

OPINION 6

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM AT A GOA FARM

WORLD 8

UKRAINIAN NUKE PLANT OPERATING TENUOUSLY AS WAR CONTINUES

MONEY 10

FM OUTLINES STEPS TO CHECK ILLEGAL LOAN APPS' OP

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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INDIAN EVES TO FACE ENG IN 1ST T20I TODAY
12 SPORT

LAC Point-15 pullback by Mon; peace hopes soar

India, China start withdrawal process from Gogra-Hot Springs in Ladakh

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/BEIJING

India and China will complete the disengagement process of their respective troops from the Gogra-Hot Springs area (patrolling point-15) in Ladakh by Monday.

The two sides started the withdrawal process from there on Thursday. The two Armies will also dismantle temporary structures raised there during the stand-off lasting more than two years.

Announcing the schedule of disengagement on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "As per the agreement, the disengagement process in this area started on September 8, 2022 at 0830 hrs and will be completed by September 12, 2022.

The two sides have agreed to cease forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner, resulting in the return of the troops of both sides to their respective areas."



He said both sides have agreed that all temporary structures and other allied infrastructure created in the area by both sides will be dismantled and mutually verified. The landforms in the area will be restored to pre-stand-off period by both sides.

Army chief General Manoj Pande will visit Ladakh on Saturday to review the situation.

The agreement ensures that the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in this area will be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there will be no unilateral

change in status quo.

With the resolution of stand-off at PP-15, both sides had maintained regular contact to build on the progress achieved during the talks to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas, he said.

As reported by *The Pioneer* on Thursday, the breakthrough came after the Corps Commander-level talks between India and China on July 17.

"The sixteenth round of talks between the Corps Commanders of India and China was held at Chushul

Moldo Meeting Point on 17 July 2022. Since then, the two sides had maintained regular contact to build on the progress achieved during the talks to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas," Bagchi said.

In a statement in Beijing, the Chinese Defence Ministry said the Chinese and Indian troops in the area of Jianan Daban have begun to disengage in a coordinated and planned way, which is conducive to the peace and tranquility in the border areas.

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Rice yield may fall by 12 mn tonnes: Govt

Erratic rain cuts sowing area; Govt bans export

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India's rice production could fall by 10-12 million tonnes during the kharif season of this year, due to a fall in paddy sowing area. Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey on Friday said domestic production could fall short by 10 to 12 million tonnes in the kharif season. However, Pandey asserted that the country will have surplus production in rice.

The Government banned rice exports from Friday and also levied an export duty of 20 per cent on various grades of the commodity.

Domestic wholesale and retail prices of rice are showing an increasing trend along with cattle feed stock prices. While maize prices increased from ₹19/kg (January 12022) to ₹24/kg (September 8, 2022), broken rice prices also went up from ₹16/kg (January 1 2022) to ₹22/kg (September 8, 2022).

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) data

showed that India received 795.7 mm rainfall as against the normal of 760.6 mm so far. But the rainfall has been erratic, and the data further showed that of the 36 sub divisions, 17 per cent have faced deficient rainfall.

Due to this, the area under coverage for the paddy crop has declined by 4.95 per cent to 393.79 lakh hectare in the ongoing kharif season so far due to poor rains in some states.

A sowing data released by the Ministry of Agriculture showed about 393.79 lakh hectares area coverage under rice has been reported compared to the corresponding period of last year (414.31 lakh hectares).

"Thus 20.52 lakh hectare less area has been covered compared to last year," an official statement said. However, paddy acreage has declined in Jharkhand (9.37 LH), Madhya Pradesh (6.32 LH), West Bengal (3.90 LH), Chhattisgarh (2.60 LH), Uttar Pradesh (2.47 LH), Bihar (2 LH), Odisha (0.48 LH), Andhra Pradesh (0.27 LH), Tripura (0.22 LH), Nagaland (0.21 LH), Meghalaya (0.18 LH), Karnataka (0.14 LH), Punjab (0.12 LH), Assam (0.09 LH), Goa (0.03 LH) and Mizoram (0.03 LH).

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Rahul sends mixed signals on taking up Congress reins



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being greeted by party workers during the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Kanyakumari district on Friday

PTI

‘You will know if I don’t fight poll’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KANYAKUMARI

Amid the scheduled change of guard in the Congress in a month's time, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday sent conflicting signals about the possibility of taking up the top job, saying he has already made up his mind and if he did not contest the upcoming elections, he will definitely give reasons.

"Whether I become president or not, this will become very clear when the presidential elections of the Congress party take place. Wait till that

time when that time comes you will see and if I don't stand, you can ask me 'why didn't you stand' and I will answer the question for you... I have decided what I have to do. There is no confusion," Rahul told the media on the yatra sidelines.

While in the past Rahul always firmly rejected the possibility of returning to the post of the president which he had relinquished after the Congress debacle in 2019 Lok Sabha polls, in his Friday's interaction with the media he was at best evasive on this point.

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Rahul wears ₹41,000 t-shirt: BJP

The BJP on Friday criticised Rahul Gandhi for wearing high-end ₹41,000 shirt during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. P4

FROM SUPREME COURT

Journalist Kappan gets bail

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan, arrested in October 2020 while on his way to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh after a Dalit woman from there died following a gang-rape.

The court also took note of the submissions of the UP Government and laid down several conditions for bail, including that he will have to remain in Delhi for the next six weeks after release from the prison and report to Nizamuddin police station here on Monday every week.

Continued on Page 2

Bilkis convicts' release: Guj gets notice, hearing after 3 weeks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it will hear after three weeks the pleas challenging the remission of sentence and release of 11 convicts in the 2002 Bilkis Bano gang-rape case and murder of her seven family members during the Gujarat riots.

The Bench comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and BV Nagarathna directed the counsel for the Gujarat Government to place before it the relevant records within two weeks.

On August 25, the SC had sought responses from the Centre and the Gujarat Government to a petition challenging the remission granted to the 11 convicts in the case.

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SC gives Centre 2 weeks for reply on plea against Places of Worship Act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted two weeks' time to the Centre to file its reply on pleas challenging the validity of certain provisions of a 1991 law, which prohibit the filing of a lawsuit to reclaim a place of worship or seek a change in its character from what prevailed on August 15, 1947.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief justice UU Lalit permitted all the applications, including the plea filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, to intervene in the hearing of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The hearing in the case will begin on October 11.

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Onus on stray dog feeders for vaccination, bite damages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of a growing stray dog menace, the Supreme Court on Friday called for a solution to the hazard and suggested that people who feed street dogs could be made responsible for vaccinating them and bearing costs if somebody is attacked by the animal.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and JK Maheshwari was hearing a batch of appeals filed by the Animal Welfare Board of India and other parties against a 2015 judgment of the Kerala High Court which permitted capturing and destruction of stray dogs.

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Queen's final journey planned to last detail over decades

AFP ■ LONDON

As Queen Elizabeth II is being mourned by her family, fans and admirers, her death has set in motion a finely choreographed plan honed and planned to the last detail over decades.

The new King and Queen Consort — Charles — Camilla — returned to London. The Queen's coffin was draped in the Royal Standard flag at her Scottish estate, Balmoral, where she died for a few days.

September 10:

Day 1: The 10-day plan for the days after the queen's death begins with the Accession Council convening for Charles to be formally proclaimed king.

Three trumpeters announce the proclamation with a fanfare. The proclamation is read out from a balcony at St James's Palace in London, then across the country. Charles will hold audi-



This photo combo shows Queen Elizabeth II during the State Opening of Parliament in April 1966; and Nov 15, 2006 (right)

AP | PTI

ences, and the media will be briefed by the Earl Marshal, a high-ranking royal official in charge of the accession and the queen's state funeral, in the coming days.

September 11

Day 2: The queen's coffin is expected to be transported from Balmoral to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, her official Scottish residence in Edinburgh.

The journey by road will pass through many small towns

and villages, giving members of the public their first chance to pay their respects.

Preparations for the queen's death in Scotland are code-named "Operation Unicorn" after the country's national animal.

September 12

Day 3: Charles is expected to begin a tour of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the four nations of the United Kingdom in an operation code-named "Spring Tide".

The Queen's coffin is expected to be taken in a procession up Edinburgh's Royal Mile from Holyrood to St Giles' Cathedral, where there will be a service and a vigil attended by royal family members.

September 13

Day 4: The coffin is expected to be flown to the capital and transported by road to Buckingham Palace in London.

Continued on Page 2

NCRPULSE

HC NIXES ACQUITTAL OF RAPE ACCUSED, GIVES 10-YEAR RI
New Delhi: Overturning the trial court verdict of acquittal, the Delhi High Court on Friday convicted a man for the rape of a minor girl in a male public toilet in 2010 while she was returning from school and sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for ten years. A Bench of Justices Mukta Gupta and Mini Pushkarna also directed the accused to pay a compensation of Rs 50,000 to the victim and said that the trial court order was "wholly unsustainable" as the prosecution has established its case against the accused beyond a reasonable doubt. The high court noted that the trial court based its decision "primarily on the contradictions in the deposition of the victim" and opined that it "committed a grave error in holding the victim as a tutored witness."

DU TO BEGIN ADMISSION PROCESS FOR UG COURSES
New Delhi: The Delhi University will begin the admission process for undergraduate courses with the launch of a Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal on Monday. The university this year is taking admission on the basis of their scores in the newly-launched Common University Entrance Test (CUET), which concluded on Tuesday. According to the initial plan, all phases of the CUET-UG were scheduled to conclude on August 20.

3-YR-OLD GIRL SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY NEIGHBOUR
New Delhi: A three-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by her neighbour, a juvenile, in northeast Delhi's Welcome area. The incident happened Thursday around 6.30 pm and the boy has been detained. The 14-year-old boy, who was known to the victim, took her to a vacant plot where he sexually assaulted her. The victim returned home and narrated the incident to her mother who later informed police about the incident. She also called the boy to their house with his parents, where he confessed to have assaulted the child.

WORKER DIES, 4 INJURED AS TOWER CRANE BREAKS
Noida: A 22-year-old worker died while four others were injured after a tower crane broke at a construction site here on Friday. The incident took place at a project site of Krishna Buildsites Private Limited in sector 132, police said, adding that the rope of the crane had snapped. "The injured were taken to Jaypee Hospital in sector 128 where Santosh Kumar Yadav, a native of East Champaran, Bihar, died during treatment," a police spokesperson said.

DJB VICE-CHAIR HOLDS MEETING ON SAFE DURGA PUJA
New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairperson Saurabh Bhardwaj chaired a high-level meeting on Friday at the DJB headquarters to ensure that Durga Puja is held in a grand and safe manner this year. Senior officials of Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Police, Flood and Irrigation Department, SDMs of South Delhi and representatives of several Durga Puja Committees were present in the meeting along with the officials from other concerned departments. Discussions were held on pragmatic ways to abate the pollution in Yamuna that is found to increase after immersion of idols after the puja.

GOVT DIRECTS EXPEDITION OF WORKS UNDER SC/ST/OBC DEPT
New Delhi: The Delhi Government issued directions to expedite the ongoing development works under Delhi's SC/ST/OBC department. Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam met with officials from the concerned departments to discuss various action plans in this regard. In the meeting, he reviewed the financial aid scheme offered on the birth and death anniversaries of national leaders. Along with this, he took stock of the development of a new school and community centre in Seemapuri's Sunder Nagar.

WATER BOTTLING PLANT INAUGURATED IN SADIQ NAGAR
New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board Vice-Chairman Saurabh Bhardwaj inaugurated a water bottling plant in Sadiq Nagar, South Delhi on Friday. This bottling plant has a capacity to fill 9,000 bottles on an everyday basis. The state-of-the-art facility is equipped with modern technologies that will first purify the water to make it drinkable. The entire water bottling plant is automatic and requires no manual intervention. Once packed, the water bottles will be made accessible to the general public of Delhi through Jal Suvidha Kendras.

LAC Point-15 pullback...

From Page 1
The Jianan Daban area referred to by China is the same as Patrolling Point-15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area. The pull back from the Gogra Hot Springs (Patrolling Point-15) came days ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are likely to take part in the annual event. It is not clear whether the two leaders will hold bilateral talks on the sideline of the SCO summit on September 15-16. They will also take part in another high level meet, G-20 summit in November in Indonesia. In Beijing, when asked whether India and China are in communication about a possible Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a


Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Remma Bhatia has acquired the One Built up Second floor (without roof rights), area measuring 50 sq. yds. i.e. 41,805 sq. ft., said 'roof' part of property bearing no. 42590-B, old no. N-4-C, out of Khosra no. 6854/26, situated in the area of village Udhampur, abadi of Bhola Nath Nagar, now known as Bihari Colony, Gali no. 10, Shadara, Delhi vide sale deed dated 01.08.2022 Doc. no. 7777 executed by Mr. Mukesh Kumar and Now, Mrs. Reema Bhatia is intending to sell the above said property to Mrs. Geetika Singh and Further, Mr. Arun Kumar and Mrs. Geetika Singh are mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Chawhan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-JTL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public on behalf of Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd. That Mrs. Rubina is owner of Plot of land area measuring 200 sq. Yds., out of Khosra No. 1599/2, Situated in Kanchan Park Colony, in the area of Village Lam Chakhandi, Pergana & Tehsil Loni, District Ghatotad (the said property), by virtue of Sale deed dated 07.08.2022, registration No. 14188, executed by Mr. Shahrukh as attorney of Mohd. Yusuf. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to take Loan from Fullerton India Credit Company Ltd. against the said property, if anybody has any objection's upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale /Mortgage/litigation, and any kind of objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

For Kumar & Associates (Advocates & consultants)
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kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com, Ph: 911-41112371-28



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Rai seeks Minister's time for joint war on pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday wrote to Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, seeking time to discuss and prepare a joint action plan to fight air pollution in the national Capital in winter. Rai said that the Delhi government is committed to providing clean air to people and is working on short-term and long-term measures. "These measures are being implemented through action plans for summers and winters. The Delhi government's efforts have led to an increase in the number of "satisfactory" (AQI 51 to 100) and "moderate" (AQI 101 to 200) air quality days," said Rai.

He said like the last two



years, the Delhi government has prepared a winter action plan to fight air pollution. "We request you to give us time to prepare a plan to save Delhi from the possible danger of air pollution in the coming months," he wrote in the letter to Yadav, who is the Union environment minister. Last year also, Rai wrote

several letters to Yadav, calling for emergency meetings to discuss the air pollution issue but did not receive any reply. Delhi's winter action plan focuses on stubble management, dust pollution, vehicular emission, open burning of garbage, industrial pollution, green war room and green Delhi application, pollution hotspots, real-time apportionment study, smog tower, e-waste parks, plantation, eco-farming, public participation, firecrackers and joint action with neighbouring states. The city government has re-imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years.

ED raids Punjab AAP MLA's premises, seizes ₹32 lakh in loan fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it seized Rs 32 lakh cash, some mobile phones and hard drives after it searched the premises of AAP MLA in Punjab Jaswant Singh Gajjan Majra and some others as part of a money laundering probe linked to an alleged bank loan fraud case. The searches were carried out at the business and residential premises of "accused persons and their associates" including Tara Corporation Limited (renamed as Malaudh Agro Limited on September 24, 2018), its directors Jaswant Singh, Balwant Singh, Kulwant Singh, Tejinder Singh, their associates and other sister concerns at Ludhiana, Malerkotla, Khanna, Payal and Dhuri, the

agency said in a statement. Jaswant Singh Gajjan Majra is an MLA from the Amargarh assembly constituency. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Punjab unit had on Thursday called the searches a "political vendetta". The ED said "incriminating pieces of evidence were seized related to bogus firms through which turnover of Tara Corporation Limited was inflated and loan funds were diverted/siphoned off by the accused". "Further, mobile phones, hard drives and Indian currency worth Rs 32 lakh were also seized from the searched premises," it said. The money laundering case, it said, is based on a March FIR filed by the CBI (Anti-Corruption Branch, Chandigarh) against the accused. It said the Bank of

India (Model Town branch, Ludhiana) had sanctioned a loan on cash credit limits aggregating Rs 35 crore as against hypothecation of stocks and book-debts on September 23, 2011 under sole banking arrangement. "The account was also sanctioned an ad hoc limit of Rs 6.00 crore in February 2014, which is yet to be repaid by the company," it said. The Account of TCL was declared as NPA (non performing asset) on March 31, 2014, the ED said. It said the aggregate loan outstanding is Rs 76 crore and Jaswant Singh, Balwant Singh, Kulwant Singh and Tejinder Singh were directors and guarantors in the loan account of Tara Corporation Limited. "When a fresh RoC (Registrar of Companies) search

was initiated by the bank in May 2016, it was observed that there was a drastic change in the directors of the company (without intimation to/prior permission of bank) and Kirpal Singh Tiwana, Harish Kumar and Lakhbir Singh had been appointed as directors of TCL and Principal person Balwant Singh had resigned from the directorship," the ED alleged. Later on, Balwant Singh had also been re-appointed as director of the company from May 25, 2016, it said. "On the basis of information available, investigation was initiated against the above said persons and their associates in order to ascertain the money laundering activities undertaken by them for laundering their proceeds of crime," the agency added.

5.26L challans issued via Smart Surveillance System in G'gram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM
With the help of City Wide Smart Surveillance systems through CCTV cameras which was operational since 2018 a total of 5,26,084 challans have been issued by the Gurugram Police and fines to the tune of Rs 93 crore have been imposed, against which fines to the tune of Rs 6 crore have been recovered, which is 6.27 per cent. Apart from this, the Gurugram Police is sending challans for fines to the tune of Rs.3 crore every month to the commuters violating traffic rules. Haryana Chief Secretary, Sanjeev Kaushal on the matter reviewed the City Wide Smart Surveillance System through CCTV cameras in Gurugram and various other cities of the state includ-

ing Faridabad and Karnal. The meeting was held through video conferencing from Chandigarh. During the review, Chief Executive Officer, of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA), Sudhir Rajpal informed that in the first phase, a holistic and integrated video surveillance system has been implemented in the area of GMDA comprising all 115 sectors of Gurugram and Manesar. Under this system, about 1,200 CCTV cameras have been installed at 222 locations, through which security and surveillance are being kept on the main roads and sensitive places. Out of these, 191 locations fall in Gurugram while 31 locations are in the Manesar area. These installed CCTV Cameras are with the facility of

Rice yield may...

From Page 1
Apart from paddy, there was a marginal decline in coverage of pulses with 130.91 LH covered so far this kharif season against 136.57 LH in the year-ago period. The Food Secretary pointed out that the paddy acreage is lower by 38 lakh hectare so far this kharif season, because of less rains in many states. The kharif season contributes about 80 per cent of India's total rice production. Pandey said there are four drought-affected States, which this year have about 25 lakh hectares less area under cultivation, which translates into 7-8 million tonne less production. "Loss of production of rice may be 10 million tonnes and in the worst case it can be 12 million tonnes this year," he said. However, the secretary

said this is an initial estimate based on drop in acreage and average yield. Pandey said the fall in production could be less as yield might improve in states where rains have been good. West Bengal, which is the top producer of paddy, as well as Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana have reported a fall in acreage. The Government's decision to ban rice exports and impose export duty is aimed at arresting domestic prices and ensuring availability of rice, sources said. Total production of rice during the 2021-22 crop year (July-June) is estimated at a record 130.29 million tonnes. It is higher by 13.85 million tonnes than the last five years' average production of 116.44 million tonnes.

Journalist Kappan gets...

From Page 1
The bail granted is on the UAPA charges, while bail petition is filed on the PMLA charges. The UP Government's lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani vehemently objected the bail petition charging that Kappan was arrested with others who belong to the "terrorist" organisation PFI. Kappan was working for the PFI's newspaper 'Thejaas' and actively involved with the organisation. Senior lawyer Kapil Sibal appeared for Kappan and countered the arguments of the UP Government. "Till now you have not shown anything provocative," said a bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit and also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and P S Narasimha noted, while granting bail to Kappan who is in jail for almost two years. The bench also observed that "every person has the right to free expression", in response to charges of engineering protests in Hathras. The bench also said similar protests happened in the Nirbhaya incident in Delhi and many protests happened leading to change of law.

Onus on stray dog feeders for vaccination...

From Page 1
The matter was listed on Friday following an urgent mentioning made by advocate VK Biju on September 5, who highlighted the recent death of a minor girl in Kerala after attack by a rabid dog. "A solution has to be found. I am also a dog lover and there are many other dog lovers here... What I had thought was that the people who feed dogs should be allowed to do so, they can keep a number or marking on the dog and they will be responsible for vaccinating them and bearing the cost if a person is attacked," Justice Sanjiv Khanna said. "Most of us are dog lovers. I also feed dogs. Something came to my mind. Let people take care (of dogs) if they want but they have to be marked, not tracked through the chip, I'm not in favour of that," Justice Khanna observed. According to Live Law portal, the court observed that a balance has to be found between safety of people and compassion for animals. The bench posted the matter on September 28 for hearing on interim relief.

