

WORLD 5RUSSIA 'TAKEN BY SURPRISE'
AS UKRAINE ADVANCES IN EAST**MONEY 6**INDIA OPTS OUT OF
IPEF'S TRADE PILLAR**SPORT 7**SALISBURY, RAM REPEAT AS US
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NEW DELHI, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4

sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



CAPSULE

MODI GREETES TRUSS ON ASSUMING PM OFFICE

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to British Prime Minister Elizabeth Truss to congratulate her on assuming office and appreciated her role in furthering bilateral relations. **P4**

EC REPLIES ON JMM MLA DISQUALIFICATION

Ranchi: Even as Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren's fate hangs in the balance, the Election Commission of India has sent its opinion on the disqualification matter pertaining to his brother and JMM MLA Basant Soren to Governor Ramesh Bais. **P2**

FIR FILED OVER UK HOME SECY'S FATHER'S PLAINT

Panaji: UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman's father has complained that two of his ancestral properties in North Goa have been grabbed by an unidentified person, following which the Special Investigation Team of the State police has filed a case and launched a probe.

20 DEAD DURING IDOL IMMERSION IN MAHA

Mumbai: At least 20 people have died till now, 14 of them due to drowning, during the immersion of Ganesha idols in parts of Maharashtra, police said on Saturday.

ARCHAEOLOGIST BB LAL DIES, PM PAYS TRIBUTE

New Delhi: Archaeologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee BB Lal has died at the age of 101. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid rich tributes, saying he will be remembered.

Guj polls in cross hairs of global terror group

ISKP to use riots, Bilkis case as recruitment, strike trigger points: Intel

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Intelligence inputs have warned that the international terror group Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) has directed its cadres in India to use the Gujarat riots as a "recruitment trigger point" and the issue of release of the accused and convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case as the "strike trigger point" to disrupt the forthcoming Assembly elections in Gujarat.

Intelligence assessments also suggest that incidents of rioting and knife attacks against members of the Right-wing organisations by youth radicalised by the ISKP handlers are likely to occur in the coming weeks.

The ISKP is a front of the dreaded terror group ISIS. ISKP's Indian unit is referred to as the Islamic State Wilayah Hind (ISHP).

The official magazine of ISHP the 'Voice of Hind' has in the past underscored that the terrorist cadres should discover vulnerabilities of the road and Railway networks in the country. The terror propagan-



da magazine outlined in detail the possibility of attacks on the Indian road and Railways networks.

The magazine further advised the 'Ansar al-Khilafah' (terrorists) to either perpetrate the strikes as lone wolf attacks or in batches after selecting the targets with diligent reconnoitering, pursuing and ambushing.

It has also advised ultras to target individuals of worth, pilgrims or anything which caters to the jihadist agenda.

To hit the rail network, it has suggested blowing up tracks on the weakest point of the network moments before the scheduled arrival of trains at a railway station, besides hitting luxury/business trains carrying the elite.

The inputs have come just weeks after the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) had detained a suicide bomber of the ISIS, who was plotting a terrorist attack against an Indian

leader for avenging the alleged insult to Prophet Muhammad.

The FSB is the top Intelligence agency of Russia that had said that the arrested terrorist underwent special training in a Central Asian country for carrying out the planned hit in India. The radical is of Uzbek origin.

Continued on Page 2

PIL filed in SC against Bilkis Bano rape convicts' remission

New Delhi: A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court against the remission granted to the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case by a former woman police officer, a former woman Indian Foreign Service Officer, and a renowned academic with expertise on issues of public policy and governance. **P4**

'Centre's focus on dev that is science-based'

Bihar, J'hkhand miss Centre-State first science conclave as Modi talks 'sabka prayas'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a clear indication of the deepening differences between Opposition-ruled States and the Centre, Bihar and Jharkhand on Saturday gave a miss to the 'first-of-its-kind' Centre-State Science Conclave inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said the role of the country's science and people working in this field is "very important" when India is moving towards leading the "fourth industrial revolution."

Both Bihar and Jharkhand are home to political churnings, of late. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has dumped the NDA to form the Mahagathabandhan Government in the State besides taking it upon himself to forge Opposition unity to oust the BJP from power in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

His Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren is embroiled in a mining contro-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the 'Centre-State Science Conclave' in Ahmedabad, through video conferencing from Delhi on Saturday

PTI

versy and suspense continues over his continuance in office even as the fear of a BJP strike at his Government lurks.

Nitish is the latest to join the bandwagon of leaders like TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao who have taken upon themselves to cobble up a united Opposition front to take on the BJP juggernaut. While Nitish has said

a united Opposition or main front can reduce the BJP's figures by less than 50 Lok Sabha seats, Mamata has publicly announced a joining of hands with Nitish and Hemant.

The political rumblings notwithstanding, addressing the conclave in Ahmedabad after inaugurating it via video conferencing, Modi said his Government was working with the "thinking of science-based

development".

He pointed out that the organisation of the conclave was a clear example of 'Sabka Prayas'.

"Science is like that energy in the development of 21st Century India, which has the power to accelerate the development of every region and the development of every State," he said.

Continued on Page 2

More arrests in Moosewala murder case

PNS/AGENCIES ■ CHANDIGARH/MOHALI

Almost 100 days after singer Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead, Punjab Police on Saturday arrested the sixth and last shooter allegedly involved in his killing. Deepak Mundi, along with two of his associates, was arrested in a joint operation with the Delhi Police and central agencies from the West Bengal-Nepal border, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

The two associates have been identified as Kapil Pandit and Rajinder, and they have been accused of providing logistic support and weapons to the shooters. In yet another breakthrough in the case, Punjab Police arrested a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang involved in the singer's murder and recovered 11 pistols from him.

Continued on Page 2

King Charles III proclaimed Britain's new monarch

PTI ■ LONDON

King Charles III pledged to follow the "inspiring example" of his mother, late Queen Elizabeth II, as he was proclaimed Britain's new monarch on Saturday in a ceremony, steeped in ancient tradition and political symbolism, televised for the first time in history.

"God save the King" were the words with which those gathered reaffirmed the proclamation made by the clerk of the Accession Council. The Accession Council performs a ceremonial role — it officially announces the name of the new monarch.

Charles then made his proclamation speech, which began with the "most sorrowful duty" to announce the death of Queen Elizabeth II, "an example of lifelong love and selfless service".

"My mother's reign was



From left, Britain's Prince William, Camilla, the Queen Consort and King Charles III, before Privy Council members in the Throne Room during the Accession Council at St James's Palace, London on Saturday

AP | PTI

unequalled in its dedication and its devotion. Even as we grieve, we give thanks for this

most faithful life," said King Charles III.

Continued on Page 2

ED gets ₹18 cr from house of bizman close to TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With Kolkata fast turning into a city of scams the Enforcement Directorate acting on a tip off on Saturday recovered crores from the house of Amir Khan a businessman from the Garden Reach area of the eastern metro.

After 10 hours of counting with eight machines the ED sleuths accompanied by bank officials had recovered about ₹18 crore, sources said adding counting was still going on. The total amount could increase further, sources said.

Bundles of currency notes of all denominations from ₹2,000 to ₹50 were recovered from the first floor of the house of Amir Khan who was allegedly involved in a fraudulent online gaming racket, sources said. Khan, whose father Naser was close to the ruling Trinamool Congress was missing since Saturday morning. **Continued on Page 2**

BJP, Congress slug it out after Rahul meets controversial priest

BJP attacks party over video; Cong hits back calling tweet 'atrocious'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP and the Congress on Saturday engaged in a fierce verbal face-off over Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's meeting with controversial priest George Ponnaiah during the "Bharat Jodo Yatra".

In the video, the priest could be heard saying, "Jesus is a real God... unlike Shakti."

Raising questions over the video of Rahul interacting with the priest, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla tweeted saying the Congress leader is connecting with "Bharat todo icons". "This man was arrested for his Hindu hatred earlier — he also said 'I wear shoes

because impurities of Bharat Mata should not contaminate us. Bharat Jodo with Bharat Todo icons?" Poonawalla tweeted.

"It's Rahul Gandhi's 'Nafrat Jodo Abhiyan.' Today they have made a person like George Ponnaiah the poster boy of the Bharat Jodo Yatra who challenged, threatened Hindus and said inappropriate things about Bharat Mata. The Congress has a long history of being anti-Hindu," Poonawalla said.

Ponnaiah was arrested in 2021 for his alleged comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and some DMK leaders.

Calling the tweet "atrocious" the Congress accused the BJP of spreading mischief and alleged that the ruling party has turned more desperate ever since the successful launch of the "Bharat Jodo Yatra". **Continued on Page 2**

173 cases of lumpy virus found among cattle in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time, the national Capital has reported 173 cases of lumpy skin disease among cattle, mostly in the southwest district.

However, "no death has been reported so far" due to the disease. According to officials, the first case of lumpy skin disease was detected around eight to 10 days ago in the city.

Taking a serious note of it, the Government set up a special control room with a helpline number 8287848586 for queries related to the lumpy virus and advised cattle owners to isolate cattle showing any of the symptoms of the lumpy virus infection, which may include high fever, reduced milk production, skin nodules, loss of appetite, increased nasal discharge and watery eyes, among others.

Continued on Page 2

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OFFICE OF PROFIT CASE

EC sends its decision to Guv in CM Soren’s brother case

PNS ■ RANCHI

At a time when Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais is yet to take a call on the Election Commission of India’s decision in the office of profit case against Chief Minister Hemant Soren, the ECI is said to have sent its decision to the Governor on CM’s younger brother Basant Soren in a similar case on September 09. The ECI had earlier reserved its order in the case after hearing on August 22.

Notably, the Jharkhand BJP unit had complained to the Election Commission that the junior Soren had concealed the fact of taking mining lease in his affidavit given to the commission at the time of Assembly elections 2019. After the complaint the Governor had sent the matter to the Election Commission, which was hearing the case through the lawyers of both the parties. Sources said that both CM

Hemant Soren and his brother, an MLA from Dumka constituency, are likely to lose their membership of the State Assembly after the Governor sends his recommendation back to the ECI.

Earlier, on August 25 a letter sent by the ECI to the Governor mentioning its decision in the office of profit case against Chief Minister Hemant Soren reached the Raj Bhawan. Media reports on the issue raised the political temperature in the State, although there was no word on the letter by the Governor.

Fearing horse trading of its MLAs the UPA called several meetings of its legislative body and the legislators were taken on a picnic near the Capital city. Later, on August 30, 32 MLAs were flown to Raipur in a special flight, where they stayed till September 4, a step the JMM termed “precautionary” to avoid horse trading.

Meanwhile, a delegation

of UPA MPs and senior leaders also met the Governor on September 1 and urged him to clear air over the issue. The Governor assured the delegation that he would make things clear very soon (in 2 days). However, on September 2, Bais suddenly went to Delhi and returned only on September 8.

The ruling UPA also called a special Assembly Session on September 5, where a Vote of Confidence was held to show the strength of the ruling coalition. While the BJP protested the move and staged a walk out from the House, Hemant Soren won the trust vote by 48-0.

The JMM and Congress party have been repeatedly urging the Governor to clear the confusion in the matter by making public his recommendations to the Election Commission, but no word has come out from the Raj Bhawan yet.

More arrests in Moosewala murder ...

From Page 1

Manpreet Singh had given shelter to shooters Jagroop Singh Rupa and Manpreet Singh at his Kharar house before they killed Moosewala.

“In a major breakthrough, @PunjabPoliceInd , in a joint operation with central agencies & #DelhiPolice, have arrested Deepak @ Mundi, absconding shooter of #SidhuMoosewala,

with 2 associates. Major victory in war against drugs & gangsters on directions of CM @BhagwantMann,” the DGP said in a tweet.

“Deepak, Kapil Pandit & Rajinder have been arrested today by #AGTF team at #WestBengal-#Nepal border in the culmination of intelligence-based operation. Deepak was the shooter in Bolero module, Kapil Pandit & Rajinder provided logistical support including weapons & hideouts,” he said in another tweet.

Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police Vivek Sheel Soni said that Manpreet Singh alias Bhima, a resident of

Ludhiana, was nabbed in Kharar. A 9mm Glock pistol, ten 0.32 pistols, three cartridges and a BMW car were recovered from him, police said.

Bhima is an old accomplice of Sunil Kumar alias Monu Gujjar and Jasmeet Singh alias Lucky, both Hoshiarpur natives, and Nikhil Kant Sharma of Patiala. All weapons were supplied by Pehowa resident Ashwani Kumar alias Sarpanch to Bhima, Jasmeet and Nikhil. Ashwani Kumar has already been arrested by CIA Mohali in the case registered at Sadar Kharar police station.

Bhima will be produced in the court to seek his remand.

Archaeologist BB Lal passes away, PM Modi pays tribute

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Archaeologist and Padma Vibhushan Awardee B B Lal has died at the age of 101. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid rich tributes, saying he will be remembered as a great intellectual who “deepened our connect with our rich past”.

Lal was the director general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and had found temple-like pillars during excavation at the Ayodhya site where the Ram temple is now being built. Officials said that he was one of the youngest directors general of ASI and served from 1968 to 1972.

Modi said, “Pained by Shri B B Lal’s demise. He was an outstanding personality. His contributions to culture and archaeology are unparalleled. He will be remembered as a great intellectual who deepened our connect with our rich past. My thoughts are with his family and friends. Om Shanti.”

Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said the country has lost one of the brightest minds.

Probe launched after complaint by UK Home Secy’s father over his Goa property

PTI ■ PANAJI

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman’s father has complained that his two ancestral properties in North Goa have been grabbed by an unidentified person, following which the Special Investigation Team of the state police has filed a case and launched a probe, an official said.

Braverman, an Indian-origin barrister, was appointed as the UK’s new Home Secretary by Prime Minister Liz Truss earlier this week.

Braverman’s father, Christie Fernandes, has complained that his two ancestral properties collectively admeasuring 13,900 square metres in Assagao have been usurped, Superintendent of Police (SIT) Nidhi Vasan told reporters on Friday.

Based on the complaint, the SIT has registered the First Information Report (FIR), he said, adding that investigation into the case has begun.

173 cases of lumpy virus found...

From Page 1

Delhi Development Minister Gopal Rai on Saturday informed that 45 cases of lumpy skin disease have been detected in the Goyla dairy area, 40 in Rewla Khanpur area, 21 in Ghumanhera and 16 in Najafgarh.

Addressing a press conference, Rai said the Delhi government has deployed two mobile veterinary clinics and set up 11 rapid response teams to collect samples. Four teams

will make people aware of the virus.

The government will adopt the ring vaccination strategy in which healthy cattle in a 5 km radius of the affected areas will be given goat pox vaccine with the Uttarkashi strain of the virus, he said.

The minister said the Delhi Government has deployed two mobile veterinary clinics and set up 11 rapid response teams to collect samples. Four teams will make people aware of the virus.

An isolation ward has been set up in Rewla Khanpur Gau Sadan in southwest Delhi for abandoned cattle suffering from lumpy skin disease, Rai said.

The official said the lumpy virus has been found in 40

abandoned cows which have been shifted to the isolation ward. The cow shelter can accommodate 4,500 cattle. The isolation ward has been set up away from healthy cattle and mosquito nets have been installed there.

“In Delhi, it is unlikely to spread to proportions seen in other states as the number of cases is low and manageable. We have responded promptly and taken all the necessary steps to curb the spread,” he said.

Another official said the virus doesn’t normally lead to the death of cattle and the mortality rate is just one to two per cent.

The high number of deaths in Rajasthan and Gujarat could be due to poor health of those

cattle and the development of secondary infections, he said.”Deaths are unlikely if the infected cattle are isolated and proper care is taken. Wounds should be disinfected regularly,” the official said.

Lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral disease that spreads among cattle through mosquitoes, flies, lice and wasps by direct contact, as also through contaminated food and water. The disease causes fever and nodules on the skin, and it can be fatal.

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala on Thursday said the outbreak has spread in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

He said around 57,000 cattle have died till Thursday due to lumpy skin disease and told states where cases have been reported to boost vaccination efforts. Madhya Pradesh has reported more than 2,100 cattle infected with the Lumpy skin disease across 10 districts of the state.

The Centre has advised states to make efforts on the ground-level to isolate animals and prevent the disease from spreading. The infection is rapidly spreading in Rajasthan and Gujarat where state governments have created control rooms in districts to monitor and indulge in effective prevention strategies. In August alone, over 3,000 cattle died in these two states due to the viral infection.

