

OPINION 6

A DEBAUCHED SEER
& AMORAL SOCIETY

WORLD 9

PANEL: ARCHIVES STILL NOT CERTAIN
IT HAS ALL TRUMP RECORDS

MONEY 10

MANY COUNTRIES INTERESTED
IN BILATERAL RUPEE TRADE: FM

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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AS ROMA BEAT
EMPOLI 2-1 IN
SERIE A CLASH
11 SPORTStreet war to war of words, politics hots up
Bengal BJP rally
turns battle zoneLeaders, cops hurt
in violence; police
detain BJP leaders

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The BJP's anti-corruption rally on Tuesday turned Kolkata into a veritable battle zone with the saffron cadre fighting pitched battles with the police leaving scores of party workers and policemen injured and public properties damaged.

The BJP march to Nabanna, the State secretariat, was seen as an exercise to rejuvenate the party demoralised by the poor show in the last year's Assembly polls. The march saw a prolonged guerrilla battle between the men in uniform and desperate bands of saffron people — who came over from different parts of the State in trains and buses and converged at various parts of Howrah and Kolkata.

All hell broke loose at Santragachi Railway Station, the spot closest to Nabanna across the Hooghly river, when the police had tough time to contain the charging BJP men who rained brickbats after the police lobbed teargas shells and charged water cannons at them.

The fight gathered momentum after the police detained State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari and senior party functionaries Rahul Sinha and Locket Chatterjee, who were supposed to lead the Santragachi section of the rally.

The guerrilla battle lasted for more than four hours leaving a dozen of people from both sides injured and some others detained.

The BJP called "Nabanna Abhiyan" to protest against the rising corruption in the State that came to light after the Enforcement Directorate recovered crores of rupees from the apartments of ministers, TMC leaders and their close aides.

At Howrah Maidan, the second arm of the rally — which started from Howrah Station and was led by State BJP president Sukanto Majumdar — was comparatively peaceful. The police charged water cannons and lobbed tear gas shells here too leaving a number of people injured. Majumdar, however, said that the police were bursting bombs at the protesters.

The skirmish was more fierce in Kolkata where a section of the third chapter of the



BJP supporters during their 'Nabanna Abhiyan' (March to Secretariat) to protest against alleged corrupt practices of the TMC Government, in Howrah district on Tuesday

PTI

Abhiyan led by BJP national vice president Dilip Ghosh rushed towards Lal Bazaar catching the police brass completely unawares.

Even as the mob entered the iconic police headquarters prompting cops to resort to lathicharge, a section of hooligans torched a PCR van, leading the local businessmen to quickly down their shutters and scurry for safety.

There were commotions in other districts too where the police allegedly stopped the BJP workers from coming to Kolkata. "So much so that they even dragged daily commuters from Kolkata-bound buses and

trains suspecting them to be BJP men," Majumdar said.

The police excesses led to spontaneous road blockades in East Midnapore, Asansol and other parts of the, sources said. Senior leaders like Adhikari, Majumdar, Chatterjee, Sinha and many others were released in the evening following a Calcutta High Court order.

The Bench of Chief Justice Prakash Srivastav also called for a report from the Home Secretary on September 19 on the police action, BJP leader Priyanka Tiberwal said.

"The police are working like slaves of the Chief Minister

... they attacked our men who were marching peacefully," said Majumdar. Adhikari attacked the Chief Minister saying "her legs are trembling at the sight of BJP crowd ... which is why she fled Kolkata on Tuesday ... She is afraid of the BJP because she knows that her days in power are numbered ... the people have known her real face ... the queen of scammers."

Dilip Ghosh the only leader who was not arrested on Tuesday, said that the BJP had achieved its goal by sending the message to the people that "our party is the only party which is there to fight for the

Kejriwal can't 'sell' dreams in Guj:
Shah; AAP vows graft-free GovtPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The war of words escalated between the BJP and the AAP in the poll-bound Gujarat as Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday countered AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal saying "selling dreams" was difficult in his State.

Shah was obviously referring to a slew of promises made by Kejriwal ranging from free power, quality education, dole for unemployed youths, job creation and allowance for women, among others. On Tuesday, Kejriwal added to the list a promise of a "corruption-free" Government.

Making light of the promises by the AAP to attract voters in Gujarat, the Home Minister asserted that the "dream sellers" will not win in Gujarat and that the BJP will get two-thirds majority in the



Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal releases party manifesto announcing a slew of 'guarantees' ahead of upcoming Gujarat Assembly elections, in Ahmedabad on Tuesday

PTI

upcoming poll in the State.

Shah was virtually addressing a function held in Gandhinagar to mark one year of the Bhupendra Patel Government. Shah also said the

ruling BJP will once again form a Government in Gujarat and hailed the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Continued on Page 2

Rahul marches on
amid BJP-CPM flakPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Courting controversy and facing attack from the BJP and swipe from the Left, Congress "Bharat Jodo Yatra" entered the seventh day on Tuesday. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who leads the 3,500 km long walkathon across the nation from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, is accompanied by hundreds of party workers and joined by thousands of citizens from different walks of life.

Rahul has faced vicious attacks from the BJP over the use of a ₹41,000 T-shirt and meeting a controversial pastor. The CPI(M) ridiculed him for spending 18 days in Left-ruled Kerala and just two in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh.

The CPI(M) "ridiculed" Rahul's yatra for excluding cru-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party leaders and workers during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Thiruvananthapuram district on Tuesday

PTI

cial States like Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and a major portion of Uttar Pradesh from the itinerary and thus questioned the sincerity of the mission.

Congress sources, howev-

er, said that a "sub-padyatra" is part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. It is being planned in Bihar, Odisha, northeastern States, and other States that are left out.

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India, China verify each
other's positions after
pullback from Point-15Concerns as Depsang
Valley, Demchok
face-off continuesPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A day after disengagement from the stand-off site at Gogra-Hot Springs (Patrolling Point-15) in Eastern Ladakh, India and China on Tuesday conducted physical verification of each other's positions as the two sides returned to their bases as existed in 2020.

However, India is wary as stand-off continues at Depsang Valley and Demchok often termed as "legacy issues."

Dispute at these two points has been lingering for the last few years. At present, more

than 50,000 troops, each from India and China, are deployed at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

While the retreat or the disengaging process from the Patrolling Point-15 was over on Monday, the both sides were keen to verify the process physically and it was done on Tuesday, sources said here.

"Both sides have completed the disengagement at PP15 in a phased, coordinated and verified manner," they added.

The withdrawal began on September 8, and it was agreed upon to complete the process by September 12.

The two armies also dismantled structures temporarily built, and other infrastructure that came up after the face-off started in 2020.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

8 DIE IN FIRE SPREAD TO
HOTEL FROM E-BIKE SHOP

Hyderabad: Eight people, including a woman staying in a hotel, were killed in a midnight fire that is suspected to have originated from an electric bike showroom in Secunderabad here. Ten others were injured and rushed to various hospitals, police said on Monday. Most of the victims were asphyxiated.

INDIA, JAPAN CARRY OUT
6TH MEGA NAVAL DRILL

New Delhi: The navies of India and Japan are carrying out a mega military exercise in the Bay of Bengal to enhance operational understanding. The sixth edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX 22) hosted by the Indian Navy began on September 11.

730 NEW COVID CASES,
FOUR DEATHS IN MAHA

Mumbai: Maharashtra on Tuesday recorded 730 new coronavirus infections and four pandemic-related deaths, the health department said in a release. The State's Covid-19 case tally rose to 81,11,976, and death toll reached 1,48,293.

HC stays MHA's order
sacking IPS officer over
Ishrat probe 'torture'PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

An intervention by the Delhi High Court has come in the way of dismissal of a senior IPS officer Satish Chandra Verma of Gujarat cadre by the Union Home Ministry.

Satish Chandra Verma, a 1986-batch IPS officer, who had assisted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the investigation into the alleged fake encounter of Ishrat Jahan in Gujarat, was dismissed from service on August 30, a month before his scheduled retirement on September 30.

Then Verma approached the Delhi High Court challenging the Home Ministry order and the court barred the Centre from implementing the order, an official said.

Verma faced allegations of custodial torture during the

Ishrat encounter probe. Home Ministry's under secretary RVS Mani said that Verma tortured him by putting cigarette stubs on his thighs to get favourable statements to implicate top IB officials who alerted Gujarat Police about the movement of LeT-linked Ishrat and three other persons, two of whom were from Pakistan.

Verma was shunted to the North-Eastern region when the BJP Government came to power in mid-2014. The Government has issued a series of charges against him accusing many violations of service conditions for the past five years. One of the charges was for wrong news planting in the media about Gujarat encounter related cases. The senior police officer was last posted as Inspector General with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Tamil Nadu.

Kappan to stay
put in jail as ED
probe pending

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan, who was granted bail by the Supreme Court on Friday, will remain in a jail here as a case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate against him is still pending, officials of the prison department said.

A court here on Monday issued the release order of Kappan, who was lodged in jail after his arrest in October 2020 while he was on his way to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being raped.

"Kappan will continue to remain in jail as a case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate is still pending," DG Jail PRO Santosh Verma told PTI.

While ordering his release, Additional Sessions Judge Anurodh Mishra had directed Kappan to furnish two sureties of ₹1 lakh each and a personal bond of the same amount.

Continued on Page 2

CBI raids 36 places in J&K
SI recruitment exam scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at 36 locations, including the premises of former Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) Chairman Khalid Jahangir, over alleged irregularities in the recruitment process of sub-inspectors in the Union Territory. The agency also searched the premises of JKSSB Controller of Examinations Ashok Kumar.

The searches were spread across Jammu, Srinagar, Karnal, Mahendergarh, Rewari in Haryana; Ashok Kumar, ASI, Jammu & Kashmir Police; and Ashwani Kumar, former CRPF official.

The CBI registered a case on August 3 on the request of J&K Government against 33 accused, including then medical officer, BSF Frontier Headquarters, Paloura, Dr Karnail Singh; Ashok Kumar, ASI, Jammu & Kashmir Police; and Ashwani Kumar, former CRPF official.



Police personnel deployed during a search by CBI officials in connection with alleged irregularities in the recruitment process of sub-inspectors in the Union Territory, in Jammu on Tuesday

PTI

scam. Incriminating documents and digital evidence have so far been recovered during searches, the CBI said.

The CBI probe has revealed that the candidates were made to pay ₹20-30 lakh to the accused for accessing the question paper before commencement of the examination.

Avinash Gupta, owner of

EDUMAX Classes, Akhnour, Akshay Kumar, Manager of EDUMAX Classes, Roshan Bral, teacher, Narayan Dutt, then member Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service (JKKAS), Bishan Dass, then Under Secretary, JKSSB, Anju Raina, then Section Officer, JKSSB and MeritTrac Services Private Limited, Bengaluru have also been named as accused in the case, it said. The examination took place on March 27 and results were declared on June 4.

The J&K Government had constituted an Inquiry Committee to look into the allegation of irregularities in the examinations.

"It was alleged that the accused entered into conspiracy among officials of JKSSB, Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in conduct of written examination for the posts of sub-inspectors," the agency said in a statement.

Continued on Page 2

NCRPULSE

2 PAINTERS HELD FOR STABBING MAN FOR MOBILE WALLET

New Delhi: Two house painters were arrested for allegedly stabbing to death a 58-year-old shoe store owner in the national Capital. The arrested accused have been identified as Mehraj Alam (32) and Taufiq (21) from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. The accused allegedly stabbed to death Islam Ahmad in his shoe shop in Okhla's Batla House area. They stole his mobile phone with the intention of stealing over Rs 40,000 he had in his online wallet, the police said.

GOVT TO START 2ND PHASE OF PLANTATION DRIVE FROM OCT 15

New Delhi: Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday said that the city Government will start the second phase of its plantation drive from October 15 that will focus on planting saplings in the Yamuna floodplains. Addressing a press conference, he said the government had set a target of planting 35 lakh saplings this year, and more than 33 lakh of them have already been planted.

2 MEN HELD FOR BID TO EXTORT ₹5 CR IN BAWANA'S NAME

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly attempting to extort Rs 5 crore from a Delhi-based businessman in the name of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana. The arrested accused include Sunny Dagar alias Sunny Issapur (30), who was arrested earlier by Punjab Police in another case. The other arrested accused has been identified as Pushpender Lochav (34). The victim runs his business from Bannoli village in Dwarka. Lochav, the victim's cousin, passed on information about the businessman to the gangsters.

ROBBER ABSCONDING FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR ARRESTED

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a man who was absconding for more than a year after he allegedly hurled stones and bottles at their vehicles as they tried to stop a tempo carrying stolen cows in the national Capital. The accused, Javed, is a member of a Mewat-based interstate gang of robbers. According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, based on a tip-off, police laid a trap near T-point Mandir Marg at MB Road and Javed was arrested after an exchange of fire with the police.

HC nixes PIL on ‘harassment’ of pvt liquor vendors in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has dismissed with Rs 1 lakh costs public interest litigation by a lawyer seeking directions for the identification of persons “harassing” private liquor vendors in the national Capital and forcing them to close their shops.A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma said that the petition by lawyer Narinder Khanna was “nothing but a sheer abuse of the process of law” and he wanted a “roving inquiry” on the basis of “vague and absurd allegations” and directed that the costs be deposited by him towards the Army War Widows Fund.

“In the considered opinion of this Court, the present

petition is nothing but a sheer abuse of the process of law, and therefore, the present petition is dismissed at the admission stage itself with costs of Rs.1,00,000 (Rupee One Lakh) to be paid to the Army War Widows Fund within a period of 30 days from today,” said the bench, also comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad, in its order dated September 8.

“It is made clear that if the amount is not paid within 30 days from Monday (September 12) , the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, New Delhi District will recover the amount as arrears of land revenue and shall transfer the same to the Army War Widows Fund with intimation to the Registrar General of this Court,” the court clarified.

Delhi logs 54 new cases of LSD, 24 cattle recover

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital on Tuesday logged 54 new cases of lumpy skin disease while 24 cattle have recovered from the infection.

According to a senior official, the number of infected cattle now stands at 203.