SC gives Centre...

From Page 1
BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay have challenged the validity of certain provisions of the law which maintains the status quo with regard to ownership and the character of religious places except in the Ayodhya case as prevailing on August 15, 1947. The bench, also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and PS Narasimha, ordered that the matters be heard by a three-judge bench on October 11 and asked the parties to complete the pleadings by then.

Plan to bid Queen adieu sets...

From Page 1
Members of the public will likely line the route. **September 14 -** Day 5: A ceremonial procession of the coffin through London is expected followed by a lying in state in parliament's Westminster Hall, codenamed "Operation Feather". Senior members of the royal family are expected to stand guard around the coffin in a tradition known as the Vigil of the Princes. **September 15-17** Days 6,7 and 8: Lying in state. Public can pay their

respects, filing past the coffin on its catafalque. **September 18 -** Day 9: A reception to be held for visiting dignitaries and heads of state who have arrived for the funeral. **September 19 -** Day 10: The state funeral is expected to take place in Westminster Abbey with huge crowds gathering in central London. Senior members of the royal family are likely to walk behind coffin as it is taken on a gun carriage to the abbey with a two-minute silence observed.

Bilkis convicts' release: Guj...

From Page 1
The court had issued notice on a plea filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revathy Laul and activist Roop Rekha Rani. It had asked the petitioners to implead the 11 convicted persons, who have been granted remission, as parties in the matter. TMC MP Mahua Moitra has also filed a separate plea. During the hearing, advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for one of the 11 convicts, said the petitioners have on Thursday filed an application to implead these persons as

respondents. "Notices have to go to the impleaded respondents," he said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, said they have complied with the apex court's earlier direction. "Why have you filed an application for adjournment?" the bench asked Malhotra, who said notices have to go to the impleaded respondents and they have to file their replies. He said multiple petitions have been filed in the matter. "I am against this business in criminal matters," he said, while objecting to the locus of the

petitioners. The bench told Malhotra that 11 persons have been impleaded as party respondents in the lead matter and he can accept notices on their behalf. Malhotra said he has been appearing for only one of them and he would have to take instructions. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five-month pregnant when she was gang-raped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed.

Rahul sends mixed signals on taking up Congress...

From Page 1
The election to the post of

Congress president will be held on November 17 and votes will be counted two days later. Nominations can be filed from September 24 to 30. "I will get some understanding about myself and this beautiful country from the yatra, and in these two-three months, I will be wiser," Rahul said. Rahul who is on his third day of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in southern India also said his padyatra will help in forging Opposition unity even though that is a separate exercise. Rahul's statement is in line with calls made by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee for the Opposition unity to take on the BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Rahul said the idea of this

march is to connect with the people, listen to them, understand what they are facing and also communicate to them a few things. "The yatra will of course help in bringing together the Opposition but that is a separate exercise. Every party has a role in it, it's not that the Congress party is the only party, every party has a role in it, and that discussion is in progress," he said. Rahul also responded to the BJP charge that it is 'Parivar Bachao' yatra, saying the yatra is being undertaken to undo the damage done by the BJP-RSS of spreading hatred in the country. He said everybody has an opinion, the BJP has one and so does the RSS. "They are free to have. For

us in the Congress, this is a journey and an attempt at understanding what is going on in India and an attempt at undoing the damages that have been done by BJP and RSS," he said. Responding to a question on leading the yatra, Rahul said to put it in perspective, the Congress has decided to do the padyatra across the country and as a member of the party and a person who agrees with its ideology, he is participating in it. "I don't see any contradiction in my participation in this yatra," he said. Asked if the battle of ideologies he often talks about has entered a decisive phase, he said this battle has been going on for a couple of thousand years now between two different visions. "There have always been two different

visions of India. One vision, which is rigid, controlling and another vision, which is plural, open minded and I think, this battle will continue. We are playing our role in this fight," he said. "You know the role of the CBI, of the ED, of the Income Tax Department. So, we are not fighting a political party, we used to fight a political party. Now, the fight is not between one political party and another political party. Now the fight is between the structure of the Indian state and the opposition and everybody understands this," he said. "This is not an easy fight. This is a difficult fight. Media is not with the Opposition. Not because you don't want to be, but, because you are under pressure, your owners have

particular relationships, so this is not an easy fight and a lot of people don't want to fight, lot of people feel, why get caught up. It is easier to let go, make peace with the BJP, fold hands in front of them, and your life will be easier," he said. Rahul asserted this was neither his training nor his character. "My character is to fight for a certain idea of India, a certain notion of this country and there are many people in the Congress Party and in the opposition, who are convinced of this fact," he said. Asked about the names of cities, roads and railway stations being changed, Rahul said there is "total bankruptcy" in vision for what is to be done in future, so to divert attention, names are changed.

Commercial construction in property in Chandni Chowk's residential area

HC stays construction, orders court inspection

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court (HC) on Friday directed that no further construction shall take place in a property in Chandni Chowk over an allegation that unauthorised and illegal commercial construction was being carried out on the premises which is in a residential zone.

The HC directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to ensure strict compliance of the order and also asked the Commissioner of Delhi Police to provide all logistical support to the Court Commissioner, appointed by the Bench, as well as the visiting team while carrying out an inspection of the premises.

"It is directed that till the next date of hearing no construction of any kind shall take place in respect of the property in question," a Bench of Chief Justice SC Sharma and Justice S Prasad said.

The court was hearing a petition by Dr S Jaitley, who said the petition has been filed on behalf of the residents of Katra Neel in Chandni Chowk,

stating that unauthorised and illegal commercial construction was being carried out over a property in Baag Deewar which is a residential zone.

MCD counsels Sanjeev Sagar and Nazia Parveen said the civic body had issued notices for demolition of the alleged unauthorised and illegal construction. However, a civil suit was filed in the trial court which directed the MCD not to take any coercive action of demolition or sealing without following the due process of law and without giving an adequate opportunity for a hearing.

The counsel said the trial court has also granted permission to the builder to carry out minor repair works over the suit property but under the garb of the order, the structure of the property was being materially altered and was being converted into a commercial complex by constructing or partitioning floors.

The court said that to find out whether only minor repair works were being carried out or the structure of the property

was being altered and converted into a commercial complex by constructing floors or partitioning floors, it was inclined to appoint a lawyer as the Court Commissioner to inspect the property and submit a detailed report in the matter.

It said the Court Commissioner shall be free to videograph the construction and shall inform the date and time of inspection to the petitioner and the respondents and he shall submit the report within a period of 15 days.

The HC said the report shall include various orders passed by the trial court from time to time, and a specific statement with all minute details as to whether only minor repair works were being carried out or the structure of the property was being altered and was sought to be converted into a commercial complex by raising fresh constructions/partitioning existing floors. The court issued a notice to the MCD and listed the matter for further hearing on September 23.

5 hurt in under-construction building collapse in Azad Market

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Five people, including three labourers, were injured when a four-storey under-construction building collapsed in north Delhi's Azad market area on Friday morning. Meanwhile, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said that substandard material was used for the building's construction and there was heavy load of construction material on the building which caused its collapse.

The injured have been identified as Congresh Yadav (31), Nitesh Yadav (29) and Amarjeet Yadav (21), who were working in the building at the time of the incident. Two people, identified as Jamil (45) and Ajjur Rehman (44), who were passing through the area also sustained injuries and all of the injured are undergoing treatment.

Taking cognisance of the incident, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a tweet said, "This accident is extremely saddening. Relief and rescue work is going on and I am taking the information from the district administration." According to the fire department, a call regarding the incident was received at 8.30 A.M.

Sagar Singh Kalsi, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), north district said, a

PCR call was received on Friday morning regarding collapse of a building situated at Sheesh Mahal, Azad Market following which an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched.

"On reaching there, the police team found that the building which was under construction had collapsed and pieces of the debris were lying in the lane.

On inquiry it was found that some people had been sent to Hindu Rao Hospital after being rescued from the spot," said the DCP.

"The building's owner is Ajay Kumar Jain, a resident of Rajinder Nagar area and the builder is Mohammad Muzaffir, a resident of Azad Market," said the DCP.

"Prima facie and on the basis of the Medico Legal Case, an First Information Report (FIR) under Section 288/337/34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered," said the DCP adding that further investigation was on.

A senior MCD official said that the Building Department of the MCD had sanctioned the building plan of the property and permission was granted for construction of the ground floor, first floor, second floor and third floor. "At the time of inspection no deviation and



Rescue operation underway after a four-storey under-construction building collapsed in the Azad Market area on Friday. Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

excess coverage was noticed at the site," said the senior MCD official. "Prima facie according to information gathered at the site it was found that substandard material was used for its construction and there was heavy load of construction

material on the building which caused its collapse. However, the exact cause can be ascertained only after removal of huge amounts of debris at the site," the senior MCD official said. "The MCD has deployed men and machinery from various

departments at the site for removal of debris, which includes 10 mini trucks and labourers from the maintenance department and dangerous building cell, plus a labour contractor," the senior MCD official added.

BJP, AAP spar over DDU College staff salary delay

Education model exposed, says BJP; college has ₹25 cr in FDs, retorts AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The controversy over the Delhi Government-funded Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College salary cut has taken on a political hue with the Delhi BJP wading into the issue on Friday. The party slammed the Government and urged Lieutenant-Governor Saxena to intervene in the financial crisis allegedly being faced by 12 Delhi University (DU) colleges. The BJP said that the Kejriwal education model has also been exposed. On the other hand, AAP spokesperson Saurav Bhardwaj said that the college has Fixed Deposits of ₹25 crore in various banks and they should use it to pay the teachers.

DDU College released only a part of the salary of its permanent teaching staff in July due to alleged "paucity of funds", drawing a sharp reaction from the college's Governing Body. A notice signed by officiating principal Hem Chand Jain read, "This is for the information of all per-



manent teaching staff that due to paucity of funds, ₹30,000 has been retained from Net Salary of Assistant Professors and ₹50,000 from Net Salary of Associate Professors/Professors for the month of July, 2022. The same will be released as and when the funds are available."

Meanwhile, the Governing Body chairman Sunil Kumar has written to Jain asking him for an explanation, claiming that the required amount was released under 'salary head' by the Department of Higher Education (DHE). "When the required amount was released under salary head by the DHE, It is learnt that employees of college have been paid their salary for July after retaining Rs 50000 of Associate Professor/Professor and ₹30,000 of Assistant Professor. Please clarify with whose permission you deduct this amount," Kumar wrote to Jain.

The college has said that it will now have a five-day week because the Government is not releasing money to pay the electricity bills.

Addressing a press conference, BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said, "Colleges are now cutting teachers' salaries and teaching days are also being reduced to minimize expenses."

Hitting hard at the AAP model of governance Bidhuri said this is the Kejriwal Government model where they do not have funds to pay salary to teachers.

Defending the AAP Government, Bhardwaj said that the Delhi Government gave funds to the college and asked for the details of the expenditure, which was not given to his knowledge. "The college has FDs of ₹ 25 crore. The college should pay the teachers. If the issue of not giving money to a college teacher is becoming the central agenda of the BJP, then it is clear that they want to stop the welfare schemes of Arvind Kejriwal. They cannot directly question the schemes issued for the poor, so this is why they are doing it. There are BJP people in DUTA too, that's why they are talking like this," he said.

DDU College Treasurer complains to V-C against principal's defiance

Dixit claims financial irregularities in hostels, principal's refusal to give account of it

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the controversy over the salary cuts at Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) College, its Treasurer has written a letter to Delhi University Vice-Chancellor, citing gross irregularity in the financial transactions in the hostels and defiance of the principal, Professor Hem Chand Jain to provide details regarding the same. DDU College Treasurer Sumit Dixit in the letter to the V-C said that in April-end some of the members of the Governing Body, accompanied by the officiating Principal, Hem Chand Jain, visited the hostel premises. They were informed that the hostellers were paying around Rs 5,000 per month per student (amounting to Rs 9 to 10

lakh per month) towards the mess expenditure without being given any receipt for the money. "It was also observed that, no proper bills were available in the hostel office for purchase of items. There were no bills available even for regularly purchased bulk items like, rice, oil, groceries, etc which is easily available from any shop," the letter read.

"Further, we were surprised to note that, though bank accounts of the hostel are functional since 2017, the money collected from the residents is not even deposited in the hostel bank account," the letter read.

"On seeking an explanation for such objectionable transactions from the officiating Principal, as usual Jain gave some flimsy explanation. Despite asking him couple of times to provide details of the transactions done in the hostels, no proper reply was received from the officiating Principal," the letter stated.

"On 26 August 2022, I wrote an email to Professor Jain seeking details regarding this, but I got no reply despite being the Treasurer of the Governing Body of the college," Dixit wrote in his letter.

"Can rules and regulations of University of Delhi allow such practice to be carried out by none other than the Principal of the college? Further, can a Principal, being the head of the institution, be allowed to be defiant? I sincerely seek your intervention into these foul financial transactions in the institution and the objectionable conduct of the Principal," Dixit wrote in his letter to the V-C.

Meanwhile, the Delhi University, V-C Yogesh Singh on Friday held a meeting with all 28 Delhi Government-funded college Chairpersons. The representatives of the colleges also raised several issues which included misappropriation of funds and insubordination either by principals or professors.

BJP leaders seek Sisodia's dismissal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Demanding Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's dismissal over the alleged liquor scam, the Delhi BJP on Friday held a protest with slum-dwellers, auto drivers, and senior citizens near the residences of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his ministers on Friday. The BJP protesters also burnt the effigies of all AAP ministers.

Addressing party workers, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said people were with the party as the "excise scam" that benefited the liquor mafia at the cost of public money had been exposed. Gupta led the protest near Sisodia's Mathura Road residence. He said that Kejriwal, who had joined the

fight against corruption with Anna Hazare with the tricolour in his hand and the picture of Mahatma Gandhi, is now himself neck deep into corruption.

"Together with the liquor mafias, he has indulged in scam worth crores of rupees and increased their commission by 10 per cent and has taken half of it under the table in his name. Today, when all the evidence of corruption in the new excise policy has come to the fore, Kejriwal is afraid even to speak," said Gupta.

"Instead of providing tap water, Kejriwal opened liquor shops in almost every street. Now Delhiites know well how much the AAP has benefited from this policy and that is why they are angry," Gupta added.

The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and BJP Delhi unit general secretary Dinesh Pratap Singh led the protest outside the Chief Minister's residence. Bidhuri said that whenever questions were asked to the Kejriwal Government in the Delhi Assembly or outside it on the new liquor policy and they did not bother to even answer.



CM resumes meeting with LG after 3 weeks of misses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday met Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena for the first time since the CBI raid at Manish Sisodia's residence and said whatever happened was "unfortunate" while hoping the situation would improve.

The meeting lasted nearly 40 minutes. Amid the AAP's tussle with the lieutenant Governor, Kejriwal had skipped the previous three weekly meetings, held on every Friday, including one on August 19 when Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia's residence was raided. After the meeting talking to reporters, Kejriwal said whatever happened was unfortunate and he hopes the



situation will improve. "We had a discussion in a very cordial atmosphere. The Friday meetings in the last few weeks could not take place as I was out of Delhi by chance. The meeting today was very good... Several issues were discussed. I requested him to improve MCD work together as filth in the city has become a menace now. I also offered the Delhi



Government's help in removing garbage dumps that will take years with the present speed of work," said Kejriwal.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said that Chief Minister, Kejriwal has taken a positive step forward to meet with the Lieutenant-Governor this week despite all the personal attacks and slander. "Though the AAP and the

Lieutenant-Governor Office have been at loggerheads and engaged in a heated war of words due to the political situation in the state, the CM met with the Lieutenant-Governor for the greater good of Delhi, and to ensure that Delhi's progress doesn't meet any roadblocks," said Bharadwaj. "The interest of the people of Delhi is paramount and sacrosanct to us and no conflict can hinder our commitment towards it. No matter what, we will cooperate and work together for the development of Delhi," said Bharadwaj. "Even if we have a political conflict or disagreement with the Prime Minister it wouldn't act as a deterrent for us in ensuring the growth of Delhi. For the AAP, the greater good of Delhi and

its people and will always be of more value than political or ideological conflicts," said Bharadwaj.

The relation between the AAP Government in Delhi and the Lieutenant-Governor has worsened after the CBI probe into the liquor policy was recommended. AAP leaders levelled charges of corruption against Saxena during his tenure as chairperson of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Taking umbrage over the corruption charge, the Lieutenant-Governor launched a direct attack on Kejriwal in a series of tweets on September 1, accusing him of resorting to "diversionary tactics and false accusations" out of "desperation".

4.27L patients benefited by Delhi Arogya Kosh scheme, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has spent ₹168.43 crore for providing health facilities to over 4.27 lakh patients under its Delhi Arogya Kosh scheme over a span of five years.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia held a review meeting with the officials of the Health Department and directed them to focus on working towards ensuring the timely benefit of this Government scheme to the maximum number of people across the national Capital.

He said between 2017 and March 2022, more than 4.27 lakh patients have benefited

from this scheme and for this, ₹168.43 crore have been spent by the government so far.

There are four schemes under the Delhi Arogya Kosh which include financial support from the Government for medical implants, various types of surgeries, 136 types of medical tests and the Farishtey scheme for treatment of accident victims. "Cashless check-up and treatment will be provided to them in all the empanelled hospitals and the cost of this will be borne by the Government. Under this scheme, every citizen of Delhi who has a Delhi voter card can get treatment. Children below

19 years of age can avail this facility on the basis of their parent's voter card," Sisodia said.

Under one of the schemes under Delhi Arogya Kosh, the city Government provides financial assistance up to ₹5 lakh to patients. In the last five years, 5,028 people have availed this scheme with the Government spending ₹47.61 crore for this.

Sisodia said the Government has empanelled various private hospitals and diagnostic centres with government hospitals. Under this scheme, patients can get about 136 types of medical tests done for free.

Kunal Kamra's G'gram show cancelled after protest threats

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

After Munawar Faruqui, a comedian Kunal Kamra's show has also been cancelled in Gurugram which is scheduled for next weekend, after members of the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) threatened to protest and disrupt the show if it was not cancelled.

Kamra was scheduled to perform at Studio Xo bar in sector 29 on September 17 and 18. On an Instagram post on the bar's page on August 29, the bar had released a poster, 'Kunal Kamra Live', with the show timings and ticket details.

The VHP and Bajrang Dal on Friday submitted a memorandum to the Gurugram



Deputy Commissioner to cancel a show of comedian Kunal Kamra scheduled in the city on September 17 at Studio Xo Bar in Sector 29. In a letter to the deputy commissioner, the Hindu outfits threatened to hold protests and disrupt the show, if it was not cancelled. They alleged that Kamra was known to hurt religious senti-

ments by cracking jokes about Hindu deities. Sources said members of the two right-wing outfits had visited the bar and asked the management to do away with the event. It further said the club has decided to cancel the show to avoid any trouble. However, reports claimed that tickets for the show were still being sold online.

"An artist by the name of Kunal Kamra is organising a show at Studio Xo Bar in Sector 29, Gurugram, on September 17. He has a habit of mocking our Gods. An FIR has also been filed against him earlier in this regard. This show will create communal tension in Gurugram and thus we request it should be cancelled at the

earliest or we will protest and disrupt," read the memorandum. "We cannot allow anybody to hurt our religious sentiments. We spoke to the bar management on the matter.

We also informed the local administration that this show can lead to a communal problem so it should be cancelled," said a member of the Bajrang Dal. However, Sahil Dawra, general manager of Studio Xo Bar, said they have decided to cancel show as we don't want any trouble.

The club also deleted its Instagram post that was promoting the show. "I spoke with the owners, police, and comedian, and I don't want any risk to my company and organisation," the club manager said.

Selfie rush at Kartavya Path, social media abuzz

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On the first day of Central Vista, several people, including children and foreigners, visited the newly refurbished lawns. People were seen talking selfie and even leaving no stone unturned to make reels for their social media account.

The Central Vista Avenue stretching from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate was thrown open to the general public after 20 months. Undeterred by the sticky heat, hundreds thronged the revamped stretch on Friday and clicked photographs. Most of the visitors appeared impressed with the refurbish-



ing. "It is looking very nice. I had come here a few months ago but it was closed for construction then. I had also visited India Gate a few years back... So many new things have been added," said Mahesh

Sharma.

Bose statue became the central attraction, carved out of a monolithic block of jet black Telengana granite.

Meanwhile, with their contribution in the Central Vista

project and praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their work, the constructions workers, from rural pockets of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, said that they feel proud to be part of historic development.

