

OPINION 6
THE SUDDEN SPURT
IN AFGHAN BLASTS

WORLD 9
AT LEAST 4 KILLED, 10 HURT AFTER
BLAST NEAR KABUL MOSQUE

MONEY 10
RUPEE FALLS 19 PAISE TO CLOSE
AT LIFETIME LOW OF 80.98/\$

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CAPSULE

EQUITY INVESTORS POORER BY ₹4.90 L CR
New Delhi: Investors' wealth eroded by over ₹4.90 lakh crore on Friday amid a sharp fall in equities. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,020.80 points or 1.73 per cent to settle at 58,098.92. During the day, it tumbled 1,137.77 points or 1.92 per cent to 57,981.95.

FIRS AGAINST ANCHOR CLUBBED TO DELHI POLICE
New Delhi: In a relief to journalist Navika Kumar, the Supreme Court on Friday clubbed and transferred to the Delhi Police all FIRs registered against the news anchor over the controversial remarks made by ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Mohammad during a TV debate moderated by her.

SC TO HEAR PLEA ON ART 370 AFTER DUSSEHRA
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to list after Dussehra vacation the pleas challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir. A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and Justices Indira Banerjee and S Ravindra Bhat took note of the submissions of a counsel that the pleas were assured to be listed after the summer vacation but they could not be listed.

COVID: 95 NEW CASES, ONE DEATH IN DELHI
New Delhi: Delhi on Friday recorded 95 fresh Covid-19 cases with a positivity rate of 0.96 per cent, while one more person succumbed to the virus. The new cases were detected from 9,922 tests conducted the previous day, the city health department said.

Urban Naxals armed with anti-India funds, says PM

Massive funding by global bodies hinder India's growth, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday claimed that "urban Naxals" have been receiving massive funding from different global organisations to hinder development in India and cited the example of his home State to assert that though "it took some time to thwart these conspiracies" the people of Gujarat ultimately "came out victorious."

Inaugurating the National Conference of Environment Ministers in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat via video conferencing, the Prime Minister highlighted that the conference is being held when India is setting new goals for the next 25 years.

"Today's new India is moving ahead with new thinking, new approach," said the Prime Minister and further went on to add that India is a rapidly developing economy, and it is continuously strengthening its ecology as well.

"Our forest cover has increased and wetlands are also expanding rapidly," he said.

Pointing to the "complications" involved in getting environmental clearance, the Prime Minister said the development



Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally addresses the National Conference of Environment Ministers being held in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on Friday

of modern infrastructure and efforts to improve the standard of living of the countrymen is "hindered" and gave the example of Sardar Sarovar Dam which was initiated in 1961 by Pandit Nehru but got considerably delayed.

He said it took decades to complete its construction due to the "conspiracies" carried out in the name of the environment.

Claiming that "urban Naxals" hindered the development of India by taking crores of rupees from different global organisations and foundations, Modi said due to their conspiracies the World Bank had refused to give a loan to increase the height of the Sardar Sarovar dam.

"It took some time to thwart these conspiracies, but the people of Gujarat came out victorious. The dam was being described as a threat to the environment, and today the same dam has become synonymous with protecting the environment," the Prime Minister added.

He also urged everyone to stay alert from such groups of urban Naxals in their respective states. Sardar Sarovar dam was opposed by the "Narmada Bachao Andolan" movement headed by social and environmental activist Medha Patkar, raising concerns about its "destabilising impact" on the local tribal population.

The PM urged the State Environment Ministers to

speedily deal with obstacles put up in the name of the environment highlighted the importance of the parivesh portal for the single-window forest, wildlife, environment, and coastal regulation zone clearances.

He said over 6,000 proposals for environmental and 6,500 for forest clearance were pending with the states. He called for clearing them sooner as projects worth thousands of crores of rupees will be stuck due to the pendency.

Modi underlined the need for bringing about a change in the work environment so that the pendency goes down and clearance is expedited.

"Expedited clearances should also take care of the rules and give priority to the development of the people... It is a win-win situation for both the economy and ecology... we have to remember the faster the environment clearance is available, the faster the development will also take place," he said in his address at an Environment Ministers' conference.

The Prime Minister remarked that today the world is joining India because of its track record of fulfilling its commitments.

"Gir lions, tigers, elephants, one-horned rhinos, and leopards have increased in numbers over the years. New excitement has returned from the homecoming of Cheetah in Madhya Pradesh a few days ago," the Prime Minister added.

Be vigilant for hate crimes: Govt to Indians in Canada

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Friday asked Indian nationals in Canada and students heading to that country to "remain vigilant" against what it called a "sharp increase in hate crimes, sectarian violence and anti-India activities".

Canada is home to 1.6 million people of Indian origin and non-resident Indians. They account for more than 3 per cent of Canada's population.

The advisory came in the backdrop of a diplomatic row over a so-called referendum by "pro-Khalistan" elements on a separate homeland for Sikhs.

"There has been a sharp increase in incidents of hate crimes, sectarian violence and anti-India activities in Canada. The Ministry of External Affairs and our High Commission/Consulates General in Canada have taken up these incidents with the Canadian authorities and requested them to investigate the said crimes and take appropriate action, the release said. The perpetrators of these crimes have not been brought to justice so far in Canada, the MEA said.

Indian nationals and students from India in Canada may also register with the High Commission of India in Ottawa or the Consulates General of India in Toronto and Vancouver through their respective websites, or the MADAD portal madad.gov.in, the Ministry said.

The registration would enable the High Commission and the Consulates General to better connect with Indian citizens in Canada in the event of any requirement or emergency, it added.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Thursday described the referendum as a "farfetched exercise held by extremist and radical elements". He also said it was "deeply objectionable" that this was allowed in a friendly country.

Though the Canadian Government has said it respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India and that



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Rains likely to increase from Sep 27

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rainfall activities in the State are likely to increase from September 27, the Regional Office of the India Meteorological Department here forecasted on Friday.

Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal and Puri on September 27, the IMD said, issuing a Yellow Warning.

Besides, the weather office said two cyclonic circulations may form over the Bay of Bengal within the next 13 days, as per the 'North Indian Ocean Extended Range Outlook for Cyclogenesis'.

The guidance from various numerical models including IMD GFS, GEFS, ECMWF,

NCUM, NEPS, NCEP GFS do not indicate any cyclogenesis over the North Indian Ocean during the next two weeks. However, these models indicate likely formation of a cyclonic circulation over the north Bay of Bengal during middle of week one (23.09.2022 to 29.09.2022) and another over the central Bay of Bengal during middle of second week (30.09.2022 to 06.10.2022), the outlook said.

Various extended range forecast models including IMD MME CFS and NCMRWF NCUM also indicate likelihood of formation of a cyclonic circulation over north Bay of Bengal and another over the central Bay of Bengal during the first week and second week, respectively, the outlook said.

'Include millet-based snacks in official meets'

Agri Secretary urges all departments

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With an aim to promote nutrition-rich millets, Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment Principal Secretary Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee has requested all Government departments to include millet-based snacks in the official meetings and conferences.

Dr Padhee has written a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary and Secretary of all the departments in this regard.

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment is implementing the flagship initiative, the Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) in 19 districts of the State. The Government of India has also asked the States to adopt the Odisha model for promotion of millets. Besides, 2023 has been declared as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) by the United Nations, he pointed out.

Padhee further stated that the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment took several initiatives for celebration and revalorization of consumption of millets in the run up to IYOM 2023. One of the key interventions under

der OMM is promotion of value addition enterprises through women SHGs under Mission Shakti, he stated.

As part of the collaboration, he said, Millet Shakti outlets are being established in different parts of the State including one outlet in Krushi Bhavan anchored by Maa Shaktimayee WSHG, which has been recently recognized as best WSHG millet value addition initiative by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Government of India.

Stating his department has already started serving millet based snacks in all meetings at Krushi Bhavan, Padhee requested the administrative

head of different departments to consider inclusion of nutrition-rich millet snacks in their official meetings.

The departments can add millet-based products like cookies, mixture, sticks, khurma, nimki, sev, pitha, chatua etc, which are extremely tasty and have found wide acceptance amongst the consumers, he said.

"It would also be a great economic opportunity for the Mission Shakti WSHGs, trained under OMM, to supply the millet-based snacks to various departments. This will also help in spreading awareness on millets and provide livelihood support to a host of people in the value chain," he added.

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Rajiv, M Srinivas named AIIMS' DG, Director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Dr Rajiv Bahl, who has been working as the Head of Research on Maternal, Newborn Child, and Adolescent Health and Ageing, World Health Organization, and M Srinivas, Dean of ESIC Hospital and Medical College in Hyderabad, on Friday were appointed as new Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi respectively.

Dr Bahl will replace Balram Bhargava while Dr M Srinivas will take over the new post from Dr Randeep Guleria, who has been AIIMS Director since 2017.

PFI 'flash hartal' brings Kerala to grinding halt, HC starts suo motu case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Political bigwigs in Kerala, the past masters in organising hartals and bundhs, were taken aback on Friday by the way the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its political wing SDPI brought the State to a grinding halt to protest against the arrests of their 18 leaders on Thursday by the National Investigation Agency.

The hartal that stood out because of the widespread rioting and attacks unleashed by the activists of the PFI made a division bench of the Kerala High Court to initiate suo motu proceedings against the leaders of the outfit who issued the hartal call.

Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and CP Mohammed Nissar termed the Friday's har-

tal an act of contempt of court and asked the Government to act against the PFI leaders who issued the hartal call. The Kerala Government told the court that more than 70 KSRTC buses were destroyed, forcing the authorities to cancel the services.

For the first time in the State, ambulances ferrying patients to hospitals were pelted with stones by the PFI activists who also deflated the wheels of the emergency vehicles. The activists covered their faces to escape identification.

PFI activists assaulted shopkeepers who defied the hartal and destroyed their commodities and belongings. A petrol bomb was thrown at the RSS office resulting in heavy damages.

Naveen declares Rs 64.87-cr property

Don't have 4-wheeled, say 3 Ministers

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has declared the details of his movable and immovable properties, as per which he possessed assets worth Rs 64.87 crore as on December 31, 2021.

Patnaik has bank balance of Rs 94.41 lakh with accounts in the SBI's Janpath, New Delhi branch, Parliament House branch, Bhubaneswar branch and three joint accounts (two in Hinjilicut College Campus branch, Ganjam and one in Padampur branch, Bargarh for general elections purpose).

The moveable properties also include Post Office Savings of Rs 5,033, fixed deposit of Rs 1.11 crore, RBI bonds of Rs 9 crore, Post Office Term Deposit



Kalam Road, New Delhi worth Rs 43,36,18,000 (approximately). Both are inherited properties. Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda has declared that the total value of his moveable and immovable assets stands at Rs 6.49 crore. Health Minister Naba Kisore Das has revealed that his wife has 75 vehicles in her name and all the vehicles are commercial ones. Of them, 18 were procured in 2021 alone. Rural Development Minister Pritiranjana Ghadai, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu and Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik have mentioned that they don't possess any four-wheeled. Minister of Tourism Ashwini Patra announced that he has a 2002-model Hero Honda Splendor motorcycle, which is worth Rs 2,000.

'Restrict sound output to 60 decibels'

Police issue restrictions for bands, DJs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Friday issued instructions to bands, DJs and organisers against use of loud speakers during Durga Puja this year.

In its guidelines, the police clearly stated that provisions of Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000 and the Supreme Court order, restricting sound output of loudspeakers to the extent of 65 decibel and Commissioner's order shall be strictly followed during the Durga Puja festival.

Similarly, all band, DJ and musical parties using amplifiers along with other musical instruments should install sound limiters connected to the amplifiers with fixed output of 65 decibel.

The other instructions were one band and one music party would be allowed and no extra set would be allowed dur-

ing the immersion procession.

The use of number of sound boxes by the music party should be limited to four to five during Dussehra.

No audio system should be let out without being fitted with sound limiters. The band/DJ and music parties registered in the office of the DCP Bhubaneswar, Cuttack will be allowed.

- Limit of 65 decibel output of sound shall not be exceeded by the band/DJ and music parties throughout the events.

No music should be played within the radius of 100 metres of silent zones like school, college, hospital and court. The time and route given to the procession should be strictly followed by the band, DJ and music parties. In no circumstances would the band, DJ and music parties perform on National Highways and in areas where prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CRPC is promulgated. No focus, flashlights would be used by the DJ, band parties in the processions and maximum six trolleys to be used during immersion procession.

Tirkey elected Hockey India chief

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former India hockey captain and Olympian Dilip Tirkey was elected Hockey India president on Friday. He was elected unopposed after two other contenders, who had filed nominations, withdrew their papers.

Later, Tirkey tweeted, "I will ensure that Indian hockey reaches new heights."

Tirkey is the first Odia to head Hockey India.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Tirkey for the achievement. In a tweet, Patnaik said, "Congratulations Dilip Tirkey, former Hockey Team Captain from Odisha, on being elected as the



president of the Hockey India. I am sure, being an illustrious player himself from the cradle of Indian hockey, he will take the game to new heights. Wish him all the very best."

Tirkey holds the Indian record for most international appearances with 412 caps over a 15-year-long international career.

'No Concretisation of Bali Yatra ground'

Also, no commercialisation of Mahanadi bed: NGT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ CUTTACK

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has disallowed concretisation of the Cuttack Bali Yatra ground and commercialisation of the Mahanadi riverbed in Cuttack. Both are part of the Balijatra River Front Improvement (BARFI) project of the State Government.

The tribunal has also disallowed expansion or

compacting of the Bali Yatra ground and directed for plantation in remaining 392 acres of land of the riverbed.

The petitioners had moved the NGT alleging illegal sand filling in the Mahanadi bed within the water area of Jobra Barrage. They further alleged that the project was an attempt to monetise the riverbed for commercial purposes which would reduce the water-retaining capacity of the river at the Jobra Barrage.

It would cause damage to the environment and the riverine ecosystem besides affecting the free flow of water of the riverbed. This

would affect supply of drinking water and obstruct dredging which is necessary. This would also add to the floods in the city, they had mentioned in the petition.

The NGT had constituted a Joint Committee in this connection for identification of the floodplain zone.

"While Baliyatra ground (34 acres) may be retained, though in floodplain zone, there should be no further expansion and no concretisation or compacting of the said ground.

Remaining 392 acres of land be used for plantation of local species and the area be developed into a Biological

Park and no commercial use be allowed. State of Odisha may take steps for floodplain zoning of other major rivers," the NGT said in its order dated September 21, 2022.

"It is made clear that no concretisation of any sort will be allowed in the entire 426 acres of land. While allowing Baliyatra in 34 acres of land, all due precautions for maintaining sanitation and hygiene shall be observed," it said.

"The State may adopt necessary safeguards for protection of 38 villages likely to be affected by floods in the periphery of Cuttack," it added.

500 dengue cases reported in city in 2 days

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Health Department has requested the concerned authorities to improve sanitation as dengue cases are on the rise again in the State after the last few days of incessant rainfall.

At least 500 cases of dengue have been reported in Bhubaneswar alone in the last couple of days. On Friday, 36 new cases were reported from the capital city prompting the Capital Hospital authorities to open separate dengue wards. The viral infection has become a serious cause of concern as many patients are being admitted to the premier hospital on a daily basis.

The condition in

Sundargarh district is also serious. The mosquito-borne viral infection has affected over 100 people in the industrial belts of Rourkela.

City residents have alleged that due to the rains, water stagnation has occurred in many areas of cities particularly in the slums leading to breeding of swarms of mosquitoes. They also blamed the poor drainage facilities and the Rourkela Municipal Corporation's apathy towards the menace.

However, the municipal authorities claimed that though some dengue cases have been reported, the situation is not alarming. They are taking all steps to improve sanitation to prevent an outbreak.

'Shift High Court to Bhubaneswar'



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bhubaneswar Bar Association has reiterated its demand of shifting of the Orissa High Court from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar. In this connection, they held a rally in front of the main gate of the Bhubaneswar Court on Friday.

They said that while all States have their High Courts in their capitals, Odisha has been an exception. By setting up the High Court at Bhubaneswar, people of the State shall be

benefited more.

The association has been demanding shifting of the High Court since 2013 by staging symbolic protest on last Friday of every month. Senior lawyer Sibananda Ray and president of the association Rabinarayan Samantaray, vice-president Abhimanyu Swain, secretary Raj Kishore Dash, joint secretary Ashok Badapanda, assistant secretary Rajendra Kumar Dash and treasurer Dibakar Mishra led the agitation.

Dist planning bodies get new heads

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has appointed the heads of District Planning Committees for all 30 districts.

According to a release issued by the Chief Secretary, Begunia MLA Rajendra Kumar Sahoo has been appointed as the Chairperson of District Planning Committee for Khordha. Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari is the chief of Puri District Planning

Committee. While Niali MLA Pramod Kumar Mallick has been appointed as the chairperson of the Cuttack District Planning Committee, Energy, MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Works and Steel & Mines Minister Pafulla Mallick, Rourkela MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak and RD, SD&TE Minister Pritiranjana Ghadei have been appointed for Cuttack, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Jharsuguda districts, respectively.

44 RTO-related services online in State

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a new notification to ease the burden of citizens to avail transport-related services.

As many as 58 citizen-centric services related to driving license, conductor license, vehicle registration, permit, transfer of ownership and others can be now availed completely online.

Out of 58 services, Odisha

has introduced a total of 44 citizen-centric services related to transport in the State including driving license, vehicle registration, permit, off road application and international driving permit through online application process under the 5T initiative.

Odisha is the first State to introduce paperless registration system for fully built new vehicle and auto approval of goods and contract carriage permit to provide instant service in transport sector.

Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Commissioner Transport (Technical) said, "A total of 44 RTO-related services are already online in Odisha. The vehicle registration process has been made paperless and contactless since two years. Odisha is first State in the country to introduce a document upload system through digital signature with auto number generation."

He further said, "Odisha is the first State to issue digital documents of motor vehicles

including driving license (DL) and registration certificate (RC). To ensure better service delivery and eliminate the delay in receipt of DL, RC and other vehicle-related papers, digitally signed documents is being issued from January 1, 2022."

Patra is that that the work is under progress to integrate these services with Aadhaar. These services can be availed with the help of Aadhaar authentication, on a voluntary basis once the system is integrated.

Babushaan hospitalised

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Oollywood actor Babushaan Mohanty was admitted to a private hospital here six days ago as his health condition deteriorated.

According to reports, Babushaan was part of a motorcycle tour in Ladakh for the promotion of his upcoming movie 'Daman'. He complained of illness during the tour, following which he was hospitalised.

He has been undergoing



treatment at the SUM Hospital here. The hospitalisation was required as oxygen level of the actor dropped, reports said.

A team of six doctors is treating Babushaan while his condition is stated to be stable.

Real estate fraud Lookout Circular against Odysa Homes director

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bureau of Immigration (BoI), on a request of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police, on Friday issued a Lookout Circular against one of the directors of real estate company Odysa Homes and Commercials Pvt Ltd Manoj Kumar Panda in connection with a fraud case.

The EOW had registered a case against the company director under relevant sections of the IPC and Section 6 of the OPID Act 2011 after a TCS employee filed a police complaint accusing the directors of Odysa Homes & Commercials Pvt Ltd

(OHCP) of duping investors to the tune of Rs 20 crore on the pretext of providing them dispute-free flats in one of its apartment projects.

Investigation revealed that the directors of the company had collected around Rs 20 crore from 42 investors between 2013 and 2016 to provide them flats at their project 'Ganapati Homes' near the Kalinga Studio in front of SOS Village in Bhubaneswar. They had promised to hand over the complete flats by 2018 and necessary agreement and MOUs were also executed to that effect. But till now, no flat has been allotted to any of the investors.

Rather, the company

directors are intentionally lingering the process to hand over the plots and, in the meantime, have also resold seven flats out of them to other customers.

During the probe, it was learnt that the company and its directors have also cheated many other investors in their different projects and deliberately made multiple transactions of the flats, against which they have already received substantial amounts.

It was also found that criminal cases have been registered at different police stations and complaint cases instituted in the jurisdictional courts against the company directors. The present accused

Manoj Panda was heading all affairs of OHCP and is one of the three directors. His two other counterparts Manoj Kumar Panda and Saroj Panda (his brother) are absconding in order to evade arrest. Company MD Arabindo Santra has already been arrested and is in judicial custody.

"It is requested that anyone giving credible information leading to arrest of the above noted accused persons will be suitably rewarded. The information can be given on the Mobile number 8895301539. The name/details of the informer will be kept secret. Investigation of the case is continuing," a BoI release stated.

2 arrested for loots in Mo Bus in city

Laptops, mobile phones, cash seized

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Friday claimed to have arrested two members of a gang, which was allegedly involved in looting passengers of Mo Bus of their mobile phones, cash and other valuables.

The two arrested were identified as Sanjay Singh and Ganesh Pradhan. Stolen mobile phones, laptops, cash, money purse were seized from their possession, police said.

Taking advantage of the heavy rush in the Mo Bus, the thieves had gone on a looting

spree. On Thursday, two girl students were looted of their mobile phones while they were on their way from Vani Vihar to Palasuni. Later, they lodged a police complaint.

A day before, a Ganjam cancer patient, who was on his way from the Baramunda Bus-stand to the Panda Cancer Hospital near Pahal, had been looted of Rs 15,000 cash. On September 16, two passengers were also looted of their mobile phones on another bus and they suspected involvement of the staffs in the incident.

Notably, this series of loots occurred even though the Mo Buses operated by the Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) have CCTV cameras. This triggered panic among the public transport users.

BPUT Students' Union election held



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An executive committee meeting of the Odisha BPUT Students' Association was held here on Friday.

Association former president and BCJD general secretary Shakti Parsad Rath presided over the meeting while BYJD State general secretary Parthasarathi Muduli joined as chief guest and highlighted the contributions of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik towards improving technical education infrastructure in the State. He

also spoke about the support extended by Minister Pritiranjana Ghadei to the technical students.

