."

Putin's decree Wednesday about the mobilization was sparse on details. Officials said as many as 3,00,000 reservists could be tapped. It was apparently an effort to seize momentum after a Ukrainian counteroffensive this month retook swaths of territory that Russians had held.

But the first such call-up in Russia since World War II also brings the fighting home in a new way for Russians and risks



fanning domestic anxiety and antipathy toward the war. Shortly after Putin's announcement, flights out of the country rapidly filled up, and hundreds of people were arrested at antiwar demonstrations across the country.

A day earlier, Russian-controlled parts of eastern and southern Ukraine announced plans for referendums on becoming parts of Russia. Ukrainian leaders and their Western allies consider the votes illegitimate.

Zelenskyy didn't discuss the developments in detail. But he suggested any Russian talk of negotiations is only a

delaying tactic, and that Moscow's actions speak louder than its words.

"They talk about the talks but announce military mobilization. They talk about the talks but announce pseudo-referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine," he said.

Russia hasn't yet had its turn to speak at the gathering.

Putin, who is not attending the event, has said he sent his armed forces into Ukraine because of risks to his country's security from what he considers a hostile government in Kyiv; to liberate Russians living in Ukraine — especially its eastern Donbas region — from

what he views as the Ukrainian government's oppression; and to restore what he considers to be Russia's historical territorial claims on the country.

Zelenskyy's speech was striking not only for its contents but also its context. It took place after the extraordinary mobilization announcement. It was the first time he addressed the world's leaders gathered together since Russia invaded in February.

It wasn't delivered at the august rostrum where other presidents, prime ministers and monarchs speak — but instead by video from a nation at war after Zelenskyy was granted special permission to not come in person. He appeared as he has in many previous video appearances — in an olive green T-shirt. He sat at a table with a Ukrainian flag behind his right shoulder and large image of the UN flag and Ukraine's behind his left shoulder.

The leader opined that Moscow wants to spend the winter preparing its forces in Ukraine for a new offensive, or at least preparing fortifications while mobilizing more troops in the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II.

## Ukraine's Mariupol defenders, Putin ally in prisoner swap

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine announced a high-profile prisoner swap early Thursday that was the culmination of months of efforts to free many of the Ukrainian fighters who defended a steel plant in Mariupol during a long Russian siege. In exchange, Ukraine gave up a prominent ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and 55 other prisoners.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his government had won freedom from Russian custody for 215 Ukrainian and foreign citizens, with the help of Turkish and Saudi mediation efforts. He said many were soldiers and officers who had faced the death penalty in Russian-occupied territory. Russian officials didn't immediately confirm or otherwise comment on what appeared to be the biggest prisoner swap during the nearly seven-month war.

Of the total, 200 Ukrainians were exchanged for just one man - pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Medvedchuk, who is Ukrainian. The 68-year-old oligarch escaped from house arrest in Ukraine several days before Russia's invasion Feb. 24 but was recaptured in April. He faced up to life in prison on charges of treason and aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation for mediating coal purchases for the separatist, Russia-backed Donetsk republic in eastern Ukraine.

Medvedchuk came to know Putin while serving as chief of staff for former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. The Russian leader is the godfather of



Medvedchuk's daughter. His detention sparked a heated exchange between officials in Moscow and Kyiv.

Medvedchuk is the head of the political council of Ukraine's pro-Russian Opposition Platform-For Life party, the largest opposition group in Ukraine's parliament. The Ukrainian government has suspended the party's activity; Putin has repeatedly spoken about Medvedchuk as a victim of political repression.

"It is not a pity to give up Medvedchuk for real warriors," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video speech. "He has passed all the investigative actions provided by law. Ukraine has received from him everything necessary to establish the truth in the framework of criminal proceedings."

In another swap, Ukraine gained the release of five commanders who led Ukraine's defence of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol in exchange for 55 Russian prisoners it was holding, Zelenskyy said.

More than 2,000 defenders, many in the Azov Regiment, marched out of the

Azovstal steel plant's twisted wreckage into Russian captivity in mid-May, ending a nearly three-month siege of the port city of Mariupol.

Zelenskyy said the five leaders, including Azov Regiment commanders Denys Prokopenko and Svyatoslav Palamar, are in Turkey, where they will remain as part of the deal "in complete safety" until the end of the war, under the protection of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The complex prisoner swap also brought the release of 10 foreigners, including five British nationals and two US military veterans, who had fought with Ukrainian forces. They were released by Russian-backed separatists as part of an exchange mediated by Saudi Arabia, US and Saudi officials said. A video on the BBC news website Thursday showed two of the released British men, Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner, speaking inside a plane.

"We just want to let everyone know that we're now out of the danger zone and we're on our way home to our families," Aslin said in the video, as Pinner added: "By the skin of our teeth."

The BBC reported that the two men, along with a third British detainee, John Harding, have arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It said they appeared to be accompanied by a group of Saudi officials.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the exchanges, calling them "no small feat," but adding that "much more remains to be done to ease the suffering caused by the war in Ukraine," his spokesman said.

**UJVNL Limited**  
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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866  
Website : www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 681

**Tender Notice**

Dated : 22/09/2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-1), UJVNL Limited, Guptkashi, Rudraprayag, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-  
Tender No.: 09/EE (Civil-1)/ Guptkashi/2022-23  
Name of work: Special Repair & Maintenance work at approach road of Kaliganga-I SHP (2x2 MW) in Distt- Rudraprayag.  
Estimated Cost: Rs 12.25 Lakh (Plus GST Extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 22.09.2022 from 17:00 Hrs onwards  
Last date for submission of Tender: 17.10.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)"  
**Executive Engineer (Civil-I)**  
**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**  
**DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and  
In the matter of **AGRANTE DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".  
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address **DTJ-704, 7TH FLOOR DLF TOWERS- B, JASOLA NEW DELHI 110025** within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:  
**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Gurnam Singh**  
**Director**  
**DIN: 02128421**  
**Date: 23/09/2022**  
**Place: New Delhi**

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**  
**DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and  
In the matter of **AGRANTE LEISURE PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".  
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address **DTJ-704, 7TH FLOOR DLF TOWERS- B, JASOLA NEW DELHI 110025** within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:  
**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Arvinder Singh**  
**Director**  
**DIN: 00112063**  
**Date: 23/09/2022**  
**Place: New Delhi**

## Baltics say no automatic asylum for Russians fleeing draft

AP ■ VILINIUS (LITHUANIA)

The three Baltic states say they are not prepared to automatically offer asylum to Russians fleeing mobilisation into the military, hoping that discontent with the Russian authorities will grow at home instead.

Large numbers of Russians rushed on Wednesday to book one-way tickets out of the country after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilisation of military reservists for the war in Ukraine.

There was little sign of any

pressure at the borders of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania after those countries closed their borders to most Russians earlier in the week.

In Latvia, Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics said on Thursday that Latvia would not issue humanitarian or other visas to Russians seeking to avoid mobilisation, citing security reasons.