A group of workers from Boyar village in Sagardighi, West Bengal said they missed the inaugural of the Central Vista by Modi as they were on duty. "The programme started in the evening but we were working at that time. Later, we watched video of the programme on WhatsApp," said Mijanurrahman. His fellow villager and colleague Wasimuddin smiled and nodded in agreement.

EYE ON POLLS, BJP APPOINTS INCHARGES FOR KEY STATES

Former Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, however, do not find place in the revamp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday announced a number of new appointments and made its senior leaders, including former Chief Ministers and Union Ministers — Vijay Rupani (Gujarat), Biplab Kumar Deb (Tripura), Prakash Javadekar and Mahesh Sharma (Union Ministers) — as party in-charge of different key States. The organizational revamping has been done ahead of a slew of States going to Assembly polls by the year-end and next year before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Former Chief Ministers

and ex-ministers, waiting for organizational tasks for some time after they exited from their erstwhile high assignments, have been given responsibilities in different states. Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani will be in-charge for Punjab and Chandigarh, ex-Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Deb for Haryana and former Union Minister Prakash Javadekar will look after party work in Kerala. Similarly, former central minister Mahesh Sharma been given charge of Tripura. Former Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, however, did not find a place in the organizational revamping. The BJP also named its general secretary Vinod Tawde (from Maharashtra) as its new in-charge for Bihar (where it is not a ruling party now), and former Bihar Minister Mangal Pandey with the key assign-

ment in West Bengal. BJP's national spokesperson Sambit Patra has been made coordinator for northeastern states and the party's national secretary Rituraj Sinha will be joint-coordinator, the party said in a statement. Senior party leader and member of its central election committee Om Mathur from Rajasthan will be in-charge of the party's affairs in Chhattisgarh and its former Uttar Pradesh unit president Laxmikant Bajpai will look after the work in Jharkhand. Madhya Pradesh will be handled by P Muralidhar Rao to be assisted by Pankaja Munde, daughter of late Gopinath Munde. The key central state is also to go to polls next year. BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh will continue to be in-charge of Rajasthan with Vijaya Rahatkar being his deputy in the state.

Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh are to go to polls by the year-end. Several other states like Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tripura, Meghalaya, Telangana, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh and Nagaland will be facing assembly polls next year. BJP has been holding regular meetings of party leaders to review the poll preparations in these states and scrutinizing feedback on probable candidates for the coming assembly polls. Last week, BJP president JP Nadda held a meeting of party general secretaries to detail the ground situation in five poll-bound states. The party has changed the CMs of Gujarat, Karnataka and Tripura to beat the anti-incumbency and buzz is that Madhya Pradesh may also come under sharper scanner of the central leadership before the Assembly polls.

BJP, Cong spar over cost of Rahul, PM's clothes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday had a cheeky 'dekko' at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's T-shirt worn by him during the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and claimed the high-end shirt cost over Rs 41,000. The party posted two pictures saying "Bharat, dekho" prompting the Congress to hit back drawing attention to what it called Rs 10 lakh suit and Rs 1.5 lakh shades worn by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Bharat, dekho," (India, look), the BJP tweeted from its handle and posted two pictures, one of Rahul and the other showing the price of a T-shirt similar to the one he was wearing. The Burberry T-shirt cost Rs 41,257, the BJP claimed in its tweet. BJP national spokesperson Shehzad



Poonawalla said Rahul's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' is all about launching him as a contender for the prime ministerial face in the Opposition at a time when many other parties are flexing muscles and visiting Delhi, an apparent reference to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "He is making claim to be on the list of prime ministerial aspirants in 2024," Poonawalla told reporters. Congress in its riposte drew BJP's attention to Modi's pricy

clothes and other articles. "Hey...Are you scared? Seeing the crowds gathered in Bharat Jodo Yatra. Talk about the issue...Speak on unemployment and inflation", replied the Congress "If we have to discuss clothes, then it will go to Modi ji's Rs 10 lakh suit and his Rs 1.5 lakh glasses. Tell me what to do," the Congress further said tongue in cheek on its Twitter handle in Hindi while tagging the BJP. Congress leader and its social media in-charge Supriya Shrinete tweeted saying, "Dear BJP, It is visible how your senses have been blown off after seeing the mass revolution! How desperately rattled are you!!!" Poonawalla attacked the opposition party after Congress leader Jairam Ramesh lashed out at the gov-

ernment for renaming Rajpath as Kartavya Path. "They (Congress) have been so much in love with the British symbol and the British crown that even today when country is celebrating renaming of Rajpath to 'Kartavya Path', they can't say a word of praise. Neither for the latest statue of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose nor for the good work done by Modiji," said Poonawalla. "This is the same Jairam Ramesh and Congress party who opposed the renaming of Aurangzeb Road as APJ Abdul Kalam Marg. This is the same Congress party that opposed the Ram Jann Bhumi Poojan. This is the same congress party that had problems when other colonial symbols were removed," Poonawalla said further.

Murmu launches PM TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maintaining that India has a little less than 20 per cent of the world's population but more than 25 per cent of its total TB patients, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday urged citizens to work collectively towards the elimination of the disease from the country by 2025 on a foot footing. She virtually launched the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. Lauding the government's initiative to provide community support to TB patients through the 'Ni-kshay 2.0' portal under which TB patients can be adopted and cared for by an individual, elected representatives or institutions, she urged everyone to make the campaign a mass movement.



"When a welfare scheme is made in the interest of people, its chances of success increases manifold," she said in her address. Murmu said that of all the infectious diseases, the maximum number of deaths occur due to tuberculosis. She also launched the 'Ni-kshay Mitra' initiative to ensure additional diagnostic, nutritional, and vocational support

to those on TB treatment, and encouraged elected representatives, corporates, NGOs, and individuals to come forward as donors to help the patients complete their journey towards recovery. The 'Ni-kshay 2.0' portal will facilitate in providing additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes of TB patients, augmenting community involvement in meeting India's commitment to end TB by 2025 and leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities. She said India has set an example to the world in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy of 'New India' to move forward with confidence is also visible in the field of TB eradication. According to the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), all nations have set the goal of eradicating TB by the year 2030. But the Government of India has set the target of eradicating TB by the year 2025 and efforts are being made at every level to fulfil this resolution. The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan has been envisioned to bring together all community stakeholders to support those on TB treatment and accelerate the country's progress towards TB elimination. Speaking on the occasion, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya informed that there are roughly 13.5 lakh TB patients registered in the Ni-kshay portal, out of which 8.9 lakh active TB patients have given their consent for adoption.

India announces 1-day State mourning for Queen Elizabeth



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India will observe a day of State mourning on September 11, Sunday as a mark of respect for the death of Queen Elizabeth who died on Thursday at the age of 96. The National Flag will be flown at half-mast on the day of mourning throughout India on all buildings where the National Flag is flown regularly and there will be no official entertainment on the day, the ministry of home affairs said here on Friday. "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, passed away on September 8, 2022. As a mark of respect to the departed dig-

nitary, the government of India has decided that there will be one-day state mourning on September 11 throughout India," official statement said. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi have expressed condolences at the demise of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II. In their messages, they noted that she was a stalwart of our times; a compassionate personality and provided inspiring leadership to her nation and people, the ministry of external affairs said. The British High Commission has opened a book of condolence at the High Commissioner's residence here for people wishing to pay their respects.

India, Saudi Arabia to review ties during Jaishankar's maiden visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Saudi Arabia will review the entire spectrum of bilateral ties during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit there for three days starting Saturday. It will be his first visit to Saudi Arabia as the external affairs minister. Giving details of his schedule, ministry of external affairs said here on Friday, during the visit, Jaishankar will co-chair the inaugural Ministerial Meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC), established under the framework of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council, with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. The two Ministers will undertake a comprehensive review of the entire bilateral relationship and will discuss the progress under the four Joint Working Groups of the PSSC Committee. They include Political and Consular, Legal

and Security, Social and Cultural and Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation. The meetings of these Groups and Senior Officials (at Secretary level) were held over the past few months. Both sides will also discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest including their cooperation at the UN, G20 and GCC. During the visit, Jaishankar will also meet other Saudi dignitaries as well as Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf. Both sides will review the bilateral relations and discuss ways to enhance them. Jaishankar will also interact with the Indian community in Saudi Arabia. India-Saudi Arabia relations have strengthened considerably over the past few years including in political, security, energy, trade, investment, health, food security, cultural and defence fields. The top leadership of both countries remained in close touch even during the Covid pandemic.

IN SHORTS

TENDER FLOATED TO BUILD A WHEEL PLANT
New Delhi: The Railways has drawn up a blueprint to become an exporter of wheels and on Friday for the first time a tender was floated to build a wheel plant which would manufacture at least 80,000 wheels every year, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

SC REJECTS NUPUR SHARMA ARREST PLEA
New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a plea seeking the arrest of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma over her remarks on the Prophet made during a TV debate. A bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justices S Ravindra Bhat and P S Narasimha said the courts should think carefully while passing orders in such matters.

PURI LAUNCHES 'SWACHH AMRIT MAHOTSAV'
New Delhi: To celebrate eight years of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday officially announced the commencement of the 'Swachh Amrit Mahotsav', a fortnight of activities to galvanize action around swachhata from 17th Sept. 2022, Seva Diwas, till 2nd Oct. 2022, Swachhata Diwas. The fortnight will focus on mobilizing citizen action and

Assets of plant protection officer swells in 18 mths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The wealth of a plant protection officer facing graft probe by the CBI has allegedly swelled from ₹23 lakh to over ₹2 crore within a span of just 18 months resulting in a new FIR against him for amassing disproportionate assets. The CBI officials checked the assets of Padam Singh, a plant protection officer posted at Plant Quarantine station, Visakhapatnam who was booked for allegedly demanding ₹6,000 in bribe, after receiving inputs that he had received cash deposit and bank transfer of funds in the accounts of his family members and relatives. The investigation into his assets allegedly amassed during his posting in Visakhapatnam between December 2020 and July 2022 showed that his wealth had spiralled from ₹23.29 lakh to ₹2.12 crore during the period, according to the FIR. The assets included cash of over ₹1.86 crore recovered during the searches, plots in Roorkee, gold jewellery worth over ₹32 lakh, ₹10 lakh in bank account among others, reads the FIR. After considering his salary and interest which stood at ₹11.62 lakh and deducting the expenditure incurred by him during the period, the CBI deduced that disproportionate assets amassed by Singh within 18 months stood at over ₹1.98 crore which comes to 1,704 per cent of his known sources of income which he could not satisfactorily account for, the FIR added. Singh is an officer of the Agriculture Ministry at the Centre and hails from Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh but his family is settled in Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

SC stays demolition of part of Curlies eatery linked to Phogat's death

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the demolition of a portion of 'Curlies' restaurant at Anjuna in North Goa, which was in the news recently following the death of BJP leader Sonali Phogat. The stay order pertained to demolition of structures situated on a particular survey number only. A Bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit made it clear that unauthorized constructions situated on the land other than the specified survey number may be demolished. Passing an urgent order, the Bench asked the counsel for the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority to convey the order to the authorities instantly for compliance. The Bench asked the restaurant and bar owner of 'Curlies' restaurant to suspend commercial activities for the time being. The Goa government on Friday morning began demolishing the restaurant for alleged violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms. Phogat was found partying at the outlet hours before her death. Its owner Edwin Nunes was among five persons arrested in the Phogat death case and he was later granted bail. The action against the restaurant was initiated after its owner failed to get any respite from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) against the 2016 demolition order of the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA).



Union Home Minister and Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language Amit Shah, along with the members of the Committee, calls on President Murmu and presents the 11th volume of the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

IMF MD MEETS PREZ MURMU
New Delhi: IMF MD Kristalina Georgieva on Friday called on President Droupadi Murmu who said that the organisation has to play an important role in maintaining the stability of the global monetary system.

SC TO HEAR CRIMINALISATION OF MARITAL RAPE PLEA IN SEP
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it would hear on September 16 the pleas arising out of the Delhi High Court's split verdict on the issue of criminalisation of marital rape.

PM TO OPEN SCIENCE CONCLAVE
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Centre-State Science Conclave on Saturday via video conferencing. The programme is in line with the PM's relentless efforts to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

SC AWARDS ₹4L AS DAMAGES TO VICTIM
New Delhi: In a case of medical negligence where an Ayurveda doctor prescribed allopathic medicines, the Supreme Court Friday awarded Rs four lakh as compensation to the victim.

Flying lessons from father to son



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

IAF chief V R Chaudhari and his son Squadron Leader Mihir Chaudhari on Friday together flew a sortie of Rafale jets at the Air Force station Hasimara, West Bengal. The father-son duo flew a sortie on

Rafale aircraft as part of three aircraft combat training mission there, officials said adding it is a "continuation of the finest traditions of the IAF and underlines the importance accorded to grooming and preparing our young leaders for the challenges of the future". Chaudhari also reviewed the

operational preparedness of the Hasimara airbase. The IAF said that the chief urged the personnel to continue their efforts in safeguarding the nation's skies at all times. The Hasimara air base has a squadron (18 jets) of the recently inducted Rafale jets from France. The other 18 jets are

stationed at the Ambala air base in north India. Incidentally, in 2013 then IAF chief N A K Browne and his son Omar Browne had together flown a sortie of the SU-30 fighter jets in Pune. A father-daughter duo created history in May this year as they became the first such combine to fly IAF fighter jets together. They are Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and Flying Officer Ananya Sharma. The duo flew a Hawk fighter jet sortie in Bidar, Karnataka on May 30. The father-daughter duo created history when they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 aircraft. "There has not been any previous instance in the IAF where a father and his daughter were part of the same fighter formation for a mission. It was a mission where Air Commodore Sanjay and Flying Officer Ananya were more than just father and daughter. They were comrades, who had full faith in each other as fellow wingmen would," the IAF said.

Centre, States must work together to transform transport sector

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday stressed on the importance of adopting a multimodal transport system for the country to achieve its goal of emerging as a five trillion dollar economy over the next five years. Addressing the 41st meeting of the Transport Development Council (TDC) in Bengaluru on Friday, Gadkari said that the Centre and the states will have to work together over the next five years to transform the transport sector if the country wants to achieve a \$5 trillion economy. "There is a need that we have to shed our differences, come together and formulate future policies so that the transport system can be run on the energy produced in the country," he said according to a Ministry



statement. Ministers of transport from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Goa, Karnataka, Delhi and Tamil Nadu participated in the 41st Transport Development Council (TDC). Gadkari batted for a holistic approach to develop the transport sector in order to achieve India's economic agenda over the next five years. "At present roads are used to transport 70 per cent of the goods. It is necessary to adopt comprehensive methods to reduce it. There is a need to not rely solely on road transport

but also water transport, railways and airports which need to be interlinked seamlessly." Gadkari said efforts should be made to double the automobile industry from 7.5 lakh crore to 15 lakh crore in the next 5 years to establish India as a top automobile manufacturing hub in the world. Gadkari said this can only be possible by the adoption of best technologies for the Indian road sector and emphasis on digital contactless services by all States/UTs. The minister said all diesel buses should be replaced with electric buses to reduce pollution and costs. Gadkari said all the stakeholders should resolve to fulfil the Prime Minister's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Gadkari reiterated that a serious and sensitive approach is needed towards road accidents and hard decisions will have to be taken to save the precious lives of people.

‘People’s woes, Bharat Jodo Yatra could be game changer’

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCCHI

If the initial response from Congressmen and the local population in Tamil Nadu and Kerala are any indication, the Bharat Jodo Yatra launched by Rahul Gandhi from Kanyakumari is sure to make waves across the country.

“There is a widespread discontentment among a big section of the people in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This will be the game changer in the 2024 election. Even if the Congress fails to win 272 seats on its own, there is a strong possibility of the repetition of 2004 in 2024,” a staunch BJP follower told *The Pioneer* referring to the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The timing of the Yatra has been fixed by the Congress think-tanks after prolonged

discussions and debates. The scion of the Gandhi family commenced his 3500 km long walkathon which would culminate at Kashmir after five months. What he proposes to convey through this odyssey is the difficulties faced by the people of the country over the last eight years. The common man as well as the middles class are fining it difficult to meet both ends of life with whatever income they get from their jobs and trades.

The present administration took pride in the fact that they distributed free LPG connections to poor households across the country. Lakhs of our sisters in the countryside are saved from pollution caused by choolahs and mud stoves that use dried woods, saw dust or coal as fuel. Once we consider the hike in the

price of LPG cylinders over the last eight years, even those who were using the cooking gas powered stoves feel that the choolahs were far better. The LPG powered stoves have become white elephants if we go by their prices.

What about the hike in the price of petrol and diesel that has proved wrong the Newton’s Law that states anything which goes up should come down. Prices of all essential commodities are always on a northward journey in India. One is yet to hear a reasonable explanation from people who matter about the unprecedented and uncontrollable price hike.

These issues were highlighted not by the leaders of the Congress or the CPI(M) but hardcore BJP and RSS leaders in this part of the world.

The Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprises (MSME) are facing the biggest uncertainty while the concerned ministry looks the other way, said a senior associate of Tirupur Exporters Association, the umbrella organization of the nearly 1,000 small and medium industrial units in the Textile City.

R V Giri, president, Confederation of Indian Farmers Association (CIFA) says though the NDA Government had come to power promising to implement the recommendations made by the M S Swaminathan Commission appointed by the Government of India to study the issues faced by the farming, it has done nothing to help the farmers.

“Swaminathan Commission had recommended that farmers should

get a return of cost of production plus fifty per cent of the same. But that remains a mirage,” said Giri. While political realities in Tamil Nadu is conducive for the Hindutva party, ground realities favor the DMK led alliance that include the Congress. There is nothing much to write about the BJP in Kerala as the party is yet to take shape in the State.

P Rajan, the septuagenarian observer and former editor of Mathrubhumi says that Bharat Jodo Yatra may make some difference only if the Congress succeeds in forging a rainbow alliance ala 2004. “As on date many leaders pulling the Opposition in different directions is not a positive sign. Still, time is there and we may see some concrete action emerging in the next 18 months,” said Rajan.



Anubrata Mondal confident of early release from prison

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Arrested Trinamool Congress strongman Anubrata Mondal on Friday exuded confidence about his early release from jail a day after Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee vowed to accord him a “hero’s” welcome after he got bail.

The Central Bureau of Investigation last month arrested Mondal for his alleged involvement in cow smuggling.

Curiously Mondal’s expectation of an early release came at a time when the Left Front took out massive rally in Kolkata warning the central agencies against any kind of understanding between the BJP and TMC.

Mondal the TMC’s nation-



al executive member and Birbhum district president and 10 others including a Trinamool MLA and a former legislator were on Friday acquitted by a special MP-MLA court in a 12-year old political violence case after the witnesses failed to identify him.

The TMC strongman who was present in the court during the judgement said, “as I was released for want of evidence

today I am confident that I will be released from the other charges too ... Just wait and see the development as it unfolds.”

On whether his confidence had increased after the Chief Minister’s moral support to him the Birbhum leader said, “No one goes to jail for eternity... And if Mamata Banerjee is by my side then you have nothing to fear ... It is enough.”

The CBI had unearthed properties worth hundreds of crores belonging to either Mondal, his daughter or their close associates. These properties include a number of rice mills, resorts, hotels, farm houses, acres of land, a medical college etc. Some of these properties were acquired through ‘benami’ transaction, CBI sources said.

On the fate of next year’s panchayat election, Mondal with him still parked in jail, Mondal said, “panchayat elections are still some time away... We will win it when it comes.”

Meanwhile, the Left and BJP on Friday took out massive rallies in Kolkata and districts.

The Left held a huge meeting outside the CGO Complex at Salt Lake demanding quick action by CBI and ED in all the cases of corruption including chit fund scam, recruitment scandal and Narada payoff cases.

The BJP on the other hand took out district wise rallies in support of its September 13 Nabanna Chalo campaign. Nabanna in Howrah houses the State secretariat and Chief Minister’s office.

Amid sex determination fears, Govt opposes in HC challenge to bar on portable ultra-sound machines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has opposed in the Delhi High Court a 70-year-old man’s challenge to the law barring him access to portable ultrasound machines at his home, saying that permitting unregulated use of such machines would lead to a huge increase in cases of illegal sex determination, abortions and female foeticide, which would become a legal and social menace. It further said the prohibition on the use of ultrasound machines, except at a registered place, is crucial to track and prevent misuse.

The Delhi government took the stand to that effect in an affidavit filed by it in response to the senior citizen’s

petition which assails certain provisions of anti-sex selection law concerning the bar and notification by the Directorate of Family Welfare in this regard.

The affidavit stated that the use of portable ultrasound machines is not “completely banned” to “adversely” impact access to health care or constitutional right to life as its use is permitted “inside a duly registered premises for providing services to indoor patients” as well as “as part of a (registered) mobile medical unit.” The import of the prohibition, the government said, is to prevent the use of the machines at unregistered places and prevent violation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection)



Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act) which seeks to “uphold the right to life of the unborn child and also to prevent misuse of the pre-natal diagnostic techniques, procedures, equipment.”