‘Centre’s...

From Page 1

Modi further said, “Today, when India is moving towards leading the fourth industrial revolution, the role of India’s science and people related to this field is very important. In such a situation, the responsibility of people in administration and policy-making increases significantly.”

He emphasised that science is the basis of “solutions, evolution and innovation.” And, Modi said, “It is with this inspiration, that today’s new India is moving forward with Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan as well as Jai Anusandhan.”

Commenting on the lessons that people can learn from history that will help both the Centre and the States, the Prime Minister said, “If we remember the early decades of the last century, we find how the world was going through a period of devastation and tragedy. But even in that era, whether it was about the East or the West, scientists everywhere were engaged in their great discovery.”

In the West, he said, “Scientists like Einstein, Fermi, Max Planck, Niels Bohr, and Tesla were dazzling the world with their experiments. In the same period, many scientists including CV Raman, Jagdish Chandra Bose, Satyendra Nath Bose, Meghnad Saha, and S Chandrasekhar were bringing their new discoveries to the fore,” said Modi.

The Prime Minister underlined the difference between the East and West “as we were not giving due

recognition to the work of our scientists.”

The Prime Minister pointed out that “when we celebrate the achievements of our scientists, science becomes part of our society, it becomes part of the culture”, he said.

Modi also requested everybody to celebrate the achievements of the scientists of the country.

“Scientists”, the Prime Minister said, “are giving ample reasons to the country to celebrate them.”

He lauded the role of Indian scientists in developing the Corona vaccine and contributing to the “world’s biggest vaccine drive.”

The Prime Minister reiterated that the government is working with the thinking of Science-Based Development.

“Since 2014, there has been a substantial increase in investment in the field of science and technology. Due to the efforts of the government, today India is ranked 46th in the Global Innovation Index, whereas in 2015, India was at number 81”, the Prime Minister added. He acknowledged the record number of patents being registered in the country. He also noted the climate of innovation and a vibrant startup ecosystem.

The Prime Minister pointed out that “inclination for science, technology and innovation is in the DNA of our young generation. We need to support this young generation with full strength.”

The Prime Minister listed new sectors and missions in the field

of research and innovation to support the innovative spirit of the youth. He gave examples of Space Mission, National Supercomputing Mission, semiconductor mission, Mission Hydrogen and drone technology.

The Prime Minister highlighted that in order to make India a global centre of research and innovation in this Amrit Kaal, “we have to work on many fronts simultaneously.”

He stressed the need to take science and technology-related research to the local level and asked states to promote research and innovation as per their local needs.

The Prime Minister remarked that innovation can be encouraged by laying emphasis on the creation of more and more scientific institutions and simplification of processes by the state governments.

“As governments, we have to more and more cooperate and collaborate with our scientists, this will create an atmosphere of a scientific modernity”, he said.

The Prime Minister stressed that the states should take full advantage of the ability and expertise of many national-level scientific institutes, and national laboratories that are present.

“We also have to take our science-related institutions out of the state of silos for optimum utilisation of scientific institutions and expertise”, the Prime Minister added. He asked for science promotion events at the grassroots level. He also advised the state Science Ministers to share good practices and aspects of their science curriculum.

BJP, Cong slug it out after Rahul meets...

From Page 1

AICC general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said BJP’s “hate factory” is sharing tweets about Rahul Gandhi which has no relation to the audio.

“An atrocious tweet from the BJP hate factory is doing the rounds. It bears no relation whatsoever to what is recorded in the audio.

This is typical BJP mischief that has become more desperate after the successful launch of Bharat Jodo Yatra which is evoking such a huge response,” Ramesh said in a statement.

“People who were responsible for the killing of Mahatma Gandhi and the murders of people like Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, MM Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh are raising questions! What a morbid joke! Such attempts to damage the spirit of #BharatJodoYatra will fail miserably,” Ramesh said in a tweet message.

Another BJP leader Amit Malviya joined his party colleague at lashing-out at Rahul-priest meeting saying: “If meeting a controversial pastor,

who is known for his visceral disdain for the majority community and their beliefs, Rahul Gandhi’s idea of “Bharat Jodo”, then this Yatra is nothing but a sham. How can indulging faith supremacists serve the larger society and bring cohesion?”

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also sought to know whether denouncing one religion for the appeasement of the other is “Bharat Jodo”. “This ‘Hindu Hatred’ of the Congress in general & Rahul in particular is no more a clandestine affair ...Rahul wears it on his sleeves with pride! ‘Bharat-Todo’ indeed by Rahul Gandhi!” he tweeted.

A war of words has broken up between the BJP and the Congress since the beginning of Rahul’s politically ambitious Yatra across the country.

A day before, BJP had commented at Rahul’s T-shirt worn by him during the Yatra and claimed that the high-end shirt cost over Rs 41,000. The Congress countered drawing attention to what it called Rs 10 lakh suit and Rs 1.5 shades worn by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

King...

From Page 1

“In taking up these responsibilities I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set in upholding constitutional government and to seek the peace, harmony and prosperity of the peoples of these islands, and of the Commonwealth realms and territories across the world,” he said. The throne had passed to the 73-year-old former Prince of Wales following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, on Thursday and Saturday’s ceremony marked his formal declaration and oath-taking at St James’s Palace in London.

King Charles was joined by his wife, Queen Consort Camilla, and his son and heir Prince William - the new Prince of Wales, who added their signatures to the formal proclamation documents.

Charles confirmed the tradition of surrendering all revenues and the Crown Estate to the country in return for the Sovereign Grant that covers royal costs in the UK.

All six living former Prime Ministers - Sir John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson - and new Prime Minister Liz Truss along with leaders of the Opposition were among those gathered for the sombre ceremony.

It was the decision of King Charles III to allow television cameras into the Accession Council for the first time to allow the public to view the proceedings.

Earlier, the King had

travelled back from Balmoral Castle in Scotland on Friday, where the Queen’s health deteriorated, and she breathed her last.

Flags lowered atop the palace in mourning for the late Queen were brought back up to full mast after the Accession Council proclamation, which followed a wave of further proclamations across the UK to go into Sunday - when flags will return to half-mast in a state of mourning for the Queen.

Amid much ceremony, a Principal Proclamation was read in public for the first time by the Garter King of Arms from the balcony overlooking Friary Court at St James’s Palace. It was accompanied by a 41-gun salute fired by The King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery at Hyde Park in London.

The Privy Council, which includes politicians, senior members of the clergy and Supreme Court justices, first gathered without the King to proclaim the new monarch and arrange business relating to the proclamation.

Following the proclamation, King Charles III held his first Privy Council meeting and made his personal declaration to “assume the duties and responsibilities of sovereignty” and follow in the footsteps of his late mother.

On Friday, the King held his first audience with British Prime Minister Truss at Buckingham Palace, soon after he was greeted with applause and cheers by large crowds gathered at the palace gates in mourning for the Queen and to catch a glimpse of the new monarch and his Queen

Consort.

“It was so touching to see so many people... It’s a moment I’d been dreading, but one must try and keep going,” Charles was heard saying to Truss, in a brief clip released of his first audience as the Prime Minister expressed her condolences.

While formal details are to be released by Buckingham Palace, it is expected that the Queen will lie in state at Westminster Hall in London for the public to pay their respects.

In the coming days, the Queen’s coffin will depart her Balmoral estate for the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh - the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland.

From here, it will be taken in procession to St Giles’ Cathedral in the city, where the Queen will lie at rest, allowing the public to view her coffin. The coffin will then move to London, ready for lying in state for around four days before her funeral.

Meanwhile, senior MPs, including Prime Minister Truss, have sworn a new oath of allegiance to King Charles III in a special session of Parliament. Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle opened proceedings by taking the oath, followed by Sir Peter Bottomley, the longest-serving MP. Truss, 47, was among those taking the pledge, speaking the words: “I swear by almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God.”



कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल

केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला (मैके. शाखा)

तृतीय निविदा सूचना

क्र.392/के.कर्म./2022

भोपाल, दिनांक 10.09.2022

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Guj...

From Page 1

Assessments suggest the Russia-detained suicide bomber could be a member of the ISIS faction led by Gulmudra Alimof based in southern Afghanistan and that the ISIS has developed a significant network of sleeper cells in India.

Within a week after the Taliban took over Kabul on August 15 last year, the security

agencies here had warned that the ISKP operatives based in Afghanistan-Pakistan region are coordinating with India-based associates to carry out attacks in India through IEDs and vehicle-borne IEDs.

The ISKP has also planned to send its fighters to India to carry out the attacks. The range of targets includes Right-wing leaders, Hindu leaders, security forces, convoys, places of high footfalls and religious congregations. In addition, the group also has plans to hit highways and railways infrastructure.

As reported by The Pioneer, in an August 21, 2021

advisory circulated to stakeholders comprising the paramilitary forces and police administration, the agencies were advised to take preventive and precautionary measures to thwart such illicit designs of the jihadis.

The genesis of the security alert is the intelligence inputs and disclosures made by the ISIS operatives arrested from Jammu and Kashmir and Karnataka, who have indicated continued intent on part of the Islamic State terrorists to carry out attacks in India.

The inputs further indicate that the Islamic State operatives based in Af-Pak region are

coordinating with their cohorts based here for furthering their nefarious anti-India agenda.

The ISKP operatives have assured their Indian associates to provide funds for procuring Kalashnikov assault rifles, small arms, making of IEDs and preparations for attacks as part of Islamist terror agenda.

Busting of ‘Voice of Hind’ network of the ISIS in Jammu and Kashmir, and Karnataka by the security agencies also indicates that the Pakistan-based remnants of Indian Mujahideen may have been in contact with IS operatives in India and Af-Pak region.

Intelligence assessments

suggest that the Indian Mujahideen operatives based in Pakistan may be a part of the IS network planning attacks in India with active connivance and backing from the Pakistan Army and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Locations that are likely to attract immense public attention, including Hindu temples, religious gatherings, western interests, security forces, public places, religious gatherings and events expected to witness high footfall, especially those thronged by foreigners could be possible targets, according to the earlier inputs.

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Printed and published by Narendra Kumar for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455, Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879900 and printed at Jagran Prakashan Ltd, D-210, 211 Sector-63, Noida (U.P.). Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. AIR SURCHARGE of ₹ 2.00 East: Calcutta, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

We will regularise temporary employees wherever our Govts are formed: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday lauded the AAP-led Punjab Government for regularising 8,736 school teachers, and urged the Centre and States to do the same by making temporary employees permanent. Kejriwal said the Delhi Government had also brought in a Bill in the Assembly to regularise guest teachers in the national Capital but the Centre did not approve it.

While appreciating the Punjab Government, Kejriwal said the AAP will prioritise regularisation of contractual workers and secure their rights wherever it comes to power. He said other States should also do the same.

"I appeal to other States and the Central Government to regularise all their contractual employees. The AAP staunchly favours that contractual employees should be regularised in all parts of the country. We will ensure that wherever we come to power, we will give them permanent jobs. It is their right," he said during an online briefing.

Kejriwal said there is a false narrative about permanent government employees being incompetent. Kejriwal claimed that many permanent Government jobs were kept vacant and employees were hired on a temporary basis. "It is being said that permanent employees are slackers. This is a dangerous misconception. We have busted this myth in Delhi. The education revolution in Delhi is a result of succinct efforts of permanent as well as guest

teachers," he said. Similarly, Government doctors, nurses and hospital staff have done a wonderful job in Government hospitals and mohalla clinics, he said. "At a time when government jobs are being reduced and more temporary employees are being hired, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann regularised the services of 8,736 teachers. This will prove to be an example for others too," Kejriwal said.

"People working as temporary employees are right at the bottom of the hierarchy, they are the poorest, and they are exploited. It is time to end their exploitation. This trend will spread from Punjab now," he added. "These teachers had lost hope after protesting continuously for 10-15 years while some teachers even crossed the age limit due to protests, they have now been given a relaxation," he said.

"Punjab's waves will soon reach the rest of the country. We have been trying to make guest teachers permanent in Delhi; we introduced a Bill in the Assembly over it but the Central Government refused to approve it.

"Delhi is a half-State, we lack a lot of administrative powers, which is why despite trying our best, we have been unable to regularise guest teachers. all contractual Government employees would be regularised in the States where the AAP comes to power," Kejriwal said.

He termed contractual employment system "highly exploitative" and questioned why government jobs were being cut down by states and Centre if economy was growing.

BJP: AAP Govt did nothing for teachers' regularisation in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP lashed out at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying the AAP Government did nothing for regularisation of teachers in the national Capital despite being in power for the last eight years. "The Kejriwal Government did not even increase the salary of Delhi teachers in last eight years and the teachers here still have to approach the court for their salaries," Delhi BJP leaders said on Saturday.

The BJP reaction comes after Kejriwal appreciated the AAP-led Punjab government for regularising 8,736 school teachers, and urged all state governments to do the same.

The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri urged the people of states-Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh do not trust what



Kejriwal is saying. "He lies all the time and mislead the people for those states going to polls," Bidhuri said. The BJP leader questioned how many teachers or contract workers regularised in the national capital? Bidhuri said that out of 1,027 Government schools, only 203 have principals.

There are no vice-principals in 418 schools and 24 thousand posts of teachers are lying vacant. Guest teachers were appointed on 22,000 posts, but none of them were made permanent. This year



there has been a decline of more than 15 per cent in the class X Board results.

Adesh Gupta, the Delhi BJP president said that it is very shameful that Delhi is the only state in the country where teachers work as daily wagers and so much so that even their money is deducted for all holidays like government holidays, festivals or even Sundays. "Also, they neither get TA, DA, HRA and CL nor any medical facilities. Not only this, their salary hasn't increased in six years.

55K contractual employees still working as guest teachers: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress on Saturday came down heavily on the Arvind Kejriwal Government on regularisation of guest teachers and other contractual workers, saying there are at least 55,000 contractual employees in various departments of the Delhi Government who have

not been regularised despite being in power for last eight years. The Congress leader said Kejriwal has blamed Central Government for not "approving" its Bill to regularise the guest teachers, which was a flimsy argument, as he has not regularised temporary employees in other departments as well, though he had promised

in his very first election manifesto that all ad hoc employees will be regularized if he comes to power. The leader said so-called "Delhi Model of Education and Health" was a big fraud being played on people by Kejriwal government and his deputy Manish Sisodia, as no such model exists in Delhi in reality.

Stray dogs can't be relocated, says Gzb civic body

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD

After a meeting with various stakeholders including Apartment Owners Associations, People for Animals and dog-lovers on Saturday, the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation said stray dogs cannot be relocated from their territory as it is prohibited under the law and court guidelines.

The meeting was convened at the civic body headquarters on the initiative of Mayor Asha Sharma and Municipal Commissioner Mahendra Singh Tanwar in the backdrop of canine-human conflict hogging the headlines.

Animal rights activist Ambika Shukla stressed the dog-lovers who feed stray dogs cannot be penalised by Resident Welfare Association, and that any complaint should be addressed to the Municipal Corporation only.

It was agreed that dog feeding points will be earmarked on residential society compounds for stray dogs in consultation with feeders, RWA and representatives of the Municipal Corporation. The numbers would depend on the canine population there.

In accordance with the laid down law and guidelines, stray dogs cannot be relocated from within the society to outside and vice versa, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation Veterinary Officer Dr Ashish said.

It will be kept in mind that feeding points should not be near locations frequented by children and senior citizens, the meeting decided. Both sides agreed that cleaning of the



excreta of stray dogs will not be responsibility of individuals feeding the dog, but of the RWA as part of its regular maintenance activity.

It will be responsibility of pet-owners to clean the excreta of their dogs but the RWA must provide garbage bins where the picked up waste can be thrown, it was decided.

In case of any complaints against pet-owners, the RWAs and its members cannot take any action themselves and they will have to bring it to the notice of municipal corporation, the meeting decided.

Dr Ashish urged people to get stray dogs registered for sterilization in consultation with individuals feeding the dogs and RWAs.

This comes in the wake of a series of dog attack incidents being reported in the media over the past few days.

A video went viral recently, showing a pet dog attacking a minor boy inside a lift of a residential society in Ghaziabad. In another incident from Ghaziabad, a teenage boy was attacked by a dog leaving him with multiple stitches.

Another video shows, a food delivery agent being attacked by a dog while coming out of a lift.