"We must not give in to his (Putin's) blackmail and must support Ukraine as much as we can. Russia today is as dangerous to Europe and world peace as Nazi Germany was in the last



century," said Rinkevics, according to the Baltic News Service.

Meanwhile Lithuanian Defence Minister Arvydas Anusauskas said on Thursday

that "being drafted into the army is not enough" of a reason for Russians to get asylum in his country, which borders the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

"Political asylum is granted to those who are persecuted for their beliefs" or other similar reasons, Anusauskas told The Associated Press.

On Wednesday, Estonian Interior Minister Lauri Laanemets called Russia's invasion of Ukraine "the collective responsibility of Russian citizens" and argued that allowing in those fleeing possible army service would violate European Union sanctions aimed at Moscow.

"Putin's latest move in some ways reinforces the sanctions we have imposed to date, because it will hopefully

increase discontent among the population," Laanemets was quoted by BNS as saying.

"It is no longer just professional soldiers, people from remote regions or convicts who are being sent to the front, but the desire is for everyone to be relegated to cannon fodder," he said.

Russians seeking to avoid being called up to fight are primarily flying to countries which still have direct plane connections, such as Serbia, Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia — flights that quickly sold out after Putin's announcement of a partial mobilisation.

**SRF LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091  
Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003  
Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870; Fax : (+91-11) 49482900  
E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

**NOTICE**

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

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (from)	Dist-No. (to)	Lost Shares
1	SRF0118764	V K GUPTA	573855-7	26259367	26259516	150
2	SRF0109520	H B STOCKHOLDINGS LIMITED	90032084-5	7315466	7315545	80
			90119986-7	7315386	7315405	20
3	SRF0103341	SHLOK DEEPANKAR (Deceased Shareholder)	394136	17498825	17498874	50
		INDRA GUPTA (Jt. Holder 1 & Claimant)				
4	SRF0042115	GORDHANDAS LILADHER (Deceased Shareholder)	90088163-5	9605306	9605405	100
		MRUDULA GORDHANDAS (Jt. Holder 1 & Claimant)	90197375	15210515	15210564	50
		PANKAJ GORDHANDAS (Jt. Holder 2)				

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

for SRF LIMITED

Sd/-  
**RAJAT LAKHANPAL**  
Vice President (Corporate Compliance)  
& Company Secretary

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 22-09-2022

## At UN, Russia's war in Ukraine is both text and subtext

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

After two years of discourse dominated by the coronavirus pandemic, this year's UN General Assembly has a new occupant of center stage: the war in Ukraine.

The pleas made by leaders from around the world for peace were both an altruistic amplification of besieged Ukrainians' plight as well as born from self-interest. As several speeches made clear, the repercussions of the Russian invasion have been felt even thousands of miles away.

"It is not just the dismay that we feel at seeing such deliberate devastation of cities and towns in Europe in the year 2022. We are feeling this war directly in our lives in Africa," Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said Wednesday. "Every bullet, every bomb, every shell that hits a target in Ukraine, hits our pockets and our economies in Africa."

The speeches that elided any direct reference to the conflict were few, but the war resonated even in the absence of its direct invocation.



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the president of Kazakhstan, never let the words "Ukraine" or "Russia" slip from his lips, but he made several seemingly pointed allusions.

He opened his remarks by painting a bleak picture of a world catapulted into a "new, increasingly bitter period of geopolitical confrontation" that's engendered "the prospect of the use of nuclear weapons, and not even as a last resort."

Just hours later, Russian President Vladimir Putin — who is not attending the UN General Assembly — declared that he would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons to defend his country's territory.

Russia is a key ally of Kazakhstan, and the war in Ukraine has left the former Soviet country in an awkward spot. Tokayev performed a similar dance last week during Pope Francis' visit, refusing to speak directly about Ukraine while generally decrying a morbid state of affairs.

On Tuesday, Tokayev laid out "three primordial principles: the sovereign equality of states, the territorial integrity of states, and peaceful coexistence between states."

"These three principles are interdependent. To respect one is to respect the other two. To undermine one is to undermine the other two," he said.

The theme of territorial sovereignty resonated in other speeches, as countries who have faced infringements invoked their own traumas or cited the fate of Ukraine as a fear.



# House passes election law overhaul in response to Jan 6

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House has passed legislation to overhaul the rules for certifying the results of a presidential election as lawmakers accelerate their response to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and Donald Trump's failed attempt to remain in power.

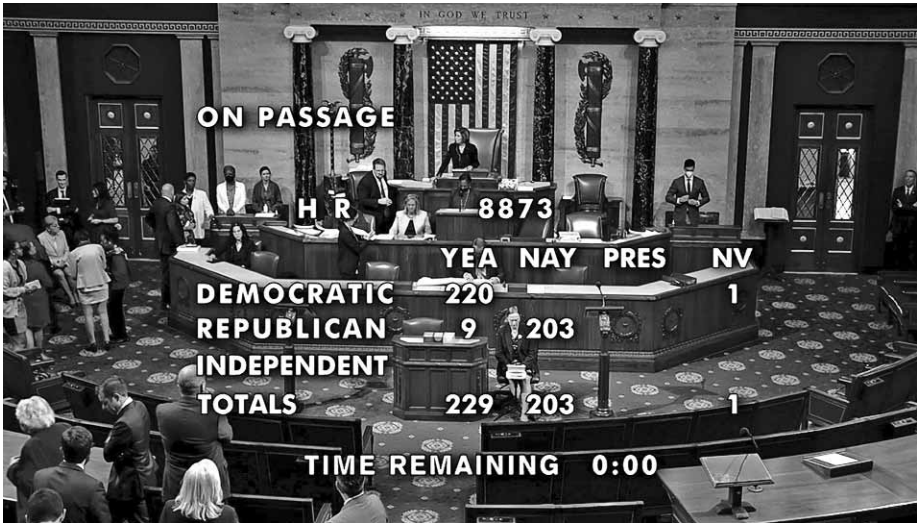
The bill, which is similar to bipartisan legislation moving through the Senate, would overhaul an arcane 1800s-era statute known as the Electoral Count Act that governs, along with the US Constitution, how states and Congress certify electors and declare presidential election winners.

While that process has long been routine and ceremonial, Trump and a group of his aides and lawyers unsuccessfully tried to exploit loopholes in the law in an attempt to overturn his defeat to Joe Biden in the 2020 election. Democrats are pushing to pass the bill before the end of the year and ahead of the 2024 election cycle as Trump is considering another run.

While at least 10 GOP senators have signed on to the Senate version, the House vote fell mostly along party lines. House Republicans — most of whom are still aligned with Trump — argued that the legislation shouldn't be a priority and that it is a political vehicle for Democrats ahead of November's midterm elections.

The final vote was 229-203, with nine Republicans joining all Democrats in voting for the bill. None of the nine Republicans is returning to Congress next year.

The legislation would set new parameters around the Jan.



6 joint session of Congress that happens every four years after a presidential election.

The day turned violent last year after hundreds of Trump's supporters interrupted the proceedings, broke into the building and threatened the lives of then-Vice President Mike Pence and members of Congress. The rioters echoed Trump's false claims of widespread fraud and wanted Pence to block Biden's victory as he presided over the joint session.