“If ultrasound machines are allowed to be portable, without regulation as to the place of use, it would lead to the huge increase in illegal sex determination and cases/offences of illegal abortions, female foeticide, etc. And would become a legal and social menace. Furthermore, it would also be impossible to track and take penal action against offenders that indulge in such offences/malpractices,” said the affidavit filed by the State Programme Officer, PCPNDT Act, Department of Health & Family Welfare.

Yogi: Corrupt will have to pay for their crimes for seven generations

PNS ■ JAUNPUR/LUCKNOW

Giving out a strong message against corruption and those indulging in it, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, said that the corrupt people and their seven generations would have to pay for their crimes as “their properties will be confiscated.”

The chief minister said that as in the last five years the state had been made riot-free by ending the mafia rule, the government would start a similar campaign against corrup-

tion soon. “Acting on the policy of zero-tolerance, the government will seize the ill-gotten wealth of the corrupt and utilise it for the benefit of the poor,” he said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was addressing a public rally at an event organised at the Vir Bahadur Singh Purvanchal University in Jaunpur. During the programme, the chief minister launched 116 development projects worth Rs 258 crore.

Lambasting the previous governments for their inaction

against corruption, the chief minister said, “Corruption was in their genes. They used to make schemes to benefit their own contractors and people. The ‘price’ of every ‘work’ was fixed in advance.”

“Before 2017, a few rackets used to operate in the state that acted like termites in development works, for which the entire state had to bear the brunt. Today, in examinations or appointments, there is fairness and transparency everywhere,” he added.

The chief minister went on



to say that in his government eligible persons were getting the benefits of government schemes without any discrimination.

Yogi Adityanath also conducted an inspection of the functioning of Late Umanath Singh Medical College and the STP (sewage treatment plant). He said, “A district like Jaunpur with unlimited potential is getting everything that it deserves today, something it waited for decades.”

Referring to the famous perfume and ‘imarti’ of Jaunpur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the government had prepared a concrete action plan to revive the traditional perfume business of

Jaunpur, while the GI (geographical indication) tagging of the famous ‘imarti’ was underway and it was set to go global soon.

The chief minister also spoke about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s resolve of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat and said that everyone had to maintain honesty and fairness in their field of work. “Everyone’s cooperation is necessary for fulfilling the resolve of a self-reliant India,” he added.

Introducing the ‘Matrubhumi Yojana’ to the

people, the chief minister said that now anyone could directly participate in the development of his or her village or city.

While encouraging the village panchayats and urban bodies to be self-reliant, the chief minister said that the state government would also provide financial support to make gram panchayats self-reliant and urban bodies ‘smart’.

On the occasion, the chief minister also released a book on the freedom struggle and the role of Jaunpur in Uttar

Pradesh.

The chief minister also cited the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and reiterated his resolve for security, peace and prosperity in the state.

“Due to the sensitive efforts of the government, industrial investment has increased in the state and new avenues of employment are being created. As a result, today the energy and talent of the state are being fully utilised for the development of Uttar Pradesh,” he said.

Mayawati plays BJP for survey of unrecognised madrasas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, on Friday, lambasted the Bharatiya Janata Party for ordering a survey of unrecognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh.

“Complaints of Muslim society being exploited, neglected and riot-victimised, etc. have been common in Congress times, yet after BJP coming to power by doing narrow politics in the name of appeasement, now they are being oppressed and there is ‘Muslim teasing’. The game continues uninterrupted, which is very sad and condemnable,” Mayawati tweeted in Hindi on Friday.

The government should focus on improving the condition of government-aided madrasas and government schools, the former chief min-

ister of UP said.

The BSP chief tweeted, “Now the BJP government has an eye on madrasas in UP. In the name of the madrasa survey, efforts to intervene in private madrasas running on community donations are also unfair; the government should focus on improving the condition of government-aided madrasas and government schools.”

The Uttar Pradesh government on September 1 announced to conduct a survey of unrecognised madrasas to ascertain the number of students, teachers, curriculum, and affiliation with any non-government organisation. An executive order was issued to transfer the teaching and non-teaching staff of aided madrasas with the consent of the managers of the madrasa concerned along with the



approval of the registrar of UP Madrasa Education Council. Another reason why the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of India has taken a decision to conduct a survey of unrecognised madrasas is to ensure basic facilities to the students of madrasas.

Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Waqf Department, Danish Azad Ansari, has informed that the order also ensures maternity leave and child care leave to women employees working in

madrasas in the light of the rules applicable in the Secondary Education and Basic Education departments.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s government is taking an active approach regarding the education system in madrasas as all the district magistrates have been issued instructions regarding the survey.

Meanwhile, last Wednesday, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, a leading body of Islamic scholars, held a meeting in which it was decided to back the Yogi Adityanath government’s decision to conduct a survey of unrecognised madrasas in Uttar Pradesh, but not with force.

Expressing concern over the actions taken against madrasas in Assam, Maulana Mahmood Asad Madani said, “You saw what happened in

Assam. It is illegal if that method is taken up. We will send an application to the authorities concerned and seek time to meet them.”

The Assam government had demolished a madrasa alleged to be involved in anti-national activities after it was found to be on government land in Barpeta. The additional deputy commissioner said that the place was involved in anti-national activities and jihadi outfits.

Maulana Madani (national president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind) in a press conference, had said, “Today madrasas are not looked at in a good way. I appeal to the government to understand us. We will always follow our duty. We are always ready to talk but not with force. We should be given time and we are ready to meet with the authorities concerned.”

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind sets up helpline for madrasas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, an organisation of Islamic clerics, has set up a helpline for assisting madrasas facing any difficulty during the survey of Islamic religious schools ordered by the Uttar Pradesh government.

The Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind said the organisation was determined to safeguard the interests of the madrasas following the demolition of madrasas in various parts of India and the UP government’s announcement for survey of unrecognised madrasas.

“We will not let divisive forces put an end to madrasas,” Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind president Syed Arshad Madani said.



The Jamiat confluence felt the upcoming survey of madrasas was a “malicious attempt to disparage the madrasa education system”.

The Jamiat reminded the authorities of the madrasas’ role in the freedom struggle and their contribution in imparting learning to first-generation learners besides those from economically weaker backgrounds.

Earlier, the Uttar Pradesh government announced a sur-

vey of unrecognised madrasas in the state to gather information about the number of teachers, curriculum, and basic facilities available there, among other things.

The Jamiat has set a steering committee following the announcement of a survey by the state government. The committee includes Syed Arshad Madani, Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, rector, Darul Uloom Deoband; Maulana Muhammad Sufyan Qasmi, rector, Darul Uloom Waqf, Deoband besides Maulana Hakimuddin Qasmi, general secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, Kamal Farooqui, member, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, and Muftabi Farooq of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, and others.

Evil forces made Ghazipur, Azamgarh struggle for identity: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/GHAZIPUR

Emphasising that the country’s heritage and tradition must be preserved and taken forward, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, urged all the citizens to take pride in India’s history and heritage and contribute effectively towards preserving and promoting it to realise one of the ‘paanch pran’ (five resolves) stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While unveiling the grand statue of Babu Rajeshwar Prasad Singh in Ghazipur, the chief minister said, “We must keep our heritage intact and must respect great men like Babu Rajeshwar Prasad Singh ji who worked for the development of the state and the country and ensured that the youth in Ghazipur attained quality

education by establishing a university.”

Paying rich tributes to Babu Rajeshwar Prasad Singh, Yogi said that Ghazipur Degree College was established in 1957, and today as a post-graduate college it remains the centre for providing excellent education to thousands of students.

“Babu Rajeshwar Prasad Singh and Gorakhpur were closely connected. Whatever systems he implemented here in this university to benefit students, he also conveyed the same to be arranged in Gorakhpur,” the chief minister said.

He went on to say that Babu Rajeshwar Prasad Singh’s consciousness, awareness of education, and the continuous innovative efforts led to the establishment of this university

and as a result, the students were doing wonders in various spheres of life. Babu Rajeshwar Prasad Singh preserved the heritage of Ghazipur which is also the land of the revered father of Maharishi Vishwamitra, the district that made the history of India, and rid India and Aryavarttha of demons.

“Ghazipur’s land having such a rich heritage was made to suffer by evil forces. Districts like Ghazipur and Azamgarh struggled for identity and today, the medical colleges here have been named after respected personalities like Maharishi Vishwamitra and Maharaja Suheldev,” the chief minister said and added, “For a developed India, we must respect our heritage and ancestors.” Furthermore, the chief minister said, “Our Sanatan dharma teaches us to show gratitude towards

those who have contributed to the development of our nation and Prime Minister Modi has set some goals in front of everyone and has inspired us to move forward.”

He added that the Central and the state governments under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, worked to save lives and livelihoods during COVID-19, and also implemented the National Education Policy (NEP) to ensure that the youth became capable of practical and technical knowledge. “Fifty-six per cent of our state’s population belongs to the working class and the government is working its best to give a platform to talent and energy to youth through NEP, the establishment of new universities, colleges, Abhyudaya scheme and more,” he said.



Devotees take Lalbaughcha Raja for immersion in the Arabian Sea, in Mumbai on Friday. The immersion marks the end of the ten-day-long Ganesh Chaturthi festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Ganesha. PTI

Royal wisdom

Queen Elizabeth II never forgot that she was anointed, not appointed, to reign, not to rule

End of an era' is a clichéd headline of news reports about the death of some towering personality. In the case of Queen Elizabeth II, however, it was the end of many eras. Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Thursday at the age of 96, wore the crown for 70 years, becoming the longest reigning monarch in British history, and the second-longest in world history. She saw 15 prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Margaret Thatcher and now Liz Truss. She became the heir apparent before the Second World War and Queen in 1952, when Churchill was prime minister. It was a different world, a world that is now part of history and even folklore. The British Empire was folding up; the very idea of monarchy was being questioned, even her own country, by the people who had embraced the principles of fairness and equality (In her earlier days, British Prime Minister Liz Truss also favoured republicanism). To ascend the throne at such a time was tough; it became tougher by



the course of events—many of which had origins in the royal family itself—as years and decades passed. Never did Elizabeth II allow the personal and family problems and national, political controversies scratch the veneer of royalty. She never forgot that she was anointed, not appointed, to reign, not to rule. It was because of this dogged insistence on such separation that she was able to maintain the glow and the gravity of the institution of royalty in the UK.

Unsurprisingly, her public statements were words of wisdom (some may say trite), never political statements. So, in her 2019 Christmas broadcast, she said, "It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change." In her 1991 Christmas broadcast, she said, "Let us not take ourselves too seriously. None of us has a monopoly on wisdom." Wise or trite, her remarks or actions never brought any disrepute to the royal family or the British government. Our political system is patterned on the British one. So, our leaders—especially those holding offices that ought to be bipartisan—can learn many lessons from Queen Elizabeth II. First and foremost is reticence. They must realise that silence and truisms are better than bombastic remarks which attract undue attention and thus uncharitable comments; such a situation is detrimental not only to the image of the person occupying a high office but also the office he holds. There have been instances in the past when some Indian presidents' behaviour smacked of interference in governance and often encroachment upon the domain of the executive. Second is respect for conventions and precedents. They must acknowledge the fact that democracy cannot thrive without conventions and precedents—something Elizabeth religiously stuck to. Hopefully, her son and heir Charles will remember these lessons, and our politicians will learn them.

PICTALK



Flower petals and coloured powder being showered on an idol of Lord Ganesha during immersion procession, in Mumbai **PTI**

Transgender woes

Despite laws for their welfare, the implementation of these laws for LGBTQ is far from satisfactory

The implementation of our laws leaves much to be desired, especially when it comes to the fringe elements of society. The recent directive by the Supreme Court to the Central Government to form a policy for "reasonable accommodation" to transgender persons in employment within three months is indeed a step in the right direction. The issues of transgender are covered in the Transgender Persons (protection of rights) Act, 2019. It was not very long ago when the LGBTQ community was decriminalised. In 2018, the SC struck down section 377 dealing with homosexuality. On September 6, 2018, a five-judge bench gave a historic judgement. The court ruling annulled parts of section 377 that criminalised same-sex relations and intercourse. Before 2018, same-sex marriages were a punishable criminal offence. However, despite decriminalising transgenders, their civil rights are yet to be fully realised. Transgender Persons (protection of rights) Act, 2019, which came into force on January 10, 2020, is the cornerstone of the rights of the transgender. But its implementation is far from satisfactory. The apex court directive comes in the wake of a plea of a 'trans-woman', who was denied a job as cabin crew by then national carrier, Air India.



She challenged Air India's decision to deny her the job for which she was eligible. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli has now directed the Government to make a policy framework for reasonable accommodation of transgenders seeking employment. As per the TPA 2019, section 9, no establishment shall discriminate against any transgender person while giving employment. Further, its section 8, calls upon the Government to secure the full and effective participation of transgender persons and their inclusion in society. But on the ground level that doesn't seem to be happening. The woman in question appeared and cleared all her tests and underwent a sex determination test. Despite her good showing she wasn't appointed or given a reason for her exclusion. That is perhaps the biggest irony. Passing progressive laws is one thing and implementing them quite another. The acceptability of the LGBTQ community in mainstream society is rather low. Though people might not say so they shy away from the people who they think have different mores or makeups, xenophobia of a different kind!

The elephant in the room at a Goa farm

The curious case of Janumani's release into freedom after 20 years in captivity and the darkness of the shadow under the lamp



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

On August 11, 2002, a day before the annual World Elephant Day, Janumani, an elephant kept captive at a spice farm in Goa for nearly 20 years, walked away to freedom following an order by a bench comprising Justices M.S. Sonak and RN Laddha of the Bombay High Court at Goa. The bench, in its order, passed on July 18, 2022, permitted Janumani to be transported to Karnataka State Forest Department's Elephant Care Centre, and declared that 'we will appreciate if the Forest Department officials act with utmost despatch so that there is no delay in the matter.' Janumani's release into freedom was supervised by Goa forest department officials led by the state's chief wildlife warden, Santosh Kumar. Assisting in the process was Alok His warwala Gupta, a representative of the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC) a sister organization of Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUA), an animal welfare organization based in Bengaluru.

Another of the Indian Judiciary's excellent orders in cases involving animals, this one came in the wake of the legal battle waged before the Bombay High Court at Goa by People for Animals (PFA), Goa, a non-profit organization whose president is Norma Alvares. The process began with a PIL lodged in the Bombay High Court at Goa in January 2020, by the PFA following reports of continuing commercial use of the elephants at two of the three spice farms from which the Janumani was rescued.

As written by Norma Alvares and Alok Hiswarwala Gupta in an article in the O'HeraldO, Goa, dated August 14, 2022, and titled "Janumani walks away to freedom," the recently-released elephant had a horrible life in captivity. A wild elephant, captured from Assam's forest, she was taken to the notorious animal fair in Sonapur, Bihar, and from there to Goa in 2005. There, for 17 years, she lived mostly tied to a tree under a tarpaulin, just outside the spice



farm, acting as a source of amusement for tourists.

Occasionally, she was taken to Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Ayyappa temple in Vasco, Goa, for participation in temple rituals, in jolting trucks, or on foot without food or water. She was also taken to beach weddings. All this was utter misery for her. Elephants are social animals who live in closely-knit herds bound together by deep mutually caring and loving ties. They live in, and regularly travel over, wide-open spaces inside or at the edge of forests. They have long memories and she must have been frequently haunted by those of her days in freedom.

Janumani is not the only elephant to have suffered thus. She was one of the 12 elephants held in three spice farms in Goa's Ponda taluka. Following a PIL on captive elephants filed in the High Court of Bombay at Goa in 2018 alleging that they were kept in illegal captivity and used for commercial activity without any sanction from the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the respondent spice farms were compelled to provide an undertaking that the elephants they possessed would not be used to entertain tourists thereafter.



IT IS CRIME TO CAPTURE THEM, SEPARATE THEM FROM THEIR HERDS, BRING THEM TO URBAN DESERTS AND CONDEMN THEM TO SOLITARY LIVES IN WHICH THEY ARE WORKED TO THE GROUND, POORLY FED AND HARDLY CARED FOR

The PIL, however, had spurred the Goa forest department to investigate whether the spice farms had ownership documents for these elephants and, finding none, ordered, in December 2018, the seizure of all elephants with private owners. They had also filed a case against the owners for illegal possession of these animals in the court of the Joint Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in Ponda. The elephants, however, continued to remain with the spice farms as the Goa forest department has no facility to house them.

Many elephants continue to suffer in captivity because India has only four dedicated captive elephant rescue centers and they are full. Unfortunately, this should happen despite the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 which puts elephants in Schedule I of protected species, and Project Elephant launched by the Government of India's Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1992. The project is meant to ensure the long-term survival of Asian elephants—the category to which Indian elephants belong—by providing technical and financial support to States for efforts to ensure the long-term survival of the behemoths by protecting their habitats and

migration corridors.

It is crime to capture them, separate them from their herds, bring them to urban deserts and condemn them to solitary lives in which they are worked to the ground, poorly fed and hardly cared for. Yet humans have been doing precisely this for centuries, as they have been killing them for the ivory of their tusks or hunting them for the perverse thrill of it, or imprisoning them in the concentration camps for wildlife known as zoos.

An important cause of their suffering in contemporary India is their being perhaps the only wildlife species that can be privately owned. This must end, as most private owners ill-treat and exploit them horribly. Unfortunately, instead of ensuring this, a move is afoot to permit their commercial trading, which is forbidden now, through a legislative amendment. The process must be reversed. Elephants, designated India's National Heritage Animal and species kin to *Airavata*, the white elephant that is the vahana (carrier) of Lord Indra, the King of Deities, deserve better.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BHARAT CHHODO OR BHARAT JODO?

Sir — The Bharat Jodo Yatra would open Rahul Gandhi's eyes to New India and the country's transformation in the last eight years. The American Express survey noted that 83 per cent of MSMEs benefited from the 'Make in India' programme, which the people had belittled. From eight startup unicorns in 2015, today India stands tall with over 103 unicorns. Further, Rahul would be 'baffled' over how, even in rural suburbs, digital money has become the norm and Direct Benefit Transfer has ensured that 100 per cent of the amount intended for the beneficiaries reaches them.

Rajiv Gandhi had pointed out in 1985 that for every rupee spent, only 15 paise reached the beneficiaries. Now, 94.4 crore Indians have taken two doses of the COVID-19 vaccines; the length of national highways has increased by 50 per cent in the last eight years, and the number of districts reporting left-wing extremism has dropped from 70 in 2014 to 46 in 2021. He should walk and talk about the reality rather than making things more complicated without knowing the basis of a kilogram and litre in the days to come.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

KEJRIWAL'S EXAGGERATED CLAIMS

Sir — This is with reference to the Aam Aadmi Party chieftain and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's shocking allegation that more than 80 per cent of Government schools across the country are worse than junkyards. There is no denying that there are a lot of Government-run schools across the country suffering from inferior quality of education and infrastructure, but claiming that 80 per cent of these schools are 'worse than junkyards' seems to be a bit exaggerated with an eye on reaping political mileage.

In his message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kejriwal wrote: "The saddest thing is that even after 75 years

Nitish does groundwork



The positive response received by Bihar CM and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar to his appeal for unity from leaders of Opposition parties is expected to help pave the way for formation of a joint front to take on the NDA in the 2024 elections. The most important issue which seems to have been cleared is that there is not going to be any 'third front'; there will be

only one front and that will include the Congress. And this would not mean any electoral front at the national level. The anti-BJP electoral front will vary State to State, its composition depending on the respective strength of the constituent parties.

The other significant point is that there is no need for projecting any Opposition leader as the prime ministerial candidate before the polls and a common minimum programme (CMP) can be drawn up after the poll results. Meanwhile, the Bharat Jodo Yatra launched by the Congress has the potential to generate a tsunami of enthusiasm among the party's cadres and the masses in general. The Congress is the only pan-India Opposition party, supported by at least 30 per cent of the country's electorate. As such, if the Congress feels it necessary to have an alliance with smaller anti-BJP parties, its decision will be final in each case. It is going to be very tough for the BJP.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

of Independence, we didn't pay attention to giving good education to our children. Our country cannot become a developed nation without the provision of excellent education in every Government school of the country. All State Governments should be brought together to implement the plan in the next five years." Whether we support or beg to differ with Kejriwal's claims, it stands true that the quality and infrastructure of education need to be improved manifold.

Ashima Sisodiya | Ujjain

ROBOT AS A MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sir — Until now, mechanical robots used to do a particular job. But now a Chinese company, Metaverse, has created a robot that can act as a managing director of a company. NetDragon Websoft, a developer of multiplayer online games and mobile applications, has hired Miss Tang Yu, a virtual

humanoid robot, in its Fujian NetDragon Websoft company. Miss Yu has become the first robot to hold an executive position in the world.