BPUT Students' Association's new office-bearers were elected in the meeting. Student leader of the GIET Engineering College Khitish Barik was elected as president while Milan Routray of GITAM College was elected as working president, Swagat Kar of Gandhi College as general secretary and Rupam Das of GIFT College as vice-president along with the election of other office-bearers.

Skewed sex ratio at birth in Odisha

Time we implemented PCPNDT Act more stringently

PRAFULLA KUMAR SWAIN
KHUSHI AGRAWAL

Despite India being the largest democracy and becoming the fastest-growing economy in the world, its women and girls find them at the tail end of the progress. The World Economic Forum recently released the Global Gender Gap rankings and out of 146 countries, we, the world's fastest growing nation, stand at the 135th position. When it comes to female healthcare and survival, the scenario is even more deplorable as we disgracefully occupy the 146th position.

With a population of more than a billion, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) between 2019 and 2021 points out that there are more women in India than men — "1,020 women for every 1,000 men." Despite women constituting a majority of the population, women in India face challenges that largely stem from societal perceptions of gender roles. The impacts of this discrimination and gender inequality are far-reaching and deep-rooted. The indications

of preference for males over females can be seen right at the stages of birth and infancy in

the glaring numbers of the sex ratio at birth (929). Considering the case of Odisha, the sex ratio at birth has plummeted to its lowest ever, according to the NFHS-5 that reported 894 female children for every 1,000 males despite the Central and State Governments' initiatives for the girl child. In the NFHS-4, the sex ratio at birth in Odisha was estimated at 932. Wide variation has been noticed in sex ratio at birth in urban and rural pockets of the State. While the sex ratio at birth in past five years in urban areas is 950, it is estimated at 885 in rural areas.

Looking at the spatial variation, the more developed districts such as Cuttack (745), Puri (782), Jharsuguda (793), Khordha (810), Sundargarh (809), and Deogarh present more glaring numbers as compared to the historically backward southern belt of Odisha comprising of

Koraput (1,014), Nabarangpur (1,045), Nuapada (1,025) and Sambalpur (1,061) districts. This

shows that despite higher levels of education and better exposure to a modernised way of living, the perceived developed and upper class of the society have a shallow ideology which is responsible for their preference of sons over daughters.

Another factor that can explain the observed pattern is the slow penetration of technology and the facilities like pre-natal sex screening in the less developed areas of the State. The absence of the means of sex detection has contributed to people accepting the natural incidences without interference. This is one instance which explains how technology developed by people contributes to a major social dilemma.

On the contrary, overall sex ratio of the state appeared to be healthy. Against a sex ratio of 1,036 found in NFHS-4, there has been perceptible improvement in NFHS-5 and the sex ratio has gone up to 1,063. Ironically, overall sex ratio is healthy in rural area at 1,074 compared to 1,010 in urban areas. The increase in overall sex ratio is a combination of increased

life expectancy of women and the marginal increase in sex ratio at birth per 1,000 females in the country.

Low sex ratio at birth in rural sectors points to the fact that the social structure is still very weak. Despite massive awareness campaign launched under National Health Mission, a patriarchal mindset still remains a dominant factor. Unlike girls, who are seen as an economic burden on parents because of the practice of dowry, sons are preferred. Families celebrate the birth of a boy; a girl child's arrival is reason for mourning. In earlier decades, people chose to kill new-born girls, the availability of technology to identify the sex of the foetus has resulted in women committing sex selective abortions to prevent a girl from being born. Pre-natal sex screening is banned in the country and yet female feticide continues as reflected in India's low sex ratio at birth (SRB).

In India, the child sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males in the age group 0-6 years in a human

population.

Demographers explain that in a scenario in which the sex differentials in mortality are rapidly diminishing and there is no sign of an increase in the excess female under-5 deaths, the rising trend in CSR can only be explained by high SRB. An imbalance in this age group will extend to older age groups in future years. The reduced demographic share of women in democratic regimes would translate into a weaker political voice in public decision-making, a trend that could be reinforced by women's lessened involvement in non-domestic activities, such as outside employment and civil life. Studies show that rising sex ratios explain around 10 percent of the significant growth in China's stock market size in recent decades. However, in case of India not only is the future of sex ratio shaky, the female labour participation rates are below 20%. How can a country be expected to grow into a 5 trillion-dollar economy if half its population is marginalised and does not get an opportunity to contribute to the

economic development of the country?

There is an urgent need to reach young people both for reproductive health education and services as well as to cultivate gender equity norms. Increasing female education and economic prosperity will help to improve the ratio. Policies like the Sukanaya Samridhi Yojna are steps in the right direction. The sharp decline in sex ratio as pointed by Census 2011 data called for urgent action. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme was launched in 2015 in Panipat, Haryana, to address the issue of decline in child sex ratio and related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum. To support and empower women who are victims of violence, the Government has rolled out schemes like SAWADHAAR GREH and UJJAWALA.

India must implement the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 more stringently and dedicate more resources to fighting the preference for boys. In this context, the Drugs Technical

Advisory Board's decision to include ultrasound machines in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act is a step in the right direction.

Despite several policies and programmes, lower health outcomes for

women and girl children still persist in India. Certain forms of discrimination, especially the son preference, reinforced by the techno economic forces are eliminating the girl child (even from the womb). Effective implementation of the existing women- and children-related policies, including women's property ownership, are required to empower women, to ensure girl child's survival, and to reduce gender gap in access to healthcare. This could reduce the effect of population momentum and accelerate progress towards reaching a more normal sex-ratio at birth. India's population future depends on it.

(Dr Swain is Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Mob: 919015146613, and Agrawal is a student of the same department)

Warning by Sarpanch

'Liquor vendors, drunkards to lose civic benefits'

SRIKUMAR MAHANTA
■ SONEPUR

In a bid to make her panchayat alcohol and gambling-free, Sarpanch of Sargaj in Subarnapur district's Tarbha block, Narmada Mishra, has said people found to be selling or consuming liquor in the locality would lose their civic benefits.

Several women, including ward members and SHGs members, took out a rally in

the town recently to create awareness on the issue.

"Though there is no licenced liquor shop in our panchayat, people visit the nearby outlets to consume alcohol. We will meet soon to discuss stringent steps to be taken against illegal liquor sellers and consumers," said Mishra.

"Since all ward members have supported the initiative, we will have no difficulty to pass a resolution on the issue," said Naib-Sarpanch Dipak Kumar

Mishra. Dipak said domestic violence and anti-social activities rise in the locality owing to liquor consumption and gambling. "We want to make our panchayat free from liquor and gambling," he added.

Tarbha police officials have welcomed the move and assured all cooperation in this regard. "It is a positive step. We will extend all cooperation to the panchayat to restrict the illegal manufacture and sale of liquor," said police.

4th RSDA studio opens in Brahmapur

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Rock Star Dance Academy (RSDA)'s studio at Khodasingi on the outskirts of the city was inaugurated here on Tuesday.

BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai graced the event as chief guest, while the Deputy Mayor E Vivek Reddy and chief of Odiya Daily Dainik Sakala, Brahmapur edition, Dr Jagan Mohan Mahapatra joined the event as guests of honour.

Among others, former District Culture Officer Krushna Chandra Nisanka, senior scribes Ambika Prasad Das, Sudip Sahu, president of



Mahanagar Sanskritika Parishad Narayan Mahankud, social activist Bhima Dalai, Urban Bank president Murali Mohan, renowned dance master Krishna Reddy, Mukund Gouda, Malaya Bisoyi, Banamali Sethi, Geetarani Panda and Durga Panda joined the event. The speakers in their address

hailed the efforts of the RSDA for opening the studio.

This is the fourth studio in the city which will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the students of artistic ilk, said the RSDA chief. Dance director of RSDA Ravi Kumar in his address said that the institute will impart courses soon on diverse areas of art.

Khariar ex-MLA Tiwari no more

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Former MLA of Khariar Kapil Narayan Tiwari passed away at the age of 93 at Khariar on Wednesday after remaining bedridden for last few months due to old age ailments. General public paid their homage to the departed soul and the body was taken to the graveyard in a procession.



Tiwari represented the Khariar Assembly seat from 1977 to 1980 as an Independent candidate. He

was an ardent follower of Ram Manohar Lohia.

The issue of Kalahandi's poverty, hunger, child sale and migration came to limelight due to his continuous efforts. Tiwari along with Kishan Pattnaik had filed a PIL in the Supreme Court on these issues that forced the Government of India to initiate many special projects for development of Kalahandi district.

Tiwari had great oratory skill that always attracted people of the area to run to his meetings.

Sri Sri Varsity holds 9th Convocation

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Sri Sri University observed its 9th Convocation Ceremony on Friday here. The chief guest was Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari.

Dr Thomas A Isekenege, president, Bronx Community College, City University New York, also graced the function as a special guest at the event.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder and the lifetime president of Sri Sri



University, virtually addressed the gathering.

Prof Rajita Kulkarni, president, Prof Dr BR Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Debi Prasad Sahoo, Executive Registrar, Gaurav Verma, Director Operations, all Deans, Heads

and all the members of the eminent Board of Governors of the university were present. A total of 556 students including 550 postgraduate and undergraduate, and 6 PhD scholars completed their courses from Sri Sri University

this year. Gold medals were given to 22 students for their outstanding academic achievements across 22 different programmes and specialisations. The grand event witnessed a footfall of around 1,000 spectators including students, parents, academicians, administrative staff members, media persons, civil servants, district administration, police, business persons, trustees, apex body members and the Art of Living teachers, among others.

Legends League Cricket final in Cuttack

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Barabati Stadium in Cuttack will host the final of the SKY247.net Legends League Cricket (LLC) on October 5. This has generated a tremendous response from the fans, said Raman Raheja, co-founder and CEO of Legends League Cricket.

"We have received a tremendous response both from the in-stadium audience and TV ratings. We have got the TV ratings for the first

match. We have outdone ourselves... It is five times higher than last season in terms of ratings. We have also retained the position of being the second-most watched T20 league in India after the IPL and our digital footprint has crossed six hundred million," he said. The ongoing season has recorded massive 16 million-plus unique viewers on the digital streaming platforms in India and its digital footprints have also crossed 600 million fans across the world.

'Future of volleyball looks promising in India'

Samanta attends World FIVB Cong in Netherlands

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

President of the Indian Volleyball Federation and Kandhamal MP Dr Achyuta Samanta has said the future of volleyball looks promising in India.

Attending the 38th



Congress of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) in Arnhem, Netherlands, Dr Samanta discussed a roadmap

for substantial growth and progress of volleyball in India and especially in Odisha and suggested some futuristic proposals for the growth of the popular game.

The FIVB Congress, attended by representatives and volleyball federations from 222 member-nations, will continue till September 25.

Dr Samanta proposed to create a National Volleyball Academy in collaboration with

the FIVB at KIIT and KISS Universities. He also proposed a National Nodal Centre for a "Volleyball for School Programme" at KISS.

Dr Samanta also requested the FIVB to organize its next World Congress in Bhubaneswar and demanded a Regional Development Centre in Bhubaneswar in order to have refresher courses for volleyball coaches and technical officers for the development of volleyball.

Drowning death: NHRC puts IREL on notice

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The incident of death of two persons in an artificial pond of Indian Rare Earth Limited (IREL) has taken a new twist as the NHRC has issued notice to the company.

According to information available, in May two people drowned in an artificial pond created by (IREL) near Aryapalli and Chamakhandi in Chhatrapur, in two days. The deceased are B Sushila, a ten-year-old girl from Sana Aryapalli village and another 32-year-old worker K Anil Rao. Soon after the incident came to light in the media,

Rabindra Kumar Mishra, a social reformer, filed a complaint before the NHRC for payment of compensation to the family of victims and to initiate legal action against the company as per the provisions of law. Based on the petition of Mishra, the NHRC filed a case against IREL and on June 6, the Commission sought an Action Taken Report from IREL which, however, went unheeded. On September 19, the Commission again issued a final reminder to the Chairman/MD, India Rare Earth Limited directing him to submit the requisite report within four weeks.

Competitions held for B'pur slum kids



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Marking the "Azadi Ka Amrit ka Mahotsav" of 75 years of India's Independence, the Brahmapur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) conducted different competitions in various slum dwellers under the civic body on Tuesday.

The idea was to unfold the hidden talents of the poor and illiterate slum dwellers.

The event was organised in the premises of "Siva Temple Kalyan Mandap in Ward No.32" where a large number

of slum dwellers of the area irrespective of their age participated in myriad competitions like Jhoti, song, music and musical chair etc.

The event was coordinated by Suman Rani Tripathy. Such type of events and competitions will be organised till the upcoming Gandhi Jayanti, Tripathy added.

Brahmapur MLA Bikram Kumar Panda had inaugurated the event at Bijipur Kalua Mandir Kalyan Mandap here on Monday and appreciated the endeavour of the organiser.

In Brahmapur Protest against U Market demolition



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Small business units grew around the Old Bus-Stand of Berhanpur Municipality (BeMC) since it was established. The shopkeepers of the U Market near the stand were allotted shops in 1977. Since then, they have been paying rent to the BeMC.

But on September 17, the BeMC suddenly issued notices for demolition of the market. In protest against the proposed eviction, the shopkeepers

marched to the BeMC office on Friday and met Commissioner J Sonal and later met the Secretary of BeDA. Both the authorities promised rehabilitation measures before eviction.

The protest was led by R Muralimohan, Corporator Pradeep Satapathy, Bhima Raju Reddy, Mukunda Gouda, Durga Kumar Nayak, Sudesh Kumar Patro, Gouri Pradhan, Bijaya Sahu and Sibanarayan Jena and was joined by all shopkeepers.

Exclusion from coastal highway

Aggrieved Jagatsinghpur villagers warn of stir

KAHNU NANDA
■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The 382-km Gopalpur-Digha coastal highway project, which was earlier proposed to be of 430-km-long, is all set to begin shortly.

Both the Union Surface Transport Department and the State Government have agreed to go ahead with the project, which is worth Rs 8,000 crore.

However, the alteration in the route plan has excluded the coastal Balikuda region from the project ambit stoking large-scale resentments among the residents.

The aggrieved residents cutting across party affiliations have formed an outfit named, the "Upakula Rajpatha Kriyanasthan Committee" taking incumbent and former Sarpanchs, Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti members

and social activists of the locality. They held a meeting at Balipatana Haat under Mala Marichapur Panchayat in Balikuda block on Sunday.

Later, in a Press conference at Jagatsinghpur on Wednesday, they requested both the Union and State governments to include their area under project stretch, and threatened to launch agitation if their demands are not met.

The proposed project has been notified under the Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Central Government, with the environmental issues being resolved for a length of 382 km instead of the original plan of 450 km earlier. The project would pass by Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Baleswar districts and east Medinipur in West Bengal.

The highway would not impact the ecology of



Bhitarkanika National Park and Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuary and coastal turtle nesting grounds, according to Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and MoEFCC reports.

The Balikuda people complained that the proposed coastal highway had been designed first to touch Balikuda region in the year 2015. The highway was to reach Badabali- Mankadakh under Balikuda block. The

villages to be covered include Belari, Kusapur, Tentulibelari, Goda and Ambiki. But sadly in the modified coastal highway plan, these villages have been excluded and the highway would pass through Naugaon block covering Deriki, Machhagaon, Ambasala, Borikena and then proceed to Paradip through Erasama block.

As the coastal highway would boost economic

activities by facilitating transport for agricultural and pisciculture products, support tourism and most importantly serve as a protective block for the seaside villages vulnerable to the onslaught of cyclones and floods, the locals demanded that their area be not excluded.

The aggrieved villagers complained that while their villages are at 5-10 km distance from the sea, the

modified project has taken villages from around 25 km distance from sea, which flouts the coastal highway norms.

They blamed that former NHAI top official Dharamananda Sarangi who hails from Borekina village has utilised his power to modify the coastal highway route plan to favour his locality at the cost of others. They said as per the modified plan, his village Borekina will be covered under the project.

"We have approached the Prime Minister and the coastal highway project authorities and CM Naveen Patnaik, seeking their intervention," they added.

Besides Balikuda Block Chairman Prakash Chandra Pradhan, outfit leaders Satyabrata Biswal, Rameesh Chandra Bahira, Dr Sasanka Sahani and Subash Nayak were present.

IN BRIEF

CITY'S FIRST HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE AT VSS NAGAR

Bhubaneswar: The first urban health and wellness centre of Bhubaneswar was inaugurated at VSS Nagar, Ward-11, BMC, on Friday by MLA Susanta Rout, Mayor Sulochana Das and BMC Commissioner Vijaya Amruta Kullange. The centre had first been opened in 2019 as a local hospital, but later it did not function properly. Due to the continuous demand of local people and the VSS Nagar Unnayan Parishad, the centre was upgraded to the present form. Parishad general secretary Dillip Dashsharma expressed his gratitude to the authorities for their response.



NEWBORN'S BODY FOUND IN BAG IN BHADRAK DHH

Bhadrak: A dead body of a newborn baby was found in a carry bag in the premises of the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) here on Friday morning. Hospital employees first saw the bag lying unclaimed and checked it out of curiosity. They were shocked to see that the bag contained the body of a newborn. They informed the hospital authorities about it. The Chief District Medical Officer said police have been informed about the body. All the details about the incident can be ascertained only after investigations.

PRICE RISE: SUCI STATE-LEVEL PROTEST ON SEPT 29

Cuttack: The prices of essential commodities have been skyrocketing continuously and unemployment is growing in the country. To protest against such anti-people policies of the State and Union Governments, the SUCI(C) has given a call for a State-level mass protest on September 29 at Bhubaneswar. In a press conference here on Thursday, party Cuttack district secretary Biswabasu Das said the protest shall be done with a 12-point charter of demands. Office secretary Khageswar Sethy, district committee member Rajkishore Malik, Basanta Nayak, Bobby Balbanta Ray, Dipak Das, Bhagyarabi Das were present at the Press meet.



VSS NAGAR LOCALS DEMAND UNDERGROUND RD ESTORATION

Bhubaneswar: After the construction of an over-bridge at Vani Vihar Square, the road connectivity between Vir Surendra Sai Nagar and central Bhubaneswar was cut off. Locals now demand an alternative road. An underground road was built near the Satsang Mandir to the VSS Nagar, but the condition of the road has become very bad and it is no more used. VSS Nagar Unnayan Parishad president Dillip Dashsharma has demanded urgent repair of the road and connecting it to the main road of VSS Nagar.



TB DIAGNOSIS MACHINE TO BE INSTALLED AT PARADIP

Paradip: A state-of-the-art TB (tuberculosis) diagnosis machine will be installed at the Atharbanki Biju Memorial Hospital here under the Prime Minister's TB-Free India Campaign to provide immediate diagnosis and treatment for TB free of cost. It is being planned to send patients for treatment from Paradip Port Hospital after their identification. In this connection, Jagatsinghpur district representatives and members of organisation Waqar Ali (DPPMCO) Syed Aminul Islam (STS), Soumitra Kumar Swain (TBHV) and Abhishek Roy (JHPIGO) discussed with Chief Medical Officer Dr Prahallad Panda and Deputy CMO, Paradip Port Authority Hospital Dr Laxmidhar Paduria.



SIGN LANGUAGE DAY HELD AT NEHRU SEVA SANGHA

Khordha: The International Day of Sign Language was observed on Friday all over the world to raise public awareness on the importance of sign language and protect the rights of the deaf people. The theme of this year's observation was "Sign languages unite us". The event was celebrated by the Nehru Seva Sangha Deaf School at Banpur under the leadership of Om Prakash Agrawal. Children sang the National Song with sign language and performed a cultural programme. Jayanti Tripathy, Gayatri Dei, Jyoshnamayee Paikaray, Sunita saho, Ganeswar Acharya spoke on the occasion.

MINOR GIRL'S KIDNAPPER HELD IN JAGATSINGHPUR

Jagatsinghpur: A minor girl staying in her uncle's house at Jalipingala village here had gone missing five days ago. Police rescued her on Wednesday from Bhubaneswar and nabbed her kidnapper Babuli Swain (24), a youth hailing from Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district. The girl had developed love affairs with Babuli a few months ago through mobile chatting. Her guardian lodged an FIR at the Jagatsinghpur police station. Cops spotted the duo by intercepting their mobile phones and reached their location. After a medical examination, the girl was handed over to her kin. The kidnapper was forwarded to court.

PANGOLIN FOUND IN NET IN JAGATSINGHPUR

Jagatsinghpur: A pangolin was found entangled in a net near Sirlo village under Raghunathpur block after being spotted by one Afsar Ali in his garden on Thursday. The mammal was handed over to forest officials of Cuttack. While wandering in the garden, Afsar found the pangolin trapped in the net. The Raghunathpur police reached the spot, rescued the endangered animal and handed it to the Forest Department.

AITA SERIES: NEMHA WINS GU16 SINGLES TITLE

Bhubaneswar: Nemha Sarah Kispotta from Odisha won the GU16 singles title in AITA Super Series tennis tournament which concluded at the Jorhat Tennis Club, Assam on Thursday. In the final, she defeated seed No. 2 Tania Kumari from Assam by 6-1, 6-2. Earlier in the semifinal, she had overcame seed No.1 Rituja Saha from West Bengal by defeating her with a score of 6-0, 6-3. By winning the title, she collected 50 AITA ranking points.