The legislation intends to ensure that future Jan. 6 sessions are "as the constitution envisioned, a ministerial day," said Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a Republican who co-sponsored the legislation with House Administration Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. Both Cheney and Lofgren are also members of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack.

Ahead of the vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the legislation is necessary as there

have been attempts in states across the country to change election laws to make it easier to nullify future results.

"Now we have a solemn duty to ensure that future efforts to undermine our elections cannot succeed," Pelosi said.

The bill would clarify in the law that the vice president's role presiding over the count is only ceremonial and that he or she cannot change the results. It also sets out that each state can only send one certified set of electors after Trump's allies had unsuccessfully tried to put together alternate slates of illegitimate pro-Trump electors in swing states where Biden won.

"This bill will make it harder to convince people that they have the right to overthrow an election," Lofgren said.

The legislation would increase the threshold for individual lawmakers' objections to any state's electoral votes, requiring a third of the House and a third of the Senate to

object to trigger votes on the results in both chambers.

Currently, only one lawmaker in the House and one lawmaker in the Senate has to object. The House bill would set out very narrow grounds for those objections, an attempt to thwart baseless or politically motivated challenges.

In addition, the bill would require courts to get involved if state or local officials want to delay a presidential vote or refuse to certify the results.

The House vote comes as the Senate is moving on a similar track with enough Republican support to virtually ensure passage before the end of the year. After months of talks, House Democrats introduced their legislation Monday and held the quick vote two days later in order to send the bill across the Capitol and start to resolve differences. A bipartisan group of senators introduced legislation this summer and a Senate committee is expected to vote on it next week.

# Nine killed as Iran protests spread over woman's death

AP ■ DUBAI

Clashes between Iranian security forces and protesters angry over the death of a 22-year-old woman in police custody have killed at least nine people since the violence erupted over the weekend, according to a tally on Thursday by The Associated Press.

Widespread outages of Instagram and WhatsApp, which protesters use to share information about the government's rolling crackdown on dissent, continued on Thursday.

Authorities also appeared to disrupt internet access to the outside world, a tactic that rights activists say the government often employs in times of unrest.

The demonstrations in Iran began as an emotional outpouring over the death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman held by the country's morality police for allegedly violating its strictly enforced dress code.

Her death has sparked sharp condemnation from the United States, the European Union and the United Nations. The police say she died of a heart attack and was not mistreated, but her family has cast doubt on that account.

The protests have grown in the last four days into an open challenge to the government, with women removing their state-mandated headscarves in the streets and Iranians setting trash bins ablaze and calling for the downfall of the Islamic Republic itself.

"Death to the dictator!" has been a common cry in the protests.

Demonstrations have also rocked university campuses in Tehran and far flung western cities such as Kermanshah.



Although widespread, the unrest appears distinct from earlier rounds of nationwide protests triggered by pocket-book issues as Iran's economy staggers under heavy US sanctions.

The unrest that erupted in 2019 over the government's abrupt gasoline price hike mobilised working class masses in small towns.

Hundreds were killed as security forces cracked down, according to human rights groups, the deadliest violence since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran's state-run media this week reported demonstrations in at least 13 cities, including the capital, Tehran, as protesters vent anger over social repression.

Videos online show security forces firing tear gas and water canons to disperse the protests. London-based Amnesty International reported that officers fired birdshot and beat protesters with batons.

At least nine people have died in the confrontations, according to an AP count based on statements from Iran's

state-run and semiofficial media.

Officials have blamed unnamed foreign countries, which they claim are trying to foment unrest.

In Amini's home province in the northwest, Kurdistan, the provincial police chief said four protesters were killed by live fire.

In Kermanshah, the prosecutor said two protesters were killed by opposition groups, insisting that the bullets were not fired by Iran's security forces.

Meanwhile, three men affiliated with the Basij, a volunteer force under the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, were also killed in clashes in the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz and Mashhad, semiofficial media reported, bringing the death toll on both sides to nine.

As the protests spread, authorities shut down the internet in parts of the country, according to NetBlocks, a London-based group that monitors internet access, describing the restrictions as the most severe since the mass protests of November 2019.



# Contested Jerusalem holy site: Hamas threatens violence

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Palestinian militant group Hamas on Thursday threatened hostile actions against Israel over what it called "violations against Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque" ahead of the upcoming Jewish High Holidays.

Hamas's threats came just ahead of Sunday's Jewish new year, and a day after a group of Jewish religious extremists visited a contested holy site revered by both Jews and Muslims and blew the shofar — a ram's horn that's trumpeted in the run-up to and during the Jewish High Holidays.

The Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah, begins at sundown on Sunday, and in the succeeding weeks thousands of Israelis are expected to visit Jerusalem.

Omer Barlev, Israel's minister in charge of police, told Kan public radio on Wednesday that Israeli authorities would not limit Jewish visits to the contested Jerusalem holy site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Visitations and prayers by hard-line Jewish radicals at the site have triggered previous rounds of violence between Israel and the Palestinians.

For Jews, the site is the holiest on earth, the location of two ancient Temples.

# Khmer Rouge tribunal ends work after 16 years, 3 judgments

AP ■ PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA)

The international court convened in Cambodia to judge the Khmer Rouge for its brutal 1970s rule ended its work on Thursday after spending USD 337 million and 16 years to convict just three men of crimes after the regime cause the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people.

In its final session, the UN-assisted tribunal rejected an appeal by Khieu Samphan, the last surviving leader of the Khmer Rouge government that ruled Cambodia from 1975-79.

It reaffirmed the life sentence he received after being convicted in 2018 of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Busloads of ordinary Cambodians turned up to watch the final proceedings of a tribunal that had sought to bring justice, accountability and explanations for the crimes.

Many of those attending Thursday's session lived through the Khmer Rouge

terror, including survivors Bou Meng and Chum Mey, who had given evidence at the tribunal over the years.

Khieu Samphan, sitting in a wheelchair and wearing a white windbreaker and a face mask, listened to the proceedings on headphones.

He was the group's nominal head of state but, in his trial defence, denied having real decision-making powers when the Khmer Rouge carried out a reign of terror to establish a utopian agrarian society, causing Cambodians' deaths from execution, starvation and inadequate medical care.

It was ousted from power in 1979 by an invasion from neighbouring communist state Vietnam.

"No matter what you decide, I will die in prison," Khieu Samphan said in his final statement of appeal to the court last year.

"I will die always remembering the suffering of my Cambodian people. I will die seeing that I am alone in front of you. I am judged symbolically rather



than by my actual deeds as an individual."

His appeal alleged the court made errors in legal procedures and interpretation and acted unfairly, making objections to more than 1,800 points.

But the court noted on Thursday that his appeal did not directly question the facts of the case as presented in

court. It rejected almost all arguments raised by Khieu Samphan, acknowledging an error and reversing its ruling on one minor count.

The court said it found the vast majority of Khieu Samphan's arguments "unfounded," and that many were "alternative interpretations of the evidence."