The robot will oversee the turnover of the company valued at around \$10 billion. It will also handle the usual responsibilities of a managing director, including production, management, market, company affairs, staff recruitment and discipline. Congratulating a person for a job well done, creating a light-hearted atmosphere in a meeting, speaking harshly to someone, will the robot do all these things? It is yet to be known; of course, there will be some research on this and there is no doubt that in the near future, robots will be created to emulate human emotions.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

India has become the fifth largest economy. This progress is not ordinary. Every Indian is feeling proud.

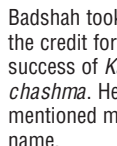


Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



Russian President —Vladimir Putin

They say Russia uses energy as a weapon. We supply as much as required as per requests.



Badshah took all the credit for the success of *Kala chashma*. He never mentioned my name.



Singer —Amar Arshi



French tennis player —Caroline Garcia

All Opposition parties will join hands to defeat the BJP. Its arrogance will be its nemesis.



West Bengal Chief Minister —Mamata Banerjee

FIRST COLUMN

SECURITY IN THE TIME OF DISASTERS

It is time to shift to a sustainable model of development



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Visuals of heavy rains playing havoc across major states of India have brought back the issue of climate change on radar. The message emerging out of these events is loud and clear, that mother nature is in no mood of tolerance. It was not so long back when climate scientists had predicted that global warming will one-day lead to collapse of human civilization. Unfortunately, that prediction is coming true.

In a written reply to a question, the Government informed the Lok Sabha about a loss of 1,593 lives due to natural calamities in 2021-22, 2,422 in 2020-21, and 1,989 in 2019-20. Many experts see climate change, caused by human activity, as the reason behind the increasing incidence of natural disasters. In fact, not only are human lifestyles and industrial activities changing the world's climate, but the model of development being followed by most countries is magnifying the scale of destruction and damage in the event of a natural disaster.

Growing urbanisation is resulting in the concentration of humans in densely populated cities that draw a huge amount of resources to support the increasingly consumerist lifestyles of their people. With land in cities scarce and expensive, high-rise buildings are favoured for commercial as well as residential use. These towers accommodate a large number of people in a small area and are therefore said to be a more efficient way of using space, but at the same time such buildings rely more on electricity for elevators and water pumps etc.



Our dependence on electricity doesn't end there. With communications technology advancing at an amazing pace, a lot of business and personal work is now done electronically (especially post Covid-19). As technology advances and spreads geographically, more and more work is being automated to save money and time. The result of all this is an ever increasing dependence on machines, and in many cases their complex networks, where a glitch in one place can have global repercussions.

The downside of such dependence on machines and electricity becomes apparent from time to time when some cities suffer blackouts. Trains grind to a halt; underground metro trains are trapped in dark tunnels; people get stuck in lifts; supermarkets stop selling goods because their cash registers don't work; and work that involves computers comes to a standstill. Power outages during disasters also knock out the supply of water, which is more vital for survival than electricity. Cities that get their supplies of food and other items of daily use from outside also suffer a shortage of these when transport networks get damaged. The scale of all these problems during a disaster is bigger in cities than in rural areas. Hence, if we adopt the philosophy of minimal use and equitable distribution of resources, we will not only live more responsibly on this planet but also see the magnitude of our problems reduced. After all, it is the unequal distribution of development that draws people from rural areas to cities, which thus keep expanding. But instead of adopting an approach that reduces our consumption of resources and our dependence on machines, we are seeking clever technological fixes for all foreseeable problems and in the process becoming more beholden to external resources that can fail us any time.

It is high time now that we shifted our focus to a more down to earth, sustainable model of development that would place a lower burden on the planet. It's still not too late; even now there is time to change our course towards more sustainable, nature-friendly practices. It only requires a change in our mindset — from that of acquisition and consumption to one of sharing and caring.

(The author is a spiritual educator and popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal and the UK)

Courts' turn to keep pace with the times

Guarantee of service to citizens must bring judiciary in its ambit, for people cannot wait for ages for justice



SUMEEET BHASIN

One civil suit that was filed in 1958 by a resident in the Paharganj area of the national capital was finally settled by the third generation heirs of the litigants out of the court in 2018. For six decades, the two families and their several branches afterwards ran to different courts in the national capital in the hope that the judiciary would give them justice. They spent their savings, and even borrowed money to bear the legal costs.

The family members of the litigants, who were brothers, lived the lives of sworn enemies. They not only bore the costs of the litigation dearly, but also invested a heavy amount of time of their life, which otherwise could have been spent on gainful activities or in carrying out businesses. If only they had known that they would have had to settle the case mutually out of the court, their life wouldn't have been that acrimonious.

This is not a standalone case. There are millions of such cases in the country. The official statistics say that there are not less than 4.7 crore cases pending before the courts. Four crore of them are pending before the district courts alone. Besides the financial burden, the human cost is overwhelming. Assuming that a case may involve 10 people from the two sides, there could be almost 40 crore people in the country suffering the agony of the delayed justice, which is rightly called justice denied.

Additionally, when cases at such magnitude remain pending before the courts, even the toughest of the laws would look toothless. That is because the deterrence value of the laws takes a backseat. India is in the midst of the celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal'. Parliament enacts laws to fulfil the aspirations of the people. But they get stunted for lack of speedy justice.

Ironically, the activist Teesta Setalvad avail an interim bail from the Supreme Court even while her plea is with the Gujarat High Court. She is resourceful, and can avail of the services of the costly lawyers to get the interim bail and walk out free. But at the same time 77 per cent of the 5.4 lakh prisoners in the country are under trials. Such under trials don't get bails in the same manner as Setalvad managed to get.

How could there be two faces of justice for the people of the country when we say that all are equal before the law. Indeed, the mandate for the disposal of cases in courts lies with the judiciary. No time frame is prescribed for disposal of various kinds of cases, and the government has no role in speeding up the disposal of the court cases.

Timely disposal of cases depend on several factors which, inter-alia, include availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers, supporting court staff and physical infrastructure, besides investigation of the cases and their adjudication on the cases on the basis of evidence on records.

Vacancies of judges, frequent adjourn-



THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SC AND HIGH COURT JUDGES ALONG WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE, AND CIVIL SOCIETY SHOULD BRAINSTORM OVER THE ROADMAP FOR ENSURING MECHANISM FOR REFORMS IN JUDICIARY

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



ments and lack of adequate arrangement to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing are cited as reasons for the delays in the disposal of the cases. As of May 2022, India has a sanctioned strength (Judge/per million population) of 25,628 judges, while 59 lakh cases are pending before the High Courts and over 70,000 cases in the Supreme Court.

An analysis of data on the National Judicial Data Grid, a database of the Department of Justice, shows that the judicial ecosystem saw an increase of 27 per cent in pendency between December 2019 and April 2022.

There are around 25,628 judges to hear or decide over 4.7 crore pending cases in Indian courts as of May 2022. The sanctioned strength of judicial officers in subordinate and High Courts saw a gradual increase with the population explosion in India. However, vacancies increased from 18 per cent to 21 per cent across courts between 2010 and 2020, an analysis by PRS Legislative Research reveals.

The Collegium system consisting of the Chief Justice of India and four senior most judges recommend appointments and transfers of judges, while this has no place in the Indian Constitution. The system was evolved through Supreme Court judgments. The Union government has criticized the Collegium system by saying that it has created an imperium in imperia (empire within an empire) with-

in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Bar Association has blamed it for creating a 'give-and-take' culture, creating a rift between the haves and have-nots.

It's time that the merits of the collegium system be weighed on the scale of the democratic norms. Why should there be a judicial monarch as the practice of the collegium system conveys, and why should the people not hold the judiciary accountable for its still remaining in the old days. Which profession in the country or anywhere in the world goes on vacation, as is the practice in the judiciary?

National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was established by amending the Constitution by the Constitution (Ninety Ninth) Amendment Act, 2014 passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in August 2014. Alongside, Parliament also passed the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014, to regulate the NJAC's functions. Both Bills were ratified by 16 of the State legislatures and the President gave his assent on December 31, 2014. The NJAC Act and the Constitutional Amendment Act came into force from April 13, 2015. In May 2016, the Supreme Court struck it down. This needs to be visited again, because the rationale on which the NJAC was struck down can still be contested.

At a time when the world, including India, is evolving into an ecosystem where the services are

guaranteed within a time frame, will it not be appropriate that the same be expected from the judiciary.

In fact, it will be most appropriate if the Chief Justice, SC and High Court judges along with officials of Ministry of Law & Justice, and civil society should brainstorm over the roadmap for ensuring mechanism for reforms in judiciary.

Besides, the Supreme Court has constituted an Artificial Intelligence Committee which has mainly identified application of AI technology in Translation of judicial documents, Legal research assistance and Process automation.

The e-Court Integrated Mission Mode Project was launched with the objective of improving access to justice using technology.

AI is expected to solve the problem of pendency. Various administrative obligations at top courts, besides case hearings, such as official communications, planning and organizing different categories of trials could be easily managed through AI too. The automation of such tasks through AI would allow the judicial body to focus on their core responsibilities. There are many instances of AI already assisting judges in bail and parole hearings. For instance, in the US courts, an AI-based tool called 'Safety Assessment' (PSA) helps judges make a decision in such hearings by producing a high risk score after factoring in different pre-laid out parameters.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THERE IS NO VACANCY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S POST. BUT MANY OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE ALREADY IN THE QUEUE.
—SENIOR BJP LEADER
RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD



THIS (CLAIM) IS WRONG. I AM NOT A CLAIMANT FOR THE (PRIME MINISTER'S) POST, NOR AM I DESIROUS OF IT.
—BIHAR CHIEF MINISTER
NITISH KUMAR

Climate finance for sustainable development goals

Climate change consequences are too visible to ignore, while the response by the developed world is woefully short

Rather regrettably, despite the universal effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda, progress on the Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG-13), Climate Action, is severely lagging, signaling a red alert for humanity. Brutal heat waves have gripped the northern hemisphere. Several countries are sweltering under extreme temperatures.

Recently, thermostats in the United Kingdom rose above 40°C knocking off internet servers, suspending flights, and mass evacuations amid wildfires. Frequency of heat-waves in the States has tripled since the 1960s and the average heatwave season has increased by 45 days. India experienced its warmest March, with an average maximum temperature 1.86°C



SIMRIT KAUR



KAMALDEEP KAUR SARNA

(Prof. Simrit Kaur is Principal, Shri Ram College of Commerce. Kamaldeep Kaur Sarna is Assistant Professor, Shri Ram College of Commerce)

above the long-term average. Similarly, a new weather record was set in Pakistan in March 2022 with the highest maximum temperature recorded in Sindh at 45.5°C. In Tunisia, the temperature reached 48°C, breaking a 40-year record!

To address Climate Change, net carbon emissions must be lowered. Despite 197 countries having signed the 2016 Paris Agreement to mitigate, adapt, and finance climate change, the commitments have fallen short substantially. Rich countries undelivered their promise of providing \$100 billion a year to less wealthy nations by 2020 to limit global warming to below 2°C, despite generating over 80 per cent of cumulative environmental spill over CO₂ emissions since 2010.

Unsustainability of their trade and consumption patterns is indeed a cause of concern. Though the rich nations are responsible for bulk emission of greenhouse gases in the past and therefore bear special responsibility towards developing countries, their progress on SDG 13 is inadequate. On the contrary, Lower and Lower Middle-Income Countries though performing better on SDG 13 are most vulnerable to Climate Change, as also least ready to adapt. India ranks 111 (with a poor score of 44) out of 182 countries in the ND-GAIN country index that captures country's vulnerability to Climate Change and its readiness to improve resilience.

Thus, the journey from cli-

mate calamity to climate sustainability requires prioritizing the investment in Climate Action. Presently, this is a fraction of UN's estimate of \$3.5 trillion outlay annually to lower emissions by 43 per cent by 2030. By imposing price on carbon-based fuel, an effective instrument of environmental cost internalisation, governments can bridge gaps between private and social cost of fossil fuel consumption. So far, about 60 carbon tax and emissions trading programs have been introduced either at the regional, national, or subnational levels. The emissions price in the European Union has risen above £50 a ton. Canada too has announced its emissions price would rise to CAN\$170 a ton by 2030.

However, as per IMF (2021), only about 20 per cent of global emissions are covered by carbon pricing with the global average price being only \$3 a ton, much lower than the desired \$75 a ton for keeping global warming below 2°C. In recent months, China and Germany launched major pricing initiatives, though India is yet to levy an explicit carbon tax.

Rationalising and phasing of government fossil fuel subsidies can limit carbon emissions by 2.6Gt by 2035, which is nearly half of the reduction needed to limit global warming to 2°C (IEA, 2020). In 2020, Iran was the largest single provider of fossil fuel subsidy payments, followed by China (oil subsidy at USD 21.7 billion) and India

(oil subsidy at USD 17.1 billion). Though subsidies are provided to promote affordability among poorer, the impacts are often not optimal due to systemic leakages and non-effective targeting. Advancing climate action through public-private partnerships is also important for encouraging investments in large-scale climate-smart and resilient infrastructure. From execution of effective decarbonization pathways and commercial viability of carbon-capture technologies in critical sectors to green infrastructure, public-private collaborations can lead to effective outcomes.

Few successful illustrations of PPPs in climate action, are Uganda's GET FIT program, and Morocco's Ouarzazate solar project.

Addressing climate change also requires investments in green bonds, instruments that finance green projects achieving decent returns, while simultaneously hedging against climate change risks. This in turn disincentivizes high carbon-emitting projects. IFC green bond projects are expected to reduce GHG emissions by 23.9 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per year and produce 26,352,287 megawatt hours of renewable energy.

According to the Climate Bond Initiative (2020), new issues reached \$257 billion in 2019, up from \$142 billion in 2018. Despite the rise, immense untapped potential exists. Undoubtedly, prioritizing finance for Climate Action is crucial for human development.

Ukrainian nuke plant operating tenuously as war continues



AP ■ KYIV

Europe's largest nuclear power plant embroiled in Russia's war in Ukraine is operating in emergency mode at a higher level of risk, Ukraine's state nuclear energy operator said Friday.

The six-reactor Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant came under the control of Russian forces early in the war that started in February, but is being operated by Ukrainian staff.

The plant and surrounding areas have been repeatedly hit by shelling that Russia and Ukraine blame on each other's forces.

The last power line connecting the plant to the Ukrainian electricity grid was cut on Monday, leaving the plant without an outside source of electricity and receiving power for its own safety systems from the only one of the six reactors that remains operational.

Energatom, the state nuclear operator, said Friday that repairs to the outside lines are impossible because of the shelling and that operating in the so-called "island" carries "the risk of violating radiation and fire safety standards."

"Only the withdrawal of the Russians from the plant and the creation of a security zone around it can normalise the situation at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Only then will the world be able to exhale," Petro Kotin, the head of Energatom, said Friday on Ukrainian TV.

Kotin explained in an interview with The Associated

Press Thursday that the only operating reactor "can be stopped completely" at any moment and as a consequence of that, the only power source would be a diesel generator.

There are 20 generators on site and enough diesel fuel for 10 days. After that, about 200 tonnes of diesel fuel would be needed daily for the generators, which he said is "impossible" while the plant is occupied by Russian forces.

Fighting continued Friday in parts of southern and eastern Ukraine and in the north where Ukraine claims to have recently pushed Russian forces out of some areas.

Russian planes bombed the hospital in the town of Velika Pyssarivka, on the border with Russia, said Dmytro Zhvyvtskyi, governor of the Sumy region. He said the building was destroyed and there were an unknown number of casualties.

In the Donetsk region in the east — one of two that Russia declared to be sovereign states at the outset of the war — eight people were killed in the city of Bakhmut over the past day and the city is without water and electricity for the fourth straight day, said governor Pavlo Kyrylenko.

Four people were killed in

shelling in the Kharkiv region, two of them in Kharkiv city, Ukraine's second-largest, according to regional governor Oleh Syniehubov.

The shelling of the city continued on Friday afternoon, its mayor Ihor Terekhov said, wounding 10 people, including three children.

Ukraine this week claimed to have regained control of more than 20 settlements in the Kharkiv region, including the small city of Balakliya.

Social media posts showed weeping and smiling Balakliya residents embracing Ukrainian soldiers.

Kremlin spokesman

Dmitry Peskov on Friday refused to comment on the alleged retaking of Balakliya, redirecting all questions about it to the Russian Defense Ministry.

But Vitaly Ganchev, the Russian-installed official in the Kharkiv region, confirmed Friday that "Balakliya, in effect, is not under our control." Ganchev said that "tough battles" were continuing in the city and that Russian forces were attempting to expel Ukrainian troops.

Ukraine's National Guard on Friday also confirmed the recapture of Volokhiv Yar, a village 19 kilometers away from Balakliya.

Ukraine's presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak told Ukrainian television Friday that Ukrainian forces are trying to retake control of Kupiansk — a key city in the Kharkiv region through which Russian troops in the area are receiving all their supplies.

"It is a key transport hub which we need to retake and then see after that whether we should go north or a bit further down south, thus tearing apart this group of Russian troops" and preventing them from replenishing their stock of supplies, Podolyak said.

Helicopters and fighter jets streaked over the rolling plains of the Donetsk region, with the jets heading in the direction of Izium, near where Ukrainian forces have been carrying out a counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region.

The jets fired out flares while black smoke billowed in the distance.

US, NATO note Ukraine army gains but see war dragging on



AP ■ BRUSSELS

The Ukrainian armed forces have made significant early gains in their counter-offensive against Russian forces in southern and eastern Ukraine but fighting appears set to drag on for months, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the head of NATO said Friday.

Blinken, who was at NATO headquarters to brief the 29 US allies after a trip to Kyiv on Thursday, said that the six-month war in Ukraine is entering a critical period and he urged the conflict-torn country's Western backers to maintain their support in coming months

and through the winter.

"The initial signs are positive, and we see Ukraine making real, demonstrable progress in a deliberate way," Blinken said, referring to the recent push into southern Ukraine and the eastern Donbas region by local forces.

"But this is likely to go on for some significant period of time," he said. "There are a huge number of Russian forces that are in Ukraine, and unfortunately, tragically, horrifically, President (Vladimir) Putin has demonstrated that he will throw a lot of people into this at huge cost to Russia."

NATO Secretary-General

Jens Stoltenberg said the invasion launched by Putin in February is "entering a critical phase."

"Ukrainian forces have been able to stall Moscow's offensive in Donbas, strike back behind Russian lines and retake territory," he said.

But Stoltenberg warned that allied unity will be tested in coming months, "with pressure on energy supplies and the soaring cost of living caused by Russia's war." He renewed calls for allies to supply special uniforms, generators, tents and equipment to help Ukraine's army weather the coming winter.

Jailed Putin critic: Govt has failed to shut me

AP ■ TALLINN (ESTONIA)

Russian opposition politician Ilya Yashin may be in jail, but he refuses to be silenced.

His social media accounts are regularly updated with anecdotes about his life in detention or video commentary criticising President Vladimir Putin's rule. He gives interviews to media outlets by providing written answers to questions through his lawyers from behind bars.

He uses court appearances as an opportunity to speak out against the Kremlin's devastating war in Ukraine — which is exactly what he is being prosecuted for.

"So far the authorities have failed to shut me up," Yashin told The Associated Press in a lengthy handwritten letter from a pre-trial detention cen-



municipal council, Yashin was arrested in June.

The authorities charged him with spreading false information about the Russian military — a new criminal offence for which he faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

The charges against Yashin reportedly relate to a YouTube livestream video in which he talked about Ukrainians being killed in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha. He rejects the charges as politically motivated.

Yashin wrote answers to the AP's questions in his small cell in Moscow's notorious Butyrskaya prison that he shares with several other people.

His day there starts at 6 a.m. And ends at 10 pm, he wrote, and consists of a walk, three meals, a couple of inspections and lots of free time. So he writes and reads a lot to

make use of it.

Last week, his parents visited him in detention. His mother, Tatyana, told the AP in a phone interview that he was "holding up well and not regretting anything."

She said the risk of her son getting arrested has been there for years — since 2012, when arrests followed mass protests in Moscow over reports of widespread rigging at a parliamentary election.

"But you know how it is: You always hope for the best," Tatyana Yashina said. "Nevertheless, we were, of course, prepared."

Yashin said he, too, was ready for the arrest.

After the authorities adopted a law that criminalised the spread of false information about the military, effectively outlawing all criticism of what the Kremlin calls "a special

military operation" in Ukraine, "it became obvious: The security forces will come after all public opponents of Putin who refuse to emigrate," Yashin said.