MODI SHOULD MEET LEADERS FROM OTHER PARTIES MORE: NAIDU

This will help clear misunderstanding
Opp leaders may have about PM's methods: Ex-VP



Prime Minister for his achievements across diverse sectors like healthcare, foreign policy, and technology. But at the same time, Naidu said that despite the

PM's achievements, some sections still have some reservations about his methods "because of some misunderstandings, maybe out of some political compulsions". "Over a period of time these misunderstandings will also be cleared. The Prime Minister should also often meet more and more sections of the political leadership... this side and that side," the former V-P said adding political parties should also keep an open mind and respect the mandate of the people. "They must also be open-minded. You all should also understand that you are rivals not enemies. All parties must respect each other, the institution of the prime minister, institution of the president,

institution of the chief minister. All institutions should be respected that has to be kept in mind by one and all," Naidu said. The current government, he said, is working under the broader philosophy of 'Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhawantu'. Naidu listed out the Direct Benefit Transfer as the biggest achievement of the Government and said it freed people from the shackles of middlemen, ensuring endpoint delivery of welfare measures. The former Vice-President along with Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur and Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan released a book 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas - Prime Minister Narendra Modi Speaks (May 2019-May 2020)'. Naidu said, "India is now a force to reckon

with, its voice is now heard across the world. In such a short span, it is not an ordinary thing. This is because of his actions, because of the guidance he is giving to the people and because of progress that India is making." Naidu retired from the top constitutional post on August 10, 2022 after his term ended as the 15th Vice President of India. The Kerala Governor lauded the PM for enacting a law to ban the practice of triple talaq among Muslims. He said even the first PM Jawaharlal Nehru had said his biggest regret was that he could not make laws to alleviate the problems faced by Muslim women. "Nehru could not take the bold decision to deliver justice to Muslim women. Modi dared to do it. We will under-

stand the importance of this decision only decades later," Khan said. Khan said that a common thread runs through the book and that is the Prime Minister's concern for marginalized section and women empowerment. He highlighted that the twin issues of availability of toilets and water connectivity had needed urgent Government intervention for very long but had been lagging even as many Governments came and went. It was only the current dispensation that took up this mission on war footing from the beginning, he said. For his part, Thakur said the book, brought out by the Publications Division, focuses on 86 speeches of the PM on various subjects from May 2019 to May 2020.

US: F-16s supply to Pak not designed as message to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON



with Austin.

Taliban and the Haqqani network. In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department made a determination approving a possible foreign military sale for sustenance and related equipment arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

Days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed India's concern to his US counterpart Lloyd Austin over supply of F-16s to Pakistan, the US has said "it is not designed as a message" to New Delhi for its neutral stand on Russia regarding the ongoing Ukraine conflict. Making his country's stand clear regarding the issue, Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, said late Thursday its decision to provide a USD 450 million sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet is associated with America's defence partnership with Islamabad which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security. He also said the US has a limited security partnership with Pakistan. However, New Delhi says Pakistan's F-16s are not used for counter-terrorism operations and instead pose a threat to India. The US official's reaffirmation came in the backdrop of Rajnath on September 14 talked about India's apprehensions about the F-16 deal during his telephonic talks

It was the first ministerial level objection registered by India. "I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Look forward to continuing dialogue with Secretary Austin to further consolidating India-US partnership," Rajnath tweeted after talks. Earlier, the ministry of external affairs reportedly expressed its concern during meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu. He was here to take part in the Quad Senior Officials Meeting (SOM). On September 8, the Biden administration approved the 450 million dollar F-16 fighter jet fleet sustenance programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the previous Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad for providing safe havens for the Afghan

Responding to a question, Ratner, said the recent US action with Pakistan on F-16 is not designed as a message to India as it relates to its relationship with Russia. "The decision inside the US government around the F-16 issue was made predicated on US interests associated with our defence partnership with Pakistan which is primarily focused on counterterrorism and nuclear security and as the (Defence) Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear to (Defence) Minister Rajnath Singh during their call last week, this case did not include any upgrades or munitions," he said. "We have been engaging with our Indian counterparts, both in advance of the announcement to preview it and during my visit with Assistant Secretary (Donald) Lu in Delhi as well.

New telecom draft bill to bring OTT platforms under licensing regime

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The new telecom draft bill seeks requirement of licence for internet calling facilities like Whatsapp, Zoom and Google platforms and OTT apps for operating in India. Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that new telecom bill, which will replace the 137-year-old Indian Telegraph Act, is expected to be in place in 6-10 months. The bill also seeks to replace the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.

interpretation of what is a telegraph. The consultation process for its regulation has already started. The focus of this bill is that we have to make a light touch regulatory environment. Wherever required there should be strict effective regulation and in rest of the places there will be light touch regulation," the Minister said. The bill proposes all internet calling and messaging apps to comply with the Know Your Customers (KYC) provision when they come under telecom licence ambit. The Minister said the first fundamental thought in the bill is about protection of users and every consumer has the right to know who is making the call. "If calls can take place from different platforms then every platform needs to come under the same kind of regulation. This is not only in India, this is the thought process across the world. Technology has brought so many changes that the distinction between voice call and data call has disappeared," Vaishnaw said. He said that KYC norms will also help in curbing cyber frauds. The Minister said that it is the fundamental duty of users to give correct information while take services from oper-

ators. The bill proposes up to one year imprisonment for giving false identity for availing telecom services. He said that telecom service providers will be given an option to shift to the new rule. The bill proposes to slash the maximum penalty of telecom operators to Rs 5 crore from Rs 50 crore per circle imposed at present. The bill proposes a penalty in the range of nil to maximum Rs 5 crore. The Government in the bill has proposed a provision to waive fees and penalty of telecom and internet service providers. Vaishnaw said that the government will focus on continuity of service in case a company goes for insolvency as at the end the spectrum will come back to the government. The bill proposes an enabling framework for the Centre to address defaults in payment by a licensee, registered entity or assignee. In case of extraordinary circumstances, the government can decide to defer the due payment, convert a part or all of the amounts into shares of the entity, write-off the amount or a part of it or even provide relief from payment of such amounts or a part. The draft also has a provision for a refund of fees in case a telecom or internet provider surrenders its licence.

Mexico proposes UN peace panel with Indian PM among members to broker Russia-Ukraine peace

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/PITTSBURGH

With the Ukraine conflict unabated for the last seven months, Mexico has proposed to the United Nations to set up a committee including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pope Francis and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to mediate permanent peace between Russia and Ukraine. This proposal by Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubon while participating in a UN Security Council debate on Ukraine in New York late Thursday came days after Modi's message to President Vladimir Putin on September 16 that "today's era is not of war."

lauded Modi for this stand. "Based on its pacifist vocation, Mexico believes that the international community must now channel its best efforts to achieve peace," Casaubon said. "In this regard, I would like to share with you the proposal of the President of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, to strengthen the mediation efforts of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, through the formation of a Committee for Dialogue and Peace in Ukraine with the participation of other heads of state and government, including, if possible, His Excellency Narendra Modi and His Holiness Pope Francis." He said objective of committee would be to generate new mechanisms for dialogue and create complementary spaces for mediation to build confidence, reduce tensions and open way for lasting peace. Casaubon said Mexican delegation will continue with necessary consultations to contribute towards generating broad support for mediation efforts led by UN secretary-general as well as for committee, "whose formation we hope will proceed with support of UN member states that so decide".

Prophet remark row: FIRs against Navika transferred to Delhi Police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday clubbed and transferred to the Delhi Police all FIRs registered against journalist Navika Kumar over the controversial remarks made by ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Mohammad during debate in Times Now channel moderated by her. A bench of Justices

MR Shah and Krishna Murari said no coercive action would be taken against Kumar for a period of eight weeks so that she can avail remedies in the interim period. Apex court also granted liberty to Kumar to move the Delhi High Court for quashing of the lead FIR. The court also said that any FIR registered in the future against Kumar in the matter will also be transferred to the Delhi Police. "The petitioner shall be at liberty to

approach the Delhi High Court seeking the relief of quashing of FIRs. We have not expressed any opinion on merits," the bench said. The Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Delhi Police will probe matter. The apex court on August 8 had granted interim protection from arrest to Kumar and issued notices to Centre, West Bengal government, and others on plea of journalist seeking quashing of proceedings initi-

SC stays graft case proceeding against BSY

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday stayed proceedings against former Karnataka Chief Minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa in an alleged corruption case. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli issued notice to the private complainant on a plea challenging the Karnataka High Court order restoring complaint against Yediyurappa and others. "There shall be a stay of proceedings so far as the petitioner is concerned," the bench said. The Karnataka

High Court on September 7 had restored a private complaint against Yediyurappa and his family members. The complainant had accused him of taking bribe for awarding Government contracts. A Sessions court had earlier dismissed a plea seeking a probe into the allegations of corruption against Yediyurappa as then Governor had refused to sanction it. TJ Abraham, a social activist, had lodged the complaint alleging that Yediyurappa and his family members had taken bribe from

Ramalingam Construction Company and other shell companies in return for awarding Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) contracts.



CBI arrests NHAH CGM for accepting bribe

New Delhi: The CBI on Friday said it has apprehended a Chief General Manager of National Highways Authority of India (NHAH), Regional Office, Patna for accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh in a bribery case. During searches, the CBI recovered cash to tune of Rs 60 lakh from house of arrested CGM, CGM Sadre Alam, posted at Regional Office in Patna, was caught taking bribe from two employees of a private company, officials said. It is alleged that Alam was seeking bribe

from officials of a Nashik-based private company in exchange for clearing inflated bills and manipulation of measurement books. Meanwhile, Enforcement Directorate on Friday said illegal mining worth Rs 35 crore has been carried out by certain stone crushers and related entities in Una district of Himachal Pradesh. The agency said it recently raids against accused allegedly involved in illegal activity and seized "incriminating" documents and Rs 15.37 lakh "unaccounted" cash. PNS



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with former captain of India women's national cricket team Mithali Raj, during a meeting. PTI

'Herbal drug 'BGR-34' cuts down obesity, improves body metabolism'

It modulates hormonal profile, lipid profile and triglyceride level while bringing down fat level in body: Doctors at AIIMS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Anti-diabetic ayurvedic drug 'BGR-34' is effective in cutting down obesity along with improving metabolism mechanisms of patients afflicted with the chronic disease, a team of doctors from the country's premier health institute AIIMS, Delhi has found. Led by Dr Sudhir Chandra Sarangi, Additional Professor, Department of Pharmacology AIIMS, the team reached this conclusion following a study spanning three years. Comprising a range of ingredients from medicinal plants, this drug has been developed after an intensive research by scientists of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and is being marketed by AIML Pharmaceuticals. The study was aimed to

investigate whether BGR-34 was effective on its own or along with other allopathy drugs, and if yes, then at what level. The results found that the herbal drug was enough not only in reduction of fasting blood sugar through modulation of hormonal profile along with a significant body weight reduction, but there were other benefits also. The drug also modulates hormonal profile, lipid profile and triglyceride level while bringing down leptin mark which is effective in controlling fat. Triglyceride, in excess quantity, is harmful for the health as it is a bad cholesterol. Similarly, controlled lipid profile keeps heart diseases at bay while disturbance in hormonal profile can result in poor sleep, noted the authors about the research based on various health parameters, according to the study. In contrast, modulation of hormonal profile was found to be significant, resulting in increased insulin level. The study initiated in March 2019 will soon be published in a research journal. One in six people with diabetes in the world is from

India. The numbers place the country among the top 10 countries for people with diabetes, coming in at number two with an estimated 77 million diabetics. China leads the list with over 116 million diabetics. Diabetes can increase the risk of health complications, including cardiovascular disease, kidney failure, stroke, blindness, and circulatory issues, which could necessitate the amputation of toes, feet, or a part of the leg. Dr Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director, AIML Pharmaceutical said herbal-based ayurveda medicines are finding huge acceptance among people who are more keen into taking preventive health measures in the backdrop of rising non-communicable diseases due to lifestyle changes, among others. "To cater to this increasing demand, the government too has taken various measures to boost the availability of these products based on time-tested medicinal plants as immunity boosters. This will go a long way in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Healthy India'," he added.

CISF doing non-core duties at 60 airports will be replaced by private security personnel: AAI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) on Friday said that Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel performing non-core duties at 60 airports in the country will be replaced by private security personnel. The move will reduce the security expenditure, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) said, and added that "these CISF personnel can be deployed at other airports which will further strengthen the security set-up." "In line with the decision of the central government, a total of 1,924 private security agency personnel will be deployed at 60 airports in place of CISF personnel, posted at non-core duty posts," AAI said in the release. AAI also said it has appointed 581 security personnel from Directorate General Resettlement (DGR)-sponsored security agencies for non-core posts at 45 airports. "These security personnel will be deployed after completion of the aviation security (AVSEC) training programme at selected airports," it said. It also said that as many as 161 DGR personnel for 16 airports are attending AVSEC training programmes and they will be deployed after completion of training from Saturday. Already 74 DGR security personnel have been deployed at Kolkata Airport from early this month after attending the AVSEC training programme, the statement said. The deployment process of the remaining security personnel is under process, it added. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) issued a circular in this regard in May. Hiring of private guards is also expected to lower aviation security costs at airports because their salaries are estimated to be lower than that of CISF personnel. At present, airports bear the expenses of security cover provided by the CISF and this is recovered from passengers in the form of an aviation security fee. Airports will be reimbursed for costs related to deployment of private agency guards, a source said. At present domestic and international passengers are charged an aviation security fee of ₹200 and \$12, respectively.

'Rahul told me no one from Gandhi kin should be Cong prez'

Gehlot first to announce candidature for AICC chief's job

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot became the first person to announce his candidature for the AICC presidential poll on Friday, a day before the nomination process begins, and said Rahul Gandhi has told him that no one from the Gandhi family should become the next party chief. He also said the call on his successor to head the Rajasthan Government will be taken by

the party's interim president, Sonia Gandhi, and the Congress's Rajasthan in-charge, Ajay Maken.

Gehlot's remarks came a day after former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi batted for the "one-man, one-post" concept in the party, in line with the Chintan Shivir reforms earlier this year.

With Shashi Tharoor likely to be the second contender and the names of several others also doing the rounds for joining the fray, Gehlot said the aim should be that all Congress members work together after the poll to strengthen the party.

Talking to reporters in Kochi, the 71-year-old leader said, "I will fix the date (to submit the nomination papers) after going back (to Rajasthan), but I have decided that I will have to contest. It is a question of democracy and let us make

a new start."

Gehlot also said Rahul Gandhi has told him that he respects the wish of the party workers that he should take charge of the organisation but no one from the Gandhi family would become the next Congress president.

"I requested him multiple times. He has clearly said 'I know, everyone wants me to take it up, PCCs have passed the resolutions, the workers want it. I have a lot of respect for them but due to certain reasons, we have decided that a non-Gandhi family person should become the president,'" Gehlot said.

With Thiruvananthapuram MP Tharoor likely to enter the poll fray, Gehlot said other "Congress friends" may also contest but what matters is unity and the need to strengthen the organisation at all levels.



"There are Congress friends. Even if they contest, there is no issue. After the results, we should work together to strengthen the Congress at the block, village and district levels and also move forward making our (Congress) thought process as the base, so that we emerge as a strong opposition," he added.

Considering the present situation in the country, there is a need for a strong Opposition, the veteran Congress leader said.

Later in the day, talking to

reporters in Shirdi, Gehlot said the debate on "one man, one post" is unnecessary and he would like to serve the people of his state all his life. He also said his statements on wanting to serve the people of Rajasthan are being interpreted in different ways.

With the speculation over Rahul Gandhi contesting the AICC presidential poll coming to an end with Gehlot's remarks, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury hailed the former party chief for taking a "principled" stance and called him a "natural leader".

"It was the universal demand from the workers of our party that Rahul Gandhi should assume the charge of AICC president. But from the very first day, he has been declining the job. He has decided that someone from outside

the Gandhi family should take it up," Chowdhury told PTI.

"It is a very principled stand. He is a natural leader. When he says anything, he will draw the attention of the country. He certainly holds a special place in the heart of the common Congress worker," he said.

Rahul Gandhi does not hanker for posts, Chowdhury said, adding that he could have taken up a ministerial berth in 2009, but had declined it.

In another related development, a day after Congress leader Gaurav Vallabh taunted Tharoor over his probable AICC presidential poll bid, the party asked its spokespersons and communications department office-bearers to refrain from commenting on any colleague contesting the election.

Vallabh had also voiced support for Gehlot, who many

believe enjoys the backing of the party's current leadership.

According to sources, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, in a message to the spokespersons and office-bearers of the party's communications department, said, "I would strongly urge all spokespersons and office-bearers of the communications department of the AICC to refrain from making any comment of any kind on any colleague of ours contesting the election for the post of Congress president."

Even as the race for the Congress president's post is heating up, veteran leader and Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh said he is not interested in becoming the party chief.

Several senior leaders' names such as that of former

Union minister Manish Tewari, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, Mukul Wasnik and Mallikarjun Kharge were doing the rounds as possible contenders, but many of them have privately ruled out running for the top post.

According to a notification issued by the party on Thursday, the process for filing nominations for the election will be held from September 24 to 30. The date for a scrutiny of the nomination papers is October 1, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 8. The final list of candidates will be published at 5 pm on October 8.

The polling, if needed, will be held on October 17. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 19 and the results will be declared the same day.

Kurmis' rail-road blockade in Bengal for SC status enters 4th day

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Life continued to remain stranded as the rail and road blockade organised by the Kurmi community of Jangalmahal area of Bengal entered its fourth day on Friday. The members of the Kurmi community that have been demanding Scheduled Caste status and inclusion of the Kurmal language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution said the movement would continue till they did not get a positive assurance from the State and the Centre.

The movement --- that started on Tuesday with a Rail-Roko and on Thursday spilled over to NH 6 blocking the one of the busiest national highways of the country --- has affected large parts of Purulia, West Midnapore, and Jhargram dis-

tricts of Bengal, a helpless State administration said adding they had nothing in their hand and that the Centre should immediately intervene.

Bengal minister Firhad Hakim said that the movement ahead of the festive seasons was likely to affect lakhs of people and urged the Prime Minister to intervene. "This is a movement of 75 years ... the Trinamool Congress too had raised the issue in Parliament and now it remains on the Centre to take steps ... we request the Prime Minister to intervene so as to find an amicable way out," the senior Bengal minister said.

While the South Eastern Railways sources said that at least 159 trains --- including Bombay Mail, Geetanjali Express --- and those running via Kolkata-Nagpur route had

been suspended indefinitely, sources in the State transport department said thousands of trucks carrying essential items including foods and vegetables and other perishable products were stranded along the national highway. Bus services connecting Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha via this route had also been interrupted sources said.

Five different Kurmi outfits of the Jangalmahal area have collaborated to bring bring pressure on the Centre and the State even as its leader Ajit Mahato said "we have been making our demands for the past 75 years ... we are bhoomiputras (sons of the soil) and yet our demand has not been met ... now enough is enough ... the government will have to listen to us ... though we do not want to put the fellow citizens of the coun-

try into trouble ... the movement will continue if our demand is not met."

Mahato's statement came amid reports that the State Government had sent a letter forwarding their demand to the Union ministry of Tribal Affairs. "We have done out bit ... now it is up to the Centre to take a call," said a senior bureaucrat.

According to the Kurmi leaders the community had lost its Scheduled Tribe status post Independence despite the fact that they were registered as STs till 1931.

Meanwhile, Kharagpur BJP MP and party national vice president Dilip Ghosh whose constituency too has been affected by the blockade blamed the Trinamool Congress for the "mischief." He said, "even we have



supported this demand in Parliament ... in fact such things are done in a particular manner and not by blocking the rail or road traffic ... it has been instigated by the TMC to turn the attention from the corruption charges and the public unrest that it has been facing in

recent times."

The last time a similar movement was witnessed was in 2006 when then opposition leader Mamata Banerjee had blocked the national highway during his anti-land acquisition movement at Singur for more than two weeks.

No anticipatory bail in rape, crimes under POCSO in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Strictly going with the zero tolerance policy of his Government towards sexual crime against women and children, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday took another major decision by withdrawing the anticipatory bail provision in such crimes in Uttar Pradesh. Yogi Adityanath claimed that the Government is sensitive towards crimes against women and children and would take all strict steps towards curbing such heinous crimes by sending the accused to jail.

"The morale of such criminals who cause serious injury to not only the body of women and children but even their soul will be broken by this decision

of the Government and unwavering faith in the state's law and order will be generated in the minds of women and children in society," claimed a Government spokesman while confirming the withdrawal of the anticipatory bail provisions in such crimes.

The spokesperson said that in view of the need to make the present law more stringent towards crimes of rape against women and sexual assaults against children, the Government had decided to ensure stringent action in rape and POCSO Act crimes. He said action had been taken to abolish anticipatory bail to the offenders involved in such crimes by amending the provisions of law relating to such offences.

Herald case: ED notices to AP, Telangana Cong leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued notices to some Congress leaders from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in connection with its ongoing money laundering investigation against the National Herald newspaper owned by the Congress party.

While some of the politicians belonging to the party have been summoned for questioning here over the next few weeks, others have been given notices to explain certain payments made to Young Indian, the company that owns National Herald. At least four leaders have been issued the notices, officials said.

Earlier this week, Karnataka Congress President

D K Shivakumar had told reporters after finishing his questioning session with the ED here that he was questioned about certain transactions made by him to this company in the past.

"Surprisingly, they (ED officials) have asked me about the payment from one of my trusts, from me and my brother, to Young Indian," he told reporters on September 19.

Shivakumar said he had sought more time from the agency to furnish details about his assets and liabilities.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son and MP Rahul Gandhi, apart from some other Congress leaders, have been questioned by the ED over the last few months in the case.

Congmen asked not to comment on those contesting prez polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Congress Spokesman Gaurav Vallabh slammed his party colleague Shashi Tharoor over his probable AICC president poll bid, the party on Friday urged all its spokespersons and communication department office bearers to refrain from commenting on any colleague contesting the elections.

Vallabh, who voiced support for Ashok Gehlot had hit out at Tharoor over his probable AICC president poll bid, saying his "only major contribution" to the party was to send letters to Sonia Gandhi when she was hospitalised.

According to sources,

AICC general secretary in-charge Communications Jairam Ramesh said in a message to all spokespersons and office bearers of the communication department, "I would strongly urge all Spokespersons and office bearers of Communications Department of AICC to refrain from making any comment of any kind on any colleague of ours contesting the elections for the post of Congress President."