The authorities had for the first-time reported cases of lumpy skin disease in the capital on Saturday. The first case was detected around two weeks ago.

A senior Delhi government official said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has not been cooperating with them in the isolation and transportation of the infected cattle. The matter will be taken up with higher authorities on Wednesday.

In Delhi, most cases of

lumpy skin disease have been detected in the southwest Delhi district -- Goyla dairy area, Rewla Khanpur area, Ghumanhera and Najafgarh.

The Delhi government has deployed four mobile veterinary clinics and set up 11 rapid response teams to collect samples. Four teams are creating awareness of the virus among people.

The city government has also set up a special control room with helpline number 8287848586 for queries related to the disease.

An isolation ward has been set up in Rewla Khanpur Gau Sadan in southwest Delhi for stray cattle suffering from lumpy skin disease. The cow shelter can accommodate 4,500 cattle. On Sunday, officials said the Delhi government will purchase 60,000 doses of goat pox vaccine to inoculate



healthy cattle in the capital to prevent the spread of the disease.

These vaccine doses will be administered free of cost.

Delhi has a cattle population of 80,000.

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.

AAP urges PM to make Gautam Buddh district part of Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

In an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the AAP's Gautam Buddh Nagar unit chief has urged to make western Uttar Pradesh district, including Noida, a part of Delhi.

AAP's Gautam Buddh Nagar president Bhupendra Singh Jadaun has urged the Prime Minister that the move would ensure development of the district on the lines of the national Capital and people would get basic amenities like water, electricity and public transport either free or at minimum cost.

Jadaun's letter on Monday coincided with Modi's visit to Greater Noida in Gautam

Buddh Nagar where he inaugurated the World Dairy Summit – 2022.

“The Arvind Kejriwal government is providing basic civic facilities like electricity, water, education, health, transport to the people of Delhi free of cost or at minimum price, but the entire Gautam Buddh Nagar district, including Noida, is deprived of it,” the AAP local leader wrote.

“On the lines of Delhi, children of the poor can get good education in a good environment even in government schools. Women can get free of cost bus travel, the elderly could go for pilgrimage for free.

“Similarly people won't have to stand in queues at government offices for small jobs like Aadhaar card, ration card,

driving license, birth certificates, property registrations, etc,” he added.

Jadaun further said that if his demand is met, the people of the district will get the right to choose their representatives of the local corporations just as they do in Delhi.

The people of urban and rural areas here should get the ownership rights of their land, while those living in the so-called illegal colonies should also get ownership and basic facilities like Delhi, he added.

He alleged that corruption by officials of the three local authorities – the Noida Authority, the Greater Noida Authority, and the Yamuna Expressway Authority – have been a blot on the district's reputation.

Bengal BJP rally turns battle...

From Page 1

The police excess led Congress State president Adhir Chowdhury and CPI (M) central committee member Sujan Chakrabarty to claim that Tuesday's action was a ploy by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to pump fresh lease of life into a moribund BJP.

“When in most of the elections subsequent to the Assembly polls BJP has gone to the third place ... when they

are gradually fading in Bengal ... it seems that Mamata Banerjee is trying to keep them alive as a mark of her gratitude for the RSS which she thinks is an adorable organisation,” Chakrabarty said.

Adhir Chowdhury too said that the “TMC Government is giving oxygen to a dying BJP ... whatever she has done she has done according to a plan.”

While senior Bengal Minister said that people from Bihar and Jharkhand were brought in by the saffron outfit the Chief Minister called the movement a flop. “They said that they will bring lakhs of people in Kolkata ... but they could manage only a few ... the turnout only proves that the movement is a flop ... this is why they resorted to violence ... the BJP's balloon has burst,” she said.

CBI raids 36 places in J&K...

From Page 1

CBI raids 36 places in J&K SI recruitment exam scam It was further alleged that there was an abnormally high percentage of selected candidates from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba districts. Violation of rules by JKSSB was allegedly found in assigning the task of setting the question paper to Bengaluru-based private compa-

ny MeritTrac Services Private Limited, it added.

“It was alleged that the accused entered into conspiracy amongst officials of JKSSB, Bengaluru-based private company, beneficiary candidates and others, and caused gross irregularities in the conduct of written examination for the posts of sub-inspectors,” the CBI said in its statement.

Rahul marches on amid BJP-CPM...

From Page 1
Meanwhile, the yatra has generated another controversy

with the apex child rights body NCPCR asking the election commission to initiate necessary

action and inquiry into a complaint against Congress and Rahul for allegedly “misusing children as political tools” in the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights said it is in receipt of a

complaint wherein it has been alleged that Gandhi and the Jawahar Bal Manch are targeting children with political intentions and making them get involved in political activities.

According to the complainant, it has been alleged that “many disturbing images and videos have been circulating on social media wherein it can be seen that children are being targeted and are made to participate in their campaign with a political agenda under the slogan ‘Bharat Jodo, Bacche Jodo’,” the NCPCR said.

expressed his strong reservations over the controversial K a s a r a g o d - Thiruvananthapuram High-Speed Rail Track and asked the Congress leadership in Kerala to agitate against the project.

The former president of Congress met persons who stand to lose their households and farmlands to the project and assured them of all help. Congress leaders in Kerala are on a path of agitation against the 530 km project which is enmeshed in controversies.

Rahul Gandhi completed the walkathon through the district of Thiruvananthapuram unperturbed by the rainfalls.

If the public participation which we are experiencing is any indication, the Yatra has already become a success,” said Ramesh Chennithala, former Minister and senior leader. Mohammed Shiraz, the president of the Ernakulam district Congress Committee who is in charge of the Yatra for the next three days, said that there was a unanimity among partymen that Rahul should take over the presidency of the party.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन संभाग-भोपाल प्रक्राकर कॉलोनी भवन भोपाल (म.प्र.)						
नि.आ.सू. क्रमांक/06/एन.एच.एम./सं.भो/2022-22/484 भोपाल, दिनांक 07.09.2022						
// निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //						
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन अंतर्गत संभाग-भोपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित जिलों के जिला चिकित्सालय, सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र एवं प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र भवनों के निर्माण/उन्नयन कार्य हेतु निविदा पोर्टल ऑनलाईन (निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम) से 02 लिफाफा पद्धति एवं 03 लिफाफा पद्धति से प्रपत्र अ फार्म में परसेटेंज बेसिस दरों पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-						
क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक 2022_DHS	जिला का नाम	विकासखण्ड का नाम	जिला चिकित्सालय प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र /उपस्वास्थ्य केन्द्र भवन की संख्या	अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. लाख में	समय सीमा वर्षाकाल सहित
1	220766	भोपाल	फंदा	02	87.75	09 माह
2	220768	राजगढ़	राजगढ़	02	87.75	09 माह
3	220770	राजगढ़	राजगढ़	02	87.75	09 माह
4	220772	विदिशा	सिरोंज	02	87.75	09 माह
5	220773	विदिशा	विदिशा	02	87.75	09 माह
6	220774	विदिशा	ग्यासपुर	02	87.75	09 माह
7	220775	विदिशा	नटेरन	01	43.88	06 माह
8	220776	विदिशा	कुरवाई	01	43.88	06 माह
9	220777	बैतूल	आननेर	01	43.88	06 माह
10	220779	बैतूल	भीमपुर	01	43.88	06 माह
11	220780	बैतूल	प्रभातपाटन	02	87.75	09 माह
12	220782	बैतूल	भेसदेही	02	87.75	09 माह
13	220783	होशंगाबाद	बावई	01	43.88	06 माह
14	220784	होशंगाबाद	वनखेडी	01	43.88	06 माह
15	220785	होशंगाबाद	डोलरिया	01	43.88	06 माह
16	220786	होशंगाबाद	पिपरिया	01	43.88	06 माह
17	220787	होशंगाबाद	साहागापुर	02	87.75	09 माह
18	220788	होशंगाबाद	कुरवाई	03	80.78	06 माह
19	220789	होशंगाबाद	सिवना मालवा	03	131.63	12 माह
20	220790	विदिशा	बासीदा	03	131.63	12 माह
21	220792	बैतूल	आमला	03	131.63	12 माह
22	220793	बैतूल	चिचौली	03	131.63	12 माह
23	220797	बैतूल	बैतूल	03	131.63	12 माह
24	220798	बैतूल	मुस्ताई	03	131.63	12 माह
25	220800	विदिशा	सिरोंज	04	121.15	12 माह
26	220801	राजगढ़	जिला चिकित्सालय	01	944.13	18 माह
27	220802	रायसेन	वेगमगंज	01	164.92	15 माह
उक्त निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 13.09.2022 प्रातः 10.30 से 27.09.2022 समय 17:30 बजे तक ऑनलाईन क्रय किये जा सकते हैं एवं निविदा की विस्तृत सूचना व अन्य विवरण Portal: https://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।						
कार्यपालन यंत्री राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन संभाग-भोपाल						
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कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई, जिला-दुर्ग जोन क्रमांक-05				
E mail:- zonefivebhilai@gmail.com				
क्र./लोक.वि./जोन क्रं. 5/2022/1156/245		भिलाई, दिनांक-09.09.2022		
<u>ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना</u>				
आयुक्त नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-				
क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	सिस्टम टेंडर क्र एवं जारी दिनांक	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
1.	वार्ड-69 हुडको दशहरा मैदान में डीम रोड निर्माण एवं मैदान विकास कार्य। (द्वितीय निविदा)	108946 08.09.22	148.00	23.09.22
2.	वार्ड-70 हुडको के विभिन्न स्थानों पर फुटपाथ निर्माण कार्य। (द्वितीय निविदा)	109029 09.09.22	45.00	26.09.22
निविदा हेतु राष्‍ट्र पत्र एवं घरोंह रशि की एफ.डी.आर स्पीड पोस्ट अथवा सिस्टर्स्ट डाक से स्वीकार किये जावेंगे। निविदा हेतु आवश्‍यक दस्तावेज तथा कार्य हेतु दी जाने वाली दरें ऑनलाईन (Online) दी जायें। उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्‍य शर्तें, घरोंह रशि, विस्‍तृत-निविदा विज्ञापि, निविदा दस्‍तावेज व अन्‍य जानकारी नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई की वेबसाईट www.bhilaingarnigam.gov.in , संचालनाल्‍य की वेबसाईट www.uad.cg.gov.in एवं चीप्‍पा की वेबसाईट के वेबसाईट eproc.cgstate.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकरी है।				
हस्‍ता जोन आयुक्‍त जोन क्र.-05 सेक्‍टर-06 नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई				

Kejriwal can't 'sell' dreams in Guj: Shah; AAP vows...

From Page 1

“Peop le who sell dreams will never get electoral success in Gujarat. I know the people of Gujarat. Those in the business of selling dreams can never get success in Gujarat because the people support only those who believe in doing work. That is why people remain by the BJP's side, said the BJP leader.

Suggesting there is no challenger to the BJP (AAP or the Congress),

Shah said, “The BJP is on its way to achieving a thumping Victory.”

“I want to tell Bhupendrabhai that the people of Gujarat are with the BJP. I can see very clearly that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and you, the BJP will once again form a Government with a two-thirds majority in the upcoming elections,” Shah said.

The AAP has entered the poll fray in Gujarat, the home State of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah, and is aiming to replace the Congress as the “main challenger” in the State poll which has now turned into a triangular contest.

While the AAP and the BJP are locked in a verbal duel in the National Capital over the alleged corruption in the AAP-run-Delhi Government, the

same echoes in Gujarat which will go to Assembly polls in about a few months time.

The AAP's national convener and Delhi Chief Minister campaigning in the State announced that if his party voted it will ensure its Chief Minister, Ministers as well as lawmakers from other parties and Government officers do not indulge in corruption and are jailed if caught doing so.

The AAP had earlier contested local body elections and made good inroads in Surat.

“Whosoever I met in Gujarat said there is corruption everywhere. One has to pay a bribe to get Government work done. There is corruption at the lower level and at the top also there are scams. If one speaks against it, he is threatened...There is corruption and hooliganism everywhere in Gujarat,” Kejriwal

claimed while talking to reporters at a gathering in Ahmedabad.

The AAP Government will make sure every penny collected from the public as tax goes to the service of the people of Gujarat, he said.

“Today, I give a guarantee that when the AAP forms Government in Gujarat, it will provide a corruption-free and fear-free Government,” he said.

Kejriwal also promised to stop “illegal businesses” of present Ministers and Government officers in Gujarat, investigate “scams” of the present Government and recover money collected through corrupt means so that it can be spent on the public.

“We will also open cases of paper leaks of the last 10 years and their masterminds will be arrested and jailed,” the AAP leader said.

GOVT VIOLATED CVC NORMS IN TENDER FOR 1K BUSES



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government scrapped the tender process for the procurement of 1,000 low floor buses only after a

comprehensive report by the Deputy Commissioner DTC, exposing the wrongdoings being carried out under the direct supervision of Transport Minister Kailash Gehlot. The

AAP Government reportedly violated the CVC guidelines and General Financial Rules (GFR) in the procurement of the buses. The document accessed by *The Pioneer* from

The document accessed by *The Pioneer* from Government sources revealed that the consultant Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System Ltd and the Tender Committee of DTC did not correctly evaluate the financial bids

Government sources revealed that consultant Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) Ltd. and Tender Committee of DTC did not correctly evaluate financial bids. "The file noting was also endorsed by then Additional Chief Secretary (Transport) but Minister did not himself sign the file noting.

Instead, the Secretary to Minister signed the report with a noting that 'the Chairman DTC and Minister (Transport) has seen it,'" they said. "Interestingly, the deviations from the specifications of the

RFP in violation of the rules, as recommended by Tender Committee headed by Gehlot, were already approved by the Managing Director, DTC and the Transport Minister himself on November 6, 2019, a day before it was placed before the DTC Board for approval on November 7, 2019," they stated.

While highlighting the file noting dated November 27, 2019 of the Deputy Commissioner (DTC), the sources stated that the DTC had floated the tender for procurement of 1,000 buses and it was

a single tender for supply of 1000 BS-IV or latest buses. "In the pre-bid, the quantity of 1000 buses was bifurcated into 400 BS-IV buses and 600 BS-VI buses but tender still remained one only and bidders could have made bid for entire quantity of these buses of both types.