Man stabbed to death while four injured in Mangolpuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A man was stabbed to death while four were injured in Mangolpuri area of the national Capital on Friday afternoon. The neighbours of the victim managed to record the brutal murder on camera. Meanwhile, on Saturday the family members claimed that he was killed when he returned home after attending Ganesh Chaturthi.

However, police said there was no communal issue and it was a coincidence that it took place on the day of Ganesh Chaturthi. Police also said the issue was between two families for area dominance.

Police had said an incident of stabbing was reported in K-Block, Mangolpuri at 4.36 pm on Friday. The victims were identified as Armaan, Monty alias Moin Khan, and Fardeen, were taken to a hospital. The doctors declared Armaan as "brought dead".

Fardeen, who sustained minor injuries, said that around 2.15 pm, he was going somewhere on his motorcycle, and had an altercation outside one Shahruckh's house with his brother Shabbir over his bike.

Fardeen went back to his home, where his brother, Monty, told him he would resolve the matter peacefully with Shahruckh.

When he met Shahruckh, the latter abused Monty and they had a heated argument. Their cousin Armaan also reached there.

Shahruckh and his brother Shabbir asked their associates to bring knives. The two brothers, with their associates stabbed Armaan, Fardeen, and Monty.

Ex-Cong MLA released in accidental firing case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has released former Congress MLA after due admonition instead of sentencing him to any punishment in a case where he accidentally fired from his licensed pistol while loading the cartridges in it at a licensing office in 2017.

"Since there is no previous conviction proved against the accused and the offence proved against the accused is punishable with imprisonment of less than two years and considering the age, character, physical condition of the convict as well as the trivial nature of the offence, the accused be released after due admonition instead of



sentencing him to any punishment," Metropolitan Magistrate Rishabh Tanwar said in the order. After the court order, former Congress MLA blamed the AAP and the BJP for implicating him in a false case. "Now, the court has acquitted

me," he said. During the argument, Jai Kishan's advocate had argued that the accused is a person of good standing as he was a former MLA of the Congress Party having a clean political background.

His Counsel argued that a lenient view be taken against the accused as he is of 65 years of age having old age related ailments and that the accused is also a heart patient. Kishan had also submitted his medical documents in support of the contentions.

In May 2017, the incident happened in the Defence Colony police station limits when the ex-MLA had gone to the licensing office for the renewal of his arms licence.

L-G inspects Neela Hauz bio-diversity park



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday visited the Neela Hauz Bio-diversity park developed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in South

Delhi. Walking through the scenic "Constructed Wetland System (CWS)", the LG described it as an exemplary model of urban rejuvenation and appreciated the DDA for developing and maintaining the park. Upon witnessing the

natural water treating system that includes in-situ remediation of sewage water through two oxidation and stabilisation ponds, filtration zone and aquatic plants without using any power, and the quality of treated water, Saxena instructed officials to explore the possibility of developing such systems over other major drains in the City. "Visited Neela Hauz Bio-diversity park- an exemplary model of urban rejuvenation developed by DDA.

Constructed Wetland Systems like Neela Hauz, apart from being ecologically sustainable, can also be an effective means of treating drain water before its discharge in the Yamuna, the LG tweeted.

Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park has been developed as the Neela Hauz Lake, which is a natural waterbody and used to

supply drinking water to South Delhi, is nearly extinct or dead due to urbanization and construction of Aruna Asif Ali road bridge across the lake by PWD.

According to officials, the Lake has been restored to its pristine glory through desilting and excavation of solid waste dumps and in-situ biological remediation of 1 MLD of raw sewage – the only source of water to the lake.

"The novelty of Neela Hauz Biodiversity Park is the development of integrated Constructed Wetland System (CWS) – a nature based solution for in-situ remediation of raw sewage – and use of treated water for restoration of the lake, which was a nearly extinct lake. The CWS design works on the same principle as that of STP without energy. The CWS

design has two oxidation/stabilization ponds, a filtration zone, constructed Wetland with aquatic plants and natural wetland," said the official. "The integrated wetlands make 1 MLD of raw sewage into clean water which has the same quality as that of river water and all the water quality parameters (dissolved oxygen, pH, total suspended solids, total dissolved solids, Biological oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demands, ammonia, nitrogen and phosphates) are lower than the permissible limits prescribed by CPCB," said the official.

"The removal percent efficiency of CWS for some water quality parameters like COD is more than 15 per cent and the DO level is enhanced from 0.0 to 7.5 mg (L)," the official added.

Shutterbugs flock revamped Central Vista Avenue

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Shutterbugs flocked to revamped Central Vista Avenue on Saturday, the first weekend after its inauguration, clicking selfies against the backdrop of the verdant lawns and the newly unveiled 28-foot statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Selfie takers had a field day on the rechristened Kartavya Path – from the Raisina Hill complex to India Gate – which was thrown open to the public on Friday after two years. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Most of the visitors, especially the youngsters, were busy choosing their favourite spots near the lawns and the newly built bridges on the water bodies looking to get the perfect snap of themselves.

"It's a great place for selfies... I must have clicked over a dozen selfies here," said a civil service aspirant visiting Central Vista Avenue along with his friends.

As evening descended, the number of visitors surged. People took a stroll along the entire stretch and halted at the India Gate complex for more photos and selfies at the memorial. "We have been to this place dozens of times.



Earlier it lacked the grandeur. I hope this will be maintained and people will also keep it clean and avoid littering," said Rakesh Awasthi who was visiting the place with his family. However, some visitors missed the boating facility in the water bodies along the lawns. "I do not see any boats now. Hope they will be here soon since children like them very much," said a security guard near one of the water bodies where a ticket kiosk existed earlier.

Officials said there is a plan to allow boating at two water bodies – one close to Krishi Bhawan and the other near the upcoming Vanijya Bhawan.

The water bodies are a part of the landscape of the avenue. Under the Central Vista Avenue redevelopment pro-

ject, the water bodies have been rebuilt with reinforced edges while redstone pavements have been built along it. Aerators and dissolved air flotation systems have been fitted to keep the water clean.

Another big draw at the spot was cultural performances by artistes from all over the country.

A large number of people gathered at a stage set up near India Gate, keenly watching Naurta and Kalbelia folk dances and lauding each performance.

After inaugurating Kartavya Path, Modi urged people to visit it and take selfies with it and upload them on social media. New signages bearing the new nomenclature of the ceremonial boulevard have been put up on the street-sides.

Kin seek justice after sweeper, guard killed while cleaning sewer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after a sweeper and a security guard died of toxic gases while cleaning a sewer in a colony in Mundka area, their family sought justice while asking who allowed him to go down the manhole?"

The deceased have been identified as 32-year-old Rohit Chandilya and security guard Ashok (30). Chandilya worked as a private sweeper in a colony at Bakkarwala and Ashok as security guard in DDA flats.

On Friday late evening, the bodies of both the men had to be pulled out with the help from the fire brigade, as efforts to extract them manually by the colony residents had failed.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Satish Kumar said that Chandilya was the husband of his younger sister. "On Friday evening, I got a call that Chadilya had died after entering the septic tank. When I reached the spot, I got to know that he had died due to inhaling poisonous gas," said Kumar.

"He used to work as a sweeper under one Chandan Kumar Mishra. We want to ask why he went inside the sewer and who asked him or gave him permission to go. We have no idea for how long he was

inside the hole," Kumar said. "Chandilya was the only sole breadwinner for his wife and two-year-old son. He used to live in a rented accommodation. Now what will happen to his family members? Justice should be delivered to his family," Kumar said.

Police got a call at 3.43 pm on Friday informing them that a man had fallen inside a sewer in Pocket-D of Lok Nayak Puram, Bakkarwala. They reached the spot, Highway Apartment, and found two men lying unconscious in a sewer.

There was a complaint of sewer blockage in the society and Chandilya was the first one to go down the sewer. But as soon as he inhaled the toxic fumes inside, he fainted and fell down. To rescue him, Ashok too went inside but he also fell unconscious.

They were taken to a hospital where they both were declared brought dead. A post mortem was conducted on Saturday and their bodies were handed over to their family members. A case under section 304A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC has been registered, said police. A senior police officer said that investigation is in an initial stage.

Probe on to find culprit in Azad Market building collapse case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Saturday said the investigation is underway in connection with a four-storey under construction building which collapsed in north Delhi's Azad market, injuring five people on Friday morning.

A senior police official said the investigation is underway to ascertain the role of the person behind the incident, following which necessary action will be taken. The fire department had received a call about the incident at 8.30 am on Friday. A fire official said one fire tender is still at the spot as standing. The work of removing the debris from the area is still underway.

The injured have been identified as Congress Yaday (31), Nitesh Yaday (29) and Amarjeet Yaday (21), all residents of Khagaria district in Bihar, and Azizur Rehman (44) and Jamil (45), both residents of Sheesh Mahal in Azad Market.

According to Sagar Singh Kalsi, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), north district, no one was staying in the building which may have collapsed due to overloading. The owner of the building has been identified as Ajay Kumar Jain, a resident of Rajinder Nagar, and the



builder is Mohammad Muzaffir, a resident of Takiya Rajan Mohalla in Azad Market, he had said.

A case under IPC sections 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 34 (common intention) has been registered, he said.

An National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) official, who was present at the spot, had said, "The narrow lane has made the rescue operation difficult for the authorities. We cannot deploy big machines here as we do not have enough space."

Meanwhile, a senior MCD official said that the Building Department of 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 devi-

ation and 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. "MCD has deployed man and machinery from various departments at the collapsed site for removal of debris from the site.

MCD has deployed 10 mini trucks for removal of debris and labourers from maintenance department and dangerous building cell and labour of labour contractor have also been deployed for lifting and removal of debris from the site," the senior MCD official added.

Cong to put out electoral rolls for prez polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

Facing criticism from his own party men over the procedures on elections to party's Congress chief, its central election authority chief Madhusudan Mistry on Saturday said anyone wanting to file nomination for the post of Congress president will be able to see the list of all 9,000 delegates from the office of central election authority at the AICC office from September 20.

This after five Congress MPs, including former Union Ministers Manish Tewari, and Shashi Tharoor besides Karti Chidambaram, Pradyut Bordoloi and Abdul Khaleque, wrote to him raising concern over the "transparency, fairness" in the election process and seeking that the electoral rolls should be securely provided to all electors and potential candidates.

They also demanded that the list of PCC delegates should be made public in a transparent manner.

Addressing the concerns of the five MPs, Mistry said those seeking to contest the poll can check the names of 10 delegates from the list. "Once the nomination is signed and handed over to the Chief Returning Officer," they will get the entire list of the delegates, he said in a letter to the MPs. "If anyone desires to get nominations from ten supporters from different States, the list of all 9000+ delegates will be available in my office at AICC, Delhi from 20th September (11 am to 6 pm), before they file their nomination on 24th September," Mistry said in his letter to Tharoor and others. "They can

come and choose their 10 supporters (delegates) from the list and obtain their (delegates) signature for nomination," he said.

The Congress President's election will be held on October 17 and nominations can be filed from September 24 to 30. "This should resolve the anxiety of anybody about the process of filing their nominations without knowing the names of the delegates. Once the nomination is signed and handed over to the Chief Returning Officer, they will get the entire list of the delegates."

"I hope this satisfies the needs of you and other colleagues who have signed the letter. I express my gratitude to Shashi ji for calling and having a conversation with me on the same today," Mistry also said in his letter.

Sharing the letter, Tharoor said on Twitter, "I am pleased that this clarification has come in the form of his constructive reply to our letter (attached). In view of these assurances, I am satisfied."

Many will be glad to move on with an election process that in my view will only strengthen the party," Chidambaram also tweeted. "As a signatory to the letter along with my parliamentary colleagues, I am satisfied with the reply from @MD_Mistryji & I endorse the sentiments of my senior colleague @ShashiTharoor."

Mistry said those who want to file a nomination should check if they have a delegate identity card available with them. Only people with valid identity cards will be allowed to sign on the nomination papers for the position of the Congress President, Mistry said in his letter.

PIL filed in SC against remission given to 11 convicts in Bilkis case

Agencies: A Public Interest Litigation has been filed in the Supreme Court against the remission granted to the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case by a former woman police officer, a former woman Indian Foreign Service Officer, and a renowned academic with expertise on issues of public policy and governance.

The petition has been filed by Dr Meeran Chadha Borwankar (former IPS officer), Madhu Badhuri (former IFS officer), and activist Jagdeep Chokkar.

A bench comprising Justices Ajay Rastogi and BV Nagarathna tagged the petition, along with the earlier petitions regarding the issue. Advocate Vrinda Grover appeared for the petitioners.

The petition has prayed for the setting aside of the remission order which directed the premature release from Godhra sub-jail of all 11 convicts who had been found guilty of the gangrape of Bilkis Bano and two others, and also convicted for murdering seven persons of her family including a 3 days' old infant and a 3 and a half year old girl child, during the targeted communal violence in the State of Gujarat in 2002.

The Petition also calls upon the need for transparency in the process of grant of remission or premature release, especially when the concerned individuals are convicts in hate crimes that caused not only "irreparable personal harm and injury to the victim-survivor, but also ruptured the chord of social harmony and left a deep gashing wound on society in rem." It states that the order for the early release of the convicts raises serious questions of legal-

ity and propriety, especially in view of the heinous and gruesome crime of targeted gangrape and murder of Muslims, including the barbaric killing of a 3 day old infant and a 3 and a half year old girl child and that the said order is wholly without jurisdiction, lacks authority of law and has been passed in flagrant violation of the mandate of Section 432(2) Cr.P.C.

"Communally targeted hate crime in the form of multiple gangrapes and seven murders, in a manner as diabolical as the present case, is an offence against society at large, and no reasonable person can come to a different conclusion unless they are acting in a malafide and arbitrary manner."

Such acts of reprieve when coming from the state executive send a wrong message to society, where sexual offenders are emboldened and the society turns further unsafe for women."

Additionally, the petitioner draws attention to news reports which provide that families of Muslims from the victim-survivor's village have started leaving the village in fear after the convicts were released. It states that the entire process of granting remission was rather opaque.

"The opacity with which the entire process was carried out, and continues to be so even today, does not instill public faith and confidence in the criminal justice system. There is a need to provide for guidance and transparency in such situations, where the State discloses its reasons and the relevant material it has relied on, to exercise its discretion in ordering premature release."



Military station in Arunachal named after Rawat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

General Bipin Rawat, the first Chief of Defence Staff(CDS) who died in a helicopter crash in December last year, was honoured on Saturday by naming a military station after him in Kibithu, Arunachal Pradesh. A road leading to the station was also dedicated to him.

The military station in Kibithu was named after General Rawat as he had served there as a Colonel, officials said here. The military camp is important guarding the Line of Actual Control(LAC). Kibithu is a circle under Ajanaw district and is a small hamlet on the banks of the Lohit valley.

General Rawat commanded his Battalion 5/11 Gorkha Rifles as a Colonel at Kibithu from 1999-2000 and contributed immensely in strengthening the security structure of the area. His vision and foresight were instrumental in implementing the infrastructural development and social growth in the area which greatly benefitted the local populace, officials said.

His untimely demise left an irreplaceable void in the country. To honour his selfless service, a solemn dedication ceremony was held at Kibithu on Saturday at the behest of the State Government.



The event was graced by Governor Brigadier(retired)B D Mishra, Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Eastern Command chief Lt General R P Kalita, General Rawat's daughters Kritika and Tarini besides civil and military dignitaries.

During the ceremony, Kibithu Military Camp was renamed as General Bipin Rawat Military Garrison wherein a grand gate built in local traditional architectural style was inaugurated by the Governor. The 22 Kms road stretch from Walong to Kibithu was dedicated as General Bipin Rawat Marg by the chief minister.

A majestic life size mural of the General was also unveiled. The event was witnessed by citizens of Kibithu and Walong. The dedication ceremony has further synergized Civil – Military relations and is a befitting tribute to the first CDS



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates 'Shri Tanot Mandir Complex' project under Border Tourism Development Work, on the premises of the Tanot Mata temple, in Jaisalmer

Stress, depression may increase risk of long Covid: Researchers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

Most of those who went through psychological distress like anxiety, depression, worry, and perceived stress before Covid-19 struck them, happened to develop Long Covid, a study published in The JMMA Psychiatry said, suggesting that physical health conditions like smoking, asthma, and other health behaviours were not only the main reasons for Covid-19.

The study by researchers at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health reinforces the need to increase public awareness of the importance of mental health and to get mental health care for people who need it, including increasing the supply of mental health clinicians and improving access to care.