We all have our individual preferences but our job is to only highlight that the Congress is the only political party to have a democratic and transparent system in place for election to the post of its president," the sources said.

To arm troops better, Army issues RFI for rifles, bulletproof jackets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to enhance fighting capabilities of frontline troops guarding the borders and boost indigenous manufacturing capacities, the Army has issued a request for information (RFI) for nearly 4,25,000 carbine rifles and more than 47,000 bulletproof jackets.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in July this year had given the nod for proposals worth Rs 28,732 crores for rifles, bullet proof jackets and armed swarm drones.

The two critical items, rifles and bullet proof jackets,

used by infantry troops guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China and the Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan besides counter-terrorism operations will be procured from domestic manufacturers.

After zeroing in on the most suitable vendors, the Army proposes to issue the tender by late October or November, sources said here on Friday after the RFI was issued on Thursday.

The Army proposes to procure 5.56mm close quarter carbines with an effective range of at least 200 metre, as per the RFI which also highlighted other specifications including accuracy and reliability.

Considering the demand

of enhanced protection against the threat of enemy snipers to our troops deployed along the LOC in Jammu and Kashmir, and in close combat operations in counter-terrorism scenario, the DAC gave the nod for Bullet Proof Jackets with Indian Standard BIS VI level of protection, the defence ministry had said on July 26 while giving details of the DAC meeting.

The Army has issued RFI for 47, 627 jackets.

It also said to combat the current complex paradigm of conventional and hybrid warfare and counter-terrorism at the LAC and other borders including the LOC, the DAC approved the induction of

four lakh Close Quarter Battle Carbines.

This is set to provide a major impetus to the small arms manufacturing industry in India and enhancing AtmaNirbharata in small arms, they said.

As regards unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), they said in the recent conflicts across the world, drone technology proved to be a force multiplier in military operations.

Accordingly, to augment the Indian Army's capability in modern warfare, the DAC gave the nod for procurement of Autonomous Surveillance and Armed Drone Swarms under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.

Jammu celebrates 127th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jammu, the city of temples, on Friday celebrated the 127th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, by converging here at the Tawi Bridge where they lit up earthen lamps (diyas). Scintillating fireworks lit up the Jammu skyline to mark the celebrations.

The Union Territory administration had last week declared the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, which falls on September 23, as an annual holiday across the region.

"Maharaja Hari Singh was a great educationist, progressive thinker, social reformer and a towering man of ideas and ideals. The public holiday will be a fitting tribute to

Maharaja Hari Singh Ji's rich legacy," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had tweeted after declaring the public holiday.

On one hand, the members of the Royal family in Jammu performed traditional pooja and organised events to mark the celebrations and on the other hand the common residents took out processions across different parts of the Jammu city and converged at the Tawi bridge to pay tributes to the last Dogra ruler.

"I want to congratulate the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the 127th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh ji. Grant of holiday on his birth

anniversary is a victory for all the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the youth of Jammu," grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh and former legislator Vikramaditya told reporters.

Brandishing swords, hundreds of youth wearing saffron turbans, holding flags of Yuva Rajput Sabha were seen shouting slogans in jubilation. A separate procession was taken out by the members of the Yuva Rajput Sabha from Bantalab area of Jammu.

They reached the venue of the celebrations at the Tawi bridge enroute different parts of the city. Meanwhile traffic

remained disrupted on different routes and the main Tawi bridge was also declared out of bound for larger duration of the day leading to long traffic snarls.

Some of the activists belonging to the Yuva Rajput Sabha also clashed with media persons after few among them raised the issue of bursting heavy decibel crackers and brandishing swords standing atop SUV's and other vehicles. The policemen and traffic police personnel stationed along the different routes failed to prevent the chaos on the city roads. At the Tawi bridge, the BJP leadership led

by its president, Ravinder Raina participated in the celebrations.

Congress party led by its working president Raman Bhalla also took part in the celebrations and asserted that it was time for the central government to fulfil another demand of restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Former minister and MP Choudhary Lal Singh of Dogra Swabhimana Sangathan also took out a victory rally and said it was time to fight for restoring Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

Several other prominent



organisations including Dogra Sabha celebrated the birth anniversary.

Similar celebrations were

also held in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar and Rajouri districts.

HC sentences Mukhtar to 5 years' imprisonment in 23-year-old case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday sentenced former Bahujan Samaj Party MLA and mafia turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari to five years' imprisonment in a 23-year-old case related to the Gangsters Act.

Justice DK Singh passed the order while overturning Mukhtar Ansari's acquittal by a special MP-MLA court in 2020. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on Ansari.



State counsel Rao Narendra Singh said the FIR was lodged with Lucknow's Hazratganj police in 1999 and a special court had acquitted Ansari in 2020. The state had filed an appeal against acquittal in 2021. The High Court on Friday

allowed the state government's appeal and sentenced Ansari to five years in jail, he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mukhtar Ansari was awarded seven years' jail term in another case for threatening a jailer and pointing a pistol at him. In 2003, the then Lucknow district prison jailer SK Awasthi had lodged an FIR with the Alambagh police, alleging that he was threatened for ordering a search of people who came to meet Ansari. A trial court had acquitted Ansari in this case also.

ED confiscates ₹200 cr property of former BSP MLC Haji Iqbal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Enforcement Directorate sleuths in Lucknow have attached a property worth Rs 200 crore of former MLC of Bahujan Samaj Party and mining mafia Haji Iqbal alias Balla on Dehradun-Mussoorie Road.

Mining don Haji Iqbal belongs to Saharanpur district and is facing several criminal and money laundering cases.

Sources said the market value of Iqbal's ill-gotten property located on Mussoorie

diversion was worth more than Rs 200 crore. About two days ago, the officials of ED's Lucknow branch had gone to Dehradun in Uttarakhand and pasted a notice on the property regarding the legal action.

The ED officials, after gathering information and evidence about Haji Iqbal's Dehradun property, concluded that it was acquired around 15 years ago from ill-gotten money.

The ED attached the property under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.



A lioness with its three cubs at the Sarthana Zoo in Surat on Friday.

PTI

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Uphill task

If Gehlot is elected as Cong chief, he will have to strive hard to revive the party

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is said to be leading the race for Congress president, and this is not because he is a party stalwart, which he is, but because he enjoys the blessings of the Gandhi family. A non-family member will head the 'grand old party' after decades since senior leader Rahul Gandhi said no family member should head the party. So, in effect, Gehlot is the family's nominee. Former Union Minister Shashi Tharoor, who was considered close to the family but later joined the rebel G-23 group, is reportedly keen to take on Gehlot. Some other leaders may also enter the fray. The Kerala MP, however, has failed to enthuse many leaders. The Congress units in 10 States, including in his home State, have reportedly opposed him. Some of Tharoor's party colleagues in Kerala have said they would support only those who recognise the Nehru family's prominence. Gehlot clearly enjoys that support but the 71-year-old Congress veteran is not very happy, for the Congress president's post comes with conditionality: He has to leave the top office in Rajasthan. This will be a bitter bite for him as his *bête noire* in the State, Sachin Pilot, is likely to succeed him. There are media reports suggesting that he wanted the next Chief Minister of his choice, a demand that doesn't seem to have been acceded to. For the top Congress leadership, the intra-party election may be an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone: Get a non-family party president, thus blunting the BJP's attacks of the GOP being a family-run party; and putting an end to the Gehlot-Pilot tussle in Rajasthan.



The interim chief of the Congress, Sonia Gandhi, before her meeting with Gehlot, had an hour-long chat with Pilot. While the proposed arrangement — Gehlot as the Congress chief and Pilot as Rajasthan Chief Minister — will suit the party's top brass, it may not exactly delight Gehlot. He may head the country's oldest political party but, with Pilot as the Chief Minister, the old warhorse will have hardly any say in his own home State. The reasons are obvious: There was a lot of bad blood between Gehlot and his former Deputy Chief Minister, Pilot. The Congress will hope that Gehlot, if elected, would focus on the new job rather than bemoaning the loss of the previous one. The bigger issue would be the interference of the family in running the party. If that continues, and in the manner the interference continues, the chances of party revival will be considerably diminished. While Rahul has been consistent in his criticism and condemnation of the Narendra Modi regime, and his Bharat Jodo Yatra has also gained some traction, his and his family members' performance has been, to put it mildly, suboptimal. Some of the Gandhis' decisions have been completely bereft of rationality. Gehlot, if elected, will have a lot of baggage to deal with. Reviving the party will be an uphill task.

PICTALK



A child participates in the 'Pedal For Peace' cycle race organised by Jammu and Kashmir Police, in Srinagar

New-look PM CARES

The PM's fund has three new trustees, including the illustrious Ratan Tata

The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) is all set to enter a new phase. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to widen its board of trustees. Three new trustees were inducted in a meeting chaired by the PM himself. The Union Home Minister and the Finance Minister are already the fund's trustees. The three new members are former Supreme Court judge KT Thomas, former Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda and industrialist Ratan Tata, all of them octogenarians. The Advisory Board to PM CARES would have Rajiv Mehrotra, the former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Sudha Murthy, former Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, and Anand Shah, co-founder of 'Teach for India' and former CEO of Indicorps and Piramal Foundation. This now gives PM CARES some semblance of a public trust rather than a government body. Modi said the participation of new trustees and advisors will provide 'wider perspectives to the functioning of the PM CARES Fund' as their vast experience in public life would impart further vigour in making the fund more responsive to various public needs. It is true though this should have been done at the time of formation of the fund.



In fact, the fund drew flak from all quarters for being 'redundant' as the Prime Minister Relief Fund already existed for such exigencies. So what was the need to have such a fund in the first place? Besides, they objected to the fact that the Government kept it away from the CAG audit's ambit. The Government's stand has been that it doesn't get Government funding, rather only private funds. However, that is debatable as PM CARES has allegedly received multi-million funds from PSUs, Government departments, etc which run on exchequer's money. It goes without saying that once the name of Ratan Tata is associated with PM CARES, it would give validation to its motives and ensure transparency. Besides, if the fund has to have respectability, the money must be used judiciously. Unfortunately in the past, there were reports of substandard medical equipment being bought by the PM CARES money. Every penny counts and must be spent transparently, whether the money is received from a private enterprise or a PSU. Let's hope that Ratan Tata's trusteeship brings about a radical change in the PM CARES disbursement of funds.

The sudden spurt in Afghan blasts

Will Taliban be able to defeat a resurgent Islamic State of Khorasan Province, which is carrying out terror strikes to undermine the regime?



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The continuing explosions in Afghanistan — the latest at the time of writing being the one that killed at least three in Kabul on September 21, 2022 — have been attributed to or claimed by the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), an affiliate of the Daesh or Islamic State. Many also call the organisation, which made its appearance in Afghanistan in 2014 (2015, according to some), the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan (ISIS-K).

These blasts and other terror strikes are aimed at undermining the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. As Asfandyar Mir, a senior expert at the US Institute of Peace, points out in a Wilson Centre paper, dated October 8, 2021, "ISIS-K sees the Taliban as an irreconcilable enemy that needs to be militarily defeated." While "sustained military hostilities" have aggravated the enmity between the organisations, "the main cause remains their sectarian difference". The ISKP subscribes to the "Jihadi-Salafism ideology — and plays up the 'purity' of its anti-idolatry credentials, the Taliban subscribe to 'an alternative Sunni Islamic sectarian school, the Hanafi madhhab,' which ISKP regards as 'deficient'. The two groups also differ over the role of nationalism. The ISKP's fierce rejection of it 'runs counter to the Afghan Taliban's aims of ruling over Afghanistan'.

The blasts and other forms of terror strike have, no doubt, seriously undercut the Taliban narrative that their rule has brought security to Afghanistan. They also raise the question whether the Taliban regime itself is secure. Of course, it is one thing to trigger explosions and quite another to defenestrate the Taliban regime. It is always difficult to prevent terror strikes including bomb blasts. The initiative lies with the perpetrators and Governments can only react *post-facto*. Preventive action can only be taken if advance information is available as a result of deep and extensive penetration of the organisation concerned by intelligence agencies,



which, again would depend in a great measure on how porous or impenetrable the organisation is. Given the continuing frequency and spread of the blasts and other attacks by the ISKP, the Taliban have clearly not been able to penetrate it.

Inability to prevent terror strikes does not mean that the Taliban regime is set to collapse. It has a large army of trained fighters and has inherited the arms, ammunition, military aircraft and vehicles and combat infrastructure left behind by the United States. Nevertheless, the Taliban do face serious problems. Writing for the US Council of Foreign Relations' Centre for Preventive Action, Seth G Jones, Harold Brown Chair and Director, Transnational Threats Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies, they do not control law and order outside most cities; nor have they been able to establish basic services. The economy is in shambles. As a report in *The Economist* datelined June 8, 2022, and titled 'The Taliban Government has proved surprisingly good at raising money', states, in "the last four months of 2021, the economy contracted by more than a third compared with the same



THE ISKP HAS SHOWN REMARKABLE RESILIENCE. SUSTAINED ATTACKS BY THE US FORCES, THE PREVIOUS AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT AND THE TALIBAN, FROM 2016 TO 2021, HAD SEVERELY WEAKENED IT

period a year earlier. Private businesses have laid off about three-fifths of employees. Food prices are rising by 18% year on year. Families that were middle-class a year ago are surviving on a single meal a day. More than half the country's people face acute hunger. Some have taken to selling organs or children."

The same report, however, pointed out that the new Government's finances were in much better shape than anybody expected — largely because of its ability to keep revenues flowing despite the obstacles facing it, which, in turn, is due to its experience in collecting taxes during their two decades as a rebel army and their crackdown on corruption in revenue collection following their ascent to power. This is important because it needs money to fight ISKP. It, however, is not just a question of money. ISKP has shown remarkable resilience. Sustained attacks by the US forces, the previous Afghan Government and the Taliban, from 2016 to 2021, had severely weakened it.

There, however, was a resurgence after the Taliban takeover. In a dispatch in *The New York Times* (datelined May 1, 2022) titled 'With Spate of Attacks, ISIS Begins Bloody New Chapter in

Afghanistan', Christina Goldbaum states that since the Taliban seized power, the ISKP has grown in reach and expanded to nearly all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. She further cites Abdul Sayed, a security expert who tracks the ISKP and other jihadi groups, as saying that the ISKP carried out 119 attacks in Afghanistan in the last four months of 2021 against 39 in the corresponding period of 2020.

The ISKP has also doubled its strength in Afghanistan from around 2,000 to 4,000 since the Taliban's return to power. This is both a result of escape/release of its fighters from prisons that followed, those disillusioned by Taliban and many of the former Afghan Government's military and intelligence agency (the National Directorate of Security) personnel joining it, the last two perceiving it to be the most effective opponent to the Taliban. Clearly, the Taliban have a major problem at hand. So has the world. The establishment of their version of sharia rule worldwide through global terror strikes is an integral part of the ISKP's agenda.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOLERANCE IS ON THE WANE

Sir — Tolerance is the intrinsic characteristic feature of Indian culture and civilisation but unfortunately it is waning, which is a cause of serious concern to political parties, Government and the general populace. Since ancient times, the quality and doctrine of tolerance guided us and it formed part of our life and whole governance; thus we should protect this intrinsic beauty of our nation at all costs. If it requires any sacrifice, we should be prepared for it and should never let it down under any circumstances. The bane and politics of intolerance and hatred has become a reality and fashion in the 21st century India.

It is an irony that everything is politicised by politicians purely for vote bank politics and appeasement policy. The politics of intolerance has affected our coexistence and mutual brotherhood. The creed of intolerance is threatening our secularism, pluralism and the Hindu-Muslim amity/unity. Therefore, we should not allow the culture of intolerance and hatred to flourish in India as it is against our age-old values of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which means that the whole world is one family and it is central to all our endeavours.

Vivek Koul | Jammu

A POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT

Sir — The political witch-hunt in Telangana is talk of the town as many business people who are close to the ruling TRS are feeling scared as the ED and CBI have started investigating many cases against them and some have even been arrested. Though political witch-hunt is nothing new, it is being seen more of since the BJP Government is determined to fight corruption in business, politics and funding elections through black money. But it should apply to all, whether BJP-ruled States or the Opposition party ruled States. Many States are worried and agitating at the raids.

Disrupting life for no reason



Public in Kerala had to face a lot of problem during the one-day strike called by a faction which was protesting against the raid and arrests made by the NIA over the radical outfit's alleged involvement in terror-related activities including involvement in funding terrorism and terrorist activities, organising training camps and radicalising people to join banned organisations. At many places, buses and vehicles were blocked and shops closed by the protesters. Many KSRTC buses were damaged and

commuters hurt at many places.

The pain, anxiety and anguish felt by the common man as a result of such unwanted protests and hindrances, blocking the everyday life of citizens, can never be understood by those stupefied due to political power and radical influence. Complete chaos and disruptions lead to so many problems and confusion in public life. Punishment to all such elements will definitely reduce such anti-public behaviour. It is really surprising to see the leaders of political parties and factions, who lead such protests, justifying such strikes. Other than the leaders and the members of the parties who call these strikes, nobody supports or is interested in such protests that cause only difficulties and hardships to the common man. Rather than getting the support, they can expect only fear and animosity from the public.

M Pradyu | Kannur

Regarding the raids in Telangana, it comes as no surprise especially since the witch-hunt was started by the ruling party. Despite a plethora of corruption and land grabbing complaints against various political leaders and even Ministers, the Government never looked into any complaints. But now many Opposition leaders are being harassed by police and arrested for petty cases. Even public gatherings and rallies are not permitted but, after the High Court's intervention, the Government had to permit public meetings and rallies. Even journalists were harassed and arrested for commenting against the Government.

JP Reddy | Telangana

CRACKDOWN ON THE CORRUPT

Sir — The CBI has arrested Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal, the founder of ABG Shipyard Limited, in connection with an alleged bank fraud of more than ₹22,842 crore. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had booked Agarwal, a former chairman of the company, then executive director Santhanam Muthaswamy and

directors Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal and Ravi Vimal Nevetia on February 7. Agarwal was called for questioning on Wednesday at the CBI headquarters, during which the investigating officer suspected that he was not cooperating in the probe and was evasive in responses. He was, therefore, arrested.

The CBI had registered the case on a complaint from the SBI for the alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and abuse of official position under the IPC and the Prevention of Corruption Act. The SBI with an exposure of ₹2,468.51 crore was part of a consortium of 28 banks and financial institutions led by ICICI Bank. The ABG Shipyard, being a major player in Indian ship building industry, operated from its shipyards located at Dahej and Surat in Gujarat with capacity to build vessels up to 18,000 dead weight tonnage (DWT) at Surat shipyard and 1,20,000 DWT at Dahej.

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

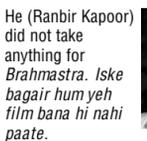
Shashi Tharoor should not contest. We're still questioning Rahul Gandhi to become Congress chief.



Cong LS chief whip —K Suresh



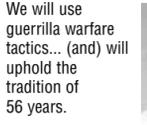
Canada PM —Justin Trudeau



He (Ranbir Kapoor) did not take anything for *Brahmastra*. *Iske bagair hum yeh film bana hi nahi paate*.



Director —Ayan Mukerji



When you are coming back from an injury, it's the most difficult phase for any athlete.

Indian grappler —Bajrang Punia

We will use guerrilla warfare tactics... (and) will uphold the tradition of 56 years.

Sena (Thackeray) leader —Ajay Choudhary

FIRST COLUMN
REMOVE CODIFIED BIAS ON WAQF PROPERTIES

The Waqf Act is the outcome of politics of appeasement



SHSHANK SAURAV

The Waqf Board in Tamil Nadu has claimed ownership of an entire village. Media reports claimed that Muslim resettlement in this area happened in 1927-28 and the Wakf Board has claimed its stake on the property of village temple also. There have been many such instances where people who were dwelling the property were unaware of the fact that it has been claimed as Wakf property by the board.

The Wakf Act was initially passed by Parliament in 1954 and subsequently Wakf Act, 1995, was enacted for the purpose of better administration of Aukaf (i.e., assets donated for religious or charitable causes).

However, this law has become a tool to grab the assets and innocent people are harassed due to its draconian provisions. The Act empowers the Waqf Board to declare any property as Waqf property based on the survey carried out by its team. If this is not enough, Section 6 specifies that the aggrieved party has to appeal to the Tribunal constituted under the Act and there is a limitation period of one year for raising the dispute.



This legislation is drafted in such a way that it is not necessary for the Board to give a notice to the person whose property is sought to be declared as Waqf property and if the aggrieved party has not litigated within a period of one year, then he has no legal recourse!

Section 40 of the Act reiterates this power of Waqf Board and any property shall remain vested with it until revoked by the Tribunal. Section 83 read along with 85 gives exclusive powers to the Tribunal and parties aggrieved by the decision of the Tribunal can approach the High Court. Plight of the common man can be understood when his property is declared as Waqf asset without his knowledge and then he is expected to litigate it within a period of one year, otherwise it is gone forever. Even if he litigates it with the Tribunal then the next recourse is at High Court level, which is out of reach for most of the Indians.

It is pertinent to note that in a matter related to Wakf Act, 1954, the Supreme Court had decided that the limitation of one year for initiating the litigation is not applicable for non-Muslims (Board of Muslim Wakf, Rajasthan versus Radha Kishan and Others, 1978), but in order to appease the Muslims, section 6 was amended in 2013 and now there is a uniform time limit of one year for all the aggrieved parties.

Rajindar Sachar, chairman of the Sachar Committee, in his 2006 report estimated the value of Wakf property at Rs 1.2 lakh crore. The Wakf Board owns around six lakh acres of land. Sachar suggested survey of Wakf properties and amendments to the Wakf Act which were duly incorporated in the law by way of amendment in 2013.