Merely bifurcation of two types of buses, did not change the RFP into two separate tenders," they informed. "M/s TATA Motors Ltd. made a bid for 600 buses only and, therefore, its bid should have been summarily rejected," they

claimed. "After rejection of Tata Motors, there would have been a single bid of M/s JBM and examination of this tender would have been on an entirely different footing," they said. "It is also noted that DTC invited M/s JBM for negotiation for BS-IV buses by arriving at a justified price of Rs.80,96,470 of this category of bus on the basis of rates of TATA which never made any bid for this category.

The rates of TATA offered for BS-VI were rationalized by DTC which could not have been done for this comparison. M/s JBM did not agree with the offer but this action of DTC is without any justification and the price negotiation with M/s JBM is violative of GFR and CVC guidelines," they said. "Interestingly, there was a specific requirement of front facing seats in RFP but both Consultant (DIMTS) and DTC

Tender Committee did not reject JBM bid for want of this condition. Since buses offered by M/s JBM did not have front facing seats as per condition of RFP, its bid should have been rejected at techno-commercial stage itself and there was no justification to open financial bid of a bidder whose bus did not meet specifications," sources said.

The RFP contained a proforma for deviation but M/s JBM did not mention any deviation from the specifications and therefore, DTC should not have considered the bid.

This Tender process has been vitiated and DTC must inquire into the matter and fix responsibility for the lapses, they said. For following reasons, it is recommended that DTC should scrap tender and should call fresh bids without any delay, sources further added.

Appointment of Bharati College principal quashed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The appointment of the principal of Bharati College has been quashed by the Delhi University (DU) after the college's governing body objected to the selection process, saying the University Grants Commission's (UGC) rules were violated.

Governing body chairman Daya Nath Jha had written to the DU, demanding that the appointment be quashed as the apex committee of the university did not finalise the name on the basis of merit.

The interview for the appointment of a permanent principal in Bharati College was held on August 10. The governing body had sent three names, which were placed in the order of preference.

According to the governing body, the DU's apex committee recommended the third name on the panel for appointment, ignoring the first two names. In a circular issued on September 11 to Jha, the Assistant Registrar (colleges) of the DU said, "I have been directed to



inform you that it has been decided that the letter dated 22.08.2022 issued in connection with the appointment of principal stands withdrawn. Consequently, the said selection process stands quashed.

"In view of the above, I have been further directed to take immediate necessary steps in re-advertising the post of principal of your college in terms of the proviso of Ordinance XVIII, Clause 7 of

the university, after taking into account the qualifications or eligibility criteria envisaged under Ordinance XXIV of the university conveyed to the colleges or institutions of the university."

According to sources, the selection of the Principal of Bharati College was challenged by Professor Rekha Sapra and Dr Nandani C Sen and they had filed a writ petition before Delhi High Court.

Day 1: 34,000 register on CSAS portal of DU

NEW DELHI: The Delhi University said that more than 34,000 candidates had registered on the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal for admission to undergraduate programmes in the varsity till 6 PM on Tuesday.

The DU launched the CSAS portal on Monday for admission to undergraduate courses for the academic year 2022-23. This year, DU is taking admission on the basis of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores. The application number of the CUET (UG)-2022 is mandatory to apply for CSAS-2022.

The portal will remain open till October 3, giving students a 21-day window to apply for their desired undergraduate programmes. There will be no offline filling up of the CSAS-2022 application form.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to make Delhi a major tourist hub, the Delhi Government is working on conservation and restoration of the Mughal-era Azimganj Serai.

On Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and officials of the Delhi Archaeological Department reviewed the progress of the works being done at the 16th Century monument located in Sunder Nagar, Nizamuddin.

Speaking about the conservation project, Sisodia said that the buildings of historical importance like Azimganj Serai have remained neglected for a longer time, due to which these buildings have suffered a lot.

"The government is ensuring the work of conservation and beautification of Azimganj Serai is done with utmost care so that the monument built in the 16th century, can get back its rich identity," said Sisodia. "Once the conservation and beautification work of the famous Azimganj Serai is completed, it will emerge as a

major tourist destination in Delhi. It will not only attract tourists but will also make them aware of the centuries-old rich history of Delhi," said Sisodia.

The project is being carried out by the Department of Archaeology, Government of NCT of Delhi, which is responsible for the protection, conservation and maintenance of monuments in Delhi, which is

beyond the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India, Government of India. Azimganj Serai is the earliest Mughal period Serai in Delhi currently standing within the boundary of Delhi Zoo and located in the north of Sunder nursery. All four corners of the monument have elegant octagonal bastions. The square plan consists of 108 arched cells which are in an advanced stage

of deterioration. "Currently, the Serai stands in isolation within dense vegetation and is not easily accessible to visitors. Its ruinous remains clearly visible from Sunder nursery depict original context and connectivity of monument with the old grand trunk road. Azimganj Serai is just 600 meters away from boundary of World Heritage Site of Humayun's tomb," said official.



Congress, AAP reject MCD delimitation draft

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

The AAP and the Congress gave a thumb down to the draft order on delimitation of municipal wards in Delhi, calling in question the range of population variations and changes in physical boundaries of wards.

The office of the Delimitation Committee for Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) wards on Monday issued a draft order inviting suggestions and objections from political parties and the general public. The Central Government had earlier this year unified the erstwhile South, North, and East municipal corporations of Delhi, reducing the earlier 272 wards to 250 under the sole MCD.

The three major political parties in Delhi- BJP, AAP, and Congress — said they were still analysing the draft order on delimitation and will submit their suggestions after getting feedback from their leaders and workers in different parts of the city. The preliminary feedback is that delimitation of wards has been done in a rather "illogical manner," said AAP's Delhi unit convener

Gopal Rai. "Those involved in delimitation of ward just picked one Mohalla (locality) from a ward and put it in another ward. They didn't even know which area is being kept in which ward and why," Rai said, citing an example.

Rai, who is the development minister in AAP government in Delhi, said under the draft, the population in some wards varies from around 45,000 to over 75,000. "So the development fund for one ward with 45,000 people will be similar to that for the ward with 75,000 people which will create issues," he said.

He said the AAP is reviewing the draft and will submit its suggestions based on experience from the ground. The Delhi Congress leaders also cited several shortcomings in the draft delimitation. "In Okhla Assembly, areas under Sarita Vihar ward having a sizeable population of minorities has been shifted to Abul Fazal Enclave ward. "This will make it tough for Congress to win Sarita Vihar where the party candidate had won twice earlier," said Delhi Congress communication department vice chairman Parvez Alam.

Kejriwal upset with Bhagwant Mann, may remove him as CM, claims Sirsa

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

BJP leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Tuesday claimed that AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal seems to be upset with Bhagwant Mann and he is planning to remove him from Chief Minister's position in Punjab.

In a series of tweet, Sirsa claimed that he got a call from AAP MP, who shared the ongoing issue between Kejriwal and Mann with confidentiality. "I got a call from @AamAadmiParty MP who shared with confidentiality that things have turned sour between Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann because Punjab CM didn't speak in favour of Manish Sisodia when his liquor scam got exposed," Sirsa tweeted.

"Kejriwal seems to be upset with Bhagwant Mann and he is planning to remove him from CM position. Harpal Cheema's drama about Operation Lotus in Punjab is planned while CM Mann is away to Germany. We all might soon see Bhagwant Mann sacrificed as a scapegoat," Sirsa said in another tweet.

Garbage woes worsened, says AAP at anti-kooda drive launch

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP has decided to launch 'Kooda Virodhi Abhiyan' from Wednesday to October 14 against the BJP ruled municipal corporation failure of sanitation and garbage management in the national Capital.

Addressing a joint press conference, the AAP leaders, Gopal Rai, Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj, said the situation of garbage in Delhi was always bad but it has drastically worsened over the last six months.

Rai said that Every MLA in Delhi is doing their best for the development of their constituency but they are in a limbo on the issue of garbage.

"Hence, we have decided to start a statewide mission from September 14th to October 14th against the BJP's MCD for turning Delhi into 'kooda-kooda'. We will not let Delhi remain in this condition. Either the BJP will have to remove the garbage in Delhi or they have to remove themselves from the MCD. There is no midway," said Rai.

"The Kooda Virodhi Abhiyan will have several phases. The first phase will begin tomorrow. The first phase of the Mission will be of three days with title 'BJP ka chamatkar dekho, kudde ka pahad dekho'. We are inviting the people of Delhi to come to Ghazipur landfill site on September 14. Atishi will be leading the people to the site so that they can get to know about the lives of people living around the mountain of garbage," said Rai.



"On September 15, Saurabh Bhardwaj will lead the people to the Okhla landfill site. Durgesh Pathak will take the people to Bhalwa landfill site on September 16. Subsequently, we will run the event movement in a phase wise manner," said Rai. The AAP spokesperson, Bhardwaj said that Delhi has been suffering

from the problem of garbage mismanagement for a very long time but in the last six months, the problem has worsened exponentially.

"The main problem behind this is the absence of councillors. When we had councillors, they owed accountability to the public. Ex-councillors can't fundamentally serve them. Now people come with complaints to the MLAs but the MCD has no responsibility towards MLAs so they don't listen to us," said Bhardwaj.

Atishi said that for the last 15 years, the BJP has been ruling the MCD and the state of sanitation is deteriorating all over Delhi day by day. "Be it any gully mohalla, unauthorised colony or elite gated society, you'll only find garbage thrown around.

BJP: Remove 2 MLAs convicted for 2015 mob attack on police station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEWDELHI

The Delhi BJP on Tuesday tasked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to remove two MLAs — Akhilesh Pati Tripathi and Sanjeev Jha from the party after a city court convicted them in a case related to a mob attack on a police station in Burari in 2015.

The conviction of the two AAP MLAs comes at a juncture when the Arvind Kejriwal-led party is at loggerheads with BJP over a number of issues including the Delhi liquor scam, 'Operation Lotus' and allegations against LG AK Saxena.

In a video statement, Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta asked the Delhi CM to not only sack Jha and Tripathi from AAP but also the Assembly. Accusing AAP leaders of violating the Constitution, he dubbed the conduct of the aforesaid legislators 'shameful'. Gupta remarked, "Once again, the ugly face of AAP has been exposed.

AAP leaders, MLAs, Ministers indulge in corruption, hooliganism, and rioting.

Their corporators are held guilty and sent to jail. AAP talks about morality and honesty. But they are not even removed from the party. Today, the AAP MLAs have been held guilty in a case pertaining to rioting and attacking police. This is very shameful for democracy."

Later addressing a press conference, Gupta said that Kejriwal always behaves like 'muh mein Ram bagal mein churi'. Once again, the disgusting face of the AAP has come before the people. Today, not only Delhi, the whole country has come to know that how AAP's MLAs, ministers and leaders indulge in corruption and hooliganism and do not even shy away from assaulting the police. He said that Kejriwal, who talked about not taking a bungalow or a car, now flies by a chartered plane. In the fact is in the last eight years, Kejriwal has only been doing gimmicks. Today they have nothing to show for their work. Therefore, to divert the attention of the public, Kejriwal is adopting various tactics.

PETA seeks ban on breeding, sale of Pitbulls

Animal rights group has sought closure of illegal pet shops, breeders and a crackdown on dog fights

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India, an animal protection group, has called for a ban on the breeding and sale of Pitbulls in the country and demanded closure of illegal pet shops, breeders, and a crackdown on illegal dog fights held in many parts of India. PETA has written to the Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, and Animal Welfare



Board of India chair OP Chaudhary requesting an amendment in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rules, 2017, to prohibit the breeding and keeping of breeds of dogs that are bred for fighting

and racing and a ban on the breeding and sale of Pitbulls in the country. PETA also pointed out that in the recent cases of people being attacked by dogs, the breed in common is the Pitbull. "PETA is asking for a ban on the breeding, sale and

keeping of Pitbull-type dogs because they are bred in such a way that they are trained for fighting. For those that are already at home, they need to be registered and sterilised so that they are not bred and sold. Pitbull-type dogs are the most abused dogs," PETA said.

PETA has also released a footage provided by the Fauna Police, showing lethal injuries that animals sustain in the alleged dogfights. "The footage shows how dog fighters train pit-bulls, Pakistani Bully Kutta, and mixed-breed dogs by goading them into killing wild animals," it said in a statement.

"Puppies are provoked into fighting each other. The fights can leave the dogs so exhausted they can no longer continue or defend themselves. The

dogs are encouraged to fight until at least one gets seriously injured or dies," it said. PETA India's Veterinary Policy Advisor Nithin Krishnegowda said that they have urged the Government to join the "effort" to stop dog fights by making it "illegal to breed". "Dog fighters choose secret locations. Anyone who sees or learns of these rings, must be quick to report them to the police," Krishnegowda said. In India, inciting dogs to fight is illegal under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

However, PETA has claimed that the illegal sport that involves "gambling and operates in secrecy", is pre-dominant in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Jammu.

Bharadwaj directs officials to look into complaints of water billing discrepancies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After several complaints were received about irregularities in meter reading across the city, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice chairman Saurabh Bharadwaj chaired a meeting with the officials on Tuesday. The representatives of the private billing agencies of all 21 zones were also present in the meeting held at DJB headquarters.

Bharadwaj also took stock of the water billing issues from all zones and asked all the representatives what concrete steps they took on receiving the complaints of meter reading discrepancies. He also directed all the private agencies to take

immediate action against those meter readers who are indulging in water reading frauds and demanding money from consumers. Bharadwaj also directed the private agencies that any meter reader on whom action is taken for such delinquency, he should be blacklisted instantly so that he is not re-employed by any other agency of Delhi Jal Board in future.

"We also have to make the consumers aware about this issue so that when water readers demand money from them, they do not get into his tactics and immediately file a complaint," said Bharadwaj. Delhi Jal Board has a total of 41 zones and private agencies have been

appointed for the water billing in 21 zones. He also took cognizance of the fact that some of the private agencies pay less than minimum wage to their meter readers and said that if the private agencies don't pay the minimum wages to the meter readers, they will start indulging in corrupt practices.