"We were surprised by how strongly psychological distress before a Covid-19 infection was associated with an increased risk of long Covid," said Siwen Wang, a researcher in the Department of Nutrition at Harvard Chan School who led the study.

"Distress was more strongly associated with developing long Covid than physical health risk factors such as obesity, asthma, and hypertension."

To determine the effects of psychological distress before Covid-19 infection on developing long Covid, Wang and her colleagues enrolled more than 54,000 people in April 2020.

At the beginning of the



study, the researchers asked the participants about their psychological distress. Over the following year, more than 3,000 participants contracted COVID-19, and the researchers asked participants about their Covid-19 symptoms and symptom duration.

After analyzing the responses and comparing those who developed long Covid to those who did not, the researchers determined that distress before Covid-19 infection, including depression, anxiety, worry, perceived stress, and loneliness, was associated with a 32per cent-46per cent increased risk of long Covid. These types of psychological distress were also associated with 15per cent-51per cent greater risk of daily life impairment due to long Covid.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, about 20per cent of American adults who have had Covid-19 have developed long Covid, which is defined as experiencing Covid-19-related symptoms, such as fatigue, brain fog, or respiratory, heart, neu-

Army chief visits Ladakh amid India-China disengagement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

A day after India and China agreed to complete the disengagement process from the stand-off site in Gogra-Hot Springs by Monday, Army chief General Manoj Pande is now visiting Ladakh to take stock of the situation and operational readiness to meet any challenge.

He is on a two-day tour of the region and is likely to visit some forward posts at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) there.

He will be briefed by the operational commanders about the status of the ongoing withdrawal of troops by both the countries from Patrolling Point-15 at Gogra-Hot Springs. The face-off there persisted for more than two years.

Besides reviewing the security scenario in the backdrop of the disengagement, Pande will also witness Exercise 'Parvat Prahar'.

General Manoj Pande has proceeded on a two-day visit to Ladakh sector wherein he will witness Exercise Pravat Prahar, the army tweeted. His visit comes after India and China on Thursday announced mutual disengagement from



Patrolling Point-15. A day later they agreed to complete the pull back process by Monday. The two armies will also dismantle temporary structures raised there during the stand-off lasting more than two years.

Announcing the schedule of disengagement, ministry of external affairs said spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said on Friday, 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.

It has been 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. The agreement ensures that the

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 mutually agreed to take the talks forward and resolve the remaining issues along LAC and restore peace and tranquility in India-China border areas."

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.

India has all along maintained that status quo is the prerequisite for restoring normalcy at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. It means the Chinese troops have to return to their bases as existing prior to May 2020. Stand-offs had stared then leading to a bloody brawl

in the Galwan valley in June that year. Soon, the entire LAC in Ladakh saw massive build up of forces by both the sides at various friction points leading to tension in the border region. The latest disengagement or withdrawal of troops from both the sides from the friction points is the fourth one. The first withdrawal took place at the Pangong Tso(lake)in February 2021. Incidentally, the face-off at the lake was the first one in 2020 triggering tension all along the LAC in Ladakh.

The second disengagement became effective at Patrolling Point-17 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area in August last year besides withdrawal of troops from the Galwan valley.

The two sides had agreed to maintain a no-patrolling zone in these areas as a confidence building measure. Now, the armies of the two countries maintain a buffer zone of three to ten kms on either side of the LAC in these sectors to avoid any confrontation. However, stand-offs still persist at the Depsang valley and Demchok.

At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are deployed at the LAC in Ladakh for the last two years with heavy weapons.

PM congratulates British PM Truss on assuming office

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to British Prime Minister Elizabeth Truss to congratulate her on assuming office and appreciated her role in furthering bilateral relations.

"The two leaders discussed various issues of bilateral interest including the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap 2030, ongoing FTA negotiations, defence & security cooperation, and the people-to-people ties between both countries," a statement from the External Affairs Ministry said.

The prime minister also conveyed deep condolences to the royal family and the people of the UK on the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. Truss had assumed office as British Prime



Minister on Tuesday. During the phone call with Truss, Modi also appreciated her contributions to the India-Britain bilateral relationship in her previous roles as Trade Secretary and Foreign Secretary.

Both leaders committed to further strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Britain.

Central Govt's scheme for students to be replicated

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA
■ NEW DELHI

Taking a cue from the Centre's policy to offer internship to graduates and Post Graduates at Central Government Ministries and departments for more learning, the Auroville Foundation is all set to replicate the scheme for students, college pass-outs, and technical or non-technical graduates interning, volunteering and visiting its pristine campus at Auroville town near Chennai.

The program is being launched in line with the Auroville Charter which says "Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual research for a living embodiment of an actual human unity".

"The Auroville Internship and Volunteering is committed to welcoming students who wish to participate in a project that meets one of Auroville's needs, or those aspiring to do their own project within Auroville in a self-financed mode.

The premises will certainly offer the best of atmosphere, clean air amidst the first of its kind sustainable model city called the Auroville which is inhabited in a lush green environment," said Jayanti S Ravi, Secretary, Auroville Foundation, which is mentored by the Union Education Ministry.

A 1991-batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, Jayanti is herself a scientist who happens to be a vocalist, thinker and author, who is "committed" to restore the original vision, mission and legacy of the Auroville Foundation ever since she took charge of the over five-decade-old institution almost a year



Auroville Foundation secretary Jayanti S Ravi inaugurating an exhibition on the campus with the inmates

ago. "I have a passion to keep on doing new things wherever I have taken charge in my administrative career and have been fortunate enough to get full guidance and support from the Governing Board, the International Advisory Council, the working groups and the Government always," said Jayanti who was in the national Capital to hold a series of meetings with the related Ministries.

Sources in the Education Ministry, however, said since the Auroville Foundation has limited financial resources and expenses are borne by the Central government, there would not be any kind of stipend for the internship period. "We can help carry out a Volunteering or Internship project on a specific topic, related to Auroville and rooted in an Auroville activity."

A dedicated team at the ATDC (Auroville Town Development Council) and SAVI will study the intern seeker's specific aptitude, academic qualifications, requirements and provide the candidate with necessary conditions to facili-

tate their work within premises on-site," Jayanti said. Besides this, the Foundation has started a series of programmes and events including short film and essay competitions, and several cultural activities to mark the 150th birth anniversary celebration of iconic social reformer Sri Aurobindo, on whose ideals the Foundation was established by an Act of Parliament in 1988.

The ongoing city exhibition and cultural programs are a part of Invocation- the Gnostic Festival. This has had the presence and participation of Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Spiritual leader M, D K Karthikeyan, former head of CBI & NHRC, noted artist Ms Anita Ratnam, Yoga Srinivasan and Aavishkar Garba group, and noted artiste Gangai Amaran among many others. Founded in 1968 by Mirra Alfassa — known as 'The Mother' — Auroville currently has a strength of 3,200 inmates staying at a 3,300-acre green campus. Officials said the Modi Government is committed to expand Auroville into a 'city' in line with its existing Master Plan.

Queen featured on several currencies. Now what?

AP ■ LONDON

Queen Elizabeth II has been depicted on British banknotes and coins for decades. Her portrait also has been featured on currencies in dozens of other places around the world, in a reminder of the British empire's colonial reach.

So what happens next after her death this week? It will take time for the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries to swap out the monarchs on their money.

But that doesn't mean the bills don't work — they do.

Here's a look at what is next for the paper cash featuring the late queen:



SWITCHING MONARCHS

The queen's portrait on British notes and coins is expected to be replaced by a likeness of the new King Charles III, but it won't be immediate.

"Current banknotes featuring the image of Her Majesty The Queen will continue to be legal tender," the Bank of England said. An announcement on existing paper money issued by the UK's central bank will be made after the official 10-day mourning period has ended, it said.

The Royal Mint, which is

the official maker of British coins, said all coins with her portrait "remain legal tender and in circulation," with more information to come later.

"As we respect this period of respectful mourning, we continue to strike coins as usual," the Royal Mint said on its website.

With 4.7 billion UK banknotes worth 82 billion pounds (\$95 billion) in circulation and about 29 billion coins, British money bearing the queen's image will likely be in circulation for years.

"Rather than all of the cur-

rent coins and notes being handed in, the process will be a gradual one and many of the coins featuring portraits of Queen Elizabeth II will remain in circulation for many years to come," according to Coin Expert, a British coin research website.

After Charles takes the crown at his coronation, a new portrait will need to be taken to use on redesigned notes and coins, the website said.

Coins featuring him will show him facing to the left, replacing the queen's rightward gaze in line with tradition

Paddington bear, sandwich laid outside Queen's residence in touching tribute

PTI ■ LONDON

was 96.

For the uninitiated, the tribute was made in reference to the Queen's conversation with Paddington Bear, a much-loved fictional character, during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, according to The Evening Standard newspaper.

The Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II was the international celebration this year marking the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne on February 6, 1952.

dating to the 17th century. It dictates monarchs be shown in profile and in opposite direction to their predecessors.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES?

Other nations' currencies that feature the queen — from Australian, Canadian and Belizean dollars — also will be updated with the new monarch, but the process could take longer, because "it is much easier to enforce a new design in the country where it originates, rather than in other countries where different juris-

diction may take place," the Coin Expert website said.

The Bank of Canada said its current \$20 banknote, made of synthetic polymer, is designed "to circulate for years to come."

"There is no legislative requirement to change the design within a prescribed period when the Monarch changes," the Bank of Canada said.

In general, when a new portrait subject is chosen for Canadian money, the process begins with drawing up a fresh design, and a new note is ready to be issued "a few years later," the bank said.

Biden: Industry choosing US over China & Japan to manufacture chips



PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Global chips manufacturing industry is opting for the United States over countries like China and Japan to set up their plants, President Joe Biden said as he announced two major investments by these companies here.

"China, Japan, South Korea, the European Union — all these places are investing tens of billions of dollars to attract chip manufacturers to their countries. But industry leaders are choosing us, the United States, because they see America is back and

entire industry. As a result, over 30 years ago, America had more than 30 per cent of the global chip production," the president asserted.

"Then something happened. America manufacturing, the backbone of our economy, got hollowed out. Companies moved jobs overseas, especially from the industrial Midwest. And as a result, today we are down to producing barely 10 per cent of the world's chips, despite leading in chip research and design," he said.

"And as we saw during the coronavirus pandemic, when factories that make these chips shut down, the global economy comes to a halt, driving up costs for families and everyone not just here, but around the world. In fact, one third of the core inflation last year was due to higher prices of automobiles because of the shortage of the semiconductors needed to build those automobiles," he said.

5 killed, 7 missing in flash flood, landslide in Nepal



PTI ■ KATHMANDU

At least five people were killed and seven others went missing in incidents of landslide and flash flood triggered by heavy rainfall in Darchula district of far-western Nepal, police said on Saturday.

Due to incessant rains since Friday night, two people were killed in floods in Mahakali and Lasku Rivers and three others were buried in landslides, police said.

Six people have sustained injuries while seven others are missing.

A joint team of Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and Army has been mobilised to carry out search for the missing people.



5 dead after NZ boat flips in possible whale strike

AP ■ WELLINGTON

Five people died Saturday in New Zealand after the small charter boat they were aboard capsized, authorities say, in what may have been a collision with a whale. Another six people aboard the boat were rescued.

Police said the 8.5-metre (28-foot) boat overturned near the South Island town of Kaikoura. Police said they were continuing to investigate the cause of the accident.

Kaikoura Police Sergeant Matt Boyce described it as a devastating and unprecedented event.

"Our thoughts are with everyone involved, including the victims and their families, their local communities, and emergency services personnel," Boyce said.

He said police divers had recovered the bodies of all those who had died. He said all

HK therapists sentenced to 19 months for books deemed seditious



AP ■ HONG KONG

A Hong Kong court sentenced five speech therapists to nearly two years in prison Saturday for their role in the publication of children's books deemed seditious.

The penalties are the latest sign of China's hard line against free speech and any sign of political opposition in the city following the 2019 anti-Government protests.

Beijing responded to the months long demonstrations by imposing a sweeping National Security Law and disqualifying, imprisoning or silencing political opponents, many of whom have sought asylum abroad.

The five defendants have already been jailed for more than a year and may be eligible for early release under the terms of the 19-month sentence handed down Saturday. They had pleaded not guilty but were convicted of sedition Wednesday after they printed a series of children's books about sheep and wolves that a court said was aimed at inciting hatred against authorities.



Judge restores oil lease on land sacred to US, Canada tribes

AP ■ BILLINGS (US)

A federal judge ordered the Biden administration to reinstate a drilling lease that has been in dispute for decades on land near the Blackfoot Indian Reservation that is considered sacred to Native American tribes in the US and Canada.

The 10-square-mile (25-square-kilometer) oil and gas lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area of northwestern Montana was first issued in 1982. It was cancelled in 2016 under then-US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, at the request of the Blackfoot tribes and conservation groups.

There have been efforts to declare the area a national monument or make it a cultural heritage area, and tribal leaders have bitterly opposed drilling in recent decades.

But US District Judge Richard Leon on Friday said Jewell lacked the authority to withdraw the lease so many years after it was sold and after several prior studies examined the environmental and other impacts of drilling in the area.

He ordered Interior Department officials to reinstate

the lease and a issue a drilling permit to Solenex LLC, the Louisiana company that holds the lease.

"It is time to put an end to this interminable, and insufferable, bureaucratic chess match," Leon wrote in his 36-page decision.

The Badger-Two-Medicine is adjacent to Glacier National Park and is the site of the creation story of the Blackfoot tribes of southern Canada and Montana's Blackfeet Nation. The Blackfeet had intervened in the case on the side of the government, and tribal Historic Preservation Officer John Murray said the fight against drilling would continue.

"We have lived under this kind of reckless threat to our sacred lands for decades, and we will never surrender to roads and drill rigs in the Badger-Two Medicine," Murray said.

Solenex founder Sidney Longwell, who died last year, bought the lease but never drilled on the site. Instead, Longwell confronted major bureaucratic delays within the US departments of Interior and Agriculture that prompted the company to sue in 2013.



Flowers and balloons for Queen Elizabeth II are placed at the gates outside Buckingham Palace, in London. Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and a rock of stability across much of a turbulent century, died on Thursday, after 70 years on the throne. She was 96

Russia 'taken by surprise' as Ukraine advances in the east

AP ■ KYIV (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian officials on Saturday claimed major gains in a counteroffensive against Russian forces in the country's northeast, saying Ukrainian troops had cut off vital supplies to front-line hotspot.

The reports followed several days of apparent advances by Ukraine south of Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, in what could become the biggest battlefield success for Ukrainian forces since they thwarted a Russian attempt to seize the capital of Kyiv at the start of the nearly seven-month war.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleh Nikolenko suggested the Ukrainian troops had retaken Kupiansk, a town along the main supply route to Izium, long a focus on the Russian front line and the site of heavy artillery and other fighting. Nikolenko tweeted a photo showing soldiers of the 92nd Separate Mechanized Battalion of Ukraine in front of what he said was a government building in Kupiansk, 73 kilometers (45 miles) north of Izium.

The Security Service of Ukraine, known as the SBU, hours later posted a message which it said showed its forces in Kupiansk, further suggesting it had been seized by Ukrainian troops. The Ukrainian military didn't immediately confirm entering the town, a railway hub which Russia seized in February, when its mayor surrendered to avoid civilian casualties.

Later Saturday, videos on social media began to circulate also appearing to show Ukrainian forces on the rural outskirts of Izium at a road-side checkpoint. A large statue bearing the city's name could be seen in the footage. Ukrainian forces did not acknowledge holding the city.



Earlier Saturday, the British Defense Ministry told reporters it believed the Ukrainians had advanced as much as 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Kharkiv, and described Russian forces around Izium as "increasingly isolated."

"Russian forces were likely taken by surprise. The sector was only lightly held and Ukrainian units have captured or surrounded several towns," the British military said, adding that the loss of Kupiansk would greatly affect Russian supply lines in the area.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, likewise referenced sweeping Ukrainian gains, estimating that Kyiv has seized around 2,500 square kilometers (965 square miles) in its northeastern breakthrough. The institute said it appeared that "disorganized Russian forces (were) caught in the rapid Ukrainian advance." They cited social media images of apparent Russian prisoners seized in the advance around Izium and surrounding towns.