Indian history is full of partiality against the Hindus and nothing changed even after Independence. Jawaharlal Nehru got Hindu Code Bills passed by Parliament but he didn't dare to touch the practices of other religions. Dr. BR Ambedkar was in favour of a uniform civil code, but Nehru insisted on changing the Hindu laws only and gave liberty to the others. Charitable & Endowment Acts were enacted by state governments in the 1950s to manage the Hindu temples but a central legislation was passed in 1954 to protect the Wakf properties.

The Congress government at the Centre implemented the Places of Worship Act, 1991, which intends to bar the Hindu's claims on other holy shrines.

(The author is a policy analyst)

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya had a vision for world



SUMEET BHASIN

His philosophy of integral humanism gave centre-stage to the poorest of the poor in statecraft; so much so that it is the ideological philosophy in India

Rank communism and capitalism are now dead. But integral humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya is not only alive, but is the ideological philosophy in India. The post-Independent Indian politics has found a deep ideological anchor in the thoughts of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

In the philosophy of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, which requires wider debate and discussion among academicians, there is a balance of human life with nature. Now that the 77th United Nations General Assembly is taking place, the world leaders among others face the grave challenge of climate change and deepening social inequity. The developed world, both led by capitalism and communism, wrecked the environment with their reckless exploitation of the natural resources.

The Covid-19 pandemic exposed the self-centeredness of the developed world, as they stock-piled vaccines, while the poor in the least developed countries waited for the life-saving medicines and vaccines. It's the time of crisis when the depth of an ideology is tested, and the integral humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya shone brightly on the world stage, as India delivered vaccines, medicines, food, Covid-19 kits to small and big nations alike, making no difference, with sole abiding ideal that each life be saved and nurtured.

In the Modi government, the integral humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya has found the finest expressions in the statecraft, while the BJP has embarked on the path of social democracy to execute the words of the top ideologue of the party in action.

When a child is born, he or she first becomes aware about himself or herself, and with the passage of time starts knowing about the family, society, state and nation. The human entity lives a life in a give and take with the surroundings, including nature. Thus, human beings, animals and vegetation strike a balance of co-existence, which was underlined by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. If one stops caring for another, there will be imbalance, which will have consequences for all. Climate change is a consequence of the developed world being unkind to the basic principle of coexistence.

But the Modi government, while rolling out the Ujjwala scheme not only thought of the wellbeing of the poorest of the poor in the country, but also of the environment. Women were exposed to smoke, becoming unwell with several diseases when they grew old, while trees were felled to burn the kitchen fire. The Ujjwala scheme thought of the wellbeing of women and nature in line with the core mantra of the philosophy of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

The greater significance of the ideals of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya is that one should exemplify the life principle, and that should be the abiding duty of the



UNDER THE JAM TRINITY, THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAS BROUGHT TO LIFE THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA, AS MASSIVE SCALING UP OF THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF THE WEAKER SECTIONS OF SOCIETY WAS CARRIED OUT

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



person for the self, family, society, state and the nation. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was once travelling in a bus, and it so happened that he requested the person sitting next to him to play news on his transistor set. But the person saw that Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was carrying a transistor set himself. So, he enquired if there is any issue with his transistor set to which Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya replied that he couldn't renew the license of his radio set. Such a commitment to align the laws of the land with the life practices is central to the idea of a state and the people being in a symbiotic relationship.

Rajpath has been renamed Kartavyapath to remind all, including the people, the politicians, the officials and the ministers, that they have duties for the nation, society and citizens and that must be their life principles. This is the mantra being conveyed by PM Modi, which he has spoken of on several occasions, including from the ramparts of the Red Fort as recently as this year's Independence Day.

Probity in life is the basic minimum for a healthy society and a great nation. No society can take care of its people if there is no probity. The people have to be honest, and they should be seen often being honest. Honesty cannot be a hidden jewel. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya lived his ideals. The BJP workers and others who read about him greatly benefit from the scale of probity in his life.

Once Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was travelling in a train, he got to know that Guruji (MS Golwalkar) was also in the train in the first compartment. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya went to the first compartment and after a while he got down at his destination. There he straightaway went to the office of the station master, and paid the fine for travelling a part of the journey while he had the ticket for the second class.

Such individual attributes when shared at mass level in the society can help shape the character of a great nation. The political class, the officials, the judiciary, and other members of the civil society have to demonstrate the credible attribute of probity in personal and public life.

Such was the significance of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya that when he passed away the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the "sun of our life has gone, and now we have to seek guidance with the earthen lamp". Vajpayee had succeeded Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya as the president of Jansangh, and when he became Prime Minister of India, the government conceived Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) to help the rural parts of the country access the urban amenities. Vajpayee further embedded the philosophy of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya in his statecraft, as he spearheaded connectivity at a scale that was never seen in the country in roads,

telecommunication, infrastructure, amenities and services. Besides, a nation that has self-belief can take care of the national interests also while being unafraid of others, which was demonstrated in Vajpayee carrying out the Pokharan II nuclear tests and Modi delivering body blow to the terror infrastructure in Pakistan through the Balakot and the surgical strikes in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack

On September 25, we all will commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya to reaffirm to live by his ideals, the philosophy of integral humanism, and further accelerate the welfare of the poorest of the poor in the country so that they are not only taken care of but also made to stand on their feet.

Under the JAM trinity, the Modi government has brought to life the political philosophy of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, as massive scaling up of the financial inclusion of the weaker sections of the society was carried out in the recent few years, which again was an extension of the work done under the Vajpayee administration when India was given the affordable tools to communicate with mobile phones.

The Mudra, Suraksha Bima, Sukanya Yojna and others are all aimed to fulfil the political ideology of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, which again is being scaled up with the target of 100 per cent saturation of all schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I'M NOT HAPPY WITH THE ATMOSPHERE OF DISHARMONY; IT'S COMPLETELY WRONG. ONLY THEN THE COUNTRY CAN MOVE AHEAD.
—RSS CHIEF MOHAN BHAGWAT



THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS OF MUSLIMS' LOYALTY AND WANT THEM TO PROVE THEIR PATRIOTISM AT EVERY TURN. MUSLIMS ARE ALSO INDIANS.
—FORMER CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER SY QURAISHI

The SCO has a long-term regional agenda

The outcome of the SCO in Samarkand shows that the members are bracing for a larger role on the world stage

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit of the eight-nation influential grouping took place amid the growing geopolitical turmoil largely triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Strait. Launched in Shanghai in June 2001, the SCO has eight full members, including its six founding members—China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.

Leaders of Russia, China, India, and other SCO member states attended high-level meetings in Uzbekistan's historic city of Samarkand,



PK VASUDEVA

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

focusing on regional and global stability, security, and economy. In the run-up to the main event, Uzbekistan, which held the SCO chairmanship this year, has hosted a total of more than 80 SCO-related events, with more than 40 documents signed, including the leaders' summit declaration.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held separate bilateral meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. However, there was no bilateral meeting between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Modi began his comments by telling Putin that the

"era of war" is over, indicating India's discomfort with Russia's attack on Ukraine for the first time in public, although New Delhi has not criticised Russia for its action thus far. "I know that today's era is not of war and we have spoken to you many times on the phone that democracy, diplomacy and dialogue are such things that touch the world," Modi said. His remarks on Ukraine have been widely appreciated by the Western and European countries.

Modi during his speech at the summit said, Covid-19 and Ukraine situation resulted in hurdles in the global supply chain, resulting in a food and energy security crisis. In April 2022, WHO inaugurated its Global Centre

for Traditional Medicines in Gujarat. This was the first and only global center by WHO for traditional treatment. India will take an initiative for a new SCO working group on traditional medicines, said Modi.

"India's economy is expected to grow at the rate of 7.5 per cent this year. I'm glad that ours is one of the fastest growing economies among the largest economies of the world," he added.

Security, Iran's nuclear programme, Afghanistan, and reforms of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) were discussed at the summit. The SCO's growth is probably one of the key features of this year's summit. A memorandum on Iran joining the SCO as full-time member has been

adopted with Minsk of Belarus starting its accession as well. The organization also accepted Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar as dialogue partners, with an agreement being reached on the Maldives, Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait, and Myanmar becoming new dialogue partners.

There were a number of important statements coming from SCO leaders on the second day of their work in Samarkand. Xi spoke against colour revolutions, while Putin pointed at the fundamental transformations which have taken place in world politics and the economy, calling them irreversible.

Being part of the SCO founders' pool, Russia and China communicated actively in Samarkand, with Putin

and Xi meeting one-on-one, as well as in trilateral format with Mongolian leader Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh.

The summit's final declaration focused on members' confirmation that the organization is not directed against other countries, with SCO nations agreeing not to interfere in the internal affairs of states. There were several important security-related issues in the declaration, such as the need to implement a plan on Iran's nuclear programme, a call to create an inclusive government in Afghanistan, and an affirmation of the need to observe the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Besides being successful in organizing a productive summit, Uzbekistan's officials

also managed to draw the organization's attention to an issue that is of particular importance for Tashkent itself, namely the need for Afghanistan to be accepted by the SCO family, with the topic being mentioned in the final declaration of the summit. Uzbekistan's leader Shavkat Mirziyoyev also pointed at the need to lay out a long-term plan for the SCO's development.

"The President of Uzbekistan [Shavkat] Mirziyoyev actually mentioned that we need to develop the strategy for the SCO's future to 2040," said Marat Aitov, who is the head of the department of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

TEARS AND HUGS FOR RUSSIANS CALLED UP TO FIGHT IN UKRAINE

AP ■ ZAPORIZHZHIA (UKRAINE)

Russia escalated its military and political campaign Thursday to capture Ukrainian territory, rounding up Russian army reservists to fight, preparing votes on annexing occupied areas and launching new deadly attacks.

A day after President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial mobilization to bolster his troops in Ukraine, dramatic scenes of tearful families bidding farewell to men departing from military mobilization centers in Russia appeared on social media.

Video on Twitter from the eastern Siberian city of Neryungri showed men emerging from a stadium. Before boarding buses, the men hugged family members waiting outside, many crying and some covering their mouths with their hands in grief. A man held a child up to the window

of one bus for a last look.

In Moscow, women hugged, cried and made the sign of the cross on men at another mobilization point. A 25-year-old who gave only his first name, Dmitry, received a hug from his father, who told him "Be careful", as they parted. Dmitry told Russian media company Ostorozhno Novosti he did not expect to be called up and shipped out so quickly, especially since he still is a student.

"No one told me anything in the morning. They gave me the draft notice that I should come here at 3 pm. We waited 1.5 hours, then the enlistment officer came and said that we are leaving now," he said. "I was like, Oh great! I went outside and started calling my parents, brother, all friends of mine to tell that they take me."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in some of his harshest comments so far



in the nearly seven-month-old war, lashed out at Russians succumbing to the pressure to serve in their country's armed forces and those who haven't spoken out against the war.

In his nightly video address, he switched from his usual Ukrainian language into Russian to directly tell Russian citizens they are being "thrown to their deaths."

"You are already accomplices in all these crimes, murders and torture of Ukrainians," Zelenskyy said, wearing a black T-shirt that said in English: "We Stand with Ukraine," instead of

his signature olive drab T-shirt. He said Russians' options to survive are to "protest, fight back, run away or surrender to Ukrainian captivity".

Western leaders derided Putin's mobilization order as an act of weakness and desperation. More than 1,300 Russians were arrested in antiwar demonstrations Wednesday after he issued it, according to the independent Russian human rights group OVD-Info. Organizers said more protests were planned for Saturday.

Putin's partial call-up of 300,000 reservists was short on details, so much so that the Russian military announced Thursday it had set up a call center to answer questions.

In Washington, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's press secretary, said the US believes that it will take Russia time to train and equip the new troops and that doing so may not solve

command and control, logistics and morale issues.

Concerns about a potentially wider draft sent some Russians scrambling to buy plane tickets to flee the country, and Zelenskyy claimed Thursday that the Russian military is preparing to draft up to a million men. A Kremlin spokesman earlier denied such claims. German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser offered concrete support to potential deserters. She told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung that anyone who "courageously opposes Putin's regime and therefore puts himself in the greatest danger" can apply for asylum in Germany.

In the Kremlin's territory annexation campaign, pro-Moscow authorities in four Russian-held regions of Ukraine plan voter referendums starting Friday on becoming part of Russia — a

move that could expand the war and follows the Kremlin's playbook from when it annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula after a similar referendum. Most of the world considers the 2014 annexation of Crimea to have been illegal.

Voting on the referendums in Ukraine's Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions is scheduled to last through Tuesday. Foreign leaders have called the votes illegitimate and nonbinding.

In Luhansk, billboards reading "With Russia Forever" and "Our Choice-Russia" appeared on the streets, while volunteers distributed ribbons in the colours of the Russian national flag and posters reading, "Russia is the future. Participate in the referendum!"

On the battlefield, Russian and Ukrainian forces exchanged missile and artillery barrages as both sides refused to concede ground.

Norway's PM on Ukraine: 'The war has to stop'

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Norway's prime minister, Jonas Gahr Store, believes the world — with one notable

holdout — is on the same page: "The war has to stop."

"I heard it from China. I heard it from India. I heard it from African colleagues. And I

think that's an important message because Russia has tried to say No, there are different views," Store told The Associated Press on Thursday, following the morning's UN Security Council meeting.

"And of course, countries word their opinions in different ways. But in this there has been consistency. The war has to stop."

As a NATO member whose border with Russia stretches well over 100 miles (just under 200 kilometers), Norway's geographical and geopolitical location has proved relevant in the context of the crisis. It's also an elected member of the Security Council.

Store had a blunt assessment of the way Russian President Vladimir Putin has tried to justify Russia's actions.



"The narrative of President Putin when he is giving a reason for mobilizing and for continuing the war, I believe that narrative is false. It is not true," Store told the AP.

"I mean, it's based on Russia being under threat, pressure, being under some kind of attack by the West. I am a prime minister in a NATO country and bordering Russia, a European country, I belong to the West or whatever you may call it, but this is simply not true."

Store does not believe Russia poses a threat to Norway's own territorial integrity, but labeled the aggression "unacceptable". He also censured Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's late arrival and early departure from the meeting.

"He chose not to listen to any of the interventions. He spoke and he left after he had spoken, which is, to me, a sign of, in a way, insecurity," he said.

Since the war's outbreak, Norway has supplanted Russia as Europe's biggest supplier of natural gas. Norway has thus far resisted the European Union's demand for gas price caps, with Store telling the AP that the limits "would not resolve the fundamental issue, which is that there is a shortage of gas."

Store is a proponent of renewable energy sources, particularly offshore wind farms, and thinks that the conflict-driven energy crisis might accelerate the shift — "paradoxically, it will help."

Norway is a founding member of NATO and within the Schengen Area, but it is not a member of the European Union. While Store's party supports accession, the prospect has long been unpalatable to the Norwegian populace.

Store says a "pretty stable majority" prefers the status quo, but he has seen "some" movement in the opinion polls. Pointing to Sweden and Finland's recent shift in policy, he said that the war has instead highlighted the importance of NATO.

Moscow-held regions of Ukraine in 'sham' vote to join Russia



AP ■ KYIV

Voting began on Friday in Moscow-held regions of Ukraine on referendums to become part of Russia, Russian-backed officials there said.

The Kremlin-orchestrated referendums, which have been widely denounced by Ukraine and the West as shams without any legal force, are seen as a step toward annexing the territories by Russia.

The votes are being held in the Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions. The vote, which asks residents if they want their regions to be part of Russia, is certain to go Moscow's way.

That would give Russia the pretext to claim that attempts by Ukrainian forces to regain control are attacks on Russia itself, dramatically escalating the seven-month war.

The referendums follow Russian President Vladimir Putin's order of a partial mobilization, which could add about 300,000 Russian troops to the fight. The balloting will continue for five days through Tuesday.

As the votes were getting underway in the occupied regions, Russian social media sites were full of dramatic scenes of tearful families bidding farewell to men departing from military mobilisation centres.

In cities across the vast country, men hugged their weeping family members before departing as part of the draft. Russian anti-war activists, in the meantime, planned more protests against the mobilisation.

Election officials will be bringing ballots to people's homes and setting up makeshift polling stations near residential buildings during the first four days of the referendums, according to Russian-installed officials in the occupied regions, who cited safety reasons. Tuesday will be the only day when the voters will be invited to come to regular polls. Polls also opened in Russia, where refugees from the occupied regions can cast their votes. Denis Pushilin, separatist leader of Moscow-backed authorities in the Donetsk region, called the referendum on Friday "a historical milestone".

Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, addressed the occupied regions Friday in an online statement, saying: "If you decide to become part of the Russian Federation — we will support you."

Valentina Matviyenko, chair of Russia's upper parliament house, said that residents of the occupied regions were voting for "life or death" at the referendums.

US calls on world to tell Russia to stop its nuclear threats

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United States called on other nations to tell Russia to stop making nuclear threats and end "the horror" of its war in Ukraine as all three countries' top diplomats spoke — but didn't quite meet — at a high-profile UN Security Council meeting on Thursday.

Held alongside the annual UN General Assembly gathering of world leaders, the session followed a striking development in the war this week: Russia called up a portion of its reserves for the first time since World War II. At the same time, President Vladimir Putin said his nuclear-armed country will "use all means available to us" to defend itself if its territory is threatened.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken saw Putin's remark as particularly menacing given plans for referendums in Russian-controlled parts of eastern and southern



Ukraine on whether to become part of Russia.

Western nations have condemned those votes as illegitimate and nonbinding. But, in their wake, Moscow might then see any Ukrainian attempt to retake those areas as an attack on "Russian territory," Blinken warned.

"Every council member should send a clear message that these reckless nuclear

threats must stop immediately," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov didn't mention his country's nuclear capacity or the new troop mobilization during his own remarks at the council meeting, which France called to discuss accountability for alleged abuses and atrocities during the nearly seven-month-long war.

Instead, Lavrov repeated

his country's frequent claims that Kyiv has long oppressed Russian speakers in Ukraine's east — one of the explanations Moscow has offered for the invasion — and that Western support for Ukraine is a menace to Russia.

"What's particularly cynical is the position of states that are pumping Ukraine full of weapons and training their soldiers," he said, maintaining that their goal is to prolong fighting "to wear down and weaken Russia."

"That policy means the direct involvement of the West in the conflict," said Lavrov. He added that Ukraine had become "an anti-Russia staging ground to create threats against Russian security" and his country wouldn't accept it.

The Security Council has held dozens of contentious meetings on Ukraine since the war began in February, but Thursday's session had special status.

UN rights experts cite signs of war crimes in Ukraine

AP ■ GENEVA

A team of experts commissioned by the UN's top human rights body to look into rights violations in Ukraine said on Friday its initial investigation turned up evidence of war crimes in the country following Russia's invasion nearly seven months ago.

The experts from the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, mandated by Human Rights Council earlier this year, have so far focused on four regions — Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy.

Presenting their most extensive findings so far, they cited testimonies by former detainees of beatings, electric shocks and forced nudity in Russian detention facilities, and expressed grave concerns about executions in the four regions.

"We were struck by the large number of executions in the areas that we visited. The commission is currently investigating such deaths in 16 towns and settlements," Erik Mose, the commission's chairman, said.



He said his team had received and was documenting "credible allegations regarding many more cases of executions".

The investigators visited 27 towns and settlements, as well as graves and detention and torture centres; interviewed more than 150 victims and witnesses; and met with advocacy groups and government officials, he said.

"Based on the evidence gathered by the commission, it has concluded that war crimes have been committed in Ukraine," Mose said, without specifying who which side in the war committed the alleged crimes.

He said the team had examined two incidents of ill-treatment against Russian soldiers by Ukrainian forces.

World opinion shifts against Russia as Ukraine worries grow

AP ■ NEW YORK

The tide of international opinion appears to be decisively shifting against Russia, as a number of non-aligned countries are joining the United States and its allies in condemning Moscow's war in Ukraine and its threats to the principles of the international rules-based order.

Western officials have repeatedly said that Russia has become isolated since invading Ukraine in February. Until recently, though, that was largely wishful thinking.

But on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, much of the international community spoke out against the conflict in a rare display of unity at the often fractured United Nations.

The tide had already appeared to be turning against Putin even before Thursday's UN speeches.

Chinese and Indian leaders had been critical of the war at a high-level summit last week in Uzbekistan. And then the UN General Assembly disregarded Russia's objections and voted overwhelmingly to allow Ukrainian President



Volodymyr Zelenskyy to be the only leader to address the body remotely, instead of requiring him to appear in person. That shift against Russia accelerated after President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced the mobilisation of some additional 300,000 troops to Ukraine, signalling the unlikelihood of a quick end to the war.

Putin also suggested that nuclear weapons may be an option. That followed an announcement of Russia's intention to hold independence referenda in several occupied Ukrainian regions with an eye toward possible annexation.

Those announcements came at the very moment that the General Assembly, con-

sidered the premier event in the global diplomatic calendar, was taking place in New York.

Numerous world leaders used their speeches on Tuesday and Wednesday to denounce Russia's war. That trend continued on Thursday both in the assembly hall and at the usually deeply divided UN Security Council, where, one-by-one, virtually all of the 15 council members served up harsh criticism of Russia — a council member -- for aggravating several already severe global crises and imperiling the foundations of the world body.

The apparent shift in opinion offers some hope to Ukraine and its Western allies that increasing isolation will add pressure on Putin to negotiate a peace.

One day after Zelenskyy speech, US, Russia square off at UN

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

One day after Ukraine's president laid out a forceful case against Russia's invasion at the United Nations, the United States made its own assertions in front of the UN Security Council on Thursday about why Russia should face further censure and isolation.