What did surprise him, Yashin said, was how much respect law enforcement officers treated him with — they called his lawyers for him and after the raid allowed him to pack personal belongings to take with him to jail.

One expressed respect for his decision to stay in Russia despite the risk of arrest, while another one called him "a worthy enemy."

In detention, both the inmates and the guards are genuinely puzzled to hear that the politician is facing 10 years in prison "for a few words against the war," Yashin wrote: "In Russia, courts hand down shorter sentences for theft,

assaults, rapes and sometimes even murders."

With all protests suppressed by a brutal crackdown and most opposition leaders leaving the country, spreading the word has become the main effort for many.

Even though Navalny is in jail, his team continues to post video exposes of corruption and regular livestreams on the politician's YouTube channels. The three most popular channels combined currently have more than 10 million subscribers.

Yashin's own YouTube channel, regularly updated even after his arrest with news analysis and political commentary, has nearly 1.4 million subscribers.

Most of his videos over the past six months have been dedicated to the war and criticising the Kremlin for it.

Lanka's former FM Basil leaves for US: Reports

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa left for the US on Friday to receive medical treatment, a week after the Supreme Court allowed him to travel overseas until January 15 next year, media reports said.

Basil Rajapaksa, the younger brother of ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, left for Dubai on an Emirates flight from Katunayake Airport, from where he will catch a connecting flight to the US, Daily Mirror Lanka newspaper reported, quoting officials.

On September 2, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court's five-bench headed by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya permitted Basil, 71, to travel overseas, until January 15 next year to receive medical treatment.

The Supreme Court made this order in connection with a Fundamental Rights petition filed by Sri Lankan swimmer and coach Julian Bolling, former Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Chandra Jayaratne, Transparency International and Jehan Canaga Retna, the Mirror report said.

The petitioners are seeking an order to take legal action against Basil and his elder brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa for finan-



cial irregularities and mismanagement of Sri Lanka's economy.

In July, Basil was prevented from leaving Sri Lanka following protests from passengers and officials at the Bandaranaike International Airport here. Basil was forced to resign from the government headed by his elder brother in April amidst the worst economic crisis faced by Sri Lanka, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange.

Earlier this month, Gotabaya Rajapaksa was given special security and a state bungalow for accommodation on his return to Sri Lanka from Thailand where he fled amid months-long mass protests over the country's worst economic crisis.

Former president and prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the 76-year-old eldest brother, was also forced to resign in May amidst the anti-government protests in the country.

Treasury sanctions Iranian firms for drone sales to Russia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Treasury Department has announced that it is levying sanctions against four Iranian companies that it says were involved in sending drones to Russia last month for use in Moscow's war against Ukraine.

Tehran-based Safiran Airport Services, Paravar Pars Company, Design and Manufacturing of Aircraft Engines, and Baharestan Kish Company were all hit with the new sanctions. "Russia is making increasingly desperate choices to continue its unprovoked war against Ukraine, particularly in the face of our unprecedented sanctions and export controls," said Brian Nelson, under secretary of the Treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence on Thursday.

"The United States is committed to strictly enforcing our sanctions against both Russia and Iran and holding accountable Iran and those supporting Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine."

Safiran coordinates Russian military flights between Iran and Russia, including those that US intelligence officials say transported Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles, personnel, and related equipment from Iran to Russia, over several days last



month.

Paravar Pars Company is closely associated with Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard Corps-controlled Imam Hossein University, and has been involved in the research, development, and production of the Iranian Shahed-171 UAV.

Design and Manufacturing of Aircraft Engines is an Iranian company involved in the research, development, and production of the Iranian Shahed-171 UAV.

Baharestan Kish Company oversees various defense-related projects in

Iran, including the manufacturing of UAVs.

The Biden administration said last week that Russia has faced technical problems with Iranian-made drones that were acquired from Tehran in August. The White House says Russian officials picked up Mohajer-6 and Shahed-series unmanned aerial vehicles over several days last month.

The Biden administration says US intelligence officials have determined that Russia is looking to acquire hundreds of Iranian UAVs for use in Ukraine.

Earlier this week, the Pentagon confirmed that the U.S. Intelligence community has determined that Russia is also in the process of purchasing rockets and artillery shells from North Korea for its ongoing fight in Ukraine.

The US has frequently downgraded and made public intelligence findings over the course of the grinding war in Ukraine to highlight Moscow's difficulties in prosecuting the war. Ukraine's smaller military has put up a stiff resistance against the militarily superior Russian forces.

N Korea says it will never give up nukes to keep US in check

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stressed his country will never abandon the nuclear weapons it needs to counter the United States, which he accused of pushing to weaken the North's defenses and eventually collapse his government, state media said Friday.

Kim made the comments during a speech Thursday at North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament, where members passed legislation governing the use of nuclear weapons, which Kim described as a step to cement the country's nuclear status and make clear such weapons will not be bargained. The law included a provision that requires North Korea's military to "automatically" execute nuclear strikes against enemy forces if its leadership comes under attack.

Kim also criticised South Korea over its plans to expand its conventional strike capabilities and revive large-scale military exercises with the United States to counter the North's growing threats, describing them as a "dangerous" military action that raises tensions.

Kim has made increasingly provocative threats of nuclear conflict toward the United States and its allies in Asia, also warning that the North would proactively use its nuclear weapons when threatened. His latest

comments underscored the growing animosity in the region as he accelerates the expansion of his nuclear weapons and missiles programme.

"The purpose of the United States is not only to remove our nuclear might itself, but eventually forcing us to surrender or weaken our rights to self-defense through giving up our nukes, so that they could collapse our government at any time," Kim said in the speech published by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"Let them sanction us for 100 days, 1,000 days, 10 years or 100 years," Kim said. "We will never give up our rights to self-defense that preserves our country's existence and the safety of our people just to temporarily ease the difficulties we are experiencing now."

Kim also addressed domestic issues, saying North Korea would begin its long-delayed rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in November. He didn't specify how many doses it would have, where they would come from, or how they would be administered across his population of 26 million people.

GAVI, the nonprofit that runs the U.N.-backed COVAX distribution programme, said in June it understood North Korea had accepted an offer of vaccines from China. GAVI said at the time the specifics of the offer were unclear.

Outpouring of grief for Queen as state mourning begins

PTI ■ LONDON

An official period of state mourning is underway in the UK on Friday, a day after Queen Elizabeth II died, and there has been an outpouring of grief from members of the public who have been laying flowers at royal residences around the country for its longest-reigning monarch.

In London, 96 rounds of gun salutes — one for every year of the Queen's life — have been fired in tribute to the late monarch from the Tower of London and Hyde Park by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and the Honourable Artillery Company.

Churches also tolled their bells, after the Church of England sent out guidance to parishes, chapels and cathedrals across the country encouraging them to open for prayer or special services. Major sporting events, including football and cricket matches, have been postponed as a mark of respect.

British Prime Minister Liz Truss led tributes at a special joint Parliament session convened to pay tribute to the Queen, who died at her Balmoral Castle residence in Scotland on Thursday.

The special session is expected to last through the day until

10pm local time. The regular business of government is at a halt, unless anything urgent occurs, with the focus to fall entirely on the Queen during the 10-hour sitting of Parliament.

Truss said that since the death of the Queen was announced there has been the "most heartfelt outpouring of grief" across the world.

"Everyone who met her will remember the moment. They will speak of it for the rest of their lives. Even those who never met her, her late majesty's image is an icon for what Britain stands for as a nation," she said, reiterated her earlier statement describing the late monarch as the "rock on which modern Britain was built".

With reference to the Queen's heir King Charles III, she told the Commons that the nation will offer its "loyal service to our new King".

Truss and senior ministers are scheduled for public service of remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral in central London and then the government is due to confirm the length of national mourning, which is likely to be around 12 days, from now up to the day after the Queen's funeral.

The funeral day will be a public holiday in the form of a Day of National Mourning.



Queen's state funeral to be UK's first since 1965

PTI ■ LONDON

The Queen's state funeral will be UK's first in more than half a century, with former Prime Minister Winston Churchill being the last head of state to be accorded with this honour in 1965. Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, died on Thursday at Balmoral Castle in Scotland after reigning for 70 years. She was 96.

Unlike Prince Philip, who had a royal ceremonial funeral, the Queen will have a state funeral, which is usually reserved for the sovereign.

A state funeral typically begins with the body of the deceased being carried on a gun carriage, which is drawn by sailors from the Royal Navy, as part of a military procession, according to The Independent newspaper. The body is taken from a private resting chapel to Westminster Hall in the House of Parliament, it said.

This is followed by another procession to the

Westminster Abbey or St Paul's Cathedral, depending on where the service is, the report said.

Heads of state are then given a 21-gun salute. The only monarch not to be given a state funeral in the last 295 years was Edward VIII, who abdicated. The last state funeral in the UK was Churchill's in 1965 and the last state funeral for a sovereign was for the Queen's father, George VI, in 1952. The Queen's coffin will be lying in state, which is a tradition in which the body of the deceased is placed in a state building for the public to pay their tributes.

The Queen will lie in state in Westminster Hall for about four days before her funeral, according to the BBC. The last member of the Royal Family to lie in state in the hall was the Queen Mother in 2002, when more than 200,000 people queued to view her coffin, the BBC reported. Meanwhile, bells tolled around Britain on Friday as mourners flocked to palace gates to pay tributes to the Queen.

King Charles III leaves Balmoral Castle to head to London

AP ■ BALMORAL

Britain's new king prepared to meet with the prime minister on Friday and address a nation mourning Queen Elizabeth II, the only British monarch most of the world had known and a force of stability in a volatile age.

The country began a 10-day mourning period Friday, with bells tolling around Britain and 96-gun salutes planned in London — one for each year of the queen's long life. People around the globe gathered at British embassies to pay homage to the queen, who died Thursday in Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

King Charles III, who spent much of his 73 years preparing for the role, takes the throne in an era of uncertainty for both his country and the monarchy itself. In Britain and across its former colonies, the widespread admiration for Elizabeth herself was



sometimes mixed with criticism of the institution and the imperial history she represented.

On the king's first full day of duties Friday, he and his wife Camilla, the Queen Consort, left Balmoral to head to London.

He is expected to meet Prime Minister Liz Truss, appointed just days earlier, and deliver a speech to the nation at a time when many Britons are preoccupied with an energy crisis, the soaring cost of living, the war in Ukraine and the fallout from Brexit.

Hundreds of people arrived through the night to leave flowers outside the gates of Buckingham Palace, the monarch's London home, or simply to pause and reflect. Finance worker Giles Cudmore said the queen had "just been a constant through everything, everything good and bad."

"She's just been the foundation of my life, the country," he said.

Harry, Meghan's kids become Prince Archie, Princess Lilibet



PTI ■ LONDON

Archie Mountbatten-Windsor, the son of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, is now technically a prince following the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, according to media reports on Friday, over an year after his mother controversially claimed that he

was denied the title because of his race.

His younger sister, Lilibet "Lili" Mountbatten-Windsor, is also entitled to be a princess after the death and the accession of her grandfather Charles, the Prince of Wales, to the throne, The Guardian newspaper reported.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex Harry and Meghan Markle will see no change in their Royal titles.

Meghan had spoken during an interview in March last year with the US broadcaster Oprah Winfrey of her shock at being told Archie would not get police protection because he did not have a title, and suggested that the decision was taken because of his mixed race.

Queen's life, record-breaking 70-year reign

PTI ■ LONDON

Queen Elizabeth II broke a number of records during her 70 years on the throne.

In addition to being the oldest British monarch in history, Elizabeth II was the longest-reigning queen ever. Her rule lasted for 70 years 214 days (February 6, 1952 – September 8, 2022). Not only was she on the throne the longest but she also sent the most letters, met with the most prime ministers and had the longest marriage, Sky News reported.

As the world's longest-reigning queen, Elizabeth presided over a time of many major political changes, such as the decolonisation of Africa, devolution in the United Kingdom, the creation of the



European Union and the UK's subsequent exit from it.

She celebrated her Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubiles in 1977, 2002 and 2012 respectively. In 2017 she became the first British monarch to celebrate a Sapphire Jubilee (65th anniversary) and her Platinum Jubilee in 2022 marked 70 years on the throne.

Queen Elizabeth II was also the world's wealthiest queen. Her net worth was estimated to be 370 million pounds (USD 427 million) by the 2022 Sunday Times Rich List.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by name of "PRAVRITTI PARTY" (name of the party). The office of the party is Located at 980, Near-Prakash Public School, Palam Village, New Delhi-110045. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under section 29 A of the Representation of People Act 1951. Name and Address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:- **PRESIDENT-SUNIL KUMAR, GENERAL SECRETARY-ABHISHEK CHATURVEDI, TREASURER-PARVEEN SUNDRIYAL** If anyone has any objection to the registration of "PRAVRITTI PARTY" (name of the proposed party) they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my clients Shri Gandharav Singh Yadav S/o Late Maan Singh and his wife Smt. Uma both R/o 38, NCRB Housing Society, Judge Colony, Sector 9, Valsahli, Ghaziabad, UP, have severed all their relations forthwith with their son Vikas Singh Yadav and his wife Ms. Pooja as they both follow their own ways and are living separately, and they also do not support and maintain my clients in their old age despite duty bound by law, in fact they have also married of their own accord without the consent or consultation with my clients. Moreover, they are disobedient and disloyal and are hereby debarred from inhering all movable and immovable properties of my clients, he/she who deals with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility and my clients shall not be responsible for their any act of omission and commission
MANJEET SINGH GHUMMAN ADVOCATE
Chamber No. 220, Patala House Courts Complex, New Delhi-110001

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sangeeta Behl W/o Sh. Aghum Bahl R/o 53/77, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026.
I have changed my name from Sangeeta Behl to Sangeeta Bahl. In future my name be known to all as **Sangeeta Bahl** for all intent purposes.

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) **TATAMOTORS TATA 1512 REG. NO. DL1GE0599-YOM-2022**
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"
INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITHIN 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. 7799898481 E-MAIL - abhinav.lal@kotak.com

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Satatcon make IPS at 88 Station/location over Delhi Division for 3 years.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 3,00,06,430/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 3,00,000/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time - 30.09.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

Tender No. 558-Slg-16-M-TENDER-AMC-061-2022-23 Dated: 08.09.2022 2349/22

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	S.N.
1	18-A & B-2022-23-W-V

1 Name of work with its location: A) Conducting a Drone Videography UAV/ Drone by capturing 4K resolution videography of the whole alignment at Delhi area. **Similar nature of work:** Any work involving "conducting aerial mapping/ videography using UAS drone technology for generation of orthophotos/videos. C) Provision of tolled, ramps and other facilities in Divyangjan station of JNC-PWL section under ADEN/TKD. **Similar nature of work:** Any civil work other than Track work.

2 Approx. Cost of work: A) Rs. 88,74,450.00, C) Rs. 2,17,19,969.82

3 Earnest Money Deposit: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. **Note:-** FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2010255/CE-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) **A) Rs. 1,77,500.00, C) Rs. 2,58,600.00**

4 Completion period of Work: A) 4 Months, C) 6 Months

5 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 30.09.2022. Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 30.09.2022

6 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/280/OET/2022-23-W-V/NIT-18-A & B-2022-23-W-V Date: 08.09.2022 2341/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

Israeli general readies to lead charge against Hezbollah

AP ■ RAMLE (ISRAEL)

In his just-completed role as head of the Israeli military's Home Front command, Major General Ori Gordin was in charge of bolstering a network of early-warning systems and shelters in case of rocket attacks. It may have been the ideal preparation for his new assignment.

Gordin is set to soon take over the Northern Command — putting him at the forefront of Israel's efforts to contain Hezbollah.

At a time of heightened tensions, the Lebanese militant group is believed to possess tens of thousands of rockets and missiles capable of striking anywhere in Israel, dwarfing any threat posed by the Palestinian militant groups in Gaza that have battled Israel in recent years.

To Gordin, the connection is clear: His new role will be to keep Hezbollah far away from his old one and ensure that any future fighting "not reach the civilian front."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Gordin said there is "no doubt" that Israel remains the more powerful side.



Two decades later, 9/11 self-professed mastermind awaits trial

AP ■ NEW YORK

Hours before dawn on March 1, 2003, the US scored its most thrilling victory yet against the plotters of the Sept 11 attacks — the capture of a disheveled Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, hauled away by intelligence agents from a hideout in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

The global manhunt for al-Qaida's No 3 leader had taken 18 months. But America's attempt to bring him to justice, in a legal sense, has taken much, much longer.

Critics say it has become one of the war on terror's greatest failures. As Sunday's 21st anniversary of the terror attacks approaches, Mohammed and four other men accused of

9/11-related crimes still sit in a US detention center in Guantanamo Bay, their planned trials before a military tribunal endlessly postponed.

The latest setback came last month when pretrial hearings scheduled for early fall were cancelled.

The delay was one more in a string of disappointments for relatives of the nearly 3,000 victims of the attack.

They've long hoped that a trial would bring closure and perhaps resolve unanswered questions.

"Now, I'm not sure what's going to happen," said Gordon Haberman, whose 25-year-old daughter Andrea died after a hijacked plane crashed into the World Trade Center, a floor above her office.

Syrian airport to resume work days after Israeli strike



AP ■ BEIRUT

Syria's international airport in Aleppo is to resume business on Friday after the facility was put out of commission by an Israeli missile attack, the country's transport ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement carried by state media that the damage has been fixed and called on airline companies to resume their flights to the city in northern Syria.

Israel launched a missile attack on Tuesday night targeting Aleppo on Tuesday for the second time in a week and all flights were diverted to the capital Damascus.

The Israeli strike tore large craters in three spots on the facility's runway, satellite images analyzed Thursday by The Associated Press show.

The satellite images from Planet Labs PBC taken Wednesday show the airport's single east-west runway bore three new craters. Vehicles and workers surrounded the two of the craters while the one furthest east had no traffic near it.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016
National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), the premier fashion institute in India, has recently undertaken a new project of the Ministry of Textiles for development of a national knowledge portal titled The Repository – Indian Textiles and Crafts (RTC). NIFT is looking for highly motivated professionals with experiences in cultural resource management and other relevant areas for the following posts for the Project:
1. **Research Associate – 01 Post**
2. **Creative Visualizer – 01 Post**
3. **EOI for Empanelled Photographer and Videographer – 02**
4. **Content Manager – 01 post**
The terms of reference (TORs) for the posts are available on <https://nift.ac.in/careers>.
Last date to Apply - 01.10.2022

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)
No. RS(POL)/58/0501/2/2021 New Delhi, Dt. 09.09.2022
CORRIGENDUM -2
Attention is drawn to E-Tender Notice No. 2022HSD TC for procurement of High Speed Diesel (HSD) of Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) is due for opening on 13.09.2022. Following Corrigendum to "date of submission of tender and other tender clauses" is hereby authorized:

Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)'s E-Tender Notice No. 2022HSD TC for procurement of High Speed Diesel (HSD).	
For	Read As
Last date and time for submission of tender 13.09.2022 at 14:00 hrs.	Last date and time for submission of tender 15.09.2022 at 14:00 hrs.

Note: Detailed corrigendum has been uploaded on <https://ireps.gov.in/>. Please visit the site for more information.