California: Drought, record heat, fires and now maybe floods

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Californians tried to weather the extremes of a changing climate on Friday, as a punishing heat wave that has helped fuel deadly wild fires had the state teetering on the edge of blackouts for a 10th consecutive day while a tropical storm barreled ashore with the promise of cooler temperatures but also possible flooding.

The abrupt swing in conditions even whipsawed weather junkies.

"This is perhaps the singularly most unusual and extreme weather week in quite some time in California — and that is saying something.




Whew," Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at the University of California, Los Angeles, wrote on his western weather blog.

While the rains may be welcome in the drought-plagued state and will bring relief with more normal tem-

peratures, deluges and more brutal heat waves are forecast to become regular fixtures as climate change warms the planet and weather-related disasters become more extreme.

"We'll see these heat waves continue to get hotter and hotter, longer and longer, more wildfire-plagued," said Jonathan Overpeck, dean of the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability.

"The odds of really intense precipitation are going up. And so that's why we are worried about flooding associated with this remnant hurricane."



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R.O. No. 630
e-Tender Notice
09.09.2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below :
Tender No. : 10/EE/(CM)/DDN/2022-23
Name of work/supply/services etc: Supply & Installation of Godrej make furniture at Multi-storey Corporate Office Building at UJJWAL Campus, Dehradun.
Estimated cost :- Rs. 93,05,753.00 (Exclusive of GST).
Date of availability of bid document on website: From 17.00 hrs. of 09.09.2022
Last date for submission of bids on website: Upto 17.00 hrs. of 01.10.2022
For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"
Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEMAYA LIMITED
(Formerly: Sunrise Agro Products Limited)
CIN: L01111DL1985PLC021268
Regd. Office: 39 BASEMENT, NEHRU PLACE, NEAR ANSAL TOWER, NEW DELHI SOUTH DELHI- 110019
Email: semayalimited@gmail.com, Ph: 011-41097122, Website: www.semayalimited.com

NOTICE W.R.T. APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF 37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Notice is hereby given that the financials of the Company for the year ending 31st March 2022 have not been prepared Due to delay in statutory audit, the finalisation of audit report is taking more time and that causes delay in finalizing the financials causing which the Company is unable to convene AGM and shall get the accounts prepared, audited and placed before the shareholders accordingly. It shall not be possible for the Company to hold its Annual General Meeting for the Financial year 2021-2022 within the time limit as prescribed under Section 96 of the Companies Act, 2013. The Board of Directors of the Company in their meeting dated 07th September, 2022 has taken a decision to seek the approval of the Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana for extension of the date of 37th Annual General Meeting w.r.t. Financial Year 2021-2022. In light of the above an application is being forwarded to the Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana seeking a reasonable extension of time for calling and holding of the 37th Annual General Meeting of the Company after 30th September, 2022, the due date.
A copy of this publication shall also be filed with the Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited.

For Semaya Limited
(Formerly: Sunrise Agro Products Limited)
Sd/-
Shafai Verma
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: 09th September, 2022

India's rice exports may fall by 4-5 million tonnes post ban on broken rice, 20% duty

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's rice exports could fall by 4-5 million tonnes this fiscal year due to imposition of ban on broken rice as well as export duty on non-basmati rice, except for parboiled grains, exporters said.

India, which commands 40 per cent share in the global rice trade, exported 21.23 million tonnes of rice in 2021-22 fiscal as against 17.78 million tonnes in the previous year. Before the COVID pandemic, the exports were 9.51 million tonnes in the 2019-20 fiscal.

During April-August period of the current financial year, the government data showed that the country has already exported 9.35 million tonnes as against 8.36 million tonnes in the year-ago period.

"The exports may fall to 16-17 million tonnes in this financial year because of ban on broken rice and 20 per cent export duty," All India Rice Exporters Association (AIREA) former president Vijay Setia told PTI.

He said the country was exporting non-basmati rice for USD 380-400 per tonne, lower than the rate of shipments from other countries.

The price realisation is



"expected to improve at par with our competitors" after these decisions, Setia said.

On Friday, food secretary Sudhanshu Pandey explained the rationale behind the ban on exports of broken rice.

There has been an "absolutely abnormal" rise in shipments of broken rice and the broken grains were also not available in sufficient quantity for animal feed as well as ethanol blending programme, Pandey

had said.

"During April to August this fiscal, the export share of broken rice increased to 22.78 per cent as compared to the 1.34 per cent in the corresponding period of 2019-20," the secretary had said.

India exported 3.89 million tonnes of broken rice in 2021-22 fiscal and out of that China imported 1.58 million tonnes of broken rice last fiscal year.

Exports of broken rice stood

at 2.06 million tonnes in 2020-21, just 2,70,000 tonnes in 2019-20 and 1.22 million tonnes in 2018-19.

In April-August period of this fiscal year, the export of broken rice increased to 2.13 million tonnes from 1.58 million tonnes in the year-ago period. "Export policy of broken rice ...Is amended from 'free' to 'prohibited'," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated September 8, 2022.

The notification comes into effect from Friday, September 9, 2022.

As per the DGFT notification, provisions under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 regarding the transitional arrangement shall not be applicable to this notification. It added that during September 9-15, certain consignments of broken rice will be allowed to be exported.

The government has made no policy change in parboiled rice so that farmers continue to get good remunerative prices. There is neither a ban nor customs duty on exports of basmati rice.

Shipments of basmati rice fell to 3.94 million tonne in last fiscal from 4.63 million tonne in

2020-21. However, during April-August of this fiscal, the exports of premium basmati rice went up to 1.82 million tonnes as against nearly 1.7 million tonnes in the year-ago period.

In non-basmati category, exports of parboiled rice increased to 7.43 million tonnes in FY22 from 6.17 million tonnes in the previous fiscal, while shipments of non-parboiled rice rose to 5.21 million tonnes from 4.23 million tonnes.

The uptick in domestic wholesale and retail prices of rice was also one of the reasons cited by the government for imposing restrictions.

The wholesale prices have risen by 8 per cent to Rs 3,291 per quintal as on September 7 from Rs 3,041 per quintal a year ago, while the retail prices have gone up by 6.38 per cent to Rs 37.5 per kg from Rs 35.25 per kg.

Animal feed prices too have also gone up. Maize price increased from Rs 19 per kg on January 1, 2022 to Rs 24 per kg on September 8, 2022. Broken rice price has also increased from Rs 16 per kg to Rs 22 per kg during the same period.

On Thursday, the government imposed a 20 per cent export duty on non-basmati rice except for parboiled rice.

According to a notification by the revenue department, an export duty of 20 per cent has been imposed on 'rice in husk (paddy or rough)' and 'husked (brown) rice'. The export duty comes into effect from September 9.

The ban on broken rice and export duty of 20 per cent on non-basmati rice, except for pa-boiled, have been imposed amid concern over likely fall in rice output.

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, according to the agriculture ministry data released on Friday.

Paddy was sown in 414.31 lakh hectares (LH) in the year-ago period, the data showed. It is the main kharif crop and its sowing begins with the onset of the southwest monsoon in June and harvesting from October onwards.

India's total rice production during 2021-22 crop year (July-June) is estimated at a record 130.29 million tonnes (111.76 million tonnes in kharif and 18.53 million tonnes in rabi season) as against 124.37 million tonnes in the previous year.

Registration of homes in Hyderabad region down 36% in August

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Registration of residential properties in Hyderabad region fell 36 per cent year-on-year to 5,181 units on lower demand, according to Knight Frank India.

In August 2021, 8,144 housing units were registered in the Hyderabad residential market that includes four districts -- Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajigiri, Rangareddy and Sangareddy.

Medchal-Malkajigiri district accounted for 44 per cent of the home sales registrations, followed by Rangareddy district at 38 per cent. The share of Hyderabad district in total registrations was recorded at 14 per cent in August 2022.

The total value of properties transacted in August 2022 stood at Rs 2,657.8 crore, compared to Rs 3,809 crore in the same month last year.

Since the beginning of the year, the city has witnessed sales of 46,078 residential units with total worth of Rs 22,680 crores.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India said, "August 2022 witnessed an increase of 20 per cent MoM (month-on-month) in both residential registrations as well as state earnings from home registrations, while



observing a reduction of 36 per cent on YoY (year-on-year) basis."

"Despite the impact of external factors including an increase in interest rates and price, the Hyderabad residential market continues to experience robust demand trends. Going ahead, we expect home demand to remain stable as end-users continue to be drawn to home purchases backed by job security, rising household incomes and savings," he added.

As per the data, residential units in the price band of Rs 25-50 lakhs constituted 55 per cent of the total sales in August 2022, which is an increase from a share of 37 per cent in August 2021.

Demand in the less than Rs 25 lakh ticket-size, however, weakened with its share constituting 16 per cent compared to 35 per cent a year ago.

India opts out of IPEF's trade pillar; to wait for final contours

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

India has as of now opted out of the trade pillar of the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), but has decided to join the remaining three subjects pertaining to supply chains, clean economy and fair economy.

Briefing media after the conclusion of the two-day IPEF ministerial meet here, Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal said that India would continue to engage with the trade track in the IPEF and will wait for the final contours to be decided on the trade pillar before it formally joins that pillar.

"On one pillar which deals primarily with trade, the contours of the framework partic-

ularly, any commitments required on environment, labour, the digital trade, public procurement are certain areas in which a broader consensus has yet to emerge amongst all the nations.

"We have yet to see what benefits member countries will derive and whether any conditionalities on, for example, the environment may discriminate against developing countries who have the imperative to provide low-cost and affordable energy to meet the needs of a growing economy," Goyal has told reporters here.

All the other 13 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for prosperity countries have joined the four pillars — trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy.

A ministerial statement on three subjects — supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy — and a ministerial text on trade pillar was issued after the ministerial meeting.

While India was mentioned in three statements about supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy, there was no mention of India in the ministerial text about the trade pillar.

The IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23 in Tokyo. The 14 IPEF partners represent 40 per cent of global GDP and 28 per cent of global goods and services trade.

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair econo-



my (issues like tax and anti-corruption).

Goyal also said that "India, while continuing to engage with the trade track in the IPEF, will wait for the final contours to be decided before we formally associate with the trade

track".

In the meantime, he said, Indian officials will be participating in the discussions with an open mind and in the best interests of the people and businesses of India.

When asked about the key

areas of concern, he said digital trade, linkage of environment and labour to trade and possible binding commitments of any nature juxtaposed with the benefits that India will receive as a developing economy.

"We believe that certain

responsibilities of the developed world, the developed countries should also be an integral part of any such agreement. And that is a matter which will require deeper engagement and more consultation," he added.

On other three pillars related to supply chains, clean economy and fair economy, India is "very much" comfortable with the final outcome and text and "I have joined the ministerial declaration," he said.

When asked why India opted out of the trade pillar, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai has said that "I would not characterise it as opting out, India is not in the trade pillar right now".

According to the ministerial text on trade pillar: "We, the ministers of the US, Australia,

Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, seek to craft high-standard, inclusive, free, fair and open trade commitments that build upon the rules-based multilateral trading system."

It has stated to deliver tangible benefits to peoples and advancing resilient, broad-based economic connectivity and integration in the Indo-Pacific region. The 13 countries (excluding India) intend to pursue provisions and initiatives related to labour, environment, digital economy, agriculture, competition policy, transparency and good regulatory practices, trade facilitation, inclusivity, and technical assistance and economic cooperation.



Ford employees hope for better severance package at tripartite meeting on Sep 13

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Employees at the factory of auto major Ford here have set their expectations for a positive outcome on the tripartite talks scheduled to be held next week to discuss the severance package offered by the US-based automobile manufacturer.

The development comes in the backdrop of the recent announcement by Ford India which had said that it has continuously made efforts to negotiate a 'fair and reasonable' severance package with the union, spanning 68 meetings including discussions with senior government officials soon after the company's business restructuring exercise was announced in September 2021.

Maintaining that the company always cared for its employees, Ford said its attempts to negotiate a fair severance package did not yield results because of the union's 'unreasonable' demands.

Responding to it, Ford India Employees Union representatives said the company has left out the tax deduction on the severance package as the employees would be receiving a meagre amount despite serving for several years. "The factory has been shut since August 31 and so far no employees are present at the unit now. Only businesses like after sales (service), sale of parts are being done now. We are not even allowed to enter the factory. They are just asking us to accept the offer they have made," a union representative told PTI.

"They have also sent a copy of the severance package settlement as a courier to the residences of the employees so that the family will also accept it," an employee, who has been serving for 19 years at the Maraimalai Nagar factory situated about 50 kilometres from here, said.

On the severance package, he said very few senior employees would receive a good package of about Rs 80 lakh and for people like us who had served for nearly 20 years around Rs 44 lakh but these amounts are without the deduction of taxes.

"Our main point is that the severance package announced by the company is not acceptable. We are discussing on September 13 in the presence of district labour authorities on these issues," the employee said.

According to Ford, "the company has decided to roll out the final severance settlement offer to employees which on average is equivalent to 130 days of gross wages per completed year of service."

The final severance settlement offer communicated by the company exceeds what the applicable statutes call for and is higher than the industry benchmarks, the company said.

"With a cumulative average severance of Rs 41 lakh per employee (from a minimum amount of Rs 33 lakh and a maximum cap of Rs 85 lakh), the final severance settlement offer translates to an average of about 4.6 years-56 month salary for each employee, assuring employees with adequate financial cushion and adequate time to decide their next action," the statement said.

The company strongly encourages employees to accept and sign up for the final severance settlement offer, valid from September 5, 2022 to September 23, 2022, for their own and family's future, the statement said.

Ford also clarified that post the deadline of the severance package, if the company were to retrench workers, the employees would only be entitled to severance pay of 15 days per completed year of service.

"The company continues to provide the employees without placement support as previously communicated," it said.

Referring to it, the employee said, "The intention is for better pay since the future is not bright for people like me. I am 39-years-old and have to take care of my family. There are a lot of people like me (facing this issue). Discussions would be held at the tripartite meeting hoping for a better package".

'ADB will further strengthen partnership with India'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will further strengthen its partnership with India and support the country's development priorities for inclusive growth, an official said.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President Shixin Chen, on his India visit during September 5 - 9, reiterated the multilateral lending agency's commitment to further strengthen its partnership with India.

Chen affirmed ADB's support to the government's development priorities that target the country's fast, green, and inclusive post-COVID-19 economic recovery, ADB said in a release on Saturday. During his visit, Chen met with Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Secretary and ADB Alternate Governor Ajay Seth.

Commending the achieve-

ment of record USD 4.87 billion of ADB lending commitment to India in 2021, including USD 274 million for private sector operations, he discussed future cooperation with the country.

"ADB will continue to work closely with the Government of India to support the government's priorities in reinvigorating economic activity to generate more jobs, improve productivity, and create livelihood opportunities held back by the pandemic," Chen said.

He said to achieve this, ADB will enhance investments in health and education; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises; and public sector management. It will also support India's national flagship initiatives in infrastructure, logistics, urban development, economic corridor development, and green growth.

ADB's current India portfolio comprises 62 ongoing pro-



jects worth USD 14.65 billion across transport, urban, energy, human development, agriculture and natural resources and finance sectors.

ADB aims to help India battle against climate change by serving as the climate bank for Asia and the Pacific, Chen added.

He said the agency's support to climate actions in India will focus on decarbonisation of transport, energy transition, climate change adaptation, air

Akasa Air launches flights on Chennai-Bengaluru route

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Akasa Air on Saturday commenced its operations on the Chennai-Bengaluru route making the state capital the fifth city on its network, the airliner said.

Besides launching two daily flights on the Chennai-Bengaluru sector, the airline also plans to launch services on the Chennai-Kochi with effect from September 26.

"Further expanding its operations from Chennai, the airline will commence one additional daily flight from September 15 on the Mumbai-Chennai route and will add an additional daily flight on the Bengaluru-Chennai route from



September 26," a company statement said.

"We have achieved yet another milestone today with the launch of commercial flights from Chennai, which is the fifth city in our network," company co-founder Praveen Iyer said.

"From today, we will offer double-daily flights in each direction on this new route," Iyer who is also the chief commercial officer said.

Adani Group's open offer for Ambuja Cements, ACC gets lukewarm response from investors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Group's Rs 31,000-crore open offer to acquire 26 per cent additional stakes in Swiss firm Holcim's two Indian listed entities ACC Ltd and Ambuja Cements closed on Friday amid lacklustre response from public shareholders.

According to the latest regulatory filing by ACC Ltd, till 6.40 pm on Friday, around 40.51 lakh equity shares were tendered against the original offer of 4.89 crore shares, which is just 8.28 per cent.