Minutes later, Russia came right back, calling the claims unfair and saying Ukraine is to blame. Antony Blinken, the United States' top diplomat, spoke to Security Council members on Thursday, detailing allegations of what he called war crimes and other atrocities committed by Russia and urging them to "send a clear message" to the country to stop its nuclear threats.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that my client Mrs. Alka who Mr. Suresh Kumar owner of Freehold Residential House measuring area 147.86 Sq. Yd. or say 123.53 Sq. Mt., Pertaining to Kharsa no.1251 situated in Village Begmatad Bhudana, Pragna Jalalabad, Tehsil Modinagar & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. above Mention Property Documents GPA, dated 09.03.2011 in favour of Mr. Sudhir Kumar and Sale deed dated 14.03.2012 in favour of Mr. Mahidhar Prasad & Mrs. Kamla Devi, in respect of the said Property, registered with the office of SR-Modinagar, vide Doc. No. 3260, in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 51174, Pages No. 151174, has been lost/misplaced above mentioned Property to be Loan financed by Subham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd.
If any person(s) have any objection(s) or Claim(s) with respect to the right title or interest in the Said Property then call us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i.e. Subham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd. Building no. 17, 2nd Floor, Sanjay Nagar District Centre Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad - 201002 Shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.
Arun Goswami (Advocate)
Ch. No. 119, 1st Floor, Main Road Tehsil Compound Distt. Ghaziabad, Mob. 9997806112

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Gulshan Kumar Ahuja S/o late Mr. Durga Das Ahuja, 2) Mrs. Kiran Ahuja W/o Mr. Gulshan Kumar Ahuja, 3) Mr. Manik Ahuja S/o Mr. Gulshan Kumar Ahuja & 4) Mrs. Geetanjali Saraf W/o Mr. Manik Ahuja who are purchasing THIRD FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS BUILT ON PLOT NO. 18, AREA MEASURING 520.26 SQ. YARDS, from Mr. Sanjay Kumar Chaudhary S/o Late Mr. Prakash Chand (Developer) vide Reg. Collaboration Agreement dated 27.05.2021 and Mr. Ganesh Dubey S/o Mr. Kailash Dubey and Mrs. Chandrawati Dubey w/o Mr. Ganesh Dubey (land owners) who are the owners of the said property by virtue of sale deed 28.02.1992 and The borrower(s) intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. That the Two Sale Deeds i.e. Sale Deed dated 06.01.1989 (vide Doc. No. 8441) & Sale Deed dated 28.02.1992 (vide Doc. No. 86950) are Lost/Misplaced and an e-FIR has lodged on dated 24.06.2022 with LR No. 529266/2022. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days of this publication.
Lucem Legal LLP
B-93B, on Second Floor, Opp. SBI, Sector-2, Noida, UP - 201301 Contact # 0120-4269379

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-36-T-2022-23-E3
Electrical work in connection with Improvement of Air Conditioning System with installation of remote monitoring system & other allied works at RRT's having more than 100 routes over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works : Rs. 90.21 lacs
Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security : Rs. 1,80,400.00
Date & time of submission of tender : 17.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender : 17.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board : www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
2491/2022

UJVNL LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Enterprise)
H.O. "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Phone: 0135-2763808 Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com
RO No 685
TENDER NOTICE
Dt. 23.09.2022
Office of Executive Engineer (Maint.), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites tenders for following supply & work :
Tender No.10/EE(Maint./Khodri/2022-23 Annual Maintenance of 30MW Francis turbines and associated equipment of Unit 2&4 of Khodri Power Station.
Tender No.11/EE(Maint./Jhokhri/2022-23 — Supply and Installation of Various Size of Gate Valves in Unit 2 and 4 of Khodri Power Station.
Estimated Cost : Rs.24,00,000/- & 10,64,367/-
Date of availability of bid documents : 23.09.2022(18:00 Hrs)
Last date for submission of Tender : 14.10.2022 (upto 16:00 Hrs.).
For further details and downloading of the tender documents kindly visit our Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"
Executive Engineer (Maintenance) Khodri Power Station
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for the information of all concerned that our project of Expansion of Commercial Complex with Multiplex situated at Netaji Subhash Place Metro Station, Opposite Wazirpur District Centre, Pitampura, New Delhi, has been accorded the Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Delhi) vide their approval no. F. No. SEIAA-D/C-410/EC-364/2022 dated 22nd September 2022 subject to the conditions enumerated herein and copies of clearances letter are available with the MoEF&CC and may also be seen on the website of MoEF&CC/SEIAA website.
Harsh V. Bansal, C.E.O.
Parsvnath Developers Ltd.
Parsvnath Metro Tower
Near Shahdara Metro Station, Shahdara, Delhi - 110032

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI
4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI: 110 001
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993).
In the matter of
O.A. NO 1076/2019
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK Vs. **HIMANSHU KUMAR VERMA AND ANR**
Applicant Defendants
D-1 MR HIMANSHU KUMAR VERMA, HOUSE NO. 95, AVTAR ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEAR SANT NIRANKARI SCHOOL, NEW DELHI-110063
ALSO AT:
KUNDAN TRADERS, C-49, MAIN MARKET, NAHARPUR, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110063
D-2 POOJA KUMARI, HOUSE NO. 95, AVTAR ENCLAVE, PASCHIM VIHAR, NEAR SANT NIRANKARI SCHOOL, NEW DELHI-110063
ALSO AT:
KUNDAN TRADERS, C-49, MAIN MARKET, NAHARPUR, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110063
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 09.11.2022 at 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/software;
(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar / Recovery Officer - I / and Recovery Officer - II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates / Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph.No.23748469.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 20TH Day of September 2022.
By Order of the Tribunal

Trump's legal woes mount sans protection of presidency

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Stark repudiation by federal judges he appointed. Far-reaching fraud allegations by New York's attorney general. It's been a week of widening legal troubles for Donald Trump, laying bare the challenges piling up as the former president operates without the protections afforded by the White House.

The bravado that served him well in the political arena is less handy in a legal realm dominated by verifiable evidence, where judges this week have looked askance at his claims and where a fraud investigation that took root when Trump was still president burst into public view in an allegation-filled 222-page state lawsuit.

In politics, "you can say what you want and if people like it, it works. In a legal realm, it's different," said Chris Edelson, a presidential powers scholar and



American University government professor. "It's an arena where there are tangible consequences for missteps, misdeeds, false statements in a way that doesn't apply in politics."

That distinction between politics and law was evident in a single 30-hour period this week.

Trump insisted on Fox News in an interview that aired

any information to support his claims that the documents had been declassified.

The special master, Raymond Dearie, a veteran federal judge, said Trump's team was trying to "have its cake and eat it," too, and that, absent information to back up the claims, he was inclined to regard the records the way the government does: Classified.

On Wednesday morning, Letitia James, the New York State attorney general, accused Trump in a lawsuit of padding his net worth by billions of dollars and habitually misleading banks about the value of prized assets.

The lawsuit, the culmination of a three-year investigation that began when he was president, also names as defendants three of his adult children and seeks to bar them from ever again running a company in the state. Trump has denied any wrongdoing.

Wednesday that the highly classified government records he had at Mar-a-Lago actually had been declassified, that a president has the power to declassify information "even by thinking about it."

A day earlier, however, an independent arbiter his own lawyers had recommended appeared skeptical when the Trump team declined to present

At least 4 killed, 10 hurt after blast near Kabul mosque

AP ■ KABUL

At least four people are dead and 10 wounded after explosion went off near a mosque in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul on Friday, with a hospital confirming the number of casualties.

A column of black smoke rose into the sky and shots rang out several minutes after the blast in the city's diplomatic quarter.

The Italian Emergency Hospital in Kabul said it had received 14 casualties and that four people were dead on arrival.

Khalid Zadran, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief, said the blast targeted worshippers leaving the mosque after Friday prayers.

Interior Minister spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor said the blast went off on the main road



near the mosque. He said the cause was under investigation. Takor said police teams were at the site and that an investigation was underway.

Mosques have previously been a target for attacks.

The blast took place near the Wazir Akbar Khan mosque which, in 2020, was struck by a bomb that killed two people, including the mosque's prayer leader.



UK HM vows full force of law against Leicester thuggery

PTI ■ LONDON

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman has met with local police officers and Hindu and Muslim community leaders in Leicester and assured them that thugs behind recent violent clashes would face the full force of the law.

During a visit to the eastern England city on Thursday, the Indian-origin Cabinet minister was briefed by the Leicestershire Police chief and also leaders from local temples and mosques on the "serious disorder" which has resulted in 47 arrests. The disorder came as tensions since an India-Pakistan cricket match at the end of last month continued to spill over into this weekend.

"I met with Leicestershire Police officers, the Temporary

Chief Constable for Leicestershire and local community leaders to discuss action being taken to protect local residents and restore safety and harmony in Leicester," Braverman tweeted after her visit.

"We'll work together on this, and I will do everything I can to support communities and our police. Those who bring disorder and thuggery to our streets will face the full force of the law and I thank all those brave police officers for keeping us safe," she said.

With reference to reports of a protest by masked men outside a temple in Birmingham earlier this week, the Home Secretary said she had also spoken to the local West Midlands Police chief and that the situation there continues to be monitored.

Violent unrest continues in Iran State TV suggests death toll from unrest could be as high as 26

AP ■ DUBAI

Protesters across Iran continued to clash violently with security forces early on Friday following the death of a young woman in police custody, as Iranian state TV suggested the death toll from the unrest could be as high as 26, without offering details.

Although the scope of the protests across some dozen Iranian cities and towns remains unclear, the movement represents the widest unrest since 2019, when rights groups said hundreds of people were killed in a violent crackdown.

Iran has also disrupted internet access to the outside world, according to internet traffic monitor NetBlocks, tightening restrictions on popular platforms used to organise rallies like Instagram and WhatsApp.

An anchor on state TV said late on Thursday that 26 protesters and policemen had been killed since the protests erupted last Saturday after the funeral of the 22-year-old



Mahsa Amini, without elaborating on how authorities reached that figure.

He said official statistics would be released later, but in past times of turmoil the Iranian government has not offered official death tolls.

The unrest has killed at least 11 people according to a tally by The Associated Press, based on statements from state-run and semi-official media.

Most recently, the deputy governor of Qazvin, Abolhasan

sharp condemnation from Western countries and the United Nations, and touched a national nerve.

Videos show Amini wearing a long black covering and state-mandated Islamic headscarf at the time of her arrest.

The police said she died of a heart attack and was not mistreated. But her family has cast doubt on that account, as have the many Iranians voicing pent-up anger over social and political repression on the streets.

Authorities have alleged that unnamed foreign countries and opposition groups are trying to foment unrest.

Videos on social media show protesters in Tehran torching a police car and confronting officers at close range. Elsewhere in the capital, videos show gunfire sounding out as protesters bolt from riot police shouting, "They are shooting at people! Oh my God they're killing people!"

In the northwest city of Neyshabur, protesters cheered over an overturned police car. Footage from Tehran and

Mashhad shows women waving their obligatory hijab head coverings in the air like flags while chanting, "Freedom!"

The chants have been scathing, with some calling for the downfall of the ruling clerics.

The protesters cry, "Death to the dictator!" and "Mullahs must be gone!" London-based watchdog Amnesty International has accused security forces of beating protesters with batons and firing metal pellets at close range.

Videos show police and paramilitary officers using live fire, tear gas, and water cannons to disperse the demonstrations.

Iran has grappled with waves of protests in the recent past, mainly over a long-running economic crisis exacerbated by American sanctions linked to its nuclear programme.

In November 2019, the country saw the deadliest violence since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, as protests erupted over a rise in the state-controlled price of gasoline.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whom so ever it may concern
General public is hereby informed that my client namely Mr. Sachin Kumar is the owner of the property bearing Plot area measuring 40 Sq. Yards i.e. 33.45 Sq. Meters, comprised in Khaska No. 1420 Min situated at Mohan Sad Picket, Marg, Sector-2, Noida, District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, by virtue of Gift Deed dated 22.08.2022 regd. at doc. No. 10054 and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with Punjab Capital and Housing Finance Ltd and the daughter of Sh. Jai Kishan i.e. Mrs. Megha has no objection regarding Sale/mortgage of aforesaid property by Mrs. Sachin Kumar.
If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patilwa House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob. - 91-9876185232

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, R.P. Punj s/o Lt. Kanahya Lal Punj residing at 10, Pritivraj Road, New Delhi-110011 on behalf of the firm issue a public notice:
The original Leased guest house deed number I-3158 of 1968 comprising of ADDA, C.S Plot number 220 (part) Area 14.97 cothah, under Khalian No.147, 151, 145, J.L. No. 85, Mouza Gopinathpur, P.S Durgapur, dist: Burdwan, State: West Bengal, in the name of the partnership firm Lloyed Insulation (Calcutta) have been lost.
Anybody finding, they may return the same to myself at my above mentioned residential address.
Date: 20.09.2022 R.P. Punj
Place: New Delhi-110011 (Partner)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General public that, MRS. ANJU GUPTA is owner of A Built Up property with two Room set Stairs on Ground Floor one Room set on First Floor with the rights of Construction up to the last story, built on portion of Plot No. 45, area measuring 45 Sq. Yards, part of Rect. No. 28, Kh. No. 12, Situated at "Jitar Nagar" in Village, Khureji Khask, Shahdara, Delhi-110051 vide REGISTRED GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY dated 18.10.1996 registration No. 3916 with Sub Registrar NEW DELHI. All persons are hereby informed that MRS. ANJU GUPTA is purchasing the above mentioned property from MRS. ANJU GUPTA by way of REGISTRED SALE DEED, the said above mentioned property with FULLERTON INDIA HOME FINANCE COMPANY, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/lien on the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Mrs. Praseon Lata, Advocate, SG Associates (Law Firm), Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida, UP 201301
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

SBFC
SBFC FINANCE PVT. LTD.
(First while Small Business Fincred India Pvt. Ltd.)
No. 103, First Floor, C-8, B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400059 | Telephone: +91 22-67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875344 |
www.sbfc.com | Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform & notify the Public about the relocation of Tuglakabad Extension Delhi branch of SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. Effective from 23.12.2022
From: SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. TA - 95, 1st Floor, Tuglakabad Extension, New Delhi - 110019
To: SBFC Finance Pvt Ltd, A-86, 1st Floor, Arjun Nagar, Bisham Pitahma Marg, Opp. Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110003
For more details, please contact:-
SBFC FINANCE PVT. LTD. Phone: 9871627604

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.
VEHICLES FOR SALE
1) MAH_SUPMAXITRK REG. NO. HR38Y1094-YOM-2018
2) TATAMOTORS_TACEGOLD REG. NO. DL1LAE2451-YOM-2020
3) TATAMOTORS_LPT1109T REG. NO. UP40T2689-YOM-2012
4) TATAMOTORS_TACEGOLD REG. NO. DL1LAE8982-YOM-2021
5) MAH_BOL_MT_BS4 REG. NO. DL1LAE6889-YOM-2021
6) TATAMOTORS_INTRA_V30 REG. NO. UP16HT1069-YOM-2021
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 5 DAYS AT BRANCH ADDRESS:
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT:-ABHINAV LAL KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 7798988481 E-MAIL - abhinav.lal@kotak.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
KNOW ALL MEN THAT, we, (i) Mr. Mohammad Alfat Gurkoo, and (ii) Mst. Shaheena, do hereby declare that we are the joint and absolute owners in respect of property i.e. Portion on Third Floor bearing Pvt. No. III B (without roof rights), measuring 60 sq. yds., part of property bearing Municipal No. 3811/XI, Gali Magazine Wali, Choori Wali, New Delhi, we further declare that we have lost / misplaced the original sale deed in respect of our said property i.e. Original Sale Deed dated 22/11/2005 executed by Mrs. Indra Goel in favour of Mst. Asma Bi, which is registered as Document No. 983, registered on 22/11/2005, with Sub-Registrar-III, Delhi. If anyone finds the said document please contact the undersigned.
MOHAMMAD ALFAT GURKOO S/o Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Gurkoo, R/o 2228, Second Floor, Gali Dakotan, Near Do Bhai Hotel, Turkman Gate, Delhi. Mbl: 8826202956

PUBLIC NOTICE
KNOW ALL MEN THAT, we, (i) Sh. Rakesh Ranjan Yadav and (ii) Smt. Sarita Kumari do hereby declare that we are the joint and absolute owners in respect of property i.e. Entire Upper Ground Floor of the property No. WZ-56-A/1, measuring 86.22 sq.mts without its roof nths, situated at Sadh Nagar, area of Village Palam, New Delhi, we further declare that we have lost / misplaced the original sale deed in respect of our said property i.e. Original Sale Deed dated 28/09/2010 executed by Smt. Sudesh Sharma in our favour, which is registered as Document No. 12192, registered on 5560, with Sub Registrar-IX, Delhi. If anyone finds the said document please contact the undersigned. Rakesh Ranjan Yadav S/o Mr. Jagdish Narsingh Yadav, R/o WZ-56/1, Gali No. 09, Sadh Nagar, Palam, New Delhi, Mob. : 8383993806

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-36-T-2022-23-E3
Electrical work in connection with Improvement of Air Conditioning System with installation of remote monitoring system & other allied works at RRI's having more than 100 routes over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works : Rs. 90.21 lacs
Address of the office : Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security : Rs. 1,80,400.00
Date & time of submission of tender : 17.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender : 17.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi. 2491/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. ELS_SRE_T-29 dtd. 22.09.2022
Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on website www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-
Open Tender No. : ELS_SRE_T-29. Name of work: Provision of trap chamber for dust particle in BP pipe of 3-phase locos. Date of Closing/Opening: 14.10.2022. Approx. Cost: Rs. 10,79,194/-. Earnest Money: Rs. 21,600/- Completion period: 06 Months. Validity period: 45 days. Cost of tender form: Free of cost.
1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. 2492/2022
Serving Customers with a Smile

Corrigendum
Gujarat State Board of School Textbook
"Vidhyayan," Sector-10/A, Gandhinagar-382010
E-Tender/Two Bid
Tender No - 544714 / 2022-2024
The last date for online submission Request for proposal of empanelment for Job work of Offset Printing of Textbooks Year 2022-2024 for printing work are amendment as follows. For amendment in the tender and other details please visit: www.nprocure.com

N O	Particulars	Previous Date/Time	Now Date/Time
1.	Online Bid submission End Date & Time	Dt. 22/09/2022 05:00 p.m.	Dt. 29/09/2022 05:00 p.m.
2.	Last Date and Time For Receipt of physical Bid document Submission of EMD Tender Fees, Other Document	Dt. 23/09/2022 12:00 p.m.	Dt. 30/09/2022 05:00 p.m.
3.	Opening Technical Bid	Dt. 23/09/2022 15:00 p.m.	Dt. 01/10/2022 12:00 p.m.

Sd/-
Director
Gujarat State Board of School Textbook, Gandhinagar

SUMMONS/NOTICE FOR SERVICE BY WAY OF ADVERTISEMENT IN A NEWSPAPER
To,
Respondent No. 1, Sh. Vinay Talwar, Resolution Professional, office at: 1, Link Road, Middle Basement, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-14
Respondent No. 2, Registrar of Companies, Office at: Block No. 6, B-Wing, 2nd Floor, Shastri Bhawan 26, Haddows Road, Chennai- 600034, Tamilnadu.
Respondent No. 3, Income Tax Department, Through Deputy Commissioner Of Income Tax, Office at: Circle 3(1), Delhi, Income Tax Department, CR Building, New Delhi-110002.
Respondent No. 4, Regional Provident Fund Organisation, Through Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Office at: Nidhi Bhawan, Regional Office, A-2C, Sector-24, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh
Respondent No. 5, Goods & Services Tax Department, through Principal Commissioner, Office at: C-56/42, Renu Tower, Sector-82, Noida (GB Nagar), Uttar Pradesh
Respondent No. 7, South Delhi Municipal Corporation, through Municipal Commissioner, Office At: S.P.M. Civic Centre, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002
Respondent No. 9, Springfield Society Resident Welfare Association, Office at: Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh
Respondent No. 10, TransUnion CIBIL Limited, through Director, Office at: One World Centre, 19th floor, Tower 2A & 2B, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Whereas, the Applicant M/s Applied Electro Magnetics Pvt. Ltd. has instituted Application bearing IA No. 5373/2021 before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal: New Delhi (Special Bench) (Court-II) in (IBI-334/ND)/2017, in matter titled Gupta versus M/s Applied Electro-Magnetics Pvt. Ltd, inter-alia amongst you the Respondents.
This Public Notice is issued on behalf of M/S. APPLIED ELECTRO MAGNETICS PVT. LTD. for service by the way of publication of the aforesaid Application. You, the above named Respondents, please be informed that the application bearing No. IA 5373/2021, pending before National Company Tribunal: New Delhi, Special Bench (Court-II) is fixed for 18.10.2022. On 28.08.2022, the Hon'ble Court passed an order by directing that summons be served on Defendant 1 to 4, 5, 7, 9 and 10 by publication through Nationalized Newspaper.
Now therefore, if any of you fail to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the NDOH i.e. 18.10.2022, the Petitioner will take judgement by default and may be granted the relief applied in the petition.
MANISH KAUSHIK (Advocate)
C-203, First Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-24, India
Ph. 9818218885 manishkaushik.law@gmail.com



White House: GOP abortion ban would mean a nationwide crisis

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The White House and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said Thursday that a Republican-led proposal to ban abortion nationwide after 15 weeks would endanger the health of women and have severe consequences for physicians.

"If passed and enacted, this bill would create a nationwide health crisis, imperiling the health and lives of women in all 50 states," according to a preliminary analysis of the bill by Jennifer Klein, the White House Gender Policy Council chairwoman, that was obtained by The Associated Press.

"It would transform the practice of medicine, opening the door to doctors being thrown in jail if they fulfil their duty of care to patients according to their best medical judgment." President Joe Biden himself said at a fundraiser that some GOP efforts to ban abortion were more extreme than his own Catholic faith.