Thursday's ruling makes little practical difference. Khieu Samphan is 91 and already serving another life sentence for his 2014 conviction for crimes against humanity connected with forced transfers and disappearances of masses of people.

The court ordered that Khieu Samphan, who was arrested in 2007, be returned to the specially constructed jail where he has been kept.

His co-defendant Nuon Chea, the Khmer Rouge's No. 2 leader and chief ideologist, was convicted twice and received the same life sentence. Nuon Chea died in 2019 at age 93.

# 6.8 magnitude earthquake shakes Mexico, 1 dead



AP ■ MEXICO CITY

A powerful magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Mexico early Thursday, causing at least two deaths, damaging buildings and setting off landslides.

The earthquake struck at 1:19 a.M. Near the epicenter of a magnitude 7.6 quake that hit three days earlier in the western state of Michoacan. It was also blamed for two deaths.

The US Geological Survey said Thursday's earthquake was centered 31 miles (50 kilometers) south-southwest of Aguillilla, Michoacan, at a depth of 15 miles (24.1 kilometers).

Michoacan's state government said the quake was felt throughout the state. It reported damage to a building in the city of Uruapan and some landslides on highways.



# Uganda confirms 7 Ebola cases, races to halt outbreak

AP ■ KAMPALA (UGANDA)

Uganda confirmed seven Ebola infections on Thursday as authorities try to track down 43 contacts of known Ebola patients two days after authorities in the East African country announced an outbreak of the contagious disease.

A total of eight deaths, including one confirmed, are "attributable to the virus," said Dr. Henry Kyobe, a Ugandan military officer who is tracking Ebola cases.

He spoke of a "rapidly evolving" situation where "we think cases may rise in a few days."

The epicentre of the outbreak is the central Ugandan district of Mubende, whose main town lies along a highway into the capital, Kampala.

That travel link and several crowded artisanal gold mines there is concerning, Kyobe told the World Health Organisation.

Ugandan authorities have not yet found the source of the

outbreak, and neither have they discovered the key first case. But they were able to confirm an Ebola outbreak of the Sudan type earlier this week after testing a sample from a 24-year-old man who had been initially treated for other illnesses, including malaria and pneumonia, when he sought care in his home town.

Six others in the same area, including three children, died earlier in September after suffering what local officials called a strange illness.

There is no proven vaccine for the Sudan strain of Ebola, and "its very critical at this point that we treat this outbreak as serious, because we may not have the advantage that we have gained in terms of the advancement in medical countermeasures," said Dr. Patrick Otim, an epidemiologist with WHO in Africa.

Ebola, which is spread by contact with bodily fluids of an infected person or contaminated materials, manifests as a deadly hemorrhagic fever.

# UK Govt formally confirms lifting of fracking ban

AP ■ LONDON

The UK government formally confirmed on Thursday that it's lifting a ban on fracking in England, arguing that the move will help boost the country's energy security amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Liz Truss announced within days of taking office earlier this month that she would reverse a 2019 ban on hydraulic fracturing, a controversial technique used to extract oil and gas from shale rock.

Britain needs to "explore all avenues available to us through solar, wind, oil and gas production — so it's right that we've lifted the pause to realise any potential sources of domestic gas", business and energy secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg said on Thursday.

Truss said she "will not be going ahead with anything that carries a risk", but stressed that "energy security is vital".

The UK government suspended fracking in November 2019, saying it wasn't possible to accurately predict tremors associated with the drilling.

## BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and In the matter of **AGRANTE INFRA LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address **DTJ-704, 7TH FLOOR DLF TOWERS- B, JASOLA NEW DELHI 110025** within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Arvinder Singh**  
Director  
DIN: 00112063

Date: 23/09/2022  
Place: New Delhi

## BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and In the matter of **AGRANTE REALTY LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address **DTJ-704, 7TH FLOOR DLF TOWERS- B, JASOLA NEW DELHI 110025** within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Gurmeet Singh Kalsi**  
Director  
DIN: 01137469

Date: 23/09/2022  
Place: New Delhi

## STATE BANK OF INDIA

Bahadurgarh Main Branch, District Jhajjar Ph. No. 01276-230617  
Email Id: sbi.00743@sbi.co.in

### [Rule-8(1)] SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of the State Bank of India, Bahadurgarh Main Branch, District Jhajjar under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on date mentioned below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 21th day of Sept. of year 2022.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Bahadurgarh Main Branch, District Jhajjar. for an amount mentioned here below besides interest.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No	Name of Borrower / Guarantor & Loan A/c No.	Description of the immovable mortgage	Date of demand notice	Amount as per demand notice	Date of possession notice
1.	Brower M/s Chahar Tractors Near Ram Cinema Jhajjar Road Bahadurgarh-124507 through its Partner I. Sahil Kumar R/o H No A-3/153, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085	Equitable Mortgage of Property Freehold DDA built up MIG Flat No 136, 3rd Floor, Pocket -07, Sec-12, Dwarka Residential Scheme Dwarka, Phase-1, New Delhi vide Sale deed no 7940, Vol No 2079 dt 27.05.2005 in the name of Smt Sulaxna w/o Sh Satish Kumar.	16-07-2022	Rs.30,00,782/- (Rupees Thirty lakh and seven hundred eighty two rupees only) as on 15-07-2022	21-09-2022

Date: 23/09/2022  
Place: Bahadurgarh (Jhajjar)

State Bank of India  
(Authorized Officer)

## NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. **230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14-2RT**. The details are as under:

1	Name of the Work	Overhauling of Air Dryer of Trident make of Electric Locomotive.
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 47,87,984.52
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 95,800.00
4	Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender.	14.10.2022 (11:00 Hrs.)
5	Date & Time of Opening of tender document	14.10.2022 (After 11:00 Hrs.)
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14-2RT Dated: 21-09-2022 2483/22

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## PERFECTPAC LIMITED

CIN: L72100DL1972PLC005971  
Regd. Off.: 910, Chiranjiv Tower-43, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019  
Phone No. 011-26441015-18, Website: [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com)  
E-mail id: [complianceofficer@perfectpac.com](mailto:complianceofficer@perfectpac.com)

### NOTICE OF RECORD DATE FOR SUB-DIVISION/SPLIT OF EQUITY SHARES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Company has passed the Resolution through Circulation on Thursday, September 22, 2022, has approved and fixed the "Record Date" on **Friday, October 21, 2022** for the purpose of ascertaining the name of shareholders entitled for Sub-division/Split of every 1 (one) Equity Share of the Company having face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) each fully paid up into 5 (five) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 2/- (Rupees Two) each, as approved by the shareholders at Annual General Meeting of the Company held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 through Video Conferencing or Other Audio Visual Means.

The above information is available on the website of the Company [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com) and on the website of the stock exchange where the shares of the Company are listed, i.e., BSE Limited [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

For Perfectpac Limited  
Sd/-  
Sanjay Rajgarhia  
Managing Director

Place : New Delhi  
Dated : 22.09.2022



# Flagship schemes portal to help food processing units

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The convergence portal of the Government's three flagship schemes implemented by agriculture and food processing ministries will help micro units engaged in food processing, according to the Union Food Processing Ministry.