"Because of the non-payment of minimum wages by the private agencies, the meter readers begin to demand money from consumers and this brings disrepute to the government," said Bharadwaj. Bharadwaj directed the officials of DJB to issue notices to the private agencies that are paying less than the minimum wages to their water meter readers.

India to host G20 summit in Sept 2023

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

India will host the prestigious annual summit of G20 (Group of 20) nations here next year in September besides over 200 meetings of the grouping across the country after assuming its presidency for one year from December 1, 2022.

Announcing the schedule of the programmes, the ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Tuesday, "The G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10, 2023 in New Delhi."

The G20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU).

Collectively, the G20



accounts for 85 per cent of the global GDP, 75 per cent of international trade, and two-thirds of the world population, making it the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

India is currently part of the G20 Troika (current, previous, and incoming G20 Presidencies) also comprising Indonesia and Italy.

During India's Presidency, India, Indonesia and Brazil would form the troika.

This would be the first

time when the troika would consist of three developing countries and emerging economies, providing them a greater voice, the MEA said.

There is a tradition of the G20 Presidency inviting some guest countries and international organisations to the meetings and summit besides the members.

Accordingly, in addition to regular international organisations like the United Nations(UN), International Monetary Fund(IMF), World Bank, World Health

Organization, World Trade Organization and International Labour Organization among others, India, as G20 Presidency, will be inviting Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and the UAE as guest countries, the MEA said.

It also said the ISA (International Solar Alliance), CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure), and ADB (Asian Development Bank) would also be invited as guests.

"Whilst our G20 priorities are in the process of being firmed up, ongoing conversations inter alia revolve around inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth; LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment); women's empowerment; digital public infrastructure and tech-enabled development in areas ranging from health and agriculture," the MEA said.

The other key areas are education, commerce, skill-mapping, culture and tourism, climate financing, circular

economy, global food security, energy security, green hydrogen, disaster risk reduction and resilience, developmental cooperation, fight against economic crime and multilateral reforms.

The G20 currently comprises - Finance Track, with 8 workstreams (Global Macroeconomic Policies, Infrastructure Financing, International Financial Architecture, Sustainable Finance, Financial Inclusion, Health Finance, International Taxation, Financial Sector Reforms); Sherpa Track, with 12 workstreams (Anti-corruption, Agriculture, Culture, Development, Digital Economy, Employment, Environment and Climate, Education, Energy Transition, Health, Trade and Investment, Tourism); 10 Engagement Groups of private sector/civil society/independent bodies (Business 20, Civil 20, Labour 20, Parliament 20, Science 20, Supreme Audit Institutions 20, Think 20, Urban 20, Women 20 and Youth 20).

Govt to replace toll plazas with new tech to cut waiting time

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to road users and a bid to avoid congestions, the Centre is looking for technologies to replace toll plazas with automatic number plate recognition system, which will enable deduction of fee from vehicle owners' bank accounts.

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said after the introduction of FASTags, toll income of State-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) increased by Rs 15,000 crore per year. "And now, we are going to launch automobile number plate technology (Automatic Number Plate Reader cameras) by which there will be no toll plazas," he said.

During 2018-19, the average waiting time for vehicles at toll plazas was 8 minutes. With the introduction of FASTags during 2020-21 and 2021-22,



the average waiting time for vehicles has now come down to 47 seconds and the authorities have been working on to limit this time to less than five seconds. Although that is a considerable improvement in the waiting time, at certain locations, especially near cities, and densely populated towns, there are still some delays at toll plazas during peak hours.

Gadkari said that the government is now looking at two options — a satellite-based toll system where the GPS will be there in a car and the toll will be directly subtracted from the passenger's bank account and the other option is through

number plates. "We are in the process of introducing GPS instead of FASTag while using satellite and on the basis of which we want to take the toll. Technology is also available on number plate and there is good technology available in India," he said.

"We will select the technology. Though we have not taken an official decision, in my view on the number plate technology there will be no toll plaza and there will be a sophisticated computerised digital system by which we can give relief. There will be no queues and people will get great relief," road transport minister said.

75 yrs of independence, Nari Shakti theme of 2023 Republic Day Parade: MoD to States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Republic Day next year may see tableaux highlighting 75 years of India's independence, International Year of Millets and Nari Shakti. The Defence Ministry has suggested these three themes to various State Governments, Central Ministries and departments in this regard.

In a letter to the various concerned State Governments and departments, the Government has invited them to create a tableaux choosing any of these three themes or a combination of the three, it was learnt.

The Government which is celebrating 75 years of India's independence has proposed that India@75 tableaux include India's freedom struggle, its achievements, actions and resolves over the past seven decades. The theme to mark



a day of millets has its roots in 2021 when India had proposed to the United Nations to declare 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM).

The proposal of India received support from 72 countries and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

In fact, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers

Welfare has already formed a core committee to mark the occasion and six task forces have been constituted to ensure on-ground implementation of policies to promote millets production and supply in the country, officers said.

The departments concerned have to submit their proposals to the Ministry of Defence with well conceptualised proposals and brief write-ups by September 30.

BCCI urges SC to allow amendment to its constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) in India and many State Cricket Associations argued in the Supreme Court on Tuesday for amending the Board's constitution that would result in changing many rules including a cooling-off period and the age limit of office-bearers.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta supported the BCCI's demand for amending its constitution which if not done will lead to the ouster of BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and Secretary Jay Shah.

The current norms, which were set by the Supreme Court in 2018, allow office-bearers a tenure up to a total of six years in State and BCCI in total with

a three year cooling off period of three years. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, also supported the move. SG Mehta, appearing for the Centre, proposed a total period of nine years for the office-bearers.

Amicus Curiae Maninder Singh too supported the change. The SG pointed out that the International Cricket Council has many members above 70 years.

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy objected to changing the 2018 Supreme Court-approved Constitution of BCCI. The Bench comprising Justice DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli will continue to hear the matter on Wednesday and is expected to pass an interim order.

Court's order on Gyanvapi violates Places of Worship Act, says CPM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Tuesday said that the decision of the district court in Varanasi in the Gyanvapi mosque case is in "clear violation" of the aim behind the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

"Wrong interpretations of the law by sections of the judiciary will lead to serious consequences of the kind that the law was meant to prevent. It is no secret that the ruling party is hell-bent on a distorted interpretation of history to target minority communities.

"The claim that present-day mosques were built on sites where temples were destroyed has been a longstanding method to whip up religious sentiments and to use this for a communal agenda," the CPI(M) said in a statement. The party further said the 1991



law came into effect to uphold the national interest of communal harmony and to prevent a plethora of motivated petitions such as those in Mathura and Varanasi. "The CPI(M) reiterates its support for the strict implementation of the 1991 law based on the spirit behind and the intention of the law," the Left party said.

The court on Monday said it will continue to hear a petition

seeking daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the Gyanvapi Masjid, dismissing the mosque committee's argument that the case is not maintainable.

It said the 1991 Act does not apply in this case — where the devotees are seeking permission for daily worship of the idols they say are already installed there.

IN SHORTS

POSHAN TRACKER HAS 9.84 CR BENEFICIARIES

New Delhi: More than 80 per cent of the beneficiaries registered on the Poshan Tracker have successfully incorporated their Aadhaar numbers with the system, according to the Women and Child Development Ministry. The Poshan Tracker has more than 9.84 crore beneficiaries, including 8.5 crore children.

ACT AGAINST RAHUL, CHILD RIGHTS BODY ASKS EC

New Delhi: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has asked the Election Commission to initiate necessary action and enquiry into a complaint against the Congress and Rahul Gandhi for allegedly "misusing children as political tools" in the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra. It said it is in receipt of a complaint wherein it has been alleged that Rahul and the Jawahar Bal Manch are targeting children with political intentions and making them to get involved in political activities.

ARVIND ADVERTISEMENT PARTY: CONG'S DIG AT AAP

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday accused the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP of getting its Punjab Government to spend on advertisements in poll-bound Gujarat, calling it the 'Arvind Advertisement Party'. The Congress alleged that the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government is unable to pay salaries of employees but spent Rs 36 crore in two months on advertisements in Gujarat.

CONTESTING POLL NOT FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

New Delhi: The right to contest an election is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right, the Supreme Court has said while dismissing with a cost of Rs one lakh a petition which raised the issue regarding the filing of nomination for Rajya Sabha elections.

SOPS FOR CATTLE RESCUED FROM SMUGGLERS

New Delhi: The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has asked the BSF to establish a clear set of protocol for cattle rescued from smugglers on the Indo-Bangla border in the eastern frontier, sources said.

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank vs. DivyaKashyap, CS DJ NO. 1512/18	Vehicle No. DL1RTB0245, Make and Model- MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA LTD WAGON R, Manu Year- 2016
ICICI Bank Vs. KULDEEP SINGH, CS DJ 1971/17	Vehicle No. UP16AV7258, Make and Model- RENAULT DUSTER, Manu Year- 2014
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Salvador Singh, CS (COMM) No. 1234/2020	Vehicle No. DL9CAR9310, Make and Model- RENAULT LODGY, Manu Year- 2019.
ICICI BANK LTD VS. UPENDER SHARMA, CS (COMM) No. 4108/21	Vehicle No. DL10CL8810, Make and Model- TATA MOTORS LTD TIGOR, Manu Year- 2019

Auction Date: September 22, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Ltd. Vs. Babar & Anr, CS (Comm) No. 1377-21	Vehicle No - UP14JT1939, Make & Model - ASHOK LEYLAND GURU 1010, Manu. Year- 2019
ICICI BANK LTD VS RAJA HUSAIN, CS (COMM) No. 1094/21	Vehicle No. UP14JT3784, Make and Model - ASHOK LEYLAND LTD GURU 1111, Manu Year - 2019

Auction Date: September 22, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahal Parking yard, Khasra No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP, 201102
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SOBHA RAM, CS No. 3168/19	Vehicle No. - UP14ET0758, Make and Model - HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT BASE CRDI, Manu Year - 2016,
ICICI BANK LTD VS RAMESH, CS SCJ No. 1928/18	Vehicle No. - HR38U9071, Make and Model - TATA MOTORS LTD ACE, Manu Year - 2015
ICICI BANK LTD VS JAGDISH KUMAR, CS (COMM) No. 1992/2021	Vehicle No. - UP16ET9417, Make and Model - HYUNDAI MOTORS LTD XCENT, Manu Year - 2017, Reserve price: Rs.1,80,000/-, EMD Amount: 18,000/-, EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd payable at Delhi and bidder has to bring original DD/PO of EMD amount alongwith his KYC at site of auction.

Auction Date: September 29, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec - 17, Sukhraili, Gurugram - 122022
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI BANK LTD VS SONAM TOMAR, CS (COMM) No. 1829/2021	Vehicle No. - UP14HT8563, Make and Model - ASHOK LEYLAND LTD, PARTNER, Manu Year - 2019

Auction Date: September 29, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: Mahal Parking yard, Khasra No 527 Village Banthla Near Indane Gas Plant Loni Ghaziabad-UP, 201102
Contact Person - Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said assets and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents to participate in the auction. .
Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DELHI

4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
ICICI BANK LTD VS AVLESH KUMAR, OA NO. 293/2021	Vehicle No- HR26CG4646 Make & Model- BMW, Manu Year-2013	Rs. 4,30,000/-	Rs. 43,000/-
ICICI BANK LTD VS AKSHAY GIRI, OA NO. 494/2019	Vehicle No. UP14GT8288 Make & Model- SML iSuzu Samrat, Manu Year-2017	Rs. 3,15,000/-	Rs. 31,500/-

Auction Date: September 29, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction:- Godara Yard, Khewat No. 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chowk, Behind Gyan Devi, School, Sec- 17, Sukhraili, Gurugram- 122022
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
ICICI BANK LTD VS JYOTI, OA NO. 473/2019	Vehicle No- HR69C1260, Make & Model- ASHOK LEYLAND LTD AL 1212, Manu Year-2017	Rs. 3,26,800/-	Rs. 32,680/-

Auction Date: September 29, 2022 From 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Place of Auction: SHRIRAM AUTOMALL INDIA LTD., Pio Maniyaari road, Opposite Kanya Gurukul School, Narela, New Delhi - 110040
Contact Person- Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Note: EMD is to be made in favour of ICICI BANK LIMITED payable at Delhi and Bidder has to bring original EMD at site with KYC

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said assets and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at auction site with original KYC documents and DD/PO of EMD amount in favour of ICICI bank Limited, payable at Delhi to participate in the auction. .
Successfully bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the payment of remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8 New Delhi - 110085 for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicles.



Ayurveda, Yoga may aid in Covid treatment: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

As a holistic treatment, yoga and ayurveda may be immensely effective in the treatment of high-risk cases of Covid-19, according to a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi and Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar.

The study on successful treatment of 30 high-risk Covid-19 patients has been published in the *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*. The study also suggested that in addition to the treatment for Covid-19, yoga and ayurveda may be instrumental in relieving such patients from anxiety and aid in speedy post-treatment recovery. "The study also demonstrates an urgent need to scientifically examine the traditional Indian knowledge systems at the top academic institutions.

A timely and suitably designed randomized controlled trial evaluating the efficacy of ayurveda and yoga based personalized integrative treatment for Covid-19 would have equipped the people with much more credible and dependable information about their use in managing Covid-19," said Rahul Garg of IIT-Delhi who conceptualized the project. Besides the standard care treatment according to

guidelines, the patients were prescribed ayurvedic medicines through telemedicine, and administered a personalized therapeutic yoga programme using video conferencing. "Almost all the patients were classified as high-risk owing to one or more of comorbidities such as Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension, Chronic Kidney Disease, Coronary Artery Disease (which are known to lead to severe outcomes in cases of COVID-19), and/or age above 60. "The treatment given to the patients was personalized (in accordance with the classical texts) and took account of each patient's medical history and the symptoms presented, which made it more effective as compared to a fixed standardized treatment plan," Garg said.