Similarly, for Ambuja Cements only 1.35 per cent of shares were tendered.

According to the latest regulatory updates on Saturday morning, only 6.97 lakh shares



of Ambuja Cements have been tendered in the escrow demat account compared to the original offer for 51.63 crore shares from the public shareholders.

The offer for both companies opened on August 26, 2022.

In May, the Adani Group had made an open offer at Rs 2,300 per share for ACC and Rs 385 per share for Ambuja

Cements Ltd following its deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim's businesses in India for USD 10.5 billion.

The open offer was estimated at over Rs 31,000 crore if fully subscribed.

However, on Friday when the open offer ended, shares of ACC Ltd settled at Rs 2,365 on the BSE, 2.82 per cent higher than the offer price.

Ambuja Cements settled at Rs 453.90 on the BSE, which is 17.89 per cent higher than the offer price.

Though on Friday, which was the last of the open offer, ACC had reported a spurt in volume by more than 2.13 times, while Ambuja Cements traded at a new 52-week high of Rs 484.70 per share.

Salisbury, Ram repeat as US Open men's doubles champions

AP ■ NEW YORK

Joe Salisbury slammed down an over-head to clinch another US Open men's doubles title, raised his arms and hugged partner Rajeev Ram.

There wasn't much of a celebration beyond that. It didn't feel right to the British player while there's so much sadness at home following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

"I think it didn't feel appropriate to be overly celebrating or at least showing that too much, because obviously everybody back home and around the world is in mourning at the moment, and it's a very sad time," Salisbury said on Friday. "Definitely feels a bit strange to be in this situation. Obviously we are very happy with the success that we have had, but, yeah, it's a sad time at the same moment."

Salisbury and Ram became just the second team to repeat as men's doubles champions at the US Open in the professional era with their 7-6 (4) 7-5 victory over Wesley Koolhof and Neal



Skupski.

Salisbury wore a black band around the left sleeve on his shirt, while Skupski, who is also British, wore a black ribbon on his chest. Both teams had played semifinal matches Thursday and learned

of the queen's death on TV shortly after Salisbury and Ram had finished off their victory.

"I haven't really seen much of the news. But incredibly sad for obviously the country and obviously the world for what

she did," Skupski said.

"It was a bit strange, us playing when obviously the country is in mourning. She was a great servant and we will obviously remember that she was an incredible woman."

Salisbury and Skupski are likely to team up to play doubles for Britain next week in Davis Cup. They could face Ram, who is on the US roster that is in the same group.

Salisbury ensured he will remain the No. 1 player in the doubles rankings with his 17th straight U.S. Open win, combining men's and mixed doubles.

This one made he and Ram, the top-seeded team, the only pair other than Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde to go back-to-back in New York since 1968. The Hall of Fame duo from Australia won in 1995 and 1996.

"Obviously if you can kind of emulate them in anything in tennis, it's pretty good company to keep," Ram said.

"I'm sure we will have a discussion about that at some point. It's pretty good for us, I'd say."

Sports in Britain resume, pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

AP ■ LONDON

Wearing black armbands, Test cricketers from England and South Africa held a minute's silence before a bell was chimed once by a high-ranking member of the military at the Oval.

Over to the west of London, golfers from around the world paused their rounds and other pros, officials and caddies gathered on the putting green in front of the first tee at Wentworth to hold a two-minute period of silence, also impeccably observed.

There were moving and respectful tributes to Queen Elizabeth II on Saturday as sports resumed in Britain following a nationwide shutdown Friday as a mark of respect for the monarch of more than 70 years who died at the age of 96 on Thursday.

Professional and grassroots soccer — including the Premier League — decided to call off all matches this weekend to give



an opportunity for participants to mourn the queen's passing.

International cricket and golf returned, though, as did English domestic rugby, on the back of guidance from the government that stated there was no obligation on sports organizations to cancel or reschedule events during the nation's period of mourning.

The 10 minutes before the start of play in the third and deciding cricket test between England and South Africa were dedicated to paying tribute to the queen.

Military walked onto the field of play at the Oval in south London to form a guard of honour, through which the teams walked and lined up either side of the wicket.

Following the minute's silence and the one bell chime, the anthems of both South Africa and England were sung by English soprano Laura Wright. After seven decades of the English anthem "God Save the Queen," now it was an emotionally charged rendition of "God Save the King" rippling around the ground.



Casper Ruud wins 55-shot point to reach US Open semifinals

AP ■ NEW YORK

Casper Ruud claimed a 55-shot point to end the first set of his US Open semifinal while building a big lead against Karen Khachanov and held on for a 7-6 (5) 6-2 5-7 6-2 victory that put him in his second Grand Slam title match of the year.

When it ended on Friday, spectators in Arthur Ashe Stadium called out his name, "Ruuduuud!" — and it sounded sort of as if they were booing, rather than saluting.

Ruud, the runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open in June, is a 23-year-old from Norway who can move from No. 7 to No. 1 in the rankings by winning the championship at Flushing Meadows on Sunday.

"After Roland Garros, I was, of course, extremely happy," Ruud said, "but also humble enough to think that could be my only final of my career."

Well, here he is, back at that stage just a few months later. His opponent in this final on Sunday will be No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain or No. 26 Frances Tiafoe of the United States. Like Ruud, Alcaraz went into Friday with a chance to rise to replace 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev atop the rankings after the tournament.

All four men's semifinalists were making their debuts in that round in New York. That had not happened at the event since 1881, when it absolutely had to: That was the inaugural edition of what was then known as the U.S. Championships.

Ruud is coached by his father, former professional play-

er Christian, and the game plan worked perfectly for most of the day against the 31st-ranked Khachanov, a 6-foot-6 Russian with a powerful serve who eliminated Wimbledon runner-up Nick Kyrgios in five sets in the quarterfinals.

To mitigate the effect of Khachanov's serves, Ruud would stand way behind the baseline to return, then look to dominate exchanges from the baseline. Ruud used flawless footwork for side-to-side defense and found openings to deliver deep groundstrokes that could finish off points.

He came up with occasional brilliance, such as the over-the-shoulder volley winner that put him ahead 6-3 in the tiebreaker. Moments later came the point of the match, on Ruud's third opportunity to end that set. It lasted 75 seconds and contained 19 more strokes than the second-longest rally of these entire two weeks, culminating with a down-the-line backhand by Ruud that drew a netted forehand in response.

Dad smiled. His kid raised both arms and put up two fingers on his right hand. Could have been just the index finger to signify No. 1, which could be next to his name soon.

"We both just refused to do a mistake, knowing how important that point is," Ruud said.

"Towards the end, the pulse was getting very high and the legs were almost shaking."

Khachanov couldn't recall a 55-shot rally in his career, and though he hated to lose it, he was initially encouraged afterward by the way he played at the end of the set.

FIFA chief Infantino, AIFF prez Chaubey discuss infra, grassroots, women's football development in India

PTI ■ DOHA

FIFA boss Gianni Infantino has discussed infrastructure, grassroots, men's and women's football development in India with the newly-elected AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, the world football governing body said.

Infantino held a meeting to personally congratulate Chaubey upon his recent election as president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

The two discussed a wide range of issues concerning men's, women's, youth and grassroots football development in India, FIFA said in a press release.

After being elected as president in the September 2 elections of the AIFF, Chaubey — a former professional football player himself — revealed bold reform plans to develop football in India, with a strong focus on infrastructure, grassroots and women's football.

Speaking after the meeting, Chaubey thanked Infantino for his words of encouragement, and praised the role FIFA plays in developing football across the globe.

"(FIFA's support) is very essential, as they help to promote sport in India," Chaubey said.

"So, that's how we have spoken with the FIFA President and I am honoured that he has given his stamp and I'm happy and looking forward to FIFA and the All India



Football Federation working together to take Indian football to international level.

"Mr Infantino has been really supportive and encouraging, and I hope that we will go a long, long way."

The AIFF is in the final stages of its preparations to host the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, which will be played across three cities and kicks off on October 11 and runs until October 30.

In 2017, India hosted a record-breaking men's edition of the FIFA U-17 World Cup in which more than 1.2 million people attended the matches. Infantino received an update on the preparations ahead of the 16-team tournament.

Chaubey talked about his hopes for the

upcoming tournament, and how he and the FIFA president discussed harnessing the opportunity it creates across his vast country, it said.

"The All India Football Federation, allied with the Government of India, has identified 40 places, 40 cities and areas where this FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup replica will be taken, and then each of the 40 places will have one match, one football match," Chaubey explained.

"We'll ensure that people living across India will come to know about how the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is going to take place, and I'm sure, having a (female) President of India this time and a FIFA Women's World Cup being played, it's going to have a huge impact for Indian women across the globe."

Chaubey, a former goalkeeper who has represented both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal in his playing days, was accompanied by the national federation's new secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran to Qatar, host country for the upcoming FIFA World Cup.

Chaubey was elected as the president of AIFF after beating former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia 33-1 in the September 2 elections.

The 45-year-old Chaubey, a Bharatiya Janta Party leader from West Bengal, is the first former player to be elected as the head of Indian football's governing body.

Augsburg keeper preserves 1-0 win at Bremen amid late drama

AP ■ BREMEN

Augsburg goalkeeper Rafal Gikiewicz saved an injury-time penalty and infuriated Werder Bremen fans by preserving his team's 1-0 win in the Bundesliga.

The game ended with a threat of violence from Bremen fans who stormed from the stand to the advertising hoarding behind Gikiewicz's goal after he put his finger to his lips and gestured in their direction following his save of Marvin Ducksch's penalty in the fourth minute of injury time.

Bremen players appealed to their supporters to stay put and referee Martin Petersen booked Gikiewicz for the alleged provocation.

Augsburg players and coaching staff were already incensed when Petersen awarded the spot kick for Maximilian Bauer's handball. The visitors complained that Bauer had no time or space to avoid the ball



when Ducksch kicked it into his arm. To add to their anger, there was no VAR check of the incident.

Bremen's Niclas Füllkrug earlier had a goal ruled out through VAR for offside in the first half, while Augsburg had Gikiewicz to thank for keeping

the game scoreless until Ermedin Demirovic broke the deadlock in the 63rd minute.

Mergim Berisha crossed for Demirovic to score from close range. It proved to be the winner and it gave Augsburg just its second win from six games. The other four were defeats.

Michelle Obama supports Tiafoe in US Open semis

AP ■ NEW YORK

Michelle Obama waved her arms in the air and yelled, "Let's go, Foel!"

Down on the U.S. Open court below, Frances Tiafoe was pleased to see he had a new fan.

Obama had a seat in the front row behind the baseline to watch the American play Friday night in the semifinals in Arthur Ashe Stadium, giving him a thumbs-up and a shout-out when she was shown on the video screens.

"She sees me and she's actually excited to see me," Tiafoe said.

And to think, he feared he'd made a bad first impression on the former first lady.

Not long after he spotted Obama, even before she was shown to fans, Tiafoe remembered hitting a particularly bad shot.

"I think I shanked a return," he said, recalling that he thought "she thinks I'm a bum. Can't



make a return."

Actually, Tiafoe gave her a good show, taking No. 3 seed Carlos Alcaraz to a fifth set before falling 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

That ended the deepest run by an American man in the U.S. Open since Andy Roddick reached the 1996 final, and left Tiafoe one win shy of becoming the first Black man from the U.S. In a major final since MaliVai Washington was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 1996.

Injured Bopanna pulls out of David Cup tie vs Norway

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran doubles ace Rohan Bopanna has pulled out of India's upcoming Davis Cup tie against Norway due to a knee injury. India will play an away tie on September 16 and 17.

The other members of the squad are Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramathan, Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Yuki Bhambri and Mukund Sasikumar.

"I have had to make a tough call this week against my constant love & devotion towards representing the country & withdraw from the Davis Cup team against Norway. I have an inflammation on my knee & have been advised to rest it before I start competing again," Bopanna tweeted.

It remains to be seen if Saketh Myneni is picked for the doubles tie in place of Bopanna as he has recently forged a successful pairing with Yuki Bhambri at the Challenger level.

FIFA U-17 Women's WC: Odisha CM launches host city logo

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday launched the official host city logo of the state for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. Bhubaneswar is one of the three host cities.

The tournament, scheduled to be held between October 11 and October 30 across Odisha, Goa and Maharashtra, will be the first FIFA women's competition to be held in India.

Expressing his delight at the launch event, Patnaik said, "Odisha is emerging as a leading sports destination and hosting the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 is a momentous opportunity for our state.



"The official Host City Logo launch of Odisha is an important milestone which also signifies the progress of women's football. We are excited to host the best young female footballers from across the world and especially, the Indian team who will be

playing all their group stage games at the Kalinga Stadium.

"As the Indian team makes their first appearance in a FIFA women's competition, I encourage the people of Odisha to show their support in strong numbers at the stadium."

Unbeaten Lens tops French league after beating Troyes 1-0

AP ■ PARIS

Centre back Kevin Danso led Lens to a 1-0 win against Troyes and the unbeaten northern side moved to the top of the French league.

Danso escaped his marker in the 39th minute and headed the ball home from Przemyslaw Frankowski's free kick on Friday.

Lens created more chances after the interval but could not find a cutting edge.

Lens was off to an excellent start with five wins in its seven opening games, drawing the other two. Franck Haise's players moved one point above Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille, which both have one match in hand. Lens was undefeated in its last 15 league games dating to April.

Troyes remained in 11th place, 10 points off the pace.

PSG hosts Brest on Saturday and Marseille plays against Lille at Stade Velodrome.

Berlin nixes German soccer fans' usual huge World Cup party

AP ■ BERLIN

FIFA's decision to hold the World Cup in Qatar in winter means thousands of German soccer supporters will have to do without their traditional huge "fan mile" viewing party at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

Berlin's local environment authority told news agency DPA on Saturday that it was unlikely to approve the special exemptions needed to hold such an event, while the chief executive of the organizing company said it wasn't feasible this year.

Willy Kausch, the CEO of the K.I.T. Group, said it was difficult to organize the fan mile during the Christmas market season and that uncertainties caused by the coronavirus pandemic added to the obstacles.

"We decided not to do it," Kausch said.



The fan mile had become a key part of German fans' World Cup experience — a mile-long stretch of food and drink vendors with large screens showing games — attracting hundreds of thousands of supporters during previous World Cup tournaments.

Around 9 million supporters took part in the fan mile when Germany hosted the tournament in 2006. When

Germany won the World Cup in Brazil in 2014, Joachim Löw's team presented the trophy to supporters at the fan mile in front of Brandenburg Gate. It last hosted the fan mile in 2018, when the mood was a bit more subdued as Germany flopped as defending champion.

FIFA decided in 2015 to move the World Cup — traditionally held in summer — to winter due to the searing heat in Qatar, which was awarded the tournament in 2010 amid allegations of corruption. U.S. Prosecutors said bribes were paid to FIFA executive committee members to gain their votes for Qatar.

German soccer federation president Theo Zwanziger strongly criticized the decision at the time and was later subject to a Qatar-funded multiyear covert influence operation run by former CIA operatives to try and change his mind. It failed.

Asia Cup final: Pakistan stand in way of Lanka cricket's rebirth

PTI ■ DUBAI

Having witnessed a socio-economic crisis coupled with worst democratic turmoil in its history, the Sri Lankan cricket team would like to provide its countrymen with an emotional catharsis if it happens to beat a much superior Pakistan in the Asia Cup final here on Sunday.

Technically, Sri Lanka are the hosts of this Asia Cup but call it a cruel twist of fate, the tournament had to be shifted to UAE for security reasons.

It could have been infinitely sweeter had Dasun Shanaka and his men would have played the final at the iconic Khetarama Stadium (now Premadasa Stadium) but the kind of performance they have put in the Super 4s would make anyone believe that it would be anything but easy for Babar Azam's side.

Whether its the Asian Cricket Council or general public of Dubai, everyone wanted an Indo-Pak final but the gutsy cricketers from the island nation have earned their right to be in the summit clash.

And if that wasn't enough, Friday's easy win against their final opponents was the kind of warning signal that will keep Pakistan on tenterhooks.

But at Dubai, buoyed by a sizeable Pakistani population bursting its lungs out, the Mohammed Rizwans, Mohammed Nawazs and Naseem Shahs would like to lift their games on the big day, which has been a tradition that is so relatable with the legacy of their national teams over the years.