All other terms and conditions of Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.
No. RS(POL)/58/0501/2/2021 New Delhi, Dt. 09.09.2022
(S.K. Verma)
Director, Rly.Stores(M)
Railway Board

HDB Financial Services Limited Ground Floor, Zenith House, Keshavnagar Khadye Marg, Mahalakshmi, Mumbai - 400034
Tel No.: +91 22 49116300
FINAL AUCTION CUM SALE NOTICE FOR GOLD ORNAMENTS
The borrower(s) (whose details are provided in the table herein below), in particular, and the public, in general, are hereby informed that the below mentioned accounts are overdue, and the borrowers/account holders have not responded /complied with the communication, and notice sent by HDB Financial Services Limited (the "Company") requesting the borrower to clear his/her/their dues as per the documents in respect of the below mentioned loan signed/ accepted by the borrower(s) (such documents, collectively "loan agreement") and therefore defaulted in terms thereof. The Company has in exercise of its rights as a pledgee, decided to enforce the pledge and therefore hold a public auction of the gold ornaments pledged to the company as security for the loan for the purpose of selling the same and realizing/recovering the dues owned by the borrower(s) to the company. The auction will be conducted on **14-09-2022** at the below mentioned local branch of HDB Financial Services Limited from 11.00 am onwards on the date and branches mentioned in the below table:-

Loan No	Customer Name	Date of Loan	Overdue Amount Rs.	Branch Name
12230481	Vinod Kumar	22/08/2020	9420	Delhi Ncr-Burari
14629442	Sunita Devi	15/03/2021	3920	Delhi Ncr-Burari
17251845	Bharat Raj	27/08/2021	6779	Delhi Ncr-Burari
13695666	Pankaj Kumar	26/12/2020	6516	Delhi-Badapur
19302150	Harbir Bidhuri	08/11/2021	20146	Delhi-Badapur
20845654	Shivam Sharma	27/02/2021	10983	Delhi-Badapur
16407888	Shivam Sharma	21/07/2021	75260	Delhi-Badapur
17192941	Beeru Bhardwaj	24/08/2021	46154	Delhi-Badapur
17165393	Preeti Upadhyay	23/08/2021	48990	Delhi-Badapur
18894630	Kuldeep Gautam	27/10/2021	14112	Delhi-Badapur
20409695	Ashok Kumar	08/12/2021	7494	Delhi-Badapur
13086989	Irfan Ansari	07/11/2020	15126	Delhi-Badapur
15653763	Ravindra Kumar	18/06/2021	18720	Delhi-Badapur
15859513	Satish Kumar	30/06/2021	15126	Delhi-Badapur
15787451	Arun Kumar	25/06/2021	11265	Delhi-Badapur
17842865	Ravishankar Kumar	21/09/2021	11916	Delhi-Badapur
18159453	Naveen Navani	01/10/2021	8360	Delhi-Badapur
12592642	Dilip Rathore	27/03/2022	3920	Delhi-Badapur
14235735	Arti Devi	12/02/2021	7732	Delhi-Badapur
14717366	Amit Goel	20/03/2021	29228	Delhi-Badapur
14251863	Arvind Kumar	13/02/2021	66650	Delhi-Badapur
12393750	Pradeep Verma	19/02/2022	12332	Delhi-Badapur
18416336	Manish Navani	14/10/2021	6414	Delhi-Badapur
14245203	Pardeep P	16/02/2021	14784	Delhi-Badapur
13496145	Mohd Aaqib Quraishi	09/12/2020	8930	Delhi-Badapur
17369903	Kundan Singh	31/08/2021	50743	Delhi-Badapur
12012047	Nareesh C	31/07/2020	11148	Delhi-Badapur
16606936	Amar Singh	31/07/2021	35686	Delhi-Badapur
21839071	Sabita Arora	27/02/2022	15653	Delhi-Badapur
10689130	Prabha Devi	27/01/2020	6794	Delhi-Badapur
17097413	Sanjay Kumar Shukla	20/08/2021	6892	Delhi-Badapur
13409258	Vinay Kumar	30/11/2020	34705	Delhi-Badapur
18623009	Kishan Sharma	18/10/2021	4886	Delhi-Badapur
12191159	Rajeev Pathela	19/08/2020	34926	Delhi-Badapur
14737233	Uttam Kumar	26/03/2021	44506	Delhi-Badapur
15603782	Rajni Gupta	30/07/2021	48490	Delhi-Badapur
18761444	Shardha Devi	27/10/2021	4140	Delhi-Badapur
19615556	Sanjay Sharma	16/11/2021	9884	Delhi-Badapur
19580670	Ravi Yadav	16/11/2021	19194	Delhi-Badapur
12132969	Ram Singh	21/01/2022	8439	Delhi-Badapur

The auction shall be conducted on an "AS IS WHERE" and "AS IS WHAT IT" basis and the Company is not making and shall not make any representation or warranties as regards the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. It shall be the sole and absolute responsibility of the potential purchaser to verify, examine and satisfy themselves about the quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments prior to placing their bid and for such purpose it shall be open to potential purchasers to examine, at their sole cost and expense, and at the address set out herein above, the gold ornaments whether with or without expert advice 45 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the conduct of the auction. All the bid shall be subjected to such minimum reserve price as the company may deem fit to fix in this regards. The auction process and sale (if any) pursuant to such auction shall be subjected to such further terms and condition as the company may at sole discretion deem fit to impose.

If the borrower(s) mentioned above pays the amount due to the Company in terms of the loan agreement in his individual loan account in full before the auction as mentioned above, the pledged ornaments securing the said loan may be withdrawn from the said auction without further notice. Please note that it is the absolute discretionary power of the undersigned authorized officer of the company, either to postpone or to cancel the auction proceeding without prior notice and without assigning any reason thereof and to reject any or all the bids or offer without assigning any reason for the same.

Place : DELHI
Date : 10-09-2022
Authorised Officer
(HDB Financial Services Ltd)

FM outlines steps to check illegal loan apps' operations

Most apps not registered with Central Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has discussed various issues related to illegal loan apps in a meeting and decided to take a host of measures to check operations of such apps, amid rising instances of digital fraud.

Most of the digital lending apps are not registered with the central bank and operate by themselves. There have been increasing cases of alleged suicides of borrowers due to harassment by a few of the operators of digital lending apps.

The meeting, chaired by the minister, was held on Thursday and it was decided that RBI will prepare a whitelist of all the legal apps and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will ensure that only these are hosted on app stores.

The RBI will monitor the 'mule/rented' accounts that may be used for money laundering and to review/cancel dormant NBFCs to avoid their misuse.

The central bank will also ensure that registration of payment aggregators be completed within a timeframe and no un-registered payment aggregator be allowed to func-



tion after that, the finance ministry said in a statement on Friday.

As part of measures to check the proliferation of such apps, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) will identify shell companies and de-register them to prevent their misuse.

Besides, steps should be taken to increase cyber awareness among customers, bank employees, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders about these apps.

All ministries or agencies have been asked to take all possible actions to prevent operations of such apps.

During the meeting, the finance minister expressed concern over increasing instances of illegal loan apps offering loans/micro credits, especially

to vulnerable and low-income group people at exorbitantly high interest rates and processing/hidden charges, and predatory recovery practices involving blackmailing, criminal intimidation etc.

Sitharaman also noted the possibility of money laundering, tax evasions, breach/privacy of data, and misuse of unregulated payment aggregators, shell companies, defunct NBFCs etc. For perpetrating such actions, it said.

The meeting was attended by Finance Secretary, Economic Affairs Secretary, Revenue Secretary who is also holding additional charge of Corporate Affairs Financial Services Secretary and MeitY Secretary, RBI Deputy Governor and Executive Director, RBI.

Markets maintain winning run for 2nd day, post weekly gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices mustered gains for the second straight session on Friday, propelled by continuous foreign fund inflows and a positive trend in global equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex reclaimed the 60,000-mark in intra-day trade, before losing some ground on profit booking. It finally closed at 59,793.14, up 104.92 points or 0.18 per cent.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty ended higher by 34.60 points or 0.19 per cent at 17,833.35.

Tech Mahindra was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurting 3.32 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Infosys, HCL Tech, Maruti, SBI, TCS and Wipro.

UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv and Titan were among the laggards, shedding as much as 1.94 per cent.

"Domestic bourses kicked off the trading session on a strong footing, backed by positive sentiments across global markets. However, it succumbed to profit-booking after surpassing the psychological 60,000 mark.

"Global indices edged higher as investors reassessed the outlook for monetary policy following ultra-hawkish remarks from the Fed chair and 75 bps rate hike by ECB," said



Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex advanced 989.81 points or 1.68 per cent, while the Nifty gained 293.90 points or 1.67 per cent.

"We maintain our bullish view on markets and suggest continuing with the 'buy on dips' approach. The recent rebound in the US markets is further adding to the comfort.

"As we're seeing buying interest across the board, the focus should be more on the best-performing sectors viz banking, financials, auto and FMCG, and remain selective in the others," said Ajit Mishra, VP — Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge gained 0.18 per cent and the midcap index climbed 0.16 per cent on Friday.

Among the BSE sectoral indices, IT jumped 2.06 per cent, tect 1.59 per cent, bank 0.51 per cent and metal 0.50 per cent.

Sebi's SCORES platform disposes of 3,236 complaints in August

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 3,236 complaints received through the grievance redressal system SCORES against companies or market intermediaries have been disposed of in August, according to data released by Sebi on Friday.

At the beginning of August, 3,058 complaints were pending and 3,292 fresh complaints were received, according to the data.

These complaints were related to refunds, allotment, redemption and interest, among others.

The regulator also noted that there were nine complaints as of August 2022 which were pending for more than three months related to investment adviser, research analyst, non-demat, remat, refunds, dividends and rights, among others.

The average resolution time for a complaint was 25 days, it added.

In a separate public notice, Sebi mentioned seven entities against whom complaints have been pending for more than three months on SCORES as of August 31, 2022.

Most complaints were pending against research analyst Grovalue Financial Services Pvt Ltd and Trans Financial Services Resources Ltd.

Highlight Investment Research, Gaurav Agrawal Proprietor — Profit Vista Financial Research, Sonal International Ltd, Plastibends India Ltd and Precision Wires



India Ltd are among other entities against whom complaints have been pending for over three months.

SCORES is a grievance redressal system which was launched in June 2011.

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SCORES is a grievance redressal system which was launched in June 2011.

BUSINESS BRIEF

PFC COMPLETES JHABUA POWER LIMITED PROJECT

New Delhi: Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) has successfully resolved yet another stressed project, 600 MW Thermal Power Project of Jhabua Power Ltd., situated in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh. PFC is the largest lender to the project, which also has REC, SBI, Axis Bank, Bank of India, LIC, PNB, UCO Bank and Union Bank of India among its lenders.



NTPC TO SUPPLY RE POWER TO MES

New Delhi: NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated energy company, has entered into an agreement to supply Renewable Energy Power to the armed forces (Military Engineering Services). This is the first first-ever agreement by the Indian armed forces for sourcing power from Renewable Energy sources. This will go towards the gradual decarbonization of the armed forces.



DELHI JEWELLERY & GEM FAIR OPENS TODAY

New Delhi: The three-day Delhi Jewellery & Gem Fair is opening on Saturday at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The 10th edition of north India's biggest international jewellery trade show being organised by Informa Markets in India has over 350 exhibitors, 1,200 traditional, modern & innovative designer brands and over a lakh unique designs.

SPICEJET APPOINTS ASHISH KUMAR AS CFO

Mumbai: Budget carrier SpiceJet on Friday said it has appointed Ashish Kumar as its Chief Financial Officer. Kumar's appointment for the post is effective from September 9, SpiceJet said in a statement. Kumar succeeds Sanjeev Taneja, who quit the struggling carrier on August 31. Before joining the Gurugram-based low-cost airline, Kumar was serving as vice president for corporate finance at Interlobe Enterprises since January 2019, SpiceJet said. Previously, he served as Chief Financial Officer at Interlobe Hotels for five years from 2014 to 2018, as per the statement.

76 onboarded water start-ups to get ₹20L each to work in water management field

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Friday said that 76 start-ups have been onboarded under the 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-Up Challenge' and they will be provided financial support of up to ₹20 lakh each to work in the fields of water supply, used water management and water body rejuvenation. The ministry said the startups have been shortlisted by it through a challenge process launched in March 2022 under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Mission (2.0). It said a 'Startup Gateway' has also been launched wherein the start-ups can apply and be shortlisted by the ministry for financial support.

"The shortlisted start-ups will be provided financial support of up to ₹20 lakh each to work in the fields of water supply, used water management, water body rejuvenation and ground water management etc," the statement quoted HUA minister Hardeep Singh Puri as saying at an event.

The ministry also launched a toolkit for 'Pey Jal Survekshan' in 485 cities, it said. The start-ups have been shortlisted by the Ministry through a challenge process launched in March, 2022 under AMRUT 2.0 Mission. In this regard, a 'Startup Gateway' has also been launched wherein the start-ups can apply and be shortlisted by MoHUA for financial support. Pey Jal Survekshan, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, will assess cities with respect to the quality of water and its delivery to citizens, along with sewerage, septage management, grievance redressal, water body conservation and ground water management, among others.

Rupee rises 12 paise to close at 79.57 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 12 paise to close at 79.57 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking positive domestic equities and foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.66 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.47 and a low of 79.66 during the session.

It finally ended at 79.57, up 12 paise from its previous close of 79.69.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.98 per cent to 108.63.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.72 per cent to USD 90.68 per barrel.

The rupee appreciated on positive domestic equities and a weak US dollar. The dollar declined by more than 1 per



cent on a sharp bounce amid an unprecedented 75 bps rate hike by ECB to 1.25 per cent, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

"Global inflationary pressures may also put pressure on riskier assets. However, weakness in dollar and positive cues from global markets may support Rupee at lower levels," Choudhary said, adding, "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹79 to ₹80.30 in the next couple of sessions."

Gold gains ₹62; silver jumps ₹579

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital rose by ₹62 to ₹51,131 per 10 grams on Friday amid a jump in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at ₹51,069 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped by ₹579 to ₹55,540 per kg from ₹54,961 in the previous session. In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,727 per ounce while silver was flat at USD 18.84 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded higher with spot gold prices at COMEX rising by more than 1 per cent to USD 1,727 per ounce. Gold prices recovered on weaker dollar," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

"Gold prices traded higher with spot gold prices at COMEX rising by more than 1 per cent to USD 1,727 per ounce. Gold prices recovered on weaker dollar," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

Sanjay Kumar Rakesh CSC's new MD

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Sanjay Kumar Rakesh, CEO of Common Service Centre (CSC) SPV, has been appointed as the Managing Director of the company. The decision to this effect was taken at the 52nd Board Meeting of CSC held at the Ministry of Electronics & IT on Friday.

The Board Meeting, held under the chairmanship of Secretary, IT, Alkesh Kumar Sharma, discussed important agenda like the appointment of new Managing Director and Directors and approval of Annual Financial Statement for the financial year 2021-22.

HSBC commits ₹125 cr to green causes, energy transition projects in India over next five years

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Foreign lender HSBC on Friday committed ₹125 crore over the next five years to support green causes like wetland conservation and energy transition projects in India.

The lender said in a statement that the measures are being taken as part of its efforts to limit the impact of climate change.

Under the commitment, it has divided the works into two broad themes, including energy transition and nature-based solutions.

The nature-based solutions will include projects to protect and revitalise wetlands, mangroves and forests, landscape restoration and promote sustainable agriculture, it said.

Energy transition will



include renewables and/or energy efficiency programmes to support the shift towards renewables and scale efficiency initiatives in sectors like healthcare, dairy cold chain and for productive energy use by communities, it added.

"Sustainability for us is about long-term survival going hand in hand with conservation and community uplift-

ment," its country chief executive Hitendra Dave said.

He added that the lender will partner with government and expert institutions to enhance its learnings and create innovative solutions and opportunities.

It has partnered with the non-profit WWF India and India Resources Trust (WRI India) to roll out actions across eight states, focusing on energy transition in the healthcare and dairy cold chain sectors, conservation of wetlands and mangroves and landscape restoration.

The partnership with the civil society organisations aims to deliver integrated clean energy solutions of 300 Kilowatt at healthcare facilities, covering Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Assam.

Toyota Kirloskar SUV Urban Cruiser Hyryder's price starts at ₹15.11 lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Friday said the top four trims of its sports utility vehicle Urban Cruiser Hyryder are priced between ₹15.11 lakh and 18.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

The three trims with strong self-charging hybrid technology are priced at ₹15.11 lakh, ₹17.49 lakh and ₹18.99 lakh, respectively.

The variant with a mild hybrid powertrain and 1.5-litre gasoline engine mated with automatic transmission is tagged at ₹17.09 lakh (all prices ex-showroom).

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Associate Vice President (Sales, and Strategic Marketing) Atul Sood said the prices for the



remaining three mild hybrid grades will be announced shortly.

The company unveiled the sports utility vehicle (SUV) in early July and the bookings were also announced at the same time.

The Hyryder comes with two powertrains — Neo Drive and self-charging strong hybrid electric powertrain.

I-T dept detects ₹100 cr hidden income after raids on 2 Maha groups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The income tax department has detected "unaccounted income" of more than ₹100 crore after it recently raided two Maharashtra-based business groups, the CBDT said Friday.

The searches were launched on August 25 against the two groups that have not been identified by the authorities and are engaged in business of sand mining, sugar manufacturing, road construction, health care and running of medical college, officials said.



More than 20 premises located in Solapur, Osmanabad, Nashik and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra were covered as part of the action, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

Seized documents and digital data shows the "modus

operandi of tax evasion adopted by the group, including booking of bogus expenses, undisclosed cash sales, unexplained loans/credit entries," the statement issued by the administrative body for the tax department said.

In case of the group engaged in sand mining and

sugar manufacturing, documentary evidences of "unaccounted" cash sales of sugar exceeding ₹15 crore have been found and seized, it said.

The group has introduced its unaccounted income in the form of bogus unsecured loans in its books of accounts, the statement said.

"Several lenders to the group, as well as promoters have admitted that unaccounted cash generated by the group exceeding ₹10 crore was routed in its books of account in this manner."

Inflows in equity MFs hit 10-month low of ₹6,120 cr in Aug

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Inflows in equity mutual funds dropped to a 10-month low level at ₹6,120 crore in August on account of investors taking cautious approach and temporarily shifting of money from equity to debt due the rising interest rate scenario.

This was the 18th straight month of inflows in equity mutual funds (MFs) but the pace of inflow has been declining over the past few months.

The net inflows in August were lower compared to ₹8,898 crore in July, ₹15,495 crore seen in June, ₹18,529 crore in May and ₹15,890 crore in April, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on Friday.



The month of August saw the lowest level of inflow since October 2021, when equity mutual funds had attracted ₹5,215 crore.

Equity schemes have been witnessing net inflow since March 2021. These schemes had witnessed outflows for eight

months from July 2020 to February 2021, losing ₹46,791 crore.

Priya Agrawal, Money Coach, LXME, attributed the lower inflow to investors taking cautious approach this month and money is temporarily shifting from equity to debt considering the rising interest rate scenario.

"Equity MF inflows, while positive, have moderated in recent months. There is usually a psychological tendency amongst domestic investors to book profits in their near all-time highs (especially when the markets have corrected post hitting similar levels in the recent past), which is also getting reflected in the lower quantum of inflows," Arun Kumar, Head of Research, FundsIndia, said.

Neeraj becomes Diamond League champion

PTI ■ ZURICH

Olympic Gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra achieved yet another historic feat as he became the first Indian to win the prestigious Diamond League Finals title here.

Chopra began with a foul but jumped to the top spot with a throw of 88.44m -- his fourth career best -- in his second attempt, and that turned out to be his winning effort. He had 88.00m, 86.11m, 87.00m and 83.60m in his next four throws.

Olympic Silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic finished second with a best throw of 86.94m which he registered in his fourth attempt. Julian Weber of Germany was third with a best of 83.73m.

"It was a very good competition with Jakub Vadlejch today, he threw also very nice. I expected 90m from me today. But it is OK, I have the diamond trophy and this was the most important thing for me. Also because my family is here," Neeraj said.

"First time, they are at an international competition. They came to see me as this is my last competition and we go for a holiday - France, Paris, so it will be good.

"I was injured after Eugene so I need some rest, 2-3 weeks and I start some rehab and then some training for next year."

The 24-year-old Indian superstar is now the Olympic champion, World Championships Silver medallist and Diamond League champion. All these he has achieved in just 13 months. He had won the Olympic gold on August 7 last year in Tokyo.

He has produced 88m-plus throw six times this season which showed his consistency. He holds the national record of 89.94m, which he achieved this season.

Chopra also ended his international season with a history-script-



ing performance. The Diamond League Finals can be considered as the most prestigious competition outside of Olympics and World Championships.

It was Chopra's third appearance in the Diamond League Finals. He had finished seventh and fourth respectively in 2017 and 2018.

Chopra was also awarded a Diamond Trophy, \$30,000 prize money and a wild card for the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

The six-man field in Zurich was

without world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who is recovering from injuries after he was assaulted inside a boat in his country last month.

NATIONAL GAMES PARTICIPATION IN DOUBT

Indian Olympic Association's directive notwithstanding, champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's participation in the upcoming National Games looks doubtful, as he is coming off a groin injury and a gruelling season.

He was asked about competing in the National Games, which will be held across cities in Gujarat from September 29 to October 12.

"The National Games are approaching. I am just coming back from a groin injury, and I may not be able to train for one or two weeks. So I am primarily focussed on next year," Chopra told reporters.

With the IOA making it mandatory for the country's top athletes to take part in the Games, many sports persons could have to

rejj their training schedules.

The IOA directive came after Home Minister Amit Shah launched the mascot and the anthem for the Games, which Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said would be the "biggest and grandest" ever.

The National Games are being held after a gap of seven years.

The groin issue had forced Chopra to skip the Commonwealth Games in July-August, right after the World Championships in the USA, where he had claimed a Silver medal.

‘Balancing was difficult last off-season, learned from that’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commercial obligations and social commitments took a toll on Neeraj Chopra following his historic Olympic gold.

Having "learned" from experience, he plans to do things differently heading into next season.

Hours after his latest feat in the Swiss city, the 24-year-old woke up to a posse of Indian scribes waiting to get a quote or two from the country's track & field elite during a virtual interaction. One of the questions was on his off-season planning in the future.