The convergence portal between the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on September 21.

After the launch, both Food Processing Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had expressed confidence that this initiative will add a new chapter in the lives of micro units engaged in food processing.

According to the food processing ministry, through this convergence, the eligible beneficiaries under PMFME and PMKSY schemes availing credit-linked subsidy would be able to avail an additional benefit of interest subvention at 3 per cent on the interest rate being charged by the banks over and above 35 per cent subsidy provided under the PMFME.

For the ease of approval of projects under both schemes, the AIF MIS portal has been modified for the acceptance of applications from the benefi-



ciaries under the PMFME and PMKSY scheme.

The PMFME beneficiaries would be able to apply directly for the benefit of interest subvention on the AIF portal with the detailed project report (DPR) approved under the PMFME, the ministry said in a statement.

Similarly, AIF beneficiaries eligible under the PMFME scheme can seek additional benefits of subsidy by applying in the PMFME MIS portal with the sanction letter under AIF and DPR, it added.

AIF, implemented by the Agriculture Ministry, is a medium to long-term debt financing facility started in July 2020

for the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and building of community farming assets. Benefits under the scheme include 3 per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

The two other schemes PMFME and PMKSY are implemented by the Food Processing Ministry.

PMFME provides financial, technical and business support for the upgradation of micro food processing enterprises in the country, while PMKSY is envisaged as a comprehensive package that will result in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management

# Sensex tumbles 337 pts post Fed rate hike; FMCG cos buck trend

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks retreated for the second session on the trot on Thursday, in lock-step with a bearish trend overseas after the US Federal Reserve increased interest rates by 75 basis points and projected more rate hikes to quell scorching inflation.

The rupee plunging 90 paise to an all-time closing low of 80.96 against the US dollar further weighed on sentiment.

The hawkish stance by US Fed and anticipated rate increases by other global central banks sparked a sell-off across emerging markets, hitting equities, currencies and other asset classes.

Falling for the second session, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 337.06 points or 0.57 per cent to close at 59,119.72. During the day, it tanked 624 points or 1.04 per cent to 58,832.78.

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty went lower by 88.55 points or 0.50 per cent to end at 17,629.80.

PowerGrid was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, dropping 2.80 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and UltraTech Cement.

On the other hand, Titan, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Maruti, ITC and Dr Reddy's were among the gainers, sporting as much as 2.73 per cent.

"Fed turned more hawkish



than anticipated increasing its rate forecast to 4.4 per cent by the end of 2022. The indication is that 125 bps more rate hikes can be expected in the next 2 policy meetings scheduled this year. Following this, the US dollar index rose above 111, depreciating INR to beyond 80.

"Indian stock market was able to sustain its resilience with limited cuts but if the rupee continues its weakness domestic market would turn less attractive for foreign investors in the short-term, effecting performance," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "Recessionary fears could keep globally linked sectors like IT, metals and pharma under pressure for some time."

"On the other hand, consumption and crude inputs sectors like FMCG, paints, tyres and autos are likely to benefit from strong domestic demand and fall in commodity prices," he added.

# Rupee tanks 83 paise to close at all-time low of 80.79 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged by 83 paise — its biggest single-day loss in nearly seven months — to close at an all-time low of 80.79 against the US dollar on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and its hawkish stance weighed on investor sentiments.

Forex traders said the US Fed's rate hike and escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine sapped risk appetite.

Moreover, the strength of the American currency in the overseas market, a muted trend in domestic equities, risk-off mood and firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 80.27, then fell further to an all-time intraday low of 80.95 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 80.79, down 83 paise over its previous close of 79.96. The rupee suffered its biggest single-day fall since February 24 when it had declined by 99 paise.

The US Fed hiked interest rates by 75 basis points to 3-3.25 per cent. It was the third straight 75 basis points hike. Fed Chair Jerome Powell reiterated the central bank's commitment to taming inflation.

Focus will be on Bank of Japan (BoJ) and Bank of England (BoE) monetary policies next, forex traders said.

Meanwhile, the dollar



index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.38 per cent to 110.06.

Besides the hawkish US Fed stance, the US Dollar extended gains against its major crosses after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced partial military mobilisation.

"An aggressive Fed Chair Jerome Powell and Russian President Vladimir Putin's escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine turned on the green light for King Dollar against most currencies," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Rupee along with other Asian peers tumbled to a record low.

"We believe the current downtrend in the rupee may continue for a while even after strong domestic fundamentals. The local currency will react to a stronger greenback but there could be outperformance among the regional currencies," Parmar said, adding that spot USD-INR now has resistance in the area of 81.25 to 81.40 while the previous top 80.12 would act as support.

# Air India signs agreement with Willis Lease Finance Corp



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Air India on Thursday said it has signed a definitive sale and lease back agreement with Nasdaq-listed Willis Lease Finance Corporation for 34 CFM56-5B engines installed on its Airbus A320 family fleet.

The engines will be covered under Willis Lease's ConstantThrust, which will deliver significant reliability and cost savings over a traditional MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operations) shop

visit programme, the company said in a statement.

Under the sale side of the transaction, Willis Lease will purchase 34 engines from Air India, powering 13 Airbus A321 aircraft and four Airbus A320 aircraft, it said.

Through the programme, Willis Lease will provide replacement and standby spare engines, allowing the airline to avoid potentially costly and unpredictable shop visits on engines powering a transitioning aircraft fleet.

# 'Recent rain in Jharkhand, Bihar, & UP to slavage kharif paddy production loss to some extent'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Recent good rains in Jharkhand, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh will save the paddy crop and arrest to some extent the anticipated loss in India's rice output in this Kharif season, according to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Director A K Singh.

In its first estimate, the Agriculture Ministry has pegged a 6 per cent drop in the rice production at 104.99 million tonnes in the Kharif season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), from over the year-ago period.

Paddy is the main Kharif (summer) crop, sowing of which had begun with the onset of the Southwest Monsoon in June and harvesting starts next month. Speaking to PTI, IARI Director A K Singh said the lag in paddy sowing due to poor rains in a few states has been a cause of concern.

Fortunately in the last few days, there have been good rains in eastern UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. This has come as a great relief to farmers as at this

particular time water is required for the long-duration paddy varieties crop, he said.

The paddy crop is in the most active phase of growth and this rain will be very helpful, he said, and added, "This (rains) will in fact cool down the anticipated paddy crop loss of 10-15 per cent due to non-availability of rains and poor irrigation."

The rice production loss will be arrested to some extent, which will be captured in the next crop estimate by the ministry, he added.

Till last week, paddy coverage remained lower mainly in Jharkhand by 9.37 lakh hectares, followed by Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh hectares), West Bengal (3.65 lakh hectares), Uttar Pradesh (2.48 lakh hectares) and Bihar (1.97 lakh hectares) on account of poor rainfall.

The IARI Director said otherwise, the paddy prospects are bright in the northwestern states of Punjab, western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Many states have started the harvest of early varieties of paddy like in Pusa-Basmati variety 1509 and 1692.