"I happen to be a practising Roman Catholic. My church doesn't even make that argument," he said, referring to abortion bans that leave "no exceptions. Rape, incest. No exceptions."

the baby will die as a result. The measure introduced last week by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., proposes a nationwide ban that would allow for rare exceptions. The federal legislation has almost no chance of becoming law in the Democratic-controlled Congress. GOP leaders did not immediately embrace it and Democrats are pointing to the proposal as an alarming signal of where Republicans would try to go if they were to win control of the Congress in November.

Many in the United States had believed the constitutional right to abortion, established by the Supreme Court almost 50 years ago, could never be overturned. But that protection was stripped away this year by the court's conservative majority, and advocates are leaving nothing to chance.

A majority of those questioned in a July poll by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research said Congress should pass a law guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide.

Vice President Kamala Harris urged Democratic attorneys general at a meeting Thursday in Milwaukee to keep fighting for abortion rights in the states. She singled out Wisconsin's Josh Kaul, who is up for reelection in November, for filing a lawsuit to challenge the state's 1849 law banning abortion, with no exceptions for rape or incest.

Hundreds for cancellation of Japanese ex-leader's funeral

AP ■ TOKYO

Several hundred protesters demanded the cancellation of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's state funeral as they shouted slogans and waved banners on Friday in a Tokyo park. "Abe's policies supported war," demonstrator Mayumi Ishida said, noting Abe consistently sought to raise defence spending.

Like others at the protest, Ishida said he feared Abe's views heralded a step back to the days of Japan's militarism preceding World War II.

Abe, who was assassinated in July, was Japan's longest serving leader and one of its most divisive in the postwar period because of his revisionist view



of wartime history, support for a stronger military, and what critics call an autocratic approach and cronyism.

Opposition to the state funeral has also grown because of politicians' close ties to the Unification Church. Social media posts attributed to the suspect in Abe's assassination show he blamed the church for ruining his life, and police say he targeted Abe over his links to the organisation.

The government plan for his state funeral to be held on

Tuesday has galvanised public opposition against the ruling Liberal Democratic party, which has ruled Japan for nearly the entire postwar period.

Protests and marches opposing the state funeral have been popping up nationwide, drawing hundreds of people.

Earlier this week, a man set himself on fire by the prime minister's residence in what was described as a suicide attempt in apparent protest of the funeral.

Yoshiko Kamata, a part-time worker at a convenience store, acknowledged the state funeral couldn't be stopped, but it was a good opportunity to drive home her message that Abe never stood with regular people.

Facebook violated rights of Palestinian users, report finds

AP ■ CALIFORNIA (US)

Actions by Facebook and its parent Meta during last year's Gaza war violated the rights of Palestinian users to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, political participation and non-discrimination, a report commissioned by the social media company has found.

The report on Thursday from independent consulting firm Business for Social Responsibility confirmed long-standing criticisms of Meta's policies and their uneven enforcement as it relates to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: It found the company over-enforced rules when it came to Arabic content and under-enforced content in Hebrew.

It, however, did not find intentional bias at Meta, either by the company as a whole or among individual employees.

Model who criticised Myanmar's military fears repatriation

AP ■ BANGKOK

A model from Myanmar who denounced her country's military rulers last year from the stage of a beauty pageant in Thailand said on Friday she fears she may be forced back home.

Thaw Nandar Aung, also known as Han Lay, told The Associated Press by phone that she has been stuck at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport since being denied reentry to Thailand when she arrived on Wednesday night from a short trip to Vietnam.

She has been living in Thailand but needed to exit and reenter in order to extend her stay.

She said she was seeking the assistance of the United Nations refugee agency to



avoid being sent back to Myanmar, where she feared harsh punishment from the military government she has criticised.

People denied entry to Thailand are usually deported to their last point of departure, but the UN agency advised her she would be arrested in Vietnam and then repatriated to Myanmar.

Sensex sinks 1,020 pts as rate hikes trigger global sell-off

Investors poorer by ₹4.90 L cr

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex tumbled 1,020 points while the Nifty crashed below the 17,350-mark on Friday as a flurry of rate hikes by global central banks spooked investors and sparked a global sell-off.

The rupee breached the 81-mark against the US dollar in intra-day trade for the first time ever, adding to the negative sentiment.

Investors' wealth eroded by over Rs 4.90 lakh crore on Friday amid a sharp fall in equities.

Sliding for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,020.80 points or 1.73 per cent to close at 58,098.92.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty plummeted 302.45 points or 1.72 per cent to end at 17,327.35. PowerGrid led the Sensex losers' chart with a drop of 7.93 per cent, followed by M&M, SBI, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, HDFC and IndusInd Bank.

Only three counters managed to close in the green -- Sun Pharma, Tata Steel and ITC, spurring up to 1.53 per cent.



"A rise in the US 10-year bond yield and a strong dollar index influenced FIIs to flee emerging markets. Fall in liquidity in the banking system, a weak currency and a current premium valuation have set the market outlook bearish for the near term.

"With aggressive monetary policy action by central banks, the global growth engines are in a slowdown mode, whereas India is currently in a better position with a pickup in credit growth and an uptick in tax collection. The current volatility might persist for a while. Investors are advised to wait and watch until the dust settles," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 741.87 points or 1.26 per cent, while the Nifty declined 203.50 points or 1.16 per cent.

Joseph Thomas, Head of

Research, Emkay Wealth Management, said the domestic equity markets traded lower mainly tracking the developments in overseas markets, especially the US.

"The Fed rate hike and the stance that rate hikes would continue till inflation is contained displayed in ample measure an aggressive and hawkish Fed. Even if its costs a little bit of economic growth so be it, has been the stated approach....This has affected the equity markets, and this has sent its reverberations across the world.

"More than anything else, it is the expectations of higher interest rates and lower liquidity that is at the back of the mind of many an investor.

High inflation, widening trade deficit, weakening currencies and a likely slowdown in growth may entrap some of the emerging market economies," he added.

Economists see RBI delivering another 50 bps hike next week

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Economists are unanimous in forecasting that the central bank has no other option but to deliver a 50 bps rate hike next week and take the terminal rate to 6.25 per cent by December.

Economists from SBI, UBS, Goldman Sachs, Barclays and Bank of Baroda in a rare unanimous call see the RBI-led monetary policy committee delivering a 50 bps hike on September 30, taking the overall repo rate increase 290 bps to 5.90 per cent since May this year.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economist at the nation's largest lender SBI, in a detailed note on Monday said, a half-percentage point hike in the repo rate looks imminent in an aggressive response to external shocks.

"We expect the peak repo rate in the cycle at 6.25 per cent. A final rate hike of 35 bps is expected in December policy," he said.

Liquidity has become deficit after 40 months which looks like another headwind for the central bank, he said, adding this may force the RBI to support the market through a change in the CRR and OMOs.

Echoing the views, Tanvee Gupta-Jain, the chief economist at UBS Securities India, said in the base case, she expects the MPC-RBI to front-load the rate hike cycle and raise the



repo rate by another 50 bps (versus 35 bps previously) next week taking the terminal repo rate to 6.25 per cent (previously 6 per cent) by December.

On the positive side, she said the large current account deficit, elevated CPI inflation and a stretched fiscal position are mostly led by supply-side factors rather than easy credit conditions pushing domestic demand.

Rahul Bajoria, the chief economist at Barclays India also raised the repo rate forecast to a 50 bps hike next week (35 bps previously) and a 35 bps hike in the December meeting (25 bps previously), with upside risk to the forecast if commodity prices are higher in Q4.

"We now expect 50 bps of further rate hikes in 2023 (75 bps previously) which would take the repo rate to 6.75 per cent by April 2023."

The British lender also expects the MPC-RBI to change its stance to neutral on falling commodity prices offer as it feels that inflation has peaked.

'Rice output may fall 13% to 96.7 million tonnes in kharif this year'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rice production may fall by 13 per cent to 96.7 million tonnes in kharif season this year due to fall in paddy acreage amid deficient rains in some parts of the country, according to Origo Commodities' initial estimates.

Earlier this week, the agriculture ministry released the first advance estimates for kharif season of 2022-23 crop year (July-June). As per the government data, rice production is likely to decline by 6 per cent to 104.99 million tonnes in the kharif season this year as against 111.76 million tonnes in kharif season of last year.

Established in 2011, Gurugram-based Origo Commodities is an agri fin-tech company focused on commodity supply chain, post harvest management, trade and finance. This is the first time the company has released the estimates for kharif crops. It will come up with a final estimate in November 2022.

In a statement, Origo Commodities said that rice production in kharif season for 2022-23 "is seen lower by 13 per cent y-o-y at 96.7 million



tonnes against 111.17 million tonnes in 2021-22".

"Paddy acreage has declined by around 9 per cent compared to last year while yield is projected 5 per cent lower from the last year.

The crop yield had adversely impacted due to deficient rain in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar," the company said.

As per the latest estimate of Origo Commodities, total kharif production for the crop year 2022-23 is estimated at 640.42 million tonnes, which is 2 per cent lower than the same period last year.

Total kharif production is

estimated lower due to likely fall in the production of paddy, groundnut, castor, jute, and sugarcane, the statement said.

Origo projects that cotton production may increase 8.5 per cent to 34.2 million bales (of 170 kg each) against 31.5 million bales in 2021-22, while soybean output may rise 4.5 per cent at 12.48 million tonnes against 11.95 million tonnes in 2021-22.

Soybean acreage is almost flat compared to last year, while yield is estimated to gain by 4.7 per cent from the last year given the favourable rainfall distribution in the key soybean-producing states this year.

BUSINESS BRIEF

ISLRTC OBSERVES 'SIGN LANGUAGE DAY'

New Delhi: 'Sign Language Day' with the theme 'Sign Languages Unite Us' was celebrated under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, M/o Social Justice and Empowerment on 23rd 2022 at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. Ever since the United Nations declared 23rd September as the International Day of Sign Languages, the ISLRTC celebrates it every year on 23rd September. This year National Implementation Committee (NIC) chaired by Hon'ble Home Minister inter-alia approved the event - "Sign Language Day" on 23rd Sep, 2022 to be conducted and celebrated by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment" (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebration.



BEST CFO-PSU AWARD CONFERRED ON PFC DIRECTOR (F)

Parminder Chopra, Director (Finance), Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) receiving the prestigious ET Ascent 'Best CFO-PSU' Award at a glittering ceremony held at Taj, MG Road, Bengaluru

'ORG WITH BEST WORKPLACE PRACTICES' TO NTPC

New Delhi: NTPC Ltd has been recognized as one of the "Top Organizations with Best Workplace Practices" at the Times Ascent Presents 21st Edition of ASIA PACIFIC HRM CONGRESS held in Bengaluru. The Award is endorsed by the CHRO Asia and the certification is provided by the World Federation of HR Professionals. The Award was received by Shri Milan Kumar, GM (HR), Northern Region. The Award is given to organizations which have embraced innovation as a part of their own 'cult' & built that into the fabric strategy of the business.



G RAVISANKAR POWERGRID'S NEW DIRECTOR (F)

New Delhi: G. Ravisankar has assumed the charge of Director (Finance) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSU of Government of India. Prior to this, he was working as Executive Director (Finance) at POWERGRID. He played a pivotal role in digitization of finance functions, establishment of bill processing hubs and ERP implementation and development. An accomplished technocrat, he has post qualification experience of 32 years, serving predominantly in POWERGRID (after a brief stint in NLC India Limited) in Construction office, Sub-stations, Regional Headquarters and Corporate Centre located in various parts of India. He has a vast experience in key finance functions viz. Resource Mobilisation, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, Commercial, Works Accounting and Retirement Benefits Fund Management.



HC PUTS IN ABEYANCE CCPA ORDER AGAINST FLIPKART

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday put in abeyance an order of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) asking online marketplace Flipkart to recall certain sold pressure cookers that allegedly did not meet quality standards. While directing that Flipkart's petition against the CCPA order be tagged along with a similar plea by e-commerce giant Amazon, Justice Yashwant Varma asked Flipkart to deposit the penalty of Rs 1 lakh imposed on it by CCPA and also notify the buyers of all the pressure cookers in question. The court sought CCPA's response to the plea by Flipkart and said the interim order which was passed in Amazon's case will also be extended the present matter. "The petitioner is entitled to the interim relief (as granted to Amazon earlier) on identical terms," the court said. On September 20, the court had kept in abeyance a CCPA order passed against Amazon for allegedly selling domestic pressure cookers that did not meet quality standards. It had asked Amazon to deposit within a week Rs 1 lakh penalty imposed on it and notify the buyers of all these 2,265 pressure cookers that these items do not meet the required quality standards. "Till the next date of listing while the petitioner shall be liable to notify the consumers of the 2265 pressure cookers sold on its platform of the order of the CCPA, further steps with respect to recall of those items and reimbursement shall be placed in abeyance till the next date," the court had said while listing the case for next hearing in November.

Rupee falls 19 paise to close at lifetime low of 80.98 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee slumped 19 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 80.98 against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by the strong American currency overseas and risk-off sentiment among investors.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency breached the 81-mark for the first time ever and slumped to 81.23 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 80.98, down 19 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee plunged by 83 paise -- its biggest single-day loss in nearly seven months -- to close at 80.79, its previous record low.

This is the third straight session of loss for the American currency during which it has lost 124 paise against the American currency.

Forex traders said escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine and rate hikes by the US Fed and Bank of England in a bid to contain inflation sapped risk appetite.

Further, the strength of the American currency in the over-



seas market, a negative trend in domestic equities, and risk-off mood amid escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine weighed on the local unit.

"Rupee fell to fresh all-time lows against the US dollar after the Fed raised rates earlier this week. Most of the currencies are under pressure as the dollar continues to strengthen," said Gaurang Somaia, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Somaia further noted that volatility in Yen remained elevated after the Bank of Japan intervened to curb sharp depreciation. The Bank of England raised rates by 50 bps.

"We expect the USD-INR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 80.40 and 81.20," Somaia said.

'Govt for banks to collaborate with NBFCs and fintech companies'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The government is in favour of banks working closely with the non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and fintech companies for co-lending and also push forward the digital road, an official said.

Speaking at a CII event here on Friday, Hardik Mukesh Sheth, director (banking operations) of the department of financial services, said that the government is pushing the public sector banks (PSBs) to work with the NBFCs and fintech companies to collaborate in the area of co-lending.

He also said that there is also a push towards the digital route, adding that new-age banking using technology has increased.

"There is a rise in loan disbursement using the digital channel," Sheth said.

The official said that all the 12 PSBs are making profits, and their non-performing assets (NPAs) have halved due to recovery. "None of the 12 public sector banks are under the prompt corrective action (PCA) of the RBI," he said.

Echoing the same, MD&CEO of Yes Bank

"None of the 12 public sector banks are under the prompt corrective action (PCA) of the RBI,"

Prashant Kumar said that NBFCs are critical not only for financial inclusion but also for raising credit offtake. He said fintechs are able to understand customer behaviour while the banks enjoy their trust.

According to Kumar, fintechs can help the banks in raising efficiency and collaboration between them can be way forward on increasing credit of the lenders. MD of State Bank of India (SBI), international global market, C Sreenivasulu Setty said that it is important to combine the trust of the banks and technology of the fintech companies to serve the customers.

"This has to be on a sustained basis. The banks are spending money to address this issue," he added.

Gold falls ₹139; silver declines ₹363



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national capital fell by ₹139 to ₹50,326 per 10 grams on Friday amid a fall in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had finished at ₹50,465 per 10 grams.

Silver also fell sharply by ₹363 to ₹58,366 per kilogram from ₹58,729 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,665 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 19.50 per ounce.

"Gold prices have capped downside despite of stronger dollar over recession worries as the US Federal Reserve committed to raise interest rates," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

Non-life insurers register 12 pc rise in gross direct premium income at ₹24,472 crore in August: Irdai

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Non-life insurers registered a 12 per cent yearly growth in their gross direct premium income during August this fiscal at Rs 24,471.95 crore, data from insurance sector regulator Irdai showed.

In the same month a year ago, all the 31 non-life insurance companies in the domestic market had garnered a gross premium income of Rs 21,867.93 crore.

According to the data provided by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), a total of 24 general insurers witnessed a 9.3 per cent growth in



their collective gross direct premium income in August at Rs 17,101.75 crore as against Rs 15,648.63 crore in the year-ago period.

The five standalone health insurance providers reported a jump of 28 per cent in their gross direct premium income during the month at Rs 2,059.38 crore. The figure stood at Rs 1,609.75 crore in August 2021. The rest two specialised public sector insurers in the

non-life space witnessed a 15.2 per cent rise in their combined premium income in August 2022 at Rs 5,310.82 crore as against Rs 4,609.55 crore a year ago.

On a cumulative basis, all the 31 players' gross direct premium income in April-August period of 2022-23 rose by 18.57 per cent to Rs 1,02,357.29 crore. It was Rs 86,329.09 crore in same period of 2021-22.

TVS Motor rolls out celebratory edition of Jupiter Classic

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Two- and three-wheeler major TVS Motor has rolled out a celebratory edition of its scooter TVS Jupiter Classic, commemorating the 'fastest five million vehicles on road' milestone, the company said on Friday.

The TVS Jupiter Classic has been introduced at a price of ₹85,866 (ex-showroom New Delhi).

The scooter gets a premium rendition with black theme across its mirror, fender garnish, tinted visor and a 3D black premium logo.



In a statement, the company said diamond cut alloy wheels, premium leatherette seats with backrest are also pro-

vided in the scooter which is available in two colours -- Mystic Grey and Regal Purple.

"The new TVS Jupiter Classic is contemporised premium classic. This variant celebrates TVS Jupiter achieving the milestone of 'Fastest Five Million Vehicles on Road'. It is the acknowledgement and celebration of the fact that this has been made possible by the unprecedented faith and love millions of consumers have reposed in TVS Jupiter," TVS Motor, Senior Vice President (Marketing) - Commuters, Corporate Brand and Dealer Transformation, Aniruddha Halder said.

Nestle plans to invest ₹5K cr in India by 2025: CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global food & beverage conglomerate Nestle SA plans to invest ₹5,000 crore in India in the next three-and-a-half years by 2025, its CEO Mark Schneider said on Friday.

The move will help the company to accelerate its core business in the country and leverage new opportunities for growth.

The investment would be on capex (capital expenditure), setting up new plants, acquisitions and expansion of the product portfolio of the company. Nestle, which currently operates 9 plants across India is also looking at new locations to set up manufacturing capacity. The investment, which would be subject to clearances and approvals, will also help in creating more job opportunities in the domestic market.

FRENCH LESSONS FOR AUSTRIA



AP ■ PARIS
Kylian Mbappe starred as world champions France shrugged off injuries and off-field problems to beat Austria in UEFA Nations League match on Thursday.
France's build-up to their defence of the World Cup in Qatar in November and December has been marred by fitness issues surrounding a host of key players as well as other worries, but Les Bleus did not appear distracted as they outclassed the Austrians in Paris, winning 2-0.
Mbappe showcased his phenomenal

pace and strength on the way before finishing emphatically to put the hosts ahead in the 56th minute at the Stade de France.
The recalled Olivier Giroud doubled their lead nine minutes later, heading in Antoine Griezmann's cross to score his 49th international goal -- he is now just two goals short of Thierry Henry's French record.
"We did what we needed to do to get the victory, creating lots of chances and controlling the match," said France coach Didier Deschamps.
"There are lots of positives to take from the game."

Mbappe celebrated his goal by mimicking a photographer in an apparent nod to that row.
Just eight days shy of his 36th birthday, Giroud is France's oldest ever goal-scorer.
Coming exactly two months before they begin their World Cup defence against Australia in Qatar, the result also allowed France to stave off the threat of relegation from the top tier of the Nations League, a competition they won just last year.
Deschamps' side still need to win their last Group A1 game away in Denmark on Sunday to be certain of avoiding relegation, while qualification for the four-team finals

next June is already out of reach.
CROATIA SEE OFF DENMARK
Croatia, the 2018 World Cup runners-up, are on course to top the section after beating Denmark 2-1 in Zagreb.
Borna Sosa's 49th-minute opener for the hosts was cancelled out by a magnificent Christian Eriksen strike in the 77th minute.
However, Croatia's winner came just two minutes later through Lovro Majer.
Croatia are a point clear of the Danes before going to Vienna to play bottom side Austria on Sunday.

Netherlands see off Poland

AP ■ WARSAW
The Netherlands beat Poland 2-0 in Warsaw on Thursday to move closer to qualification for the Nations League finals, as Cody Gakpo and Steven Bergwijn continued their excellent starts to the season.
Louis van Gaal's men maintained their three-point lead over Belgium.
They will need only a point from their last game against the Belgians in Amsterdam on Sunday to be sure of securing top spot.
The Dutch appear to be in strong form ahead of their World Cup opener in Qatar against African champions Senegal on November 21, before further Group A games with the hosts and Ecuador.
Poland qualified for the World Cup with a play-off victory over Sweden but were toothless on Thursday.
The Dutch took a 14th-minute lead after an excellent team move ended with Denzel Dumfries squaring for Gakpo to tap into an empty net.
The PSV Eindhoven winger has now



scored eight goals in his last seven matches for club and country.
Poland finally created a good chance in the 53rd minute, but Arkadiusz Milik blazed over.
The Netherlands doubled their advantage seven minutes later as Vincent Janssen teed up Steven Bergwijn to score.