The treatment included ayurvedic medicines, daily yoga-sessions including deep relaxation techniques, pranayama and basic asanas and some lifestyle modifications. Based on the administered treatment, the cases were categorized into YAS (Yoga-Ayurveda based treatment, with possibly allopathic supplements), YASP (Yoga-Ayurveda based treatment, with possibly allopathic Supplements and Paracetamol), YAM (Yoga-Ayurveda based treatment, and Modern Western Medicine (MWM).

The patients, most of whom presented with many symptoms prior to the Yoga and Ayurveda treatment, were followed-up telephonically regularly until recovery. More than half of symptomatic patients started improving within five days (90 per cent within nine days) and more than 60 per cent reported at least 90 per cent recovery within 10 days.

"Six patients with oxygen saturation (SpO2) below 95 per cent, benefited through Makarasana and Shithilasana; none progressed to composite endpoints (consisting of admission to intensive care unit, invasive ventilation or death). Most patients reported that the therapy had a profound impact on their recovery process, with many experiencing improvements with respect to their comorbidities too.

"By the end of the treatment, several patients had decided to adopt yoga in their lifestyle, and several turned to the ayurveda doctors in the team for management and treatment of their comorbidities," said Sonika Thakral, a scholar at IIT Delhi, who coordinated with the patients for routine follow-up. Dr Alka Mishra who administered ayurveda treatment said the belief of the patients in the efficacy of these traditional systems of medicine was extremely enhanced.

EC delists non-existent 86 registered parties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday delisted 86 non-existent Registered Unrecognized Political Parties (RUPPs) and declared additional 253 as 'Inactive RUPPs'. This action against 339 non-compliant RUPPs takes the tally to 537 defaulting RUPPs since May 25, 2022. The decision against 253 non-compliant RUPPs has been taken based on reports received from Chief Electoral Officers of seven states namely Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

In a statement, the EC said "immediate corrective measures" were required to be taken in larger public interest as well as for the "purity" of electoral democracy and hence it has also declared an additional 253 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs)



as "inactive" as they have not responded to the letter/notice delivered to them and have not contested a single election either to the General Assembly of a State or the Parliament Election 2014 and 2019.

These RUPPs have failed to comply with statutory requirements for more than 16 compliance steps since 2015 and are continuing to default. The decision was taken by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey, it said.

The EC said that of the above 253 parties, 66 RUPPs actually applied for a common symbol as per para 10B of the

Symbol's Order 1968 and did not contest the respective elections. "It is pertinent to note that privilege of a common symbol is given to RUPP based upon an undertaking for putting up at least 5 percent of total candidates with regard to said legislative assembly election of a State. Possibility of such parties occupying the available pre-election political space by taking benefits of admissible entitlements without contesting elections cannot be ruled out. This also tends to crowd out the political parties actually contesting elections and also creating confusing situation for the voters," it said.

They were categorised as inactive, as they have "not responded to the letter/notice delivered to them and have not contested a single election either to the general assembly of a state or the Parliament election 2014 and 2019," the EC said.

Cry for Rahul as Cong prez grows louder

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Rahul Gandhi who is leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the 3500-km-long walkathon across the nation from Kanyakumari to Kashmir on Tuesday expressed his strong reservations over the controversial Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram High Speed Rail Track and asked the Congress leadership in Kerala to agitate against the project.

The former president of the Congress met persons who stand to lose their households and farmlands to the project and assured them of all help. Congress leaders in Kerala are on a path of agitation against the 530 km project which is enmeshed in controversies.

Meanwhile Congressmen across Tamil Nadu and Kerala are unanimous in their stance that Rahul Gandhi should take control of the party at this critical juncture. The demand for Rahul's ascension to the post of AICC president

is growing by the hour as the Bharat Jodo Yatra is drawing wide attention in the State.

On Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi completed the walkathon through the district of Thiruvananthapuram unperturbed by rainfalls.

In an interesting development, all debates on the next president of the party has subsided as leaders of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee are fully focused on making the Yatra a huge success.

"If the public participation which we are experiencing is any indication, the Yatra has already become a success," said Ramesh Chennithala, former minister and senior leader. Mohammed Shiyaz, president, Ernakulam district Congress Committee who is in charge of the Yatra for the next three days said that there was a unanimity among partymen that Rahul should take over the presidency of the party. Though there was an attempt by a section of the CPI(M) to 'ridicule' the



Bharat Jodo Yatra in social media for excluding crucial States like Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and a major portion of Uttar Pradesh from the itinerary, party's Kerala secretary M V Govindan said on Tuesday that his party would not question the sincerity

behind the mission. Rahul Gandhi who has been expressing his concern over the sharp cut made by the Centre in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme over the last five years met those who lost their income

because of the Government move and expressed his anguish over it. "Rahul Gandhi has assured us that he would continue his fight to restore the programme to its original original form," said one of the former beneficiaries.

Govt reaches out to Poonch with dev projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Reaching out to the people of the frontier district of Poonch, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of several projects worth Rs.195 crores to accelerate the development of 229 Panchayats in the region.

On his arrival, the Lt Governor dedicated the newly laid Hockey Astro Turf at the Shaheed DySP Manjeet Singh memorial Government Higher Secondary School and a Boxing hall at the Sports Stadium to the youth and sportspersons of the district.

Sinha also announced 20

mobile towers and a Trauma Centre will come up soon in Poonch.

During his visit to the border district, the Lt Governor also launched projects worth Rs. 78.80 Crores for the welfare of tribal communities and observed that several infrastructure projects, including bridge, roads, power sub-stations, smart class rooms, model villages will spearhead the cause of sustainable rural development.

14 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras will create local facilities for value addition to traditional forest products and empower tribal communities. Various other benefits extended to small farmland owners,

people living in border villages will infuse a sense of self-confidence, said the Lt Governor.

Addressing the people of the district who were gathered at the Sports Stadium, the Lt Governor said, "It is our firm resolve to strengthen the connectivity in border villages. 14 road projects worth Rs. 50 crore launched today will bring prosperity and help in overall development of the area."

The Lt Governor also paid homage to Padma Shri Mali- a female member of Gujar Community who saved Poonch in 1971 war on the occasion. As a tribute to Smt. Mali's invaluable contribution to the country, Govt Degree College, Mandi will be named after her,

he further announced.

"Effective steps shall be taken by the district administration to make young generations aware of her inspiring saga", the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor said, Poonch is our pride and several steps are being taken to transform its ecological richness and evolve innovative and ecologically sustainable ways of promoting tourism that will provide greater thrust to other economic activities.

As a significant step towards tapping the immense tourism potential of the district, the project of tourist infrastructure development of Noori Chhamb under PMDP was also inaugurated on the occa-

sion.

Observing that Tribal community awaited social justice for years, the Lt Governor said under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, various schemes have been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and today every tribal family has been granted their long due constitutional rights.

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program, (PMEGP), skill development for tribal youth has been started in Poonch and two batches of training have been completed. The Government is bearing the expenses of the Coaching for young boys and girls of the tribal community for the Civil Services, J&K



Administrative Service examination, NEET, JEE examination, it was informed.

The Lt Governor said the special focus of administration is on development of border villages by ensuring effective implementation of pro-

jects under BADP, Samridh Seema Yojana and Aspirational Block. 55 projects of Samridh Seema Yojana and 11 projects of Aspirational Block have been approved and their tendering process is going on, he observed.

Quota for 'male third gender' in Karnataka police

PTI ■ BENGALURU

In a first for the State, the Karnataka Government has announced reservation for 'male third gender' in recruitment to the State armed forces.

State Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Tuesday said the process to recruit constables to fill 3,484 posts has started.

"For the first time in the State, 79 posts have been reserved for the 'male third gender,'" he said.

Transgender activists hailed the move. "I welcome the decision," Karnataka 'Rajyotsava' awardee Akkai Padmashali, a transgender and founder of 'Ondede' said.

Maha loses ₹1.54L cr project to poll-bound Guj

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Little over six weeks after it went to town claiming that it had bagged a massive Rs 2.06 lakh investment by pipping at least five States in the country, the Eknath Shinde-Dhendra Fadnavis Government in Maharashtra on Tuesday suffered a humiliation as Gujarat walked away with the Rs 1.54 lakh crore Vedanta Group-Foxconn Joint Venture (JV) project.

In what is being seen as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's role behind Maharashtra losing the prestigious project to the State Assembly poll-bound Gujarat, Vedanta on Tuesday signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with

the Bhupendrabhai Patel government to set up a semiconductor fab unit, a display fab unit, and a semiconductor assembling and testing unit in Ahmedabad district of the neighbouring state.

As per the MOUs signed between Vedanta and Gujarat Government in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel and Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal, the Vedanta Group-Foxconn JV envisages a total investment of Rs 1,54,000 crore, while it promises to provide employment to around 1 lakh people.

The proposed semiconductor manufacturing fab unit will operate on the 28nm technology nodes and the display

manufacturing unit will produce Generation 8 displays catering to small, medium and large applications. Vedanta will hold 60 per cent of the equity in the JV while Foxconn will own 40 per cent. The JV will look at setting up a semiconductor manufacturing plant in the next two years.

Ironically enough, the Maharashtra government had signed a deal — which incidentally was the single biggest investment of its kind received by Maharashtra — was signed with Vedanta in the presence of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on July 26, 2022.

On its part, the Maharashtra government had claimed that it had edged out the states of Gujarat, Tamil

Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh, which were eyeing for this huge investment

Tuesday's development left the Shinde-Fadnavis government in an embarrassing situation, with formal reaction forthcoming from either the chief minister or the deputy chief minister. While Chief minister Eknath Shinde kept mum, Fadnavis quietly landed in Russia to unveil the Statue of Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe and interact with the India Diaspora there.

Upset with the manner in which the Maharashtra government had lost the prestigious project to Gujarat, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents slammed the Shinde-Fadnavis

government for its failure to retain the project with the state.

While it not known yet as to what prompted Vedanta to sign a fresh deal with Gujarat government by backing out of the deal signed with the Shinde-Fadnavis government, official sources said that Modi had tilted the balance towards his home state Gujarat where the State Assembly polls are due in December this year.

Earlier this year, Vedanta Group — a mining giant based in Mumbai — had partnered with the Hon Hai Precision Industry (Foxconn) with plans to invest USD 15 billion in phases over the next five-ten years to manufacture semiconductor chips and displays in India.

Vigilance raids premises of two former AIADMK Ministers

PTI ■ COIMBATORE/CHENNAI

Officials of the Directorate Of Vigilance and Anti Corruption (DVAC) held multi-city searches at the premises of two AIADMK former ministers in connection with two different cases of alleged irregularities.

AIADMK interim chief K Palaniswami alleged the searches were held to "divert" attention from the "opposition" to the ruling DMK over the revised power tariff that came in to effect last week.

Searches were held at 26 premises belonging to AIADMK leader S P Velumani, a party strongman from Coimbatore, over a case of replacing existing street light with LED lights in rural areas during 2015-18. DVAC registered a criminal case against him over the allegation that he abused his official position in awarding tenders injudiciously to his close associated companies in replacing the lights with LED lights.

This has caused loss to the government exchequer approximately to the tune of Rs 500 crore, a DVAC statement said.

Based on the FIR, searches were held at 26 locations, including in Coimbatore, Chennai and Tiruchirappalli. However, the minister claimed



nothing incriminating was found from his house and insisted the action was a result of "political vendetta."

Hearing the news of searches, a large number of AIADMK workers and leaders gathered in front of Velumani's house on Palakkad Main Road in the city, leading to tense moments, even as more police personnel were deployed. Seven party MLAs allegedly involved in commotion with the police were detained.

Velumani held the Rural Development portfolio in the previous AIADMK cabinet.

Similarly, DVAC sleuths held searches against AIADMK's C Vijayabaskar, a former health minister, in connection with alleged irregularities in issuing essentiality certificate to a private medical college, against National Medical

Commission regulations.

Based on the FIR, searches were held in 13 places including in his native Pudukottai, Theni and Chennai, DVAC added.

Both leaders are sitting MLAs and are already under the DVAC scanner in disproportionate assets cases against them.

Hitting out at the ruling DMK over the vigilance action against his party colleagues, Palaniswami said it was done to divert attention from the "opposition" among the public over the new power tariff.

In a series of tweets, he also slammed the "autocratic" police action of detaining his party MLAs in Coimbatore.

They raised questions in a democratic manner and should be released forthwith, he demanded.

Gaganyaan's first test flight this year: Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's maiden human space-flight mission Gaganyaan is expected to be launched in 2024, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event, Singh said the government had planned the human space flight for 2022, the year of India's 75th anniversary of Independence, but the schedule went awry on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on the training of astronauts in Russia as well as India," Singh said, adding the first test-flight of the Gaganyaan mission is scheduled to take place later this year.

The first test-flight will be followed by sending a female-looking spacefaring humanoid robot -- Vyom Mitra -- in outer space likely next year, Singh said.

The Indian Air Force had identified four fighter pilots as the potential crew for the human space flight mission. The potential crew had undergone basic training in Russia.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will send at least two astronauts into a low earth orbit in 2024 after assessing the outcome of the two orbital test flights, Singh said.



Officials said during the test mission, the spacecraft will be launched to an altitude of 15 km during which space scientists will simulate an abort scenario to ensure the return crew capsule to the Earth using parachutes.

The second orbital test flight will take the Gaganyaan crew capsule to a higher altitude and undergo a similar abort scenario to perfect the system.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Gaganyaan mission in his Independence Day address in 2018 at a cost of Rs 10,000 crore.

ISRO also plans to launch the Chandrayaan-3 mission to the moon sometime next year. Officials said there were two launch windows for the moon mission next year in February and July.

Chandrayaan-3 is a successor to the Chandrayaan-2 mission that crash-landed on the lunar surface.