# Gold jumps ₹442; silver climbs ₹558

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national capital rose by Rs 442 to Rs 50,399 per 10 grams on Thursday amid a rise in international precious metal prices and sharp rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 49,957 per 10 grams.

Silver also climbed by Rs 558 to Rs 58,580 per kilogram from Rs 58,022 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee depreciated 51 paise to an all-time low of 80.47 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and its hawkish stance weighed on investor sentiments.



In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,677 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 19.69 per ounce.

"Gold prices recovered sharply paring early losses as dollar index fell from 20 year highs during the day," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

# BPO services provider ICCS plans to hire over 7,000 people in next 12 months



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Business process outsourcing service provider ICCS on Thursday said it plans to hire over 7,000 people in the next 12 months across business verticals.

ICCS currently has delivery centres in eight locations and manages 15 million customer interactions every month with the support of over 6,600 executives, ICCS said in a statement. The company will consider hiring 7,000 talent in a variety of areas, including customer support, operations, out-

bound and inbound support, market research, human resource, finance, marketing, customer satisfaction surveys among others.

ICCS, after generating Rs 115 crore in revenue in 2021-2022, now aims to reach Rs 175 crore by the end of this financial year.

"Alongside actively recruiting new talent, we onboard 500 plus callers every month across multiple geographies so that we are able to serve our diverse customer base better," ICCS CEO and founder Divij Singhal added.

# Ageas Federal Life Insurance becomes first life insurer with foreign partner as majority stakeholder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ageas Federal Life Insurance on Thursday said its partner Ageas Insurance International has raised its stake to 74 per cent, making the company the country's first life insurer having a foreign partner as majority shareholder.

Belgium-based shareholder Ageas Insurance International NV has completed the acquisition of the remaining 25 per cent stake from IDBI Bank, taking its overall stake to 74 per cent from the earlier-held 49 per cent, a company release said.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### SRM OBSERVES WORLD TOURISM DAY

**Kattankulathur:** SRM Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur observed World Tourism Day at the institute's premises.

The chief guest of the event was Sandeep Nanduri, Director of Tourism and Managing Director of Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC). The guest of honor was Manpreet Kaur, Managing Director of VIMAAN Aviation Academy & Executive Cabin crew of Gulf Stream. The event was presided over by SRMIST's Registrar S.Ponnusamy, Director (IHM) D. Antony Ashok Kumar, and Vice Principal (IHM) Lalitha Shri among others.



### CLIMATE CHANGE BURDENS WOMEN WORKERS

**Mumbai:** The impact of climate change and its mitigation or adaptation measures that exclude women in decision-making and overlook their specific needs can compound the challenges to achieving gender equality in the world of work. For the past 10 years, ActionAid Association (AAA) has been working closely with women groups of Cooch Behar, which is experiencing extreme weather events, and engaging with tea plantation workers of the neighbouring communities, said Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director

### HEALTHY WORKPLACE AIDS TO REVENUE GROWTH

**Mumbai:** As per a recent Health & Wellness survey conducted by MediBuddy, a healthy workplace contributes significantly to revenue growth. The survey involves a workforce of more than 150 corporate clientele across the IT/ITES, banking, FMCG, manufacturing, and allied sectors. "There's an old adage 'health is wealth'. It holds even more prominence and value in today's day and age," said Satish Kannan, co-founder & CEO, MediBuddy.

# Loan disbursals by microfinance institutions rise in Q1 of 2023

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Loan disbursals by microfinance institutions during the first quarter of 2022-23 increased to ₹45,830 crore as compared to ₹25,503 crore in the same period last fiscal, a report by Micro-Finance Institutions Network (MFIN) said.

MFIN, a self-regulatory organisation recognised by RBI, said in the report that the number of loans disbursed in the first quarter of the current fiscal stood at 116 lakh, as compared to 71 lakh in the same period of last financial year.

CEO of MFIN Alok Misra said in a statement that after the announcement of harmonised regulations for microfinance, most of the institutions took some time in making policy changes and adapting to new guidelines, but were still able to record a growth of 23.5 per cent in portfolio on a year-on-year basis.

"This will see further strengthening in the coming quarters with a supportive operating and regulatory environment," he added.

# MFIs' gross loan portfolio rises 23.5% to ₹2.93 L crore as of June 2022

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Micro lenders' gross loan portfolio (GLP) rose by 23.5 per cent to ₹93,154 crore in the April-June quarter of 2022 compared to the year-ago period, a report said on Thursday.

The GLP grew 2.7 per cent during the June quarter compared to ₹2.85 lakh crore at the end of the preceding March quarter, the report by industry lobby grouping and RBI-recognised self-regulatory organization Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) said.

The body's chief executive

and director Alok Misra said he expects a further strengthening of the portfolios in the coming quarters with a supportive operating and regulatory environment.

"After the announcement of harmonized regulations for microfinance in Mar'22, most institutions took some time in making policy changes and adapting to the new guidelines, but the industry was still able to record a growth of 23.5 per cent in portfolio," he said, reflecting on the quarter gone by.

Its chairperson Devesh Sachdev said the credit quali-

ty of post-Covid disbursements is at 95 per cent plus.

"During the remaining period of FY22-23, riding on robust branch expansion, pent up demand and conducive policy, the sector is poised for sustainable growth," Sachdev said.

Banks continue to hold the largest share in the GLP but the same has slipped to 38.4 per cent in June from 40 per cent in March, the report said, adding that dedicated NBFC-MFIs are the second largest provider of micro-credit with a 35 per cent share in GLP.

# Indian startups raise over \$995 mn VC funding in Aug

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the funding winter, 128 Indian startups have raised over USD 995 million (around Rs 8,000 crore) venture capital funding in August, GlobalData said on Thursday.

The funds raised in August are 9.7 per cent more than that in the previous month, the data and analytics company said in a statement.

Aurojyoti Bose, Lead Analyst at GlobalData, said: "Although the total VC funding amount still remains below USD 1 billion akin to July, August

managed to reverse the decline in fundraising, despite a 2.3 per cent fall in deal volume." The growth has come at a time when fundraising in other key global markets such as the US and UK witnessed decline. "China and India were the two notable exceptions to this trend," Bose said. An analysis of GlobalData's Financial Deals Database revealed that India saw the announcement of 1,239 VC funding deals during January to August 2022, while the disclosed funding value in the year-ago period stood at USD 17.7 billion.

# Hero MotoCorp hikes two-wheeler prices by up to ₹1K

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hero MotoCorp on Thursday said it has increased prices of its two-wheelers by up to Rs 1,000 to partially offset the impact of cost inflation.

In a regulatory filing, the company said, it has made an upward revision in the ex-showroom prices of its motorcycles and scooters, with immediate effect.



"The price revision has been necessitated to partially offset the impact of cost inflation," it said, adding, the hike "will be up to ₹1,000 and the exact quantum of increase will vary by model and market".

Hero MotoCorp sells a variety of motorcycles and scooters ranging from entry level bike 'HF 100' priced at ₹55,450 to XPULSE 200 4V priced at ₹1.36 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).