"Last year was a very new experience for me, balancing was difficult, but I learned from last season," Chopra said.

He vouched he will avoid everything he did in the last off-season, in order to peak at the right time and maintain his fitness.

"This time for the few commercial commitments I will give dates in advance. When the training time comes, I will be fully focussed on that ... So that the preparation is taken care of well."

"I will not rest too much, will start training early, and keep my weight in check by not eating much." The world championship Silver medallist added, "I started training late after Olympics. The biggest challenge was to regain fitness, I worked on techniques, worked on strength.

"I was very good technically this time. Javelin is a technical event, so it helped me this time."

While he has been consistently throwing in the high eighties, Chopra has yet to cross the 90m



barrier, but he is least perturbed by that as he feels winning matters the most.

"I am not disappointed at all, it's (90m) just a magical mark. It all depends on how you perform on that day, how you handle the situation... If you touch 90m and don't win, then also it doesn't matter..

"So there is no 90m pressure on me, no disappointment, when it has to happen, it will happen.

"The important thing is World Athletics now takes note of Indian athletes and their performance."

He added, "I want more athletes from India to compete in top tournaments, lot of team from other countries were participating in the Diamond League Finals. It will help them in terms of experience too."

Is Neeraj Chopra the greatest Indian athlete? Many, including the legendary Anju Bobby George, may have endorsed that but the javelin thrower is too modest to read much into it.

"I don't think I should think about that, it's up to the people to think... They have their personal opinions.. I will not say anything on that," he said.

Swiatek sets up Jabeur US Open title showdown

AP ■ NEW YORK

An emergency bathroom break powered a world number one Iga Swiatek into a US Open final showdown with trailblazing Tunisian fifth-seed Ons Jabeur on Thursday.

Two-time French Open champion Swiatek advanced to the first US Open final of her career after coming from behind to beat Aryna Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The victory sent the 21-year-old from Poland into a Saturday final with Jabeur, who thrashed France's Caroline Garcia 6-1, 6-3 in Thursday's other semi-final.

Sabalenka, the sixth seed from Belarus, looked poised to create an upset after a dominant first set performance in which she broke Swiatek no fewer than three times.

But Swiatek was rejuvenated after a quick dash to the bathroom following the opening set.

"I kind of needed to go," Swiatek said. "For sure I felt lighter. I'm sorry -- that's disgusting." Swiatek also said the break had helped her analyse the flaws in her first set performance.

"I tried to use that time to think about what to change because I remember when I was younger all I would do in the bathroom between sets after I lost was cry.

"But this time I could think about what to change and actually problem solve."

The break did the trick as Swiatek raced through the second set to level the match and then punished a late collapse from Sabalenka to close out a gutsy victory.

Sabalenka, who was up a break and leading 4-2 in the final set, was left distraught by the defeat. She later appeared at a press conference with mirrored sunglasses on and a baseball cap pulled over her face.

It was the third time Sabalenka has fallen short in the semi-finals of a Grand Slam.

"My team keeps telling me that I have to be proud of myself, what I have done in the last months," she said.

"But I don't feel that way. I feel like in these three semi-finals I had so much opportunities and I didn't use it."

In Thursday's other semi-final, Jabeur outclassed France's Garcia to become the first



African woman ever to reach the final of the US Open.

It was another notable milestone for Jabeur, who was also the first African woman to reach the Wimbledon final in July.

The Tunisian dominated Garcia from start to finish of a one-sided semi-final that took just over an hour to complete.

"It feels amazing," Jabeur said. "After Wimbledon I had a lot of pressure on me and I'm really relieved that I can back up my results.

"The hard court season started a little bit bad, but I'm very happy that I made it to the finals here."

Jabeur's victory extended her career-long domination of Garcia.

The 28-year-old Tunisian had beaten Garcia four times as a junior in Grand Slam events, and twice as a professional in Slams before Thursday.

Man Utd beaten in Europa League

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United led English football's tributes to Queen Elizabeth II before their 1-0 defeat against Real Sociedad in the Europa League, while Roma boss Jose Mourinho was in mourning after the monarch's death on Thursday.

United, West Ham and Arsenal players -- the Premier League teams in action in Europe's second and third tier tournaments -- all wore black armbands after the Queen died aged 96 earlier in the day.

There were sombre atmospheres at Old Trafford and the London Stadium, with United and West Ham both holding a minute's silence prior to kick-off.

West Ham fans sang 'God save the Queen' during their 3-1 win against Romanian side FCSB in the Europa Conference League.

The death of the nation's longest-reigning monarch was announced after Arsenal had already kicked off at FC Zurich, so the Gunners had a minute's silence before the start of the second half of their 2-1 Europa League win.

Former United, Chelsea and Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho paid a sombre tribute to the Queen after Roma's 2-1 Europa League loss at Bulgarian side Ludogorets.

"I'm so sorry. I have lived in England for many years, my family is there," Mourinho told Sky Sport Italy.

"I don't think there's anyone who doesn't appreciate this great woman, I'm sorry."

Erik Ten Hag described Brazil forward Antony as



Son 'not worried' over goal drought

AP ■ LONDON

Tottenham forward Son Heung-min insists he is not worried by his goal drought as the South Korean eyes a return to his prolific form.

Son scored 12 times in his final 14 appearances last season to earn a share of the Premier League Golden Boot alongside Liverpool's Mohamed Salah with 23 goals in total.

The 30-year-old, who scored 12 times in his final 14

appearances last season to earn a share of the Premier League Golden Boot alongside Liverpool's Mohamed Salah with 23 goals in total, has failed to score in Tottenham's opening seven games of the season after drawing another blank in Wednesday's 2-0 Champions League win over Marseille.

Son's poor form has not cost him his place in Antonio Conte's side so far and he is convinced one goal could kick-start his campaign.

"I'm OK. If I'm honest, if

I wasn't getting chances in the game I would be worried but I'm still getting chances," Son said.

"In some games, there have been unlucky moments. In some games, it has been a bad finish. This is going to make me stronger.

"This is something I can see will be an improvement because I still have a lot of space for improvement.

"Most important is that we are doing well as a team. I'll do everything the team needs.

United's "missing link" after the Brazil forward scored on his debut against Arsenal on Sunday following his £82 mil-

lion move from Ajax.

But the 22-year-old struggled to make any impact during a disjointed United perfor-

mance.

Cristiano Ronaldo was making only his second United start this season, while Brazil

Rose to 'do things differently' ahead of Dortmund clash

AP ■ LEIPZIG

New RB Leipzig coach Marco Rose promised to "do a few things differently" ahead of his side's clash with former employers Borussia Dortmund on Saturday.

Rose took charge of Leipzig on Thursday after the sacking of Domenico Tedesco on Wednesday and said he wants to "turn the mood around with a lot of energy and power -- and get results again".

Rose was sacked in May after just one season in charge despite guiding Dortmund to second place, eight points behind Bundesliga winners Bayern Munich.

At his unveiling, Rose, who was born in Leipzig and still lives there, said he had

OSIMHEN OUT WITH THIGH INJURY

AP ■ NAPLES

Napoli striker Victor Osimhen will miss the Italian team's home fixture with Spezia on Saturday with a thigh injury, the Serie A club announced.

In a statement, Napoli said that the Nigeria forward had hurt the femoral bicep in his right thigh, an injury suffered in the first

half of Wednesday's 4-1 hammering of Liverpool in Naples.

The 23-year-old was substituted four minutes before half-time in the Champions League win at the Stadio Maradona and replaced by recent signing Giovanni Simeone.

Osimhen is expected to be out until at least after this month's international break.

more than a few ideas on how to turn the team's stuttering season around.

"I'll do a few things differently. We have to achieve sta-

bility through activity," Rose said.

"We want to be more stable at the back by putting more pressure on the ball in front."

PL fixtures postponed following Queen's death

AP ■ LONDON

All Premier League matches this weekend have been postponed as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, it was announced on Friday.

English top flight clubs took the decision despite guidance from the British government that cancelling sporting events was not compulsory during a period of national mourning.

"At a meeting this morning, Premier League clubs paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," the Premier League said in a statement.

"To honour her extraordinary life and contribution to the nation, and as a mark of respect, this weekend's Premier League match round will be postponed,



including Monday evening's game."

All games in the English Football League, Women's Super League and Scottish professional leagues have also been postponed.

Other sporting action in Britain scheduled for Friday, including Test cricket and European golf's PGA Championship, has been cancelled as a mark of respect.



More questions than answers ahead of T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli's first T20I hundred certainly means a lot but counts for little.

India have exited from yet another multi-nation tournament having failed to rise up to the occasion during crunch games and with a lot of questions without answers.

If Virat Kohli finally breaking the century jinx with his 71st is good news for all cricket fans, it also poses a few questions that need to be put in perspective.

How much of importance will you give to a hundred that came in a dead rubber when there was absolutely no pressure?

Afghanistan's bowling attack has shown a lot of potential in this tournament but playing back-to-back matches in this punishing Sharjah heat, how should they be judged?

Having lost a close and emotionally draining game less than 24 hours back, was Afghanistan physically and mentally ready for another gruelling game?

THE TOP THREE?

And this brings us to the most basic question? Will this (Rohit, KL Rahul and Kohli), be India's top three going into the T20 World Cup?

Yes, it seems so if one sees the kind of support that both Rohit and Kohli have shown for an under-pressure Rahul, whose "wicket preservation first" approach in Powerplay overs has more often than not put India in trouble.

"We have to keep him in good head space as we know what he can do," Kohli said during his interaction with Rohit on bcci.Tv.

One could gauge that both the seniors want Rahul to settle down with six more international games (vs Australia and SA) and two warm-up left before start of T20 World cup?

So isn't the sameness (three right-handers) that seemed to have hurt India during the 2021 edition coming to haunt them again?

Without an iota of doubt, if anyone among the top three misses out on the playing eleven, it will be Rahul as both Rohit and Kohli have shown that they can switch gears effectively.

There is a school of thought that Suryakumar Yadav be promoted as one drop batter but the clearer picture perhaps will only emerge once they play the home series against Australia in two weeks' time.

Rahul is a supremely talented batter with all the strokes in the book-- both orthodox and unorthodox, but at least in Asia Cup, he did not show any distinctive change in his approach. He only attacked after settling down.

Kohli in his chat with Rohit indicated that he will switch back to his "old template" of finding gaps and hitting more boundaries than trying to hit sixes.

"If I can take 10-15 balls to settle down, then I can accelerate," Kohli told his skipper.

The problem is that in 50 over cricket, 15 balls of quiet period isn't a big deal but the moment it is a match of 120-deliveries each, that quantum of balls become invaluable.

We have seen that in the second Pakistan game where Kohli got 60 off 44 balls.

MIDDLE-ORDER MUDDLE

As far as the middle order is concerned, the tournament didn't provide a definitive answer if Rishabh Pant is more suitable than the team's oldest player Dinesh Karthik, who has been earmarked for a specific 15-ball role at the end of the innings.

As far as Pant is concerned, the free-flowing bat swing that we are used to seeing in the Test matches is conspicuous by its



absence in this format.

Karthik was played in three of the five games but haven't got to bat a cumulative 10 balls in the tourney.

So you can't really judge who will finally make it to the playing eleven if not both?

But can coach Dravid be a bit more flexible and not just set a role for Karthik -- like 10 balls in the end or something like that? Because in case of Pant, he has been used sometimes as a floater -- before Hardik Pandya or after him depending on match situation. Both without success.

For the reserve middle-order batter, the multi-skilled Deepak Hooda remains favourite but one should discount Sanju Samson at his own peril.

BOWLING OPTIONS

The absence of Ravindra Jadeja post knee surgery (he got reportedly injured during the team-bonding activity) is going to hurt India the most.

While Axar Patel is a very sincere cricketer but when it comes to giving the batting flexibility, like Jadeja coming in at No. 4 against Pakistan in first game, that will be beyond lanky Gujarat lad's bandwidth. He is a capable enough batter but certainly not as good as Jadeja.

The Indian team is also very senior dependent as it was evident when Ravi Bishnoi, despite a fine game against Pakistan, was benched in the next game. In Australia, where there will be an extra pacer required, Bishnoi could well miss the first team bus. Bhuvneshwar Kumar gave 19 runs in the 19th over against Pakistan but he was again given the same duty against Sri Lanka and he faltered again.

While a five-wicket haul against Afghanistan is fine but as Gautam Gambhir put it succinctly in commentary, as a senior bowler, Bhuvneshwar will be expected to provide wickets with both new and old

ball without being one dimensional.

It would have been interesting to see whether Arshdeep could have done a better job with the 19th over in one of the games, as he has bowled a lot of penultimate overs for Punjab Kings.

But with Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel set to get fit, Arshdeep will find it difficult to get a first XI look-in while Avesh Khan is unlikely to even find a place in the final 15 if one goes by his form.

Avesh hasn't shown a lot of cricketing smarts in the shorter version and as former coach Ravi Shastri said, Mohammed Shami should have not been dumped completely from this format.

As India travel to Australia, what looks worrisome is that there is a repeat of 2019 when till the defeat against New Zealand in the semi-finals, the Indian team couldn't find a suitable No. 4.

Here, the top three isn't looking convincing (one needs to discount the Afghanistan game) and one middle-order and one bowling slot is yet to be fixed.

There are questions and it is sooner the better if Dravid can find the answers.

INDIA LIKELY

Specialist Batters (4): Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav,

All-Rounders/middle-order (2): Hardik Pandya, Deepak Hooda

WK/finisher (2): Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik,

Spinners (2): Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel

Pacers (5): Jasprit Bumrah (subject to fitness), Harshal Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh.

Likely Stand Bys: Sanju Samson, Avesh Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Chahar.

Need to get balance in batting order to close out games: Harman

PTI ■ CHESTER-LE-STREET

Closing out games has always been a cause of concern for the Indian women's cricket team and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur believes the solution to this problem lies in getting the right balance in the batting order.

In the Birmingham Commonwealth Games final, India, chasing Australia's 162, were on course at 118 for 2 before losing the plot and were bowled out for 152 in 19.3 overs.

"We are working on that. I know for a long time these things are troubling us. We need to show some patience and after a while we will start getting the results also," Harmanpreet said on the eve of the first T20I against England here on Saturday.

"That is why this time we have added two more batters -- Dayalan Hemalatha and -- KP Navgire -- in the side who can finish the game for us. They have done really well in domestic cricket, scored good amount of runs."

"We need to have balance in our side in the lower order, when there is balance things become easier," she added.

Having said that Harmanpreet believes the visitors need to be flexible in their batting approach.

"We need to be a bit flexible when it comes to batting because sometimes you had to see who is bowling and whose performance is better against her and who can get those runs for us."

"Batting wise we will be very flexi-



ble. We will take calls according to match situations," she said.

The right-handed batter looks at the limited-overs tour of England as a fresh start after their silver medal-winning effort in Birmingham, where they beat England en route to the gold medal clash.

"We have done really well in the CWG but now it's a new start for us. England have always done well against us. For us it will be very challenging. (But) CWG has given us a lot of confidence," Harmanpreet said.

India are in England on a two-week white-ball tour that comprises six white-ball games -- three T20Is and as many ODIs.

The T20s will be held in Hove (September 10), Derby (September 13) and Bristol (September 15), while the ODIs are scheduled at Hove (September 18), Canetbury (September 21) and the Lord's (September 24).

England will be without their stand-in captain Nat Sciver, who has withdrawn from the series to "focus on her mental health".

But Harmanpreet said England still has enough firepower to challenge India.

"She (Sciver) is missing the game but still they have a very good side and I think if we have to beat them we will have to play very good cricket."

"Last 10 days gave us enough time to prepare ourselves. We are looking in good shape, and now it is time to just go there and execute. It is very important for us to stay in the moment," she said.

Panchal, Bharat shine as India A score 229/6

PTI ■ HUBBALLI

Skipper Priyank Panchal's dogged 87 and a fighting unbeaten 74 by keeper Kona Srikar Bharat took India A to 229 for six on the second day of the rain-hit second unofficial Test against New Zealand.

After the first day's play was called off due to rain, the truncated second day saw 66 overs being bowled, and most of the top and middle-order batters failed to make an impression.

Skipper Panchal's knock came off 148 balls, with 12 fours and two sixes, while Bharat's unbeaten knock saw him face 104 balls while hitting 10 boundaries.

The Panchal-Bharat duo rescued India A with a 117-run fifth-wicket stand after they were left in a tangle at 68 for four.

The three centuries from the previous 'Test' — Abhimanyu Easwaran (22), middle-order batter Rajat Patidar (4) and NT Tilak Varma (0) — were dismissed cheaply while Ruturaj Gaikwad (5) endured his second failure of the series.



Shardul Thakur (26), a late addition to the squad was involved in a 38-run stand with Bharat to take India A past the 200-run mark.

For New Zealand A, pacers Jacob Duffy (2/55) and Logan van Beek (2/39) took two wickets apiece, while spinners Rachin Ravindra (1/20) and Sean Solia (1/58) got a wicket apiece.

SARANDEEP APPLIES FOR DELHI HEAD COACH JOB

Former India spinner and more recently national selector Sarandeep Singh has thrown his

hat into the ring for Delhi head coach job ahead of the upcoming domestic season.

"Delhi is known for producing world class players regularly but somehow the team has not been able to do well in domestic cricket of late. I want to take Delhi cricket back to where it belongs," the 42-year-old said.

Sarandeep played three Tests and five ODIs for India. His tenure as an Indian selector ended in January last year when the national team made history by winning back to back series in Australia.

PCB hires Hayden as mentor for WC



PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has rehired Australian batting great Matthew Hayden as team mentor for the ICC World T20 Cup in Australia.

Hayden had done a stint with the Pakistan team during last year's World T20 Cup in UAE and saw Pakistan being beaten by Australia in the semi-finals.

The PCB said that Hayden will join the side in Brisbane on October 15, the day Pakistan arrive from Christchurch after competing in the T20I series also involving Bangladesh and hosts New Zealand.

Rahane returns with double-century

PTI ■ CHENNAI

On a comeback trail, India Test discard Ajinkya Rahane and Yashasvi Jaiswal hammered double centuries as West Zone put a pedestrian North East Zone attack to the sword by amassing 590 for two in their Duleep Trophy quarter-final here on Friday.

Sent into bat, Rahane (207 batting) and Jaiswal (228) toyed with the North East bowling line-up and added 333 runs for the second wicket.

The classy Rahane, who has played many a memorable knock in the Test arena, seemed to enjoy the hit in the middle as he feasted on the North East bowling. Not known to be a six hitter, Rahane sent six over the rope, apart from his 22 fours to stamp his authority on the second day.

Earlier in the day, Prithvi Shaw was the first man to be dismissed by the opposition team when spinner Ankur Malik had him caught behind



by Ashish Thapa for a brisk 113. He had put on 206 for the opening wicket with Jaiswal.

Rahul Tripathi (25 batting) joined Rahane in the middle and strung together a 51-run stand in quick time.

Speaking at the end of the day's play, Shaw said it was special to score the century and added that despite the weak bowling attack, it was important to keep focus.

"I think it was special for me because after training so much and giving myself time,

good to score a century."

He also sought to downplay the inexperienced bowling attack and said, "To be honest, if they are playing this kind of level they must have done something. They have potential, that's why they are playing here."

"First 20-25 overs they bowled well. Obviously, Yash (Jaiswal) and Ajju bhai getting those doubles (centuries)... I think you just need one ball to get out. We need to focus and prepare for it."

Presence of Spain will make India's pool even tougher: Hockey coach Reid

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Presence of ever-improving Spain in India's pool will make even the league stage of the FIH World Cup very challenging, men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid said on Friday, adding that staying in the moment will be key to the home team's success.

World No.5 India are placed in a tough Pool D along side England (world No. 6), Spain (world No.8) and Wales in the showpiece event to be jointly hosted by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year.

The Indians drew 4-4 against England and beat Wales 4-1 en route to a silver medal-winning effort in this year's Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

"The pools in the FIH Hockey World Cup and the Olympics are always difficult. Every team is there to win. We just played England and Wales in the Birmingham Commonwealth Games and the games were of the highest quality," Reid said in a Hockey India



release.

"To top that off with Spain who have been improving in the last 12 months will make the first-round games very difficult."

"England are a world-class team and they are playing a very good brand of hockey at the moment. But so are we and the important part about the FIH World Cup is that we have to keep our minds in the moment and focus on each aspect of the game," he added. Before the marquee event, India will get to play Spain in the FIH Pro League 2022-23 season at the Kalinga Stadium on October 30 and November 6.

India failed to cross the quarterfinal hurdles in the last World Cup, which was also hosted by Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium in 2018.

But this time around, Reid is hopeful of improving their past record.

"It is a very different team than it was four years ago, with different experiences and some different personnel. We are looking forward to the World Cup and playing in front of our home crowd," the Australian said.