De Bruyne leads Belgium to victory

AP ■ BRUSSELS
Kevin De Bruyne scored the goal that made the difference for Belgium to secure a rare 2-1 win over Wales in Brussels and keep the Red Devils' slim chance of reaching the Nations League semi-finals alive.
De Bruyne claimed before the game that he was "bored" of facing Wales on the international stage, but Belgium had won just two of the previous eight meetings between the sides over the last 10 years.
That included a

famous victory for the Welsh in the quarter-finals of Euro 2016, but there was no repeat for the severely depleted visitors on Thursday.
Gareth Bale was left on the bench by Rob Page with one eye on managing his fitness ahead of their World Cup, while Aaron Ramsey and Ben Davies missed out through injury.
Belgium were also missing one of their key men in Romelu Lukaku, but Michy Batshuayi stepped up to replace the Inter Milan striker to continue his excellent goalscoring record at international level.
Batshuayi played provider for the opening goal as his pass was superbly stroked into the bottom corner by De Bruyne on 10 minutes.
The Manchester City midfielder then hit the post and Batshuayi passed up a great chance as Wales struggled to contain the waves of Belgian attacks.
The same two players combined for the second goal eight minutes before half-time as this time De Bruyne's teasing cross left Batshuayi with a tap-in for his 26th international goal in 46 appearances.

Unvaccinated Djokovic awaiting word on Australian Open

AP ■ LONDON
Novak Djokovic is still awaiting word on whether he will be allowed to return to the Australian Open in January after missing the tournament this year because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19.
"It's really not in my hands right now," Djokovic said on Thursday at the Laver Cup. "So I'm hoping I will get some positive news."
Djokovic is a 21-time Grand Slam singles champion -- a total that stands second among men, behind only Rafael Nadal's 22 and one ahead of Roger Federer's 20 -- and he has won a record nine of those trophies at Melbourne Park.
But he was deported from Australia last January after a 10-day legal saga that culmi-



nated with his visa being revoked; he originally was granted an exemption to strict vaccination rules by two medical panels and Tennis Australia in order to play in the Australian Open.
Australia has since changed its border rules -- since July 6, incoming travelers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations, or even provide a negative COVID test.

Jhingan unlikely starter for India in Singapore friendly

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY
Senior defender Sandesh Jhingan might be rested during India's first FIFA international friendly against Singapore in the Hung Thinh Friendly Football Tournament here on Saturday.
Jhingan and teammate Chinglensana Singh didn't accompany the team due to travel document related issues and only boarded a 3 am flight on Friday morning.
As per sources in the team, head coach Igor Stimac might just rest Jhingan for the opening game and give him a start against Vietnam, a team that reached the quarter-finals of the 2019 Asian Cup.
Head coach Stimac, however, sounded confident yet cautious on the eve of India's first meeting with Singapore in 10 years.
The Croatian coach said though Singapore have made



huge progress in the past few years, India have the ability to tame their opponents.
"Singapore made big

progress in recent years. They have a new coach, who has made some changes in the system that often makes things difficult for the opponents. But I will tell my players to play confidently against them and show what exactly we have in store for them," Stimac said.
Stimac believes that Singapore will play attacking football.
"Singapore are quite good especially in the high pressing area. I have observed the way they press the ball all over the pitch to make things which is making it tough for the rivals. So, there is one small advantage they have in this regard," added the coach.
The 55-year-old World Cupper is aware of some of the fitness challenges his team is facing.
Stimac didn't forget to mention that in terms of fitness levels and preparations, his team is slightly undercooked as the side has had only one full session in Ho Chi Minh City before coming into the game.
"We should not ignore the fact that their fitness level is, at the moment, better than ours, but we need to be composed and get on the field with our morale high."
But he feels that he has enough players to keep the Singapore attacking line at bay.
"I think that we have enough players with technical ability who can find a way to escape from the such high press, and with many players in the middle making it tight and difficult. But we are going to find spaces on the weak positions and play as per our plan," Stimac quipped.
The Blue Tigers will be seen in action for the first time after their successful campaign in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers in June where they played three matches and finished with a hundred per cent win record.

Kaka to make marathon debut in Berlin

AP ■ BERLIN
Former World Cup-winning footballer Kaka will make his debut at the Berlin Marathon on Sunday, saying he was "just as excited as I used to be before football matches."
Kaka, who played for Real Madrid and AC Milan before retiring in 2017, said his father's struggle with Covid-19 had inspired him to run the marathon.
"He was 45 days in hospital" Kaka said at the Berlin marathon press conference on Friday.
"Fortunately, he is with us today."
Kaka's father and brother will take part in the "family experience" of the marathon.
"He's not going to run, he's just walking, but we wanted him in this experience with us - it's more of a family experience."
Kaka said marathons were particularly special as sporting events because amateurs can take part side-by-side with professionals.
"I'm very excited... Of course, it's completely different than those guys (pointing to the professionals), this is something that is really good in marathons."

McEnroe upbeat on future of tennis despite Federer's exit

AP ■ LONDON
John McEnroe says Roger Federer and Serena Williams are "irreplaceable" but that tennis "goes on no matter what" as the Swiss prepares to play his final match on Friday.
Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam singles champion, will bring the curtain down on his glittering career in the Laver Cup at London's O2 arena alongside long-time rival Rafael Nadal.
The two players, representing Team Europe, will take on Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock in doubles in the evening session on the first day of the event.
The 41-year-old Federer's retirement comes hot on the heels of a similar decision by Williams, who won 23 majors in singles.
McEnroe, who is captain of Team World, admitted the sport would miss the two players but is optimistic about the future, just weeks after 19-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz won the US Open.
"These two players are irreplaceable," he said. "I don't think there is any question about that."
But he added: "The sport



goes on no matter what, and we have witnessed that in every sport over time.
"The opportunity is there to market these young kids in a way that I don't think we have successfully done before."
McEnroe, who won seven Grand Slam singles titles, said Williams had "brought electricity" to the recent US Open, where she lost in the third round.
But he said other players such as Alcaraz and America's Tiafoe, who lost to the Spaniard in the semi-final at Flushing Meadows, made it an "electrifying event."
Taylor Fritz, who is also part of Team World, said the two big retirements would be tough on a lot of fans but the future was bright.
"Serena and Roger probably have more fans than anybody in tennis," said the American. "But, you know, there's so many more players."
"I think tennis is becoming so much more entertaining because you're seeing so many new people win."
"It's really exciting that going into these big events there are 10 different people that could potentially win. Hopefully their fans stay in the sport, want to keep watching."

Muguruza 'not scared' after latest exit in Tokyo

AP ■ TOKYO
Struggling former world number one Garbine Muguruza said she was "not scared" of her deepening slump after losing in the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo on Friday.
The number three seed lost 6-4, 6-2 to Russia's Liudmila Samsonova to continue a dismal run of results this year for the two-time Grand Slam champion.
Muguruza has not managed to string together more than two wins at a tournament and fell out of the world top 10 earlier this month.
But she said she had "already recovered" from her latest defeat and was looking forward to her next tournament.
"I don't think I have to be too sad about it -- I played good, she played better, and that's pretty much it," said the Spaniard, now ranked number 12 in the world.
"I don't want to overthink, I want to keep going. I've had worse losses where I didn't think that I played good but this one I felt like I was there."
Muguruza, who won the French Open in 2016 and Wimbledon a year later, started the year ranked number three



RADUCANU SURGES INTO KOREA OPEN SEMI-FINALS

AP ■ SEOUL
Emma Raducanu won three matches in a row at a tournament for the first time since her US Open triumph as she blew away Magda Linette to reach the Korea Open semi-finals on Friday.
The 19-year-old Briton powered her way to a commanding 6-2, 6-2 victory in Seoul and will now face either top seed Jelena Ostapenko or 186th-ranked Victoria Jimenez Kasintseva.
Samsonova will play Zhang Shuai in Saturday's semi-final after the Chinese veteran beat Croatia's Petra Martic 7-5, 6-2.
but has since lost in the first round of six tournaments.
Muguruza was the latest big name to fall at the Pan Pacific Open.
Top seed Paula Badosa, US Open semi-finalist Caroline Garcia and Wimbledon cham-

NOT WINNING WORLD CUP TITLE IS RETIRING JHULAN'S ONLY REGRET

PTI ■ LONDON

Not winning an ODI World Cup will be her "only regret" in an otherwise distinguished two-decade career, India's fast bowling great Jhulan Goswami said on Friday as she gears up for her final international game.

Goswami will retire after the third ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday.

An emotional Goswami said she is grateful to the game for giving her name and fame but not having a World Cup trophy in her cabinet will remain an un-ticked box.

The Indian team had ended second-best during the 2005 and 2017 editions of 50-over World Cup.

"I have played two World Cup finals, if we had won at least one, then it would have been very nice for me and the team. Every individual works for that goal. We played 2-3 finals, but we were not able to win, that remains my only regret," the 39-year-old pacer said ahead of third and final clash.

"You prepare for a World Cup for four years. There is a lot of hardwork. For every cricketer, it is a dream-come-true moment to win a World Cup. But from where I am looking, the graph of women's cricket has only gone up.

"When I started I never thought of playing for such a long time. It was great experience. I am fortunate to play the sport.

"Honestly, coming from a humble background and a small town like Chakdah (in West Bengal's Nadia district), I did not have any idea about women's cricket and how professional setup works. I am fortunate enough, thanks to my family and parents, they always supported me," she said.

Goswami said receiving the India cap was the most memorable moment of her cricketering journey.

"My best memory is when I got the India cap from my captain and bowled the first over because I never imagined (that I will play for India). The journey was difficult as I had to travel for two-and-a-half hours by local train one way everyday for training."



She recollected how the 1997 Women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand at the Eden Gardens, watched by close to 90,000 people, fuelled her ambitions.

"In 1997, I was a ball girl at the Eden Gardens where I saw my first women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand. From that day, my dream was to represent India," she said.

As Goswami walks into the sunset, the BCCI is set to launch the women's IPL sometime next year, but the stalwart hasn't made up her mind whether she will be a part of T20 tournament.

"As of now, I haven't decided because so far, the Women's IPL has not been officially announced. We are hopeful that it might come in the coming season. Let's wait for the official announcement and then I will decide. At this moment, I am ending my career in international cricket. I have enjoyed every time," she said.

Plagued by injuries after the 2017 World Cup, Goswami said she had been contemplating retirement for quite some years now.

"Well, after the World Cup

(2017), in the last 2 years I was always thinking each and every series could be my last. I was going through a lot of injuries and it was not easy. I was taking series by series.

"After World Cup, I thought Sri Lanka tour (in July) would be my last series but I got injured. So England tour was the last option for me. So I went back to NCA, got fit enough and thought of playing my last series in England," she said.

With India taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, Goswami now just wants to end her illustrious career on a high note.

"It is very much important to finish the tour on a high note and continue the way we have been playing in the last 2 matches."

Goswami said she would miss singing the national anthem and the Indian jersey.

"The best moment for me was coming out of dressing room and singing the national anthem and wearing the India jersey. I will miss those things.

But everything in life has to end somewhere. I am happy that I have served the country with honesty and dedication for 20 years."

Goswami said Indian fast bowling is in safe hands now.

"At this moment India has one of the best seam bowling attacks. We are improving. Indian cricket now gives a lot of importance to fast bowling. Seam bowling is an art, it is a long process."

Goswami also spoke highly about her long-standing association with retired Mithali Raj.

"Obviously, Mithali and I have played together since U19 days, we had a great relation both on and off the field. But it was just bringing Team India to a different length on what it was and today it is completely different."

"That is a journey, we believed that we can change the face of women's cricket, we believed that we can be in the top three-four teams in the world and it was not a one-day process, it was a long-time process," she said.



Rohit guides India to six-wicket win

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Skipper Rohit Sharma blazed a way to an unbeaten 46 as India registered a series-leveiling six-wicket win over Australia in the second T20I here on Friday.

Chasing 91, Rohit scored 46 off 20 balls which included four boundaries and as many sixes to take India over the line with four balls to spare in the rain-affected game.

Earlier, Matthew Wade smacked an unbeaten 20-ball 43 to fire Australia to a challenging 90 for five.

Wade hit four boundaries and three towering sixes -- all in the final over off Harshal Patel (0/32) -- while skipper Aaron Finch hit 31 off 15 after wet outfield due to overnight rain reduced the match to a 8 overs-a-side contest.

Australia looked to put up a show for the capacity crowd at the VCA stadium but Axar Patel (2/13 in 2 overs) snapped two wickets in an impressive spell to leave them at 31 for 3.

However, Wade ensured the visitors ended things in a flourish as he along with Steve Smith (8) added 44 runs in the final 18 balls.

Earlier, Finch scooped one over the keeper's head for a boundary and then sent one across the point area to accumulate 10 runs off Hardik Pandya (0/10 in 1 over), who opened the bowling for India.

Axar was then introduced and Cameron Green (5) tried to lift him over long-on but a running Virat Kohli couldn't hold on to the ball.

Kohli, however, redeemed himself in the next delivery

when his quick throw helped Axar to dislodge the stumps and end Green's stay.

The spinner was again in action when he cleaned up the dangerous Glenn Maxwell for a duck as Australia slumped to 19 for 2 in two overs.

Once the two-over power-play ended, Yuzvendra Chahal (0/12 in 1 over) came on to bowl but Finch danced down the track and smoked him for a maximum as 12 runs came of the third over.

However, Axar was once again in his element as he pegged back Tim David's middle stump with an arm ball when he looked to go for a slog.

His length balls kept new man Wade in check before the left-hander nailed a reverse sweep to get a boundary.

At the halfway mark, skipper Rohit Sharma handed the ball to comeback man Jasprit Bumrah (1/23 in 2 overs) and the India pace spearhead produced his trademark yorker to castle Finch.

In-form Wade then took the onus as he cracked two fours off Harshal -- one across backward point and the other through extra cover.

Bumrah could have had Steve Smith too as his sensational yorker had the batter on all fours. However, Smith and Wade managed to put him away for two fours as Australia reached 71 for 4 in 7 overs.

Wade then went berseck as the final over produced 19 runs. **Brief Score:** Australia: 90 for 5 (Matthew Wade 43 not out, Aaron Finch 31; Axar Patel 2/13). India: 92 for 4 in 7.2 overs (Rohit 46*; Adam Zampa 3/16).

Women in Blue look to whitewash Eng

PTI ■ LONDON

Jhulan Goswami, a name synonymous with 'fast bowling' in women's cricket, will walk into her cricketering sunset at the Lord's on Saturday and the Indian team will strive to make it a memorable swansong for her by completing a historic ODI series clean sweep on English soil, here.

Playing one game at Lord's is an ultimate dream for a cricketer.

Scoring a hundred or taking a five-for is a different high but bidding adieu to the game following an illustrious career at the 'Mecca of Cricket' is only reserved for a few chosen ones.

Sunil Gavaskar (although he played his last first-class game there) didn't get that opportunity. Neither did a Sachin Tendulkar or a Brian Lara or a Glenn McGrath got that opportunity to step down the stairs of the hallowed Long Room on their final playing day.

Even Goswami's colleague for nearly 20 years, Mithali Raj,



couldn't retire from a cricket field.

But call it destiny or design, Goswami's last hurrah is happening at Lord's.

There couldn't have been a more iconic setting as the strapping 5 feet 11 inch lady walks her way through that Long Room where the MCC's suits will stand up and her teammates will give her a 'Guard of Honour' when she will enter the ground.

A series already won with an unassailable 2-0 lead,

Harmanpreet Kaur and her team would leave no stone unturned to make it a fitting farewell for one of the 'poster girls' of Indian cricket.

Having lost the T20I series, India did extremely well against a depleted England side in the two games where they dominated while chasing as well as while setting the target.

If the biggest gain is skipper Harmanpreet getting her touch and free-flowing self back with innings of 74 not out and 143 not out, the worry has

been Shafali Verma's patchy form throughout the tour.

Harleen Deol has done well to establish herself as a dependable middle-order batter but with Goswami's retirement, the seam attack comprising Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar would need to step-up a lot more.

As far as England is concerned, the absence of skipper Heather Knight (due to injury) and star all-rounder Nat Sciver (mental health break) impacted the team's balance hugely.

The last time Indian women won an ODI series in England was way back in 1999 when Goswami hadn't made her international debut.

So as she appears for her 204th and last game, Indian team's revered 'Jhulu Di' would know that she is a contented soul.

When she had first played for India, Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh were not even born and Jemimah Rodrigues was perhaps in her nappies.

Pant with his 'dare & courage' is must in India XI: Gilchrist

PTI ■ DUBAI

For his sheer "courage and dare", Rishabh Pant should be part of India's starting XI during the T20 World Cup, feels former Australian great Adam Gilchrist.

There has been a debate if it should be Pant or Dinesh Karthik in India's playing XI and it seemed that Gilchrist's vote of confidence is in favour of the much younger Delhi cricketer.

"The dare of Rishabh Pant and the courage in him, the way in which he takes on bowling attacks, I think he's got to be a must in that Indian line-up," Gilchrist was quoted as saying in an ICC release. "They can play together, but I think Rishabh Pant has definitely got to be in there."

India included both Pant and Karthik in the 15-member squad for the upcoming T20



World Cup in Australia but the former's underwhelming record in T20Is might go against him. Pant has 934 runs in 58

T20Is at an average of 23.94 and a strike-rate of 126.21. But he hasn't quite enjoyed the success what was expected of him in this

format unlike Test cricket where he is already an established star.

Add to it, Karthik has of late blossomed as a finisher, which could work in his favour.

But just like his former skipper Ricky Ponting, Gilchrist too feels that both the stumper batters can play together in the eleven.

"It'll be interesting to see if they can both play in the same team. I think they can. What they bring to a team... the versatility of Dinesh Karthik, he can play at the top of the order, he can, as he has done more so later in his career, be in the middle and late overs to finish. He has a really nice touch game," the former Australia wicketkeeper batter signed off.

'HCA NOT AT FAULT'
Hyderabad: Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohammed Azharuddin on

Friday said he was very disappointed over the stampede-like situation at the Gymkhana Ground here during the sale of tickets for the India-Australia T20 match on September 25 but said the association is not at fault in the unfortunate incident.

He refused to blame any-

body and said he was very disappointed with what had happened. "I don't want to blame anybody. Why should I blame anybody. Actually, I am very disappointed with what happened. My heart goes to the families. We are taking care of them," he told reporters.



Dilip Tirkey becomes first player-president of Hockey India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Dilip Tirkey on Friday became Hockey India's first player-president after his unopposed election to the top post as yet another sports person has grabbed the top job in a National Sports Federation (NSF).

Hockey India elections were scheduled to be held on October 1 but the results were declared in advance as there were no contestants for any post.

Tirkey, who filed his nomination as President of Hockey Odisha, was elected after Uttar Pradesh Hockey chief Rakesh Katyal and Hockey Jharkhand's Bholu Nath Singh withdrew their nominations on Friday.

Tirkey, 44, is the latest addition to the list of players who have grabbed the top job in a sports body. Recently, former player Kalyan Chaubey became the All India Football federation (AIFF) boss.

Tirkey says sports persons can contribute as administrators too. "I believe former players should come into sports administration because they know where to focus. Like Sourav Ganguly was in the CAB first and then went to BCCI and is performing brilliantly," Tirkey said.

the first time. Players go through many phases in their career and they get better experience," the former full back added.

Adille Sumariwalla, who is also a former player, is president of Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

Bholu Nath has been elected unopposed as secretary general.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has approved Tirkey and his team's appointments.

Tirkey, who is the country's most capped player with 412 international caps, said there is a need to prepare the next generation of players.

"There is a need for a specific training program for junior players such as the need to prepare the next generation of drag-flickers and goalkeepers and the focus will also be on team fitness," he said.

"We have seen how important the role of our drag flicker and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was in the Olympics, but after that the next generation players will also have to be produced."

He also said that there is also a plan to restart the Hockey League.

"We also have plans to restart the hockey league. It will be discussed with the committee and after discussion with the executive board it will be taken forward."

Jaiswal 209 not out brings West back in game

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed his way to a double hundred in just about two-and-a-half sessions as West Zone took control of proceedings despite South's 57-run first innings lead on the third day of the Duleep Trophy final here.

At the end of third day's play, West Zone were 376 for 3, courtesy Jaiswal's unbeaten 209 off 244 balls that had 23 boundaries and three sixes.

West now have a lead of 319 runs and even if they declare at lunch on Day four, they will have five full sessions to force an outright victory although the track is getting easier for batting with no considerable wear and tear.

For South, it will be about batting out in the fourth innings and winning the trophy by virtue of first innings lead.

Jaiswal had a 169-run third wicket stand with Shreyas Iyer

(71) and another 58 for the unbroken fourth wicket with Sarfaraz Khan (30 batting).

It was a day that will be best remembered for the duel between two powerhouse performers in this year's domestic cricket -- left-handed opener Jaiswal and left-arm spinner Ravivrinivasan Sai Kishore.

While Jaiswal had failed in the first innings, he came out with a lot more positive intent in the second essay after South were dismissed for 327 with an addition of only nine runs to their overnight score of 318/7.

Once West came out, Jaiswal was severe on South pacers Basil Thampi (0/67 in 9 overs) and CV Stephen (0/27 in 6 overs) as he and Priyank Panchal (40) added 110 runs at little under five per over for the opening stand.

South skipper Hanuma Vihari missed the trick when he introduced Sai Kishore (27-5-100-2) only as second change after the opening stand yield-

ed 80 plus runs.

Panchal was caught off Sai Kishore's bowling and Ajinkya Rahane was then trapped leg before by the off-spinner Gowtham (33-1-139-1).

But the joy of two wickets was short-lived once Jaiswal started using his feet to good effect with two spinners in their combined 60 overs went for 239 runs, which was nearly four runs per over.

He got good support from Iyer, who did make amends and hit four fours and two sixes before getting dismissed while going for a glory shot off Sai Kishore's bowling. Iyer, thus missed a half-century in the first innings and didn't show enough patience to score a hundred in the second.

Jaiswal hit off-spinner Gowtham with the turn for a six and didn't let Sai Kishore settle to one line as he repeatedly came down the track to disturb his line. He also had a six off seamer Stephen's

bowling.

There were many boundaries between cover and extra-cover region and one such shot off Gowtham brought up his double hundred.

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CSB Complex, BTM Layout, Madivala
Bangalore - 560 068, Karnataka, INDIA
Phone : +91 80 26262699 Fax: +91 80 26601511 E-Mail: estab.csb@nic.in

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