But in Sri Lanka, they have an opposition that could be more than handful and a team that has certainly redeemed itself in a format where they had become world champions back in 2014.



Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

The fortunes of Sri Lanka cricket nose-dived just like the country's eco-system in general, with poor selection and internal politics in the board not helping their cause either.

The team that Shanaka led during their away series in India some six months back had more or less same bunch of players but what Sri Lanka had done successfully is change their T20 gameplan, which is now filled with aggression.

Even without Dushmantha Chamera, the bowling attack has looked potent but there is one area where Rahul Dravid and the Indian

team could take a note of is how impactful Sri Lanka's top five batters have been.

Two right handed openers, Kusal Mendis and Pathum Nissanka have been positivity personified at the top while likes of Danushka Gunathilaka, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Shanaka himself and Chamikaatne Karunaratne have all made runs that matter.

A case in point was how they chased down a target of 70 odd against Afghanistan, where none of the batters scored more than 35 but all of them made those runs at a strike-rate of 150 plus.

In the five games so far, the Sri Lankan batters have hit 28 sixes and 62 fours, which gives a story of their approach.

In bowling, Mahesh Theekshana has come up as a potent spin bowling partner of Wanindu Hasaranga while Dilshan Madhushanka has shouldered the responsibility of the lead pacer quite admirably.

In comparison, Pakistan have made it to the finals but Babar's own form has deserted him throughout the tournament. Only 63 runs from five games isn't something one expects from a player of his calibre.

The skipper would like to sing the redemption song in the match that matters most.

Pakistan's strength is their bowling attack that has Naseem Shah, showing improvement with each passing day, along with Harris Rauf and Mohammed Hasnain.

The two spinners, leg-break bowler Shadab Khan (ER 5.79 and 7 wickets) and left-arm orthodox Mohammed Nawaz (ER 6.05 and 8 wickets) have also been very impressive.

However in Dubai, one has seen that toss has become an important factor as Pakistan aren't good while batting first and in the two games that they have lost in the tournament against India and Sri Lanka, they have batted first.

None of the top-order batters have a strike rate of 120 plus, especially those who have faced more than 50 balls in the tournament. Therefore Pakistan's best chance would be to win the toss and field first as Rizwan is always in control when Pakistan are chasing.

Teams (from):
Sri Lanka: Dasun Shanaka (c), Danushka Gunathilaka, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Charith Asalanka, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Ashen Bandara, Dhananjaya de Silva, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay, Praveen Jayawickrama, Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Matheesha Pathirana, Nuwanidu Fernando and Dinesh Chandimal.
Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Shadab Khan, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Shah Nawaz Dahani, Usman Qadir, Mohammed Hasnain, Hasan Ali.
Match starts: 7:30pm IST.



Robinson 5-49, England dismiss SA for 118 in deciding test

AP ■ LONDON

Ollie Robinson took 5-49 and Stuart Broad weighed in with four wickets as England dismissed South Africa for 118 in 36.2 overs on an emotionally charged third day of the deciding cricket test at the Oval on Saturday.

Play finally got underway after the first day was washed out entirely and the second day was canceled as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96 on Thursday.

Players from both teams wore black armbands and there was a minute's silence in honor of the queen ahead of the start of what has essentially become

a three-day test match to decide the series, which is currently locked at 1-1.

England is already in command of the match thanks to brilliant bowling from its seam attack, notably Robinson, who claimed the third five-wicket haul of his test career after regaining his place in the team during this series following fitness issues.

He took four of the first six wickets as the Proteas slumped to 36-6 before Khaya Zondo (23) and Marco Jansen (30) led in a mini-recovery.

Robinson completed his five-fer before Broad (4-41) took the final two wickets to wrap up the innings midway through the second session.



Duleep Trophy: Dhull hammers 193 as North Zone takes lead vs East

PTI ■ PUDUCHERRY

Talented batter Yash Dhull hit a superb 193 decorated with 28 fours and two sixes to power North Zone to 433 for 3 in their first innings at stumps on day three of the Duleep Trophy quarter-final against East Zone here on Saturday.

Thanks to Dhull's batting heroics, North Zone have taken a first innings lead of 36 runs with seven wickets in hand, and they are in command in the match.

After a splendid start to his Ranji Trophy career with a century in both innings for Delhi on debut earlier this year against Tamil Nadu, Dhull made his maiden appearance in the prestigious Duleep Trophy a memorable one with a brilliant ton on Saturday. He missed a double ton by just seven runs.

The highly-rated Dhull, who led India to triumph in the

Under-19 World Cup earlier this year, showed his tremendous skills, punishing the East Zone bowlers whenever they erred in line and length.

The 19-year old Dhull faced 243 balls during his stroke-filled innings. He led the North reply as they raced to 100 in the 24th over. He reached to his well-deserved ton from 131 balls with 15 hits to the fence with the team score reading 174 for 1.

He continued to look for runs and found the fence 13 more times in a knock that kept the scoreboard ticking at a brisk pace.

Dhull and Manan Vohra (44) put on 128 runs for the first wicket before Shahbaz Nadeem (1 for 107) got the latter. Dhull then added 192 runs with Dhruv Shorey (81, 163 balls, 9 fours) for the second wicket to bring North closer to the East Zone's first innings score of 397.

Australia captain Finch to retire from ODI cricket

AP ■ CAIRNS (AUSTRALIA)

Australia captain Aaron Finch says he's retiring from one-day international cricket effective Sunday after the team plays New Zealand in the third and final ODI.

A recent run of poor form has seen the 35-year-old Finch average just 3.7 runs, including three ducks, since scoring 62 runs against Sri Lanka in an ODI in June.

Cricket Australia said in a statement on Saturday that Finch will continue to captain Australia's Twenty20 side and will lead it in defence of its world title when the T20 World Cup is played in October and November in Australia.

"It has been a fantastic ride with some incredible memories," said Finch, who played 145 ODI matches, 54 as captain.

"I have been extremely fortunate to be a part of some brilliant one-day sides.

"It is time now to give a new leader the best possible opportunity to prepare for and win the next World Cup. I thank all of those who have helped and supported my journey to this point."

One of the most damaging opening batters in the world when at his best, Finch has scored 5,401 runs in the ODI format and averaged close to 40, including 17 centuries. But he's failed to get past 20 in his last seven innings and his continuing place in the side was in doubt. Finch's decision leaves Australia searching for a new one-day captain ahead of next year's World Cup in India. Australia Test skipper Pat Cummins previously indicated he does not want to captain the ODI side.

"Being a bit over 12 months out from the 50-over World Cup, I thought the timing was right now," Finch said at a later media conference.



"I could have tried to play another series — the series against England post-World Cup — and that would have been a bit of a fairytale finishing at the MCG. But I think that's never been my style to be self-indulgent in any kind of way."

Australia has already clinched the three-match ODI series against New Zealand ahead of Sunday's final match in Cairns, north Queensland state, after winning the first two matches.

Kohli is more skilful than me: Ganguly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Back in form with a blazing Century at the Asia Cup, Virat Kohli has earned praise from BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who said the star Indian batter is "more skilful" than him as a player.

Both played aggressive brand of cricket as captains, but Ganguly said in terms of skill set, Kohli is ahead of him.

"I don't think that (captaincy) should be the comparison... The comparison should be in terms of skill as a player. I think he is more skilful than I'm," Ganguly said of Kohli in the 'Ranveer Show' on YouTube.

Having returned after a month-long break, Kohli recently recorded his first international century in 1020 days, when he slammed a 61-ball 122 not out during India's final Super 4 clash against Afghanistan in Dubai on Thursday.

Showering praise on Kohli, Ganguly further said: "We played in different generations, and we played a lot of cricket. I played in my generation, and he will continue playing, probably playing more games than I did."

"Currently, I have played more than what he has but he'll get past that. He is tremendous."



"Cricket has become a bit more hectic, busy. COVID for the last two seasons has made it even tougher because of quarantine and all that went on. But the rewards are good."

Asked whether he gave Kohli any advice when he was struggling for form, Ganguly said: "I don't get to see them. The poor guys travel a lot."

"Everybody has been under media scrutiny. Just the names keep changing over a period of time. I won't get to know half of it because I didn't read so much. I would enter a hotel and the first thing I would say at the reception, 'Boss, don't put the newspaper under my door in the morning'."

"But now, obviously, it's a lot

more; social media is on your computer and phone. But I think cricketers find a way to shut that off," Ganguly added.

Kohli reached the elusive three-figure mark after almost three years, albeit in a format "he least expected to."

His 71st international hundred also put him alongside the great Ricky Ponting in the list of most centuries. Sachin Tendulkar remains way ahead with 100 tons.

During his playing days, Ganguly too went through many ups and downs, especially after his showdown with then India coach Greg Chappell.

Ganguly said cricketers should take the setbacks positively.

Langer, Harrington lead PGA Tour Champions in St Louis



AP ■ ST LOUIS (US)

Bernhard Langer holed out for eagle from 76 yards on the opening hole and shot his age for the second time this year with a 6-under 65 for a share of the lead with Pdraig Harrington in the Ascension Charity Classic.

Langer turned 65 two weeks ago. He shot a 64 in the Chubb Classic earlier in the year.

Harrington, the three-time major champion and most recent Ryder Cup captain for Europe, played bogey-free at Norwood Hills.

Ernie Els, Jose Maria Olazabal and Steven Alker were in the group at 66.

Harrington has two wins and four runner-up finishes on the PGA Tour Champions in his first full year on the 50-and-older circuit. He's trying to get closer to Alker in the Charles Schwab Cup, though Alker isn't having many bad weeks. Langer has won the Schwab Cup a record six

times, and even at his age, the two-time Masters champion is not slowing. He won the Chubb Classic early in the year for his 43rd career victory, two shy of the record held by Hale Irwin.

In a town obsessed with Albert Pujols of the St Louis Cardinals trying to reach 700 career home runs, Langer is looking to move closer to a milestone he only thinks about when asked.

"It's fun to be in that position to have a chance to maybe catch Hale Irwin. It's not going to be easy," Langer said.

"But 10 years ago I didn't think it was easy and five years ago I didn't think it was easy. And it's still not easy. But it was great to win 43 and hopefully there will be a couple more left in the tank."

Harrington is still getting used to this environment. He came from behind in all three of his majors, and he feels he's at his best when he has to rally. But he's among the longest and the best on the senior circuit, and the Irishman says he's still learning how to cope with trying to win from ahead.

"I always found I was a much better chaser than somebody out in front. And the one thing about the Champions Tour now is I've had a few leads and I have to learn, and I am learning," he said.

"Hard to believe 51 years of age and I'm getting better mentally."

Steve Stricker, coming off a win two weeks ago in Michigan, and John Daly were among those at 67.

Sandhu wins J&K Open golf

PTI ■ JAMMU

Yuvraj Singh Sandhu of Chandigarh stamped his authority with a resounding seven-shot win at the Rs 40 lakh J&K Open golf tournament here on Saturday.

Sandhu (69-70-65-71), the overnight leader by four shots, shot a steady one-under 71 in the last round to total 13-under 275 for the tournament and claim his fourth career win and third title this season.

Sandhu, who bagged the winner's cheque worth Rs 6 lakh, consolidated himself in second position on the PGTI Order of Merit.

Bengaluru's Khalin Joshi (70-68-70-74) secured the runner-up spot at six-under 282 after firing a 74 in round four at the tournament presented by J&K Tourism.

Gurugram's Manu Gandas (67) took the third place at three-under 285.

Chandimandir's Ravi Kumar shot the day's best score of 66 to clinch 11th place at



two-over 290.

Among the prominent names, Rashid Khan was tied 21st at six-over 294, the 2021 champion Honey Baisoya was tied 25th at seven-over 295 and Olympian Udayan Mane was tied 28th at eight-over 296.

Sandhu, who had shot the tournament's best score of 65 earlier in round three, continued his domination in round four to ease to a comfortable win at PGTI's first ever event staged at the Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC).

Aditi adds 70 to first round 68, lies T-15 in Kroger Queen Champs

PTI ■ CINCINNATI (US)

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok fired five birdies before dropping three bogeys for a two-under 70 in the second round to lie T-15th at the Kroger Queen Championship, presented by P&G here.

Aditi played almost as well as she did in her bogey free first round, but results were somewhat different.

Aditi shot four-under 68 in the first round with four birdies and no bogeys.

At six-under for two rounds, Aditi is now T-15th as the LPGA Tour moves into the last quarter of the season.

The highlight of Aditi's second round was a hat-trick of birdies from 12th to 14th after birdies on second and ninth. She dropped shots on par-5 fourth, par-3 eighth and then right at the end another bogey came on the Par-4 18th.

In the first round, Aditi birdied second, fifth, ninth and 12th.

Amandeep lie 3 shots behind leader; Diksha, Vani T-17 in Switzerland

PTI ■ HOLZHAUSEN (SWITZERLAND)

India's Amandeep Drall shot one-under 71, that included an eagle, to stay in contention on tied ninth spot at the VP Bank Swiss Ladies Open golf tournament here.

Amandeep was six-under and lying three shots behind the leader, Liz Young of England.

Meanwhile, Vani Kapoor and Diksha Dagar are looking at a top-10 finish in the Ladies European Tour event as they were T-17 after 36 holes.

Tvesa Malik gained in confidence with a two-under 70 that saw her make the cut very comfortably. At two-under for 36 holes, she is T-25.

But Ridhima Dilawari (76-72) and Neha Tripathi (77-74) were sure to miss the cut, which is likely to fall at one-over.

Amandeep, who had a superb first round of five-



under 67, started the second round with nine straight pars on the front nine.

She then landed an eagle on Par-5 10th but later dropped a shot on par-4 13th and parred the rest for 71.

Diksha looked set for a solid second round and rose as high as sixth as she was three-under for the second round after 10th. An unfortunate triple bogey on Par-4 14th saw her lose a lot of ground, but a birdie on 15th was small compensation as she ended with 71. At three-under she is T-17.

"If you want to know
what a man's like,
take a good look at
how he treats his
inferiors, not his
equals."
—JK Rowling



THE USUAL SUSPECTS

On multiple occasions, the Election Commission has written to the Law Ministry to amend the election law to give it the power to de-register political parties for committing financial and other irregularities, writes RAKESH K SINGH

The coordinated searches at 110 locations across the county by the Income Tax Department on September 7 as part of a pan-India tax evasion probe against certain registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs), think tank Centre for Policy Research, and global NGO Oxfam, has raked up a major controversy.

The raid also covered the Bengaluru-based Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation (IPSMF). The organization funds several digital media outlets such as The Caravan, The Print, and Swarajya.

As of September 2021, there were 2,796 registered unrecognized political parties, an increase of over 300 percent since 2001. Many RUPPs do not comply with the statutory requirements. Their combined claim of Income Tax exemption is estimated to be in the range of Rs 100 crore to 608 crores.

The number of RUPPs saw a 300 percent increase in the last two decades with most of them coming into existence just before Lok Sabha or Assembly elections.

Stating that it is placing the facts in the public domain so that the citizens know the affairs of the political parties, the EC said in 2019 that of the 2,354 RUPPs only 623 contested elections even as 87 RUPPs were found to be non-existent on the ground.

The mega clean-up action was conducted by the IT-Department at 110 locations in Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and some other States following prodding from the Election Commission

However, the critics say that the searches at the RUPPs and the NGOs do not portend well for a healthy democracy. "It's absolutely atrocious that research & advocacy organisations, and independent charitable trusts like CPR, Oxfam, and IPSMF have been raided "at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," said Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh , adding, "It's a deliberate move to exterminate all independent media and voices!"

Countering the Congress, officials said that by collecting donations and not furnishing the accounts to the relevant authorities, the RUPPs pose a threat not only to the political system in general but also play a dubious role in fomenting trouble to the socio-political environment as well as compromise national security interests by playing it the hands of international donors who could be acting in line with their own vested agenda of foreign governments.

Besides the RUPPs and the NGOs, the I-T Department team also searched the premises of certain dubious individuals like a lawyer in the Mayur Vihar area of the national capital, as part of the synchronized pan-India raids.

The Income Tax Department is also investigating some other instances of political funding through alleged illegal means like hawala and illegal grants from international donors who are not supposed to fund political activities as per the provisions of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

The surprise move by the Department came on a recommendation of the Election Commission (EC), which recently struck off at least 198 entities from its list of RUPP after they were found non-existent during physical verification.