# INDIA'S WAIT IS OVER

Captain Harmanpreet powers India women to first series win in England in 23 years

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

**S**kipper Harmanpreet Kaur smashed a scintillating unbeaten ton to power India to a comprehensive 88-run win in the second ODI, that sealed country's first series win against England since 1999.

A vintage Harmanpreet rekindled the memories of 2017 World Cup with a magnificent 143 not out which came off just 111 balls as India put on board a mammoth 333 for 5.

India bundled out England for 245 in 44.5 overs with medium pacer Renuka Singh (4/57) claiming four wickets on Wednesday night.

Danni Wyatt's 58-ball 65 was the lone bright spot, in an otherwise, dismal show by England batters.

The last time Indian women won an ODI series in England was in 1999 when they triumphed 2-1.

Chasing the imposing total, what England needed was a brisk start, but Renuka denied them by dismissing two top-order batter in Emma Lamb (15) and Sophia Dunkley (1).

Tammy Beaumont (6) was run out as the hosts were reduced to 47 for 3 by the end of the eighth over.

Alice Capsey (39) and Wyatt stitched 55 runs for the fourth wicket and then Wyatt shared another 65 runs with skipper Amy Jones (39) before the England's chase fell apart with Renuka cleaning up Wyatt in the 30th over.

Towards the end, Charlie Dean (37) and Kate Cross (14) tried their best but the



asking was too tall as India recorded a magnificent win.

Sent into bat, Harmanpreet smashed 18 fours and four sixes en route her 111-ball knock and also enjoyed a fine 112-run

stand for the fourth wicket with Harleen Deol (58 off 72 balls).

She also added 50 with Pooja Vastrakar (18) and another 71 runs in four overs with Deepti Sharma (15 not out) for

the unbroken sixth wicket stand.

However, it was in the last three overs in which Harmanpreet literally took the game away from England's grasp as the 334-run target in a WODI always looked

India eager to give befitting farewell to retiring Jhulan at Lord's: Harman

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

**T**he series already in the pocket, India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants to give a befitting farewell to veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami by winning the "special" final ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday.

Goswami, 39, is set to bid adieu to the game after a glorious two decade-long career at the end of the ongoing tour of England, and Harmanpreet feels a series sweep would be the perfect gift to the fast bowler.

The Lord's game is very special for us because it's Jhulan's retirement and we wanted to enjoy that game without any pressure and I'm really happy that we were able to win today and now we can just have fun in that game," the India skipper said after trouncing hosts England by 88 runs to win a series on their soil after 23 years.

The last time the Indian women

won an ODI series in England was in 1999 when they triumphed 2-1.

"It's very important (to win) because that will be her last game. It will be a very emotional moment for all of us and we definitely want to win that game," Harmanpreet said.

"Moreover, after winning the series now we just want to have fun because I know it's the last game for her."

The skipper said Goswami has been a true inspiration for all the players, including herself.

"She's someone who has taught us a lot," said Harmanpreet, who made her ODI debut at the 2009 World Cup under Goswami's leadership.

"When I debuted she was a leader and I learned a lot from her and now our young bowlers, like Renuka (Singh) and Meghna Singh, they are also learning from her. They are learning how she bowls and getting that rhythm from her. She's been a great inspiration for all of us and we've learned a lot from her."

improbable even though the pitch being a batting belter.

In the last three overs, the Indian team scored 62 runs, courtesy its skipper, who was in imperious touch while reaching her fifth hundred in WODIs.

The innings had Harmanpreet's trademark slog sweeps over cow corner which fetched him a couple of sixes while there were disdainful sixes over cover region.

With the pitch offering little help for bowlers, hitting through the line was very easy and England's bowling attack did suffer a bit with only off-spinner Charlie Dean (1/39) ending with respectable fig-

ures.

The worst sufferer was debutant left-arm seamer Freya Kemp, who did decently till the end of her seventh over in which she had conceded only 28 runs.

Such was Harmanpreet's dominance that Deepti Sharma, who still holds the individual record (188) by an Indian batter in WODIs, was more of a spectator during their sixth wicket stand.

**Brief Scores: India Women** 333/5 in 50 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 143\*, Harleen Deol 58, Freya Kemp 1/82). **England:** 245 all out in 44.2 overs (Danni Wyatt 65; Renuka Singh 4/57).

## Federer teams up with Nadal at Laver Cup for farewell match

AP ■ LONDON

**R**oger Federer will partner long-time rival Rafael Nadal in the final match of his glittering career at the Laver Cup in London on Friday.

The Swiss great has enjoyed a storied rivalry with the Spaniard over nearly two decades and together they have won 42 Grand Slam singles titles in a golden era for the men's game.

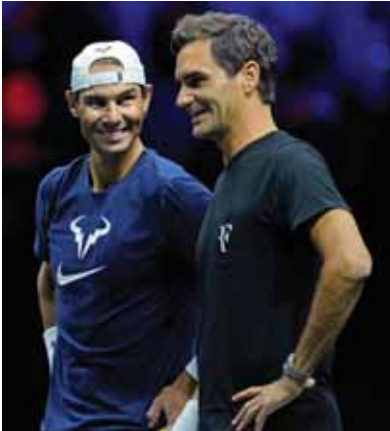
The two veterans, representing Team Europe at the Laver Cup, will face Team World doubles opponents Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock in Friday's evening session at the O2 arena.

The six-strong Team Europe also includes Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray -- the other two members of the so-called "Big Four".

Federer, whose most recent competitive match was a loss to Hubert Hurkacz in last year's Wimbledon quarter-finals, has been struggling with a knee problem and will not play singles at the Ryder Cup-style event in London.

"Of course, it's super special playing with Rafa," Federer said at a packed pre-tournament press conference on Thursday. "Feels really different, you know."

"Also just walking out on court and having the chance to play with the likes of Rafa or Novak also in the past has been an



amazing experience for me.

"So to be able to do that one more time, I'm sure it's going to be wonderful. I will try my very best. I hope to be good out there, and of course I will enjoy it but it will be hard."

Nadal, who first played Federer on the ATP Tour in 2004, said he was looking forward to an "unforgettable" match alongside the Swiss.

"After all the amazing things that we shared together on and off court, to be part of this historic moment is going to be something amazing, unforgettable for me," said the 36-year old.

## Osaka withdraws from Pan Pacific Open, Pliskova loses

AP ■ TOKYO

**D**efending champion Naomi Osaka withdrew from the Pan Pacific Open ahead of her second-round match due to illness on Thursday.

"I am really sorry that I am not able to compete today," Osaka said in a statement.

"It's an honor to be able to play at the Toray Pan Pacific Open in front of the amazing fans here in Japan. This has and always will be a special tournament for me and I wish I could have stepped on court, but my body won't let me. I will see you next year."

Osaka didn't specify the illness and said before the tournament she was fit and healthy. She was champion of the previous Pan Pacific in 2019 and advanced to the second round this week after Daria Saville retired with a knee injury in their first-round match.

Fifth-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil benefited by a walkover from Osaka's withdrawal and has a quarterfinal against fourth-seeded Veronika Kudermetova, who dominated



Mexican qualifier Fernanda Contreras Gomez 6-0, 6-1.

In other second-round matches, Petra Martic upset sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-4, and in a match of unseeded players,

Raducanu surges into quarter-finals at Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

**F**ormer US Open champion Emma Raducanu reached the quarter-finals of the Korea Open on Thursday, beating 396th-ranked Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium in straight sets.

Raducanu, who crashed out of the US Open in the first round last month, overcame a sluggish start and a late wobble to win 6-3, 7-5 in Seoul.

The 19-year-old Briton, the sixth seed, will face third seed Magda Linette of Poland next.

Liudmila Samsonova squeezed past China's Xinyu Wang 7-6 (5), 6-3.

In Friday's quarterfinals, Martic will play China's Zhang Shuai, Samsonova faces third-seeded Garbine Muguruza, and America's Claire Liu meets China's Qinwen Zheng.



## Mancini 'not worried' about injury crisis

AP ■ MILAN

**R**oberto Mancini on Thursday said that he is not letting Italy's injury crisis worry him before the Nations League visit of England, a team he says are one of the world's best.

Mancini lost midfielders Marco Verratti, Sandro Tonali, Lorenzo Pellegrini and Matteo Politano in the lead up to Friday's League A, Group 3 match at the San Siro, one of the European champions' last until next year, because they failed to qualify for the upcoming Word Cup in Qatar.

He told reporters on Thursday that AC Milan's Tonali would miss the England match and Monday's trip to Budapest to face group leaders Hungary as he "wasn't in great condition" when he arrived at the Azzurri's Coverciano training centre.

"I'm not worried. It's a match that we're taking on in a delicate period for us as we're missing a lot of players," said Mancini.

"Unfortunately, we have had problems for a long time. Not having lots of players playing in the league compared to the past is a problem but we can't keep going on about it. We need to find solutions and we will, just as we did in the past."

England risk being relegated to League B. Gareth Southgate's team sit bottom of the group without a win.

England are five points behind Hungary and face Germany on Monday after taking on recent bogey team Italy.

"They're a great team, they were at the Euro and they were a few years before that too. They're a team full of great young players and can still get better," said Mancini.

"I think they're one of the best teams in the world. They're bursting with talent, especially in attack. They have a lot of players starting with Kane who is extraordinary. Then all the young guys he has around him can also make the difference."

Gianluigi Donnarumma will return to the San Siro as an Italy player for the first time since March's Nations League finals, when he was booed and whistled by home supporters livid at his decision to move to PSG on a free transfer.

Captain Leonardo Bonucci called the supporters who harangued Donnarumma "brainless", saying that "all players who play for the national team represent their country and represent you who's booing."

## Aditi to lead Indian charge in Women's Indian Open golf

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**O**lympian Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar will lead a strong Indian field in the 14th edition of Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament, which will be held after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aditi is India's first and only Women's Indian Open winner and has since graduated to LPGA. She came tantalisingly close to winning a medal in Tokyo Olympics, finishing fourth.

Besides Aditi and Diksha, the Indian line-up also includes Tvesa Malik, Amandeep Drall, Vani Kapoor, Ridhima Dillawari, Camisole Chevalier, Aditi and Caroline Hedwall.

At least five former winners have already confirmed their participation, including defending champion Christine Wolf, 2018 winner Becky Morgan, Camisole Chevalier, Aditi and Caroline Hedwall.

Four-time Ladies European Tour winner Linn Grant will also be seen in action in the \$400,000 tournament, to be held at Gurgaon's DLF Golf and Country Club from October 20 to 23.

Regulars in domestic circuit, Pranab Urs, Hitachi Bakshi, Jahnavi Bakshi, Seher Atwal and Sneha Singh will also get a chance to rub shoulders with the best in the business.

This year the field has been curtailed to 114 golfers keeping in mind day light problem.

"We would like to have a much bigger field but we had to shorten the field due to limited number of day light hours in the month of October," said Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI) secretary general Champika Sayal during the launch of the event here on Thursday.



## Julius Baer Cup: Indian GMs Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa sail to quarterfinals

PTI ■ NEW YORK

**T**eenaged Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa moved to the quarterfinals after finishing second and fourth respectively in the preliminary phase of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament early on Thursday.

While World Champion Magnus Carlsen finished with 34 points, way ahead of the second-placed Erigaisi, who had 25

points, American Hans Niemann took the third spot with 24 points.

Praggnanandhaa, who made a strong start with three victories on day 1, ended up with 23 points. His tally included five wins, eight draws and two defeats.

Carlsen was in stupendous form, winning his last five games including three on the final day of the preliminaries to end with 10 victories.

His only loss was to Niemann, against whom he

resigned after making only one move.

The 19-year-old Erigaisi endured a poor final day, losing to Vincent Keymer (Germany) and Dutch GM Anish Giri after beginning with a draw against Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland.

But despite a forgettable day, the Indian GM managed to finish second. He scored seven wins along with four draws and four losses.

The 17-year old Praggnanandhaa, on the other

hand, started the day with a defeat at the hands of USA's Levon Aronian before settling for a draw against Giri. His win over Croatia's Ivan Saric in the 15th and final round enabled him to finish a point behind Niemann on 23 along with Keymer.

Baskaran Adhiban, the third Indian in the tournament, finished 16th and last with a solitary win to go with seven draws and an equal number of losses. He secured 10 points.

## 'Want to capitalise on home advantage to end WC medal drought'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

**S**enior men's hockey team forward Lalit Upadhyay wants to take advantage of the home conditions to end India's 48-year World Cup medal drought when the country hosts the game's showpiece event next year.

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

In the last edition of the event in 2018, India crashed out in the quarterfinals losing 1-2 to the Netherlands.

"Unfortunately, we conceded a goal in the dying minutes of the quarterfinal game in the previous World Cup in Bhubaneswar but since then the team has improved leaps and bounds, we are considered as serious

contenders for the title," Upadhyay said.

"Our aim now is to take advantage of the home crowd to showcase a scintillating performance and hopefully win a medal," he added.

India are placed in Group D in the World Cup alongside England, Spain and Wales.

Since making his debut in 2014, Upadhyay has so far turned out for India in 133 matches and was also a member of the team's historic Bronze medal-winning side at the Tokyo Olympics.

But Upadhyay, who has 31 goals to his name, is in no mood to take his place in the team for granted.

"I feel very proud while donning the Indian jersey every time I step onto the pitch, always keeping in mind that this could very well be the last



time I experience this.

"When I first joined, I worked really hard to make my place in the team and worked on my fitness to match the level of the team," he said.

"Over the last few years, I have gotten more consistency in my game and I'm proud that I'm considered one of the senior players in the team and embrace the added responsibilities that come along with it."

Prior to the World Cup, India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Odisha from October 28.

"We have positive momentum from the Commonwealth Games and Olympics. The awareness among the general public for hockey in the last few years is a real motivation for us to give our best at the camp and the World Cup," Upadhyay said.