BSES
BSES Yamuna Power Limited

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER					Date: 14.09.2022
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job:					
NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & time of Bid opening
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/SS/36	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF VARIOUS TYPE OF METER'S	4.61 Crore	9.22 Lakh	04.10.2022, 15:00 Hrs	05.10.2022, 15:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/SS/37	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF METERING CUBICLE	80.00 Lakh	1.60 Lakh	04.10.2022, 15:00 Hrs	05.10.2022, 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/SS/38	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF BUSBAR CHAMBER	1.21 Crore	2.42 Lakh	04.10.2022, 15:00 Hrs	05.10.2022, 16:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1,180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com --> **BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD --> Tenders--> Open Tenders.** Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
TEL: 011-41247111 | Fax:011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

ICICI Bank
Whereas

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Hari Om Agarwal/ Krishna Devji/ LBMRTO0001485479	House Over Khasra No.1038, 1040 & 1041, Mohalla Krishna Puram, Village Malayana, Pargana & Tehsil & District Meerut, Uttar Pradesh / September 09, 2022	March 29, 2022 Rs.3,53,268/-	Meerut/ Ghaziabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : September 14, 2022
Place: Ghaziabad

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank
Whereas

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(i)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

This E-auction Sale notice for sale of Immovable assets is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Devender Singh (Borrower) Mrs. Dimpal Kushwah (Co-Borrower) QZGRN00005009725	House No.1447-C/13,1st Floor Rear LHS, Khasra No. 600/93, Gali No.13, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi. Admeasuring an area 360 Sq.ft.	Rs. 12,24,853/- (As on Sep 06, 2022)	Rs. 12,35,000/- Rs. 1,23,500/-	October 01, 2022 from 1 PM to 2 PM	October 21, 2022 from 12 noon onwards

The online auction will take place on website (URL Link- <https://disposalhub.com>) of our E-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. The Mortgagors/ noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **October 20, 2022 before 5 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** or to our marketing agent **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited at 203, 2nd Floor, Shree Shyam Palace, Railway Road, Sector 4 & 5 Crossing, Gurugram, Haryana 122006** on or before **October 20, 2022 before 5 PM**. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the E-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited at 8126013708/ 7304914763**. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s


Date : September 14, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

FIRST COLUMN

YOGA IN SCHOOLS FOR WELLBEING

Practicing yoga plays a key role in helping the sound state of minds of school students




SUSEELA **SANTHOSH**

Yoga is an ancient Indian practice that allows the mind and body to be connected with each other. It incorporates meditation, breathing exercises, and stretches to reduce stress, and allow relaxation, and rejuvenation.

Yoga is integral to physical and mental health. With Yoga, students can be healthy in body, spirit, and mind, thus encouraging them to excel in academics. Yoga improves balance, endurance, and strength in children. It also offers psychological benefits to children. Research has shown that Yoga can improve focus, memory, classroom behavior, self-esteem, and academic performance, and also reduce anxiety and stress in children. Yoga can help children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) by improving the core symptoms such as inattentiveness, hyperactivity, and impulsivity. It can also motivate school performance in children with ADHD.

Schools should integrate Yoga as a part of physical education programs or school curriculums to help students reap the benefits of what it offers. Yoga helps students physically and mentally by reducing stress and anxiety, while shielding them from the pressure of academics. Yoga is known to be an antidote to stress. It combines popular stress-



reducing techniques, including exercise and learning, to control breath, clear the mind, and relax the body.

Children who regularly practice Yoga not only report lower levels of stress and anxiety, but perform better in schools. Yoga also improves memory and concentration. Students need to have sharp minds to learn new things and prepare for exams. Yoga helps to improve memory function in both adults and children. It also helps to enhance contraction levels in children.

Yoga helps to improve flexibility, balance, and posture. Sitting down to study for long hours at a stretch can lead to incorrect postures. Poor postures in childhood can develop into serious health complications in adult life. Regular practice of various asanas leads to correction of posture, improves balance in the body, and makes the body flexible as it brings equilibrium to the body.

Students spend many hours in sedentary poses and tend to consume unhealthy food which is a result of the new age lifestyle. Yoga helps students stay fit and healthy through the regular practice of asanas. Yoga helps to curb the problem of childhood obesity at a young age.

Breathing is essential to life-force and movement. How we breathe is directly related to our overall well-being. Breathing affects our movement, posture, and ability to manage stress and stay calm. With the help of pranayama and other breathing exercises in Yoga, students can learn how to master the technique of breathing correctly and improve their quality of life. Yoga promotes inner healing rather than focusing on the outside. It is important for people to love and respect their own bodies – a crucial message for young children who are constantly advertised with high standards of body image ideas on social media. Yoga teaches children to be comfortable in their own skin and nurture it well.

Good immunity is essential for a student to perform well in school. Children with good immunity have better attendance and academic performance. Besides its many health benefits, Yoga boosts immunity and prevents attacks from different viruses and bacteria by increasing the levels of antibodies in children.

Mindfulness is being aware of your surroundings and living in the present moment. In today's day and age, students have so many activities going on that they forget to take a moment and be present in the moment. Yoga helps to promote mindfulness in students and makes them less anxious and relaxed. Students also become self-aware and creative when they focus on the present moment.

(The author is Director, Vishwa Vidyapeeth Group of Schools)

Chances of Congress winning are remote

Having lost the Lok Sabha elections twice and currently going through turbulent times, the party should support other Opposition parties in national interest



VANAM JWALA **NARASIMHA RAO**

With Rahul and Priyanka of the Nehru-Gandhi family shirking responsibility to head the All India Congress Committee, the Congress Working Committee decided to hold elections on October 17. Last time, the elections were held in 2000.

If it was Alan Octavian Hume, a civil servant in British India, who is credited with the birth of Indian National Congress in 1885, then it is Sonia Gandhi, an Italy-born Indian politician, to be credited with, for not only reviving congress, but also for returning it back to power in 2004 in difficult times.

Incidentally, it's again during her presidency that the Congress tasted successive defeats in two general elections. Several senior leaders deserted the party. Chances of the congress party returning to power at the Centre are almost nil. It is left with no option except to rejuvenate and join hands with secular parties in fighting harmful divisive politics in the country.

Tracing back its history, Womesh Chandra Banerjee was the first elected Congress president. Prominent freedom fighters like Madan Mohan Malviya, Motilal Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai, Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Subhas Chandra Bose, and JB Kriplani were elected to this coveted office before Independence. After Independence, for over 40 years, the post has been held by the Nehru-Gandhi family, though prominent leaders like Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Dhebar, Purushottam Das Tandon, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Kamaraj Nadar, Nijalingappa, Jagjivan Ram, Shankar Dayal Sharma, PV Narasimha Rao, and Sitaram Kesari also held the position at one time or the other.

During Jawaharlal Nehru's premiership, he held the presidency of INC thrice. After 1978 and after the split of Congress, under Indira Gandhi, organisational elections were seldom held. She institutionalised the practice of having the same person as the Congress president and the prime minister, which was continued by her successors Rajiv Gandhi and PV Narasimha Rao. The exception was in 2004, when the Congress was voted back to power, Manmohan Singh became prime minister, but Sonia Gandhi continued to be the president of the party.

PV Narasimha Rao succeeded Rajiv Gandhi as Congress president after his assassination. He was prime minister of the Congress-led minority government in 1991.

Congress lost elections in 1996 and Rao, who was not in good looks of Sonia Gandhi resigned as party president and as parliamentary party leader in favour of astute Sitaram Kesari, who sidelined many Sonia loyalists.

When several senior party leaders, mostly supporters of Sonia Gandhi, were in open revolt against Kesari, Sonia

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AFTER INDIRA'S ASSASSINATION, HER ELDER SON RAJIV GANDHI, A NOVICE TO INDIAN POLITICS, SUCCEEDED HER. WHEN HE WAS AICC PRESIDENT, CONGRESS WON THE LARGEST LOK SABHA MAJORITY TO DATE, 411 SEATS OUT OF 542

Gandhi joined Congress as 'Primary Member' after a long wait and within two months 'accepted when offered' the post of the party president in 1998, seven years after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. She remained in office until 2017. It was under her leadership that

The Congress as the single largest party of the United Progressive Alliance formed the government at center for two terms headed by Manmohan Singh. Ironically, during Sonia stewardship congress was voted out of power.

After serving for 19 long years, her son Rahul Gandhi, succeeded Sonia as the president of INC in 2017, but held the post barely for a year and half. Sonia resumed the post again in 2019 and remained the unquestionable party leader for a record period of over 22 years. Sonia revived the Nehru-Gandhi control over congress and has become indispensable in the party. Unless she opts out, she will be the leader forever despite some dissent.

Motilal Nehru, who was the founder patriarch of the Nehru-Gandhi family, after serving twice as president of INC, passed on the legacy to Jawaharlal Nehru. It was almost laying the foundation for the future Prime Ministerial berth. Mahatma Gandhi's support always remained with the Nehru family and everyone who opposed Jawaharlal was reduced to a minority in the party! Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Subhash Chandra Bose, Tandon and Pattabhi Sitaramayya were among them.

After Independence, Nehru continued to exhibit his supremacy in the party. When Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister, she propelled her party to split twice, and, in the process, emerged triumphant, establishing her absolute supremacy over the party due to her incredible public image. This she did when the so-called syndicate leaders like Kamaraj Nadar, Nijalingappa, Morarji Desai, Sanjeev Reddy, SK Patil, Atulya Ghosh, etc., challenged her authority. Thus, INC (R) was formed first and later INC (I) which continues to be the present day Indian National Congress or critics call it the Indira Congress.

Indira Gandhi herself headed the party as president from 1978 for six years until her assassination. After Indira's assassination, her elder son Rajiv Gandhi, a novice to Indian politics, succeeded her and managed to survive turbulent times supported by a strong coterie. When he was the AICC president, Congress won the largest Lok Sabha majority to date, 411 seats out of 542.

Rajiv Gandhi's period, however, in office was mired in controversies. He remained Congress president until the Lok Sabha elections in 1991. While campaigning for the elections, he was assassinated. Sonia Gandhi refused to take over the mantle following Rajiv's death.

PV Narasimha Rao was the choice as AICC president when the elections were half-way-through. Congress won elections and PV who was known to have always stayed on the side of Indira Gandhi and also loyal and advisor to Rajiv

Gandhi, as obvious choice, became Prime Minister. He was, however, not considered to be a trusted follower of Sonia Gandhi. PV had to silently challenge the supremacy of the Nehru-Gandhi family. He was paid for his doubted loyalty to Sonia and had to resign the party chief's post after Congress faced defeat in the 1996 elections.

Kesari who succeeded PV was unceremoniously ousted from his post and in 1998 Sonia sat on the Congress chair and since then she is heading the party. After 2004 elections, with congress emerging as the single largest party, Sonia named Manmohan Singh, a person who was brought into politics by PV Narasimha Rao, for the prime ministerial candidate.

Against this background, the Congress is going through turbulent times. It lost elections twice for Lok Sabha and is out of power in almost all states. Its chances of returning to power at the Centre or even retaining main Opposition status are remote. Its veteran leaders having enjoyed power and positions for decades in the party are deserting it in frustration. Sarcastically, strangers who were active in other parties and criticised vehemently the party are not only admitted but also are appointed in key party posts much to the embarrassment of seniors who continue in the party.

The national leadership should think in terms of supporting the alternate national agenda enunciated by Telangana Chief Minister KCR for a qualitative change in national politics so that the rise of right-wing extremism is checked.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

WE'LL ENSURE THAT WHEREVER WE COME TO POWER, WE WILL GIVE PERMANENT JOBS TO ALL CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER **ARVIND KEJRIWAL**



IT'S VERY SHAMEFUL THAT DELHI IS THE ONLY STATE IN THE COUNTRY WHERE TEACHERS WORK AS DAILY WAGERS. —DELHI BJP PRESIDENT **ADESH GUPTA**

India overtakes UK, but no time for complacency

Strong Government policy on poverty, inequality and gender equality can help us become an economic superpower



HIMA BINDU **KOTA**

India ahead of the 75th year of Independence could not have asked for a better gift than going past the UK to become the fifth largest economy ahead of its erstwhile colonial masters. The Bloomberg report, which informed us about this fact, is based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) data. It further predicted that the Indian economy is poised to become world's third largest economy by 2029.

This distinctive milestone was in fact highlighted way back in December 2021 in a report by the State Bank of India (SBI) where it mentioned that the share of India's GDP grew from 2.6 per cent in 2014 to 3.5 per cent and would further hit 4 per cent by 2029.

The British economy slid to the 6th position globally, which was seen by many economic experts as unavoidable due to spiraling inflation, food prices and cost of living. Even though the nation boasts of relatively high levels of per capita income, evidently this was not enough to prevent the economy from slowing down.

Needless to say these state of affairs pose a grim challenge for the yet to be elected new leader who will have her hands full upon taking charge. The state of affairs of Great Britain must serve as a lesson for India to avoid the pitfalls encountered during the growth trajectory of the economy, especially in the aftermath of a debilitating phase thrown up by the pandemic.

As a first priority India must regain the pre-pandemic economic stability levels coupled with high speed growth rate. However, given the current geopolitical conditions due to the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict and volatile crude prices, bringing about desired economic growth can prove to be a tough prospect. While India's strategy to source cheaper oil from Russia may mitigate some of the crude price hike but a prolonged period of high crude prices is likely to upset the budgetary calculations of the government and besides encroaching into the purchasing power of the common people.

So in the short run, India may manage the spiking levels of inflation but in the longer term there is an urgent need to rein in inflation. But other challenges facing India are also quite serious. The foremost is the problem of low per capita income and unequal distribution of wealth which in turn is the cause for chronic poverty.

According to an Oxfam report, just one per cent of the population possess 58 per cent of India's wealth, also 57 billionaires have the same amount of wealth as the bottom 70 per cent of India's population. These unbelievable conditions not only cause a drop in standard of living but also form bottlenecks in the seamless development of the economy. Another major problem facing the economy is the heavy dependence on agriculture. With nearly 45 per cent of the working population relying on the agriculture sector, the contribution of the sector is only 17 per cent to the national income. This shows the low productivity yield per person in the sector which in turn points towards the systemic and technological shortcomings in the sector.

Given such cardinal challenges facing the economy, the government must immediately put in place measures to address these challenges. Non-agricultural employment must be increased immediately to reduce dependence on agriculture. Similarly, technology must be infused on a large scale in agriculture in order to increase per acre yield and improve the sector's contribution to national income, besides improving food security conditions. Sufficient produce will also mean better prices for food products in the nation.

Yet another challenge the economy faces is the mounting pressure of population. India has 382 persons per sq.km population density as compared to average global density of 41 persons per sq.km. This tremendous population pressure means that the economy has to bend over backwards to feed this ever growing population.

India must also urgently address the problems emanating out of poor or inadequate infrastructure. Many developed nations have heavily invested in infrastructure in order to score excellent economic growth figures. World class infrastructure will take the stress away from crucial sectors such as power generation and transportation and ensure a proper sectoral development of the economy. India's economy has strong underlying economic fundamentals and despite the turbulence due to external factors the nation can cope well and deliver good results, however it is the chronic presence of plentiful internal challenges that can prove to be undoing for India.

Strong government policy on poverty, inequality and gender equality can go a long way in helping achieve our dream of becoming an economic superpower.

UKRAINE PILES PRESSURE ON RETREATING RUSSIAN TROOPS

AP ★ KHARKIV (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian troops continued to pile unrelenting pressure on retreating Russian forces on Tuesday, seeking to hold on to their sudden momentum that has produced major territorial gains.

Fresh yellow-and-blue flags fluttered from the tallest buildings left in partly destroyed towns around Ukraine's second city, Kharkiv, while Ukrainian soldiers inspected charred Russian tanks left along the way.

"From the beginning of September until today, our soldiers have already liberated more than 6,000 square kilometres of the territory of Ukraine — in the east and south. The movement of our troops continues," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in his nightly address late on Monday.

Many of the claims of military success could not be independently verified.

Rubbing salt into Russia's wounds, British intelligence said that one of Moscow's premier forces, the 1st Guards Tank Army, had been "severely degraded" during the invasion and that "Russia's conventional force designed to counter NATO is severely weakened. It will likely take years for Russia to rebuild this capability."

The retreat didn't stop Russia from pounding Ukrainian positions, however.

Early Tuesday, it shelled the city of Lozova in the Kharkiv region, killing three people and injuring nine, said regional governor Oleh Synyehubov.

The Nikopol area, which is across



the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, was shelled six times during the night but no injuries were immediately reported, said regional governor Valentyn Reznichenko.

Continued shelling has left Europe's largest nuclear facility in a pre-

carious position.

Zelensky specifically criticised Russia for targeting energy infrastructure in its attacks over the past days. "Hundreds and thousands of Ukrainians found themselves in the dark — without electricity. Houses, hospitals, schools, communal infra-

structure sites that have absolutely nothing to do with the infrastructure of the armed forces of our country."

He said it could only point to one thing. "This is a sign of the desperation of those who contrived this war. This is how they react to the defeat of Russian forces in the Kharkiv region.

"They can't do anything to our heroes on the battlefield."

Ukrainian military intelligence said Russian troops were surrendering en masse. A Ukrainian presidential adviser said there were so many prisoners of war that the country was running out of space to accommodate them.

The counteroffensive left the Kremlin struggling for a response to its largest military defeat in Ukraine since Russian forces pulled back from areas near Kyiv after a botched attempt to capture the capital early in the invasion.

The Russian Defence Ministry acknowledged the setback in a map that showed its troops pressed back along a narrow patch of land on the border with Russia — a tacit admission of big Ukrainian gains.

It was not yet clear if the Ukrainian blitz could signal a turning point in the war. Momentum has switched back and forth before, but rarely with such a big and sudden swing.

Some in Russia blamed Western weapons and fighters for the losses.

"It's not Ukraine that attacked Izium, but NATO," read a headline in the state-supported Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, referring to one of the areas where Russia said it has withdrawn troops.

Elsewhere, residents of a Russian village just across the border from Ukraine were evacuated after shelling by Ukrainian troops killed one person, according to Russia's Tass news agency.

The report cited the head of the local administration in Logachevka, who said Ukrainian troops opened fire at a border checkpoint.



Ukraine military claims downing Iran drone used by Russia

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's military claimed on Tuesday for the first time that it encountered an Iranian-supplied suicide drone used by Russia on the battlefield, showing the deepening ties between Moscow and Tehran as the Islamic Republic's tattered nuclear deal with world powers hangs in the balance.

US intelligence publicly warned back in July that Tehran planned to send hundreds of the bomb-carrying drones to Russia to aid its war on Ukraine. While Iran initially denied it, the head of its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has boasted in recent days about arming the world's top powers.

The Ukrainian military's Strategic Communications Directorate published images of the wreckage of the drone. It resembled a triangle, or delta-shaped, drone flown by Iran known as the Shahed, or "Witness" in Farsi.

The military official and the website both said Ukrainian troops encountered the drone near Kupiansk amid Kyiv's offensive that has punched through Russian lines around Kharkiv on the eastern front.

The image suggested the Shahed drone had been shot down by Ukrainian forces and hadn't detonated on impact as designed, though little other information was immediately released by Kyiv. An inscription on the drone identified it as an

"M214 Gran-2," which didn't immediately correspond to known Russian weaponry.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Iran has multiple version of the Shahed, which have overflown a US aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf, been used by Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen, attacked oil depots in Saudi Arabia and allegedly killed two sailors aboard an oil tanker off Oman in 2021. The triangle-shaped Shahed is believed to have a range of around 2,000 kilometers, though Iran has offered few details.

Experts refer to such bomb-carrying drones as "loitering munitions." The drone flies to a destination, likely programmed before its flight, and either explodes in the air over the target or on impact against it.

Iran has drawn closer to Russia as it faces crushing sanctions over the collapse of the nuclear deal in 2018 after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the accord. Negotiations over the deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for sanctions being lifted, again appear deadlocked.

Ukraine and Iran also have tense relations, stemming from Iran's Revolutionary Guard shooting down a Ukrainian passenger jet in 2020, killing all 176 people on board.

US leaders avoid victory dance in Ukraine combat advances



AP ■ WASHINGTON

US leaders from President Joe Biden on down are being careful not to declare a premature victory after a Ukrainian offensive forced Russian troops into a messy retreat in the north.

Instead, military officials are looking toward the fights yet to come and laying out plans to provide Ukraine more weapons and expand training, while warily awaiting Russia's response to the sudden, stunning battle-

field losses.

Although there was widespread celebration of Ukraine's gains over the weekend, US officials know Russian President Vladimir Putin still has troops and resources to tap, and his forces still control large swaths of the east and south.

"I agree there should be no spiking of the ball because Russia still has cards it can play," said Philip Breedlove, a retired US Air Force general who was NATO's top commander from 2013 to 2016.

"Ukraine is now clearly making durable changes in its east and north and I believe that if the West properly equips Ukraine, they'll be able to hold on to their gains."

Lawmakers particularly pointed to the precision weapons and rocket systems that the US and Western nations have provided to Ukraine as key to the dramatic shift in momentum, including the precision-guided High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, and the High-speed Anti-

Radiation Missile, or HARM, which is designed to target and destroy radar-equipped air defense systems.

"They're there, they're in theater, and they're making the difference," Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In the hands of highly motivated Ukrainian fighters who are making the most of weapons ranging from off-the-shelf drones and abandoned Russian arms to advanced weapons from the West, the HIMARS are enabling Ukrainians "to turn the tide, dramatically," Coons said.

Meanwhile, a senior defense official said the US is looking at future needs, including discussions about providing more intensive combat training for larger Ukraine units, a change from current training focused on smaller teams learning to handle specific weapons.

Seoul says N Korea will self-destruct if it uses nukes



AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea warned on Tuesday North Korea that using its nuclear weapons would put it on a "path of self-destruction," in unusually harsh language that came days after North Korea legislated a new law that would allow it to use its nuclear weapons preemptively.

North Korea will likely be infuriated by the South Korean rhetoric as Seoul typically shuns such strong words to avoid raising tensions on the Korean Peninsula. South Korea's

Defense Ministry said the legislation would only deepen North Korea's isolation and prompt Seoul and Washington to "further strengthen their deterrence and reaction capacities."

To get North Korea not to use its nuclear weapons, the ministry said South Korea will sharply boost its own preemptive attack, missile defense and massive retaliation capacities while seeking a greater US security commitment to defend its ally South Korea with all available capabilities, including nuclear one.



Fire erupts at oil well in Iran, officials blame sabotage

AP ■ DUBAI

Fires ripped through an oil well in southwestern Iran on Tuesday, state TV reported, blaming "unknown" saboteurs for causing the blaze.

The oil well in Iran's restive Khuzestan province burned as a result of "manipulation by unknown individuals," state TV quoted oil official Ghobad Nasserri as saying. He did not report any casualties or elaborate on the alleged interference, but Khuzestan has previously seen attacks on its crucial oil facilities. State TV showed footage of black smoke billowing from the damaged well.

The province is home to an ethnic Arab population that complains of discrimination and includes an aggressive separatist movement.

Authorities were working to control the damaged well and restore production, Nasserri added. Iran's southern Shadegan oil field started production in 1987 and pumps out 110,000 barrels of oil a day.

Kremlin hails importance of Putin-Xi meeting in Samarkand

AP ■ MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Tuesday hailed the significance of Russian President Vladimir Putin's planned meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping this week, noting that it's particularly important amid tensions with the West.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said the two leaders are scheduled to meet Thursday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on the sidelines of a summit of a security pact dominated by Moscow and Beijing.

"The meeting has a special significance in view of the current international situation," Ushakov told reporters, saying Putin and Xi will discuss the international situation, along with regional issues and bilateral cooperation.

China has pointedly refused to criticise Russia's action in



Ukraine and denounced Western sanctions against Moscow.

Russia, in turn, has strongly backed China amid tensions with the U.S. That followed a recent visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"China has taken a well-balanced approach to the Ukrainian crisis, clearly expressing its understanding of the reasons that prompted Russia to launch the special military operation," Ushakov said.

"The issue will be thor-

oughly discussed during the meeting."

The talks between Putin and Xi follow their meeting in February, when the Russian leader attended the opening of the Beijing Olympics shortly before sending troops into Ukraine.

Ushakov noted that "the discussion of issues related to trade and economic cooperation is particularly important," adding that "in the difficult conditions amid unlawful Western sanctions this cooperation has remained stable and continued gaining tempo."

On Friday, Putin and Xi will attend the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a security grouping dominated by Russia and China that also includes India, Pakistan and ex-Soviet Central Asian nations.

Iran and some other countries are on track to membership.

Armenia: 49 soldiers killed in attacks by Azerbaijan

AP ■ YEREVAN

Azerbaijani forces shelled Armenia's territory in a large-scale attack that has killed at least 49 Armenian soldiers and fuelled fears of even broader hostilities, officials said on Tuesday.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been locked in a decades-old conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which is part of Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994. Azerbaijan reclaimed broad swaths of Nagorno-Karabakh in a six-week war in 2020 that killed more than 6,600 people and ended with a Russia-brokered peace deal.

Moscow, which deployed about 2,000 troops to the region to serve as peacekeepers under the deal, moved quickly to broker a cease-fire on Tuesday morning, but it wasn't immediately clear whether it was



holding.

The hostilities erupted minutes after midnight, with Azerbaijani forces unleashing an artillery barrage and drone attacks in many sections of Armenian territory, according to the Armenian Defense Ministry.

Azerbaijan charged that its forces returned fire in response to "large-scale provocations"

by the Armenian military, claiming that the Armenian troops planted mines and repeatedly fired on Azerbaijani military positions.

Speaking in parliament early Tuesday, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that Azerbaijani shelling has killed at least 49 Armenian soldiers. He said the Azerbaijani action followed his recent

European Union-brokered talks in Brussels with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev that revealed what he described as Azerbaijan's uncompromising stand.

Pashinyan called Russian President Vladimir Putin overnight and also had phone calls with French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss the hostilities. The Armenian government said that the country will officially ask Russia for assistance under a friendship treaty between the countries and also appeal to the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a Moscow-dominated security alliance of ex-Soviet nations that includes Armenia.

There was no immediate comment from the Kremlin.

Russia's Foreign Ministry urged both parties "to refrain from further escalation and show restraint" and voiced hope that a cease-fire brokered by Moscow this morning will hold.

UN sums up climate science: world heading in wrong direction

AP ■ GENEVA

With weather disasters costing \$200 million a day and irreversible climate catastrophe looming, the world is "heading in the wrong direction," the United Nations says in a new report that pulls together the latest science on climate change.

The World Meteorological Organisation, in the latest stark warning about global warming, said weather-related disasters have increased fivefold over the last 50 years and are killing 115 per day on average — and the fall-out is poised to worsen.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cited the



floods in Pakistan, heat waves in Europe, droughts in places such as China, the Horn of Africa, and the United States — and pointed the finger at fossil fuels.

"There is nothing natural about the new scale of these disasters. They are the price of humanity's fossil fuel addiction," he said. "This year's United in Science report shows climate impacts heading into

uncharted territories of destruction."

"Yet each year we double down on this fossil fuel addiction, even as the symptoms get rapidly worse," he added.

The report, drawn from data compiled by several UN agencies and partners, cited a 48% chance that global temperature rise compared to pre-industrial times will reach 1.5

degree Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) in the next five years. There's a 93% percent chance that one year in the next five will see record heat.

It comes amid fresh warnings from scientists last week that four climate "tipping points" will likely be triggered if that temperature threshold — set in the 2015 Paris climate accord — is passed. Many governments are already trying to address the threat of more severe weather due to climate change, and data show that deaths from natural disasters are down in recent years. Yet the economic cost of climate-induced catastrophes is projected to rise sharply.

Polish team ignored info in crash that killed leader, alleges news report

AP ■ WARSAW

A television news report alleges a Polish government team manipulated evidence during its investigation of the 2010 plane crash that killed President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other prominent Poles, casting new doubt on the team's findings.

The leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, is the twin of the late president. The investigative team concluded that the plane crash in western Russia was an assassination plotted by Moscow.

The presidential plane was carrying a delegation for the



anniversary observances of a 1940 Soviet massacre of Polish military officers when it crashed in dense fog on approach to the airport in Smolensk.

However, a professional commission for investigating aviation accidents found the April 10, 2010 crash of the Tu-154 aircraft near the rudimentary airport was an accident caused by human errors in

adverse weather and technical conditions.

In its report aired late on Monday, private broadcaster TVN24 said the Polish government team intentionally ignored or manipulated facts presented by outside experts that negated its findings that intentional explosions aboard the plane caused the crash.

The head of the team, former Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz, is an associate of ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski. The assassination theory helps to consolidate the right-wing Law and Justice's nationalist base and is supported by Kaczynski.

Modi renews invitation to Saudi Crown Prince MBS to visit India

PTI ■ RIYADH

Head of the National Day of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conveyed his greetings to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and renewed the invitation to him to visit India at an early date.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar who just concluded his first official visit to Saudi Arabia and held talks with the top leadership here discussed measures for enhancing bilateral relations across all domains, including political, trade, energy, defence and security, the Indian embassy here said in a press release.

He met the Saudi Crown Prince in Jeddah on Sunday and handed over a written message from Prime Minister Modi, conveying greetings on the upcoming National Day of Saudi Arabia on September 23 and reiterating invitation to the Crown Prince to visit India at an early date, the press release said.

Crown Prince Mohammed paid his first State visit to India in February 2019. During the meeting, bilateral relations between the two countries and opportunities for enhancing them were reviewed and the latest regional and international developments, as well as the efforts being exerted towards



them, were discussed, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Earlier on Sunday in Riyadh, Jaishankar held talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan and discussed current global political as well as economic issues and agreed to work closely together in G-20 and multilateral organisations.

The two ministers co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC), under the framework of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

Both ministers assessed the progress in bilateral relations positively across all domains includ-

ing political, trade, energy, investments, defence, security and culture. Several areas were identified for further enhancing bilateral cooperation such as food security, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, defence industry and entertainment, the Indian embassy press release said.

The two ministers endorsed the work of the four Joint Working Groups of the PSSC (Political and Consular; Defence; Legal and Security; and Social and Cultural) as well as the Senior Officials Meetings. They also discussed greater coordination between the two countries in multilateral organisations especially the G-20, the statement said.

Jaishankar met the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf on September 10 and discussed India-GCC relations.

Jaishankar and GCC Secretary General also signed an MOU on Mechanism of Consultations between India and GCC. The MOU provides for institutionalisation of annual dialogue between India and the GCC and setting up Working Groups on different areas of cooperation.

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial and friendly relations reflecting the centuries-old economic and socio-cultural ties. Saudi Arabia is India's fourth-largest trading partner. More than 18 per cent of India's crude oil imports are sourced from Saudi Arabia. During FY22 (April - December), bilateral trade was valued at USD 29.28 billion.

During this period, India's imports from Saudi Arabia were valued at USD 22.65 billion and exports to Saudi Arabia were worth USD 6.63 billion.

The approximately 2.2-million-strong Indian community is the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom, according to the Indian embassy in Riyadh. The top leadership of both countries remained in close touch even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

China's third-ranked leader Li Zhanshu calls on Nepal PM Deuba

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

China's top legislator and third-ranked leader in the country's political hierarchy Li Zhanshu on Tuesday held talks with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and other top political leaders of Nepal during which they discussed matters of mutual interests.

Li, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress - China's parliament, called on Prime Minister Deuba, who is also the chief of the Nepali Congress, at the Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday evening, officials said.

The details of the meeting has not yet been made public.

Li, who arrived in Nepal on a three-day visit on Monday at the invitation of Speaker Agni Prasad Sapkota, also met Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka and the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interests,



according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Earlier, Li held meetings with National Assembly Chairperson Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, former prime ministers K P Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" and discussed bilateral ties and other issues of mutual interest.

Li held talks with CPN-UML chairman Oli at the Federal Parliament building here and during the meeting the two leaders discussed various issues of mutual interest, according to party sources.

Oli was accompanied by other leaders, including Ashta Laxmi Shakya, Subhas Nemwang and Rajan Bhattarai.

Li also met CPN-Maoist Centre chairman Prachanda during which matters relating to bilateral interest and mutual concern were discussed, party sources said.

Other leaders of the party, including vice-chairman Krishna Bahadur Mahara, general secretary Dev Gurung, Pampha Bhushal and Shakti Basnet, were also present on the occasion.

German man convicted of murder after killing over mask rules

AP ■ BERLIN

A German man was convicted of murder and given a life sentence on Tuesday for fatally shooting a young gas station clerk following a dispute over face masks.

The killing in the western town of Idar-Oberstein on Sept 18 last year shocked the country. The 50-year-old defendant was convicted by a state court in Bad Kreuznach, German news agency dpa reported.

Authorities have said the man told officers he acted "out of anger" after being refused service by the 20-year-old clerk for not wearing a mask while trying to buy beer at the gas station. A requirement to wear masks in stores was among the measures in place in Germany at the time to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Police said the suspect, a German citizen named in local media as Mario N, left the gas station after the dispute but returned a half-hour later and shot the clerk in the head.

He initially fled the scene but turned himself in to police after a large-scale manhunt was launched.

The suspect was also convicted of illegal weapons possession because he didn't have a license for the gun used in the killing.

Egypt's president heads to Qatar on 1st visit as rift healed

AP ■ CAIRO

Egypt's president travelled on Tuesday to Qatar on his first visit to the gas-rich nation amid warming ties after years of frayed relations following the Egyptian military's overthrow of an Islamist president backed by Doha.

The two-day trip comes amid a rapid rapprochement between Egypt and Qatar after the end in 2021 of a yearslong boycott of Doha by four Arab states, including Egypt. Qatar's state-run news agency said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi was to hold talks with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

In June, Sheikh Tamim visited Cairo, where he was welcomed at the airport by el-Sissi, in a sign of warming ties.

The two countries' rela-



tions deteriorated in 2013, when el-Sissi, as defence minister, led the military's overthrow of Egypt's Islamist President Mohamed Morsi following a short-lived and divisive rule. Morsi, who hailed from the Muslim Brotherhood, was backed by Qatar.

In 2017, Egypt joined Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in a boycott of Qatar, seeking to force Doha to change its policies. The rift finally ended in 2021, when Qatar signed a declaration with the four to normalise relations.

William Ruto sworn in as Kenya President after close vote

AP ■ NAIROBI

William Ruto has been sworn in as Kenya's president.

He narrowly won the Aug. 9 election in East Africa's most stable democracy over longtime opposition figure Raila Odinga. The Supreme Court last week rejected challenges to the official results.

Ruto had been the deputy to outgoing President Uhuru Kenya tta but had a bitter split with Kenya tta that left the two not speaking for months at a time.

On Tuesday, the audience cheered as the two shook hands.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif to visit Uzbekistan to attend SCO Summit this week: FO

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will visit Uzbekistan this week to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit where leaders from the member states will deliberate on important global and regional issues, the Foreign Office said on Tuesday.

The summit - being held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on September 15-16 - will be attended by the leaders of SCO Members and Observer States as well as heads of SCO organizations and other special guests, it said.

At the forthcoming summit, the SCO leaders will deliberate on important glob-

al and regional issues, including climate change, food security, energy security, and sustainable supply chains. They would also approve agreements and documents that would chart the future direction of cooperation among SCO member states, the FO said.

Besides attending the summit, Prime Minister Sharif would hold bilateral meetings with other participating leaders on the sidelines of the two-day event, the FO said.

The Beijing-headquartered SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

Economists, activists call for USD 100B climate fund in Germany

AP ■ BERLIN

Economists, scientists and environmental campaigners called Tuesday for the German government to create a 100 billion-euro (USD 100-billion) fund for tackling climate change.

Marcel Fratzscher, the president of the German

Institute for Economic Research, said the money is needed partly because of Germany's failure to invest enough in solar and wind power. Adequate funding would have made the country less dependent on fossil fuel imports that are now contributing to energy poverty, Fratzscher said.

"These mistakes need to be corrected now," he told reporters in Berlin. Additional tax revenue that the German government is receiving because of rampant inflation could go toward the fund, which would echo a similar financial vehicle the government recently created to boost the military.

Treasury coffers already were up 29 billion euros in the first half of the year, he said.

The Fridays for Future youth movement, which is helping to coordinate a global climate protest planned for next week, supported the proposal. One of its spokespeople, Luisa Neubauer, said Germany should take its cue from a bill

recently passed in the United States that envisions USD 375 billion in federal investments to fight climate change over the decade. Volker Quaschnig, a prominent climate scientist said the 100 billion euros were only a fraction of the total sum required to transform Germany into a low-carbon economy.

Aspirations, future of next generation are worth fighting for, says outgoing UNGA president Shahid

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

United Nations General Assembly's outgoing president Abdulla Shahid has said that the aspirations and future of the next generation are worth fighting for as he called on the member states to use the instruments at their disposal to secure global peace and justice.

During the closing ceremony of the UN General Assembly's 76th session on Monday, Shahid, also the foreign minister of the Maldives, urged those present to "not lose hope and give into cynicism" or "turn our backs on those who look to us at the United Nations for solutions".

"Let us use the instruments at our disposal to secure global peace and justice...[and] tell the next generation that their aspirations, their futures, their planet, are worth fighting for. We owe it to ourselves, to our peers, to our children, to our grandchildren, to humanity, to choose hope," Shahid, 60, said.

Shahid in June last year was overwhelmingly elected as President of the 76th session of the 193-member UN General Assembly, garnering 143 votes out of the 191 ballots cast.

He is succeeded by Hungarian diplomat Csaba Korosi who was designated as President-elect of the 77th UNGA in June and started his tenure from Tuesday.

Shahid welcomed Korosi and wished him "the very best" in leading the 77th session.

Hungary's Government tightens rules regulating abortion



AP ■ BUDAPEST

Hungary's right-wing government has issued a decree which will require doctors to present women requesting an abortion with fetal vital signs, an obligation that tightens the country's relatively liberal abortion rules.

The decree issued on Monday states that health care providers must provide pregnant women with "a clearly identifiable indication of fetal vital signs" before proceeding with any abortion procedure. The regulation enters into force

on Sept 15.

In a statement on Monday, the Interior Ministry said that "nearly two-thirds of Hungarians associate the beginning of a child's life with the first heartbeat," and that modern equipment can detect heartbeats early in pregnancy which can provide "more comprehensive information for pregnant women."

Abortion laws in Hungary are relatively liberal and have remained largely unchanged since the procedure was legalised during the country's socialist period in 1953.

500 foreign VIPs expected at Queen's funeral

AP ■ LONDON

British officials say some 500 foreign dignitaries will attend Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral, but invitations have not been sent to the leaders of Russia, Belarus or Myanmar.

Officials said the funeral next Monday, to be held at London's Westminster Abbey, will be the biggest international event Britain has hosted in decades.

US President Joe Biden was among the first to announce that he would be flying in with his wife, Jill Biden. The leaders of most Commonwealth countries, including Australia, New Zealand and Canada, are also expected to attend.

France's Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Italy's Sergio Mattarella, Turkey's



Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro are among the presidents attending, Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Spain's King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, as well as former Spanish monarch Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia, are also due to travel to London for the occasion.

London: Britain's Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, has penned a poem

in tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The poem published Tuesday, "Floral Tribute," is in the form of a double acoustic, which means that the first letter of each line spells out Elizabeth when taken together. It describes the coming of a September evening and references one of the queen's favourite flowers, the lily of the valley. "The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands / Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight," he wrote.

Armitage told the BBC Tuesday that he featured the queen's first name because he wanted to take a personal approach.

He said the queen's name was something "she probably rarely got to hear very much because everybody had to preface that with ceremonial nominal".

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mr. Nand Kishore has acquired the Old Land No. -2083 & New Land No. -4237, area measuring 219.34 + 214.67 + 434.01 Sq. Yds., i.e., 363.1 Sq. mtr., situated at Village Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar by way of Sale Deed dated 06.11.2018 Doc nos. 7303. Now, Mr. Nand Kishore is mortgaging the above said property with Fullerton India Credit Company Limited & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas North, Unit no 907, 9th Floor, GD-ITL Tower, (B-08), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707/12/9818229636 (M)

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mrs. Sansar W/o Mr. Vijay Pal is the owner of Entire Freehold Built-up Property Bearing No. 7004/3, and measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 217, situated in Sambha Nagar, in the area of village Chowki, Muzakabad, Tal. Nagar, Delhi, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 25.01.2008 regd. Vss. Inc. No. 1607 & Sale Deed dated 10.03.2005, regd. Vide Doc. No. 8919 and the same is to be financed & mortgaged with M/s. Pranam Capital and Housing Finance Ltd. The Original Preliminary Deed dt. 04.12.1998, and Death Certificate of Late Mr. Kaval Pal Singh & Mrs. Shanti Devi alongwith Surviving Member Certificate, pertaining to the aforesaid property has been misplaced. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, their kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 638, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob. :- 91-8076188328

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **Vijay Kumar Verma S/o Late Sansar Chand Verma & his wife Indu Verma W/o Vijay Kumar Verma R/o A/5D, Shivangi Kunj, Opposite BG-1, Paschim Vihar, ND-63** have debarred & disowned their Son **Rajat Verma & his wife Heena Verma & Grand Daughter Raadhya Verma** from their movable & immovable properties. My Clients have also severed all their relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk, responsibility. **Ramesh Chander (Adv.) Ch-68, Western Wing, Tis Hazari**

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

Name of the Work : " Third Party Inspection & Quality Control / Assurance for the works (1) Construction and Widening of Concrete Road, Retaining Walls etc. in Harbour area (2) Construction of Retaining Walls in the Stack yard (MCHP area)." EMD cost : Rs.50,000/- Last date and time of submission of Bid : 20.09.2022 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details please refer our Website : eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .

Executive Engineer
Harbour Works Division No.1
PPA/PR/192/22-23, Dt.13/09/22

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

e-Tender Call Notice

No.TD/TM/GEN-235 (Vol-VI)/22/1734, dtd 02.09.2022

Name of the Work: "Allotment of 03(Three) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Ore Pellet plots at IOHP". License Fees:Rs.2,85,43,020/- , Wharfage Fees: Rs.16,93,300/- Last date & time of submission of bid: 22.09.2022 up to 15:00 hrs. Date and