The poll panel had announced that it was taking action against more than 2,100 entities, categorized as RUPP by it, for flouting rules and election laws like filing of monetary contributions and failing to update their address and names of office bearers.

The EC had said some of these parties were indulging in "serious" financial impropriety. The poll panel acted after chief electoral officers (CEOs) of States reported that these RUPP either were "non-existent" on verification or the letters issued by authorities to verify their addresses and communication details had been returned as undelivered by the department of posts.

Subsequently, the election body decided to withdraw various benefits accorded to these parties under the Symbols Order (1968), including the allocation of common election symbols.

“WHILE THE CRITICS SAY THE RAIDS WERE AN ATTEMPT TO SILENCE THE VOICE OF OPPOSITION AGAINST THE UNDEMOCRATIC WAYS OF THE GOVERNMENT, OFFICIALS SAID THE ACTIONS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS AND WERE INITIATED ON COMPLAINTS OF ALLEGED SUSPICIOUS FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND TAX INVASIONS BY THESE ENTITIES.”

Earlier, the EC had struck off 87 entities from its list of RUPP after they were found non-existent during physical verification.

The poll panel had noted that 87 RUPPs had failed to update their address of communication as mandated by law as also year-wise annual audited accounts, contribution reports, expenditure reports, and updated list of office-bearers.

In a statement in June, the EC had said any party aggrieved by the EC's action can approach the Chief Electoral Officer concerned for redress with "evidence of existence".

If these 87 RUPPs fail to take remedial steps, they render themselves liable to be "not entitled to have benefits under the Symbols Order, 1968, including allocation of common symbols."

The panel had specific details of such parties, available publicly, that have flouted laws and rules on disclosure of funds and donations.

Later, the EC also sent a reference to the Department of Revenue, under the Union finance ministry, for necessary legal and criminal action against three such parties involved in serious financial impropriety.

The Department of Revenue subsequently sent this report to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body of the Income Tax Department.

According to official data, there are nearly 2,800 registered unrecognized political parties in India, and the EC had been pushing the Government to allow it to de-register many of them.

On multiple occasions, the poll panel has written to the Law Ministry to amend the election law to give it the power to de-register so that it can deter the parties that indulge in financial and other irregularities.

The RUPPs across India have been availing tax relief without properly sharing their audit and contribution reports.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has been spearheading the cleanup drive against such political entities.'

In the case of the think tank Centre for Policy Research, charity organization Oxfam India, and Independent and Public-Spirited

Media Foundation, the IT officials studied the balance sheets of these organizations and matched these with the receipt of funds through the FCRA route. All NGOs getting foreign funds must be registered under the FCRA.

Registrations of as many as 1,900 NGOs have been canceled by the Union Home Ministry for violating various provisions of the law in the last five years.

There were 22,762 FCRA-registered organizations till December 2021. The CPR is known for critical examination of government policies and the IPSMF funds several media organisations, many of which conduct investigative stories that question the governments of the day.

The website of Oxfam India, which is part of a global consortium of NGOs under the Oxfam umbrella, says it "campaigns with the public to demand policy changes from governments for creating a just and inclusive country as envisioned in the Indian Constitution".

However, Intelligence agencies have flagged concerns about several foreign NGOs indulging in anti-government activities as also pitching against the development push to retard the country's economic growth trajectory.

These NGOs pump millions of dollars as a charity under a jealously guarded web of deception to mask real motives.

"Accumulated evidence, painstaking examination of the background and intelligence reports on funding patterns show Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) turning into sleeper cells—working and plotting against the government—in potential collusion with the foreign powers," reveals a classified Intelligence dossier.

The dossier has flagged the tricky roles played by voluntary organizations such as IKV Pax Christi (Netherlands), Islamic Research Foundation (IRF), and Compassion International (USA) in taking circuitous route for funding local NGOs in a bid to create and run sleeper cells for the future onslaught against the government.

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

INSIGHT

Let’s ‘CARE’
about academics

UGC has made multiple efforts to put strict restrictions on clone journals. Still, faculties whose academic promotions are due publish their papers in these clone journals without knowing their authenticity and standards



PRASHANT BARTHWAL

Research is a significant part of higher education, and publishing a research paper is even more critical for institutionalising the significance of academics in higher education. Hence, research papers have been considered the most essential part of academics. No academics in higher education are complete without a well-written research paper with an appropriate methodology and significant paradigms. This helps every scholar, researcher, and academician to thoroughly evaluate or re-examine the subject. On November 28, 2018, University Grants Commission (UGC) issued a public notice “to stimulate and empower the Indian academia” through its quality mandate and that notice announced the establishment of a dedicated “Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)” to fulfil this objective. Therefore, there is a need to evaluate the objectives of this initiative where it intends (i) to promote quality research, integrity and publication ethics, (ii) to promote high-quality publication, (iii) to develop research paradigms and methodology for the identification of standard journals, and (iv) to stop the predatory or dubious journals. Since then, there has been a massive academic research revolution, and an unexpected mad race for publishing research paper(s) in UGC CARE Listed Journals.

But unfortunately, these listed journals have brought many severe shifts in the publication process. The shift allows the researchers to indulge in many illegalities, such as publishing research papers in dubious journals. We now know these journals with a new form, i.e., “clone journals”. There are many instances where one can easily trace the clone of the listed journals in the academic world. Researchers publish their papers in most educational institutions (including leading universities and colleges) without knowing its worst impact. They are publishing their papers for the minimum eligibility to submit their thesis and dissertations; faculties are publishing their papers for their due promotions.

As a matter of fact, UGC has made multiple efforts to put strict restrictions on these clone journals. Still, faculties whose academic promotions are due publish their papers in these clone journals without knowing the authenticity and standards of these journals. Despite multiple and sincere efforts by CARE, it has come to public notice that many have published their papers, though sometimes intentionally, in clone journals, especially in language specification journals; for instance, foreign language journals are published multi-lingually in clone format. And many instances are also there where many publishers and editors are publishing the papers with password-protected mechanisms and publishing the papers under “multidisciplinary” despite subject-specific authorisation. This process of publishing papers in “listed journals” has also supported the idea of introducing the “clone” journals because it has been widely noticed that those in listed categories charge a huge amount for publishing a single paper.

In contrast, on the other hand, many leading listed journals are forcing the researchers to subscribe to their journals or take their lifetime membership to publish their research papers. And even after subscribing to the journals, they are taking a lot of time to publish the research papers. This time-consuming process, which is undoubtedly essential to publish any paper as a part of the peer-reviewed process, is somehow an invitation to accept the calls from the clone journals to publish the research papers. CARE regularly revisits the standards based on their set norms and parameters to halt such unacademic acts over such invitations. They have also removed many leading journals from their listed categories.

Above all, some leading journals publish research papers strictly based on ideological shifts, which is a matter of grave concern. If we are talking about the standard of academics through this consortium, we must first stop this “marketisation of academics”. Therefore, it should be the ethical concern of everyone to pursue the research with proper care, and we all need to follow the suggestions carefully and unconditionally given by the CARE to maintain the standard and integrity of research. But still, CARE also needs to understand these issues where, to some extent, the theory is a bit different from praxis and puts severe restrictions on such unacademic acts. Conclusively, we all need to work together to put restrictions over such unacademic steps not only to maintain the standard and integrity but also to protect the apt research environment and, above all, the value of the research.

(The writer is Assistant Professor in Sri Aurobindo College, University of Delhi)

End of a legacy with ‘Lilibet’

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away at the age of 96. She spent her last days in Scotland, her summer palace known as Balmoral Castle. She has left behind a historical legacy full of hits and misses. She became Queen at the age of 27 in the year 1952 when the world had just come out of a devastating Second World War, the first ever atomic bombing over Japan, the Holocaust and the loss of the largest treasure of the British colonial empire i.e. India. She set the record of becoming the longest serving monarch of the UK by serving the nation for seven long decades.

Once the news of the death of the Queen spread, thousands thronged her official residence, the Buckingham Palace in London, and all other royal palaces around the country. Despite heavy downpour across the UK, the mourners came out in hordes simply to bid adieu to their dear monarch. And finally, all quietly sang: “God save the Queen.”

In keeping with the royal tradition, a written statement mentioning the death of the Queen was displayed on all the palace gates. The statement read: “The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon. The King and the Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow.”

This indicates that there was no specific illness mentioned in the royal statement of death.

The Queen probably could be the last ever female heir to the seat of the British sovereign for another century. Now the second Elizabethan era has gone. Though the British people never ever looked at the Queen for political leadership, they all identified her with “stability”. Despite all the ifs and buts, she remained steadfast and took the leadership to the world stage. She oversaw Britain from a war-weary European nation to a modern multicultural one, finally a sad divorce from the European Union, after a long partnership of 47 years.

The Queen was the head of the 56-member Commonwealth nations around the world. Her Commonwealth leadership though purely ceremonial spanned across all the five continents covering a population of almost 2.5 billion. Today, the Commonwealth is proud that during her tenure as the Head of the organisation, she travelled to almost all the nations of the bloc. Between 1971 and 2018, the Queen missed only one Head of Government Meeting. Her awesome sense of duty and responsibility as the head of the group was always reflected in her actions. She was both a generous host and a consummate diplomat. The last message she sent out for the Commonwealth described the nations as “a modern, vibrant and connected Commonwealth that combines a wealth of history, and tradition with great social, cultur-



A tribute to Queen Elizabeth II on a bus stop in London's West End

AP

al and technological advances of our time. That the Commonwealth stands ever taller is a credit to all who have been involved.” This highlights how deeply she felt the bond between the nations and their incremental growth in the recent decades.

The Commonwealth was formed initially as the British Commonwealth of nations through the Balfour Declaration at the historic 1926 Imperial Conference. But the group was formalised later only in the year 1931 by the UK through the Statute of Westminster. But the present shape of the Commonwealth was given under the London Declaration of 1949. And Queen Elizabeth took over the headship of this very historic organisation just after three years. She had the experience of the service of 15 British Prime Ministers and met 14 US Presidents during her long tenure as the monarch.

The reign of her son, King Charles III, has just begun. He will be handling a Britain far more politically polarised than what his mother had witnessed. Today, the Conservatives are widely separated from each other as it was seen during the last race for the post of the Prime Minister. And sadly, the Labour is on the decline, and Jeremy Corbyn has left no chance of hope for the party in the near future unless a new leader emerges. It is rightly said that King Charles has prepared for all his life for this

day. He has pledged to serve the nation with the same “unswerving devotion”, as his mother did. He became King immediately after the death of his mother, but the Accession Council has to make the formal proclamation of the successor. He is already the King, according to the terms of the Act of Settlement 1701. The very purpose of the Accession Council is purely a ceremonial one and it announces the name of the new monarch. Generally such a proclamation is made within 24 hours of the death of the monarch. But this time it has taken a little more time. Again this occasion will have a historic break-as the new King has decided to televise the Accession Council ceremony.

The new monarch has paid his tribute to his “Darling Mama” and called her an inspiration. He also has vowed lifelong service to the people. He further said: “Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.”

Queen Elizabeth II remained a beacon of stability for the last 70 years. She will always be fondly remembered for her larger-than-life image and the role she played in public life. She was an extraordinary person who also lived an extraordinary life. To many of the people of the Commonwealth and those who know her closely, she

truly lived the life of faith, service and a sense of duty. This was echoed in one of her historic speeches that she made in 1947 before she became the monarch. She said: “My whole life, whether it be long or short, will be devoted in service.” The great British royalty survived and sustained with full might and dignity under her leadership.

Modern Britain indeed built its edifice on her statesmanship. While paying tribute to her, UK Prime Minister Liz Truss said, “Queen Elizabeth the second was the rock on which modern Britain was built. Our country has grown and flourished under her reign.”

It’s a clear indication that the current political leadership of the UK has rightly recognised the robust role played by the late Queen. The majestic Queen was fondly remembered as the “Little Lilibet” by her family as she could not pronounce her name “Elizabeth” properly during her childhood. Today we all miss both the hilarious Little Lilibet and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international journal.)

Queen Elizabeth II remained a beacon of stability for the last 70 years. She will always be fondly remembered for her larger-than-life image and the role she played in public life



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Boosting rural economy with start-up village entrepreneurship

This new wave of educated rural youth is a challenge for the policymakers to formulate a policy that caters to the large masses of the rural population



ARVIND ARAHANT



NARENDRA KUMAR

Rural poverty and inequality are significant roadblocks to building an egalitarian society. Even after 75 years of Independence, it is a significant challenge because a large section of the rural population depends on agriculture.

Looking for a way to economically empower rural India, a well-known management consultant, CK Prahalad, coined the word “future at the bottom of the pyramid” (BOP), eradicating poverty through profits.

Prahalad highlighted the challenges of rural poverty, which need to be addressed by multinational companies (MNCs). A book was also published under the same name with some innovative, fruitful ideas from the bottom of the pyramid.

Even today, MNCs’ reach to the remotely heterogeneous rural population remains a distant dream. The horizon of the Indian rural market is so

vast that the penetration of services and products is only possible through indigenous village entrepreneurs. And hence the concept and importance of village entrepreneurs is now taken into account by policymakers with the much-discussed rural economy now getting the limelight.

The rural economy of India has been facing an agrarian crisis because of poverty, unemployment and migration. The village economy of India is not sustainable, which is a big challenge for policymakers, and there are many reasons. Even after 75 years of Independence, the rural youth strive for jobs and a decent standard of life. The lack of employment creates migration of the rural population to urban cities. However, the educational campaign by the Government for the rural youth has motivated them.

Due to the increase in literacy rate among the rural

youth, they look for holistic employment. The technological advancement in the agricultural sector has changed the dimensions of dependency of rural and marginal workers on agriculture sectors. Rural youths are looking after their career in entrepreneurship, services and self-employment. This new wave of educated rural youth is a challenge for the policymakers and the Government to formulate a policy that caters to the large masses of the rural population. The startup village entrepreneurship programme is the gem among all whose programmes to resolve the agrarian crisis.

Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is a budget announced scheme and was approved by the Minister of Rural Development, Government of India, on May 6, 2015, as a sub-scheme under the DAY-NRLM and the guideline was issued on

June 15 2015.

Deendayal antodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM) has been centrally sponsored and implemented since May 2013. The main objective of the mission is to eliminate rural poverty through an innovative implementation strategy involving four core components viz., (1) social mobilisation and community institution building; (2) financial inclusion; (3) livelihood promotions; (4) convergence and social development.

The SVEP proposes to address the three major problems of start-ups. Through the programme, the rural entrepreneurs will get the technical support such that the enterprises (both existing and newly promoted) would be profitable through addressing ecosystem vis., (i) a missing knowledge ecosystem, (ii) a missing incubation ecosystem; and (iii) a missing financial ecosystem.

The SVEP programme is a

four-tier structure from cluster level federation to village organisation to self-help group and finally reach beneficiary members. This four-tier structure gives an implementation roadmap for SVEP to block resource centres.

The SVEP is implemented in a project mode through Implementing Agencies (PIAs). The PIAs include the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM), higher-level SHG federation and NGO/NRO with a good track record of promoting rural livelihood. The current pattern of Central assistance for SVEP projects is 60:40 (Centre-State). The ceiling on the administrative cost of the SVEP project is 6 per cent of the total approved budget. The SVEP intends to enable the rural poor to set up business enterprises through village-level Community Resource Persons (CRPs) support. It helps the rural entrepreneurs to get finance for

starting their enterprises from the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Self Help Groups (SHGs), banks and cluster level federation. There are a few conditions which entrepreneurs need to justify to get the benefits from this programme. These conditions are that the entrepreneur should be either a member of SHGs working in the blocks of a selected district or a member of their family, preferably a female member.

One of the mid-term reviews conducted by the Quality Council of India in 2019 highlights that 75 per cent of enterprises were managed and owned by women. We find the fulfilment of social inclusion one of the core ideas of the national rural livelihood mission satisfied because the sampled entrepreneurs across the blocks reported being from SC, ST, and OBC categories, which stood at 82 per cent.

The number of enterprises

supported under the SVEP from 2018-19 to 2020-2021 is 1,34,475. The breadth of block development is blossoming. The inception was with only 125 blocks across the country; during 2021-22, it stood at 205 blocks. A total of 19 blocks are under implementation in Uttar Pradesh which stood first; the second is Jharkhand, with 18 blocks under implementation. Policymakers should focus on this large chunk of the rural population through an income-generating innovative entrepreneurship model. The SVEP is all set to transform the lives of the rural poor, and women entrepreneurs have shown their capabilities to lead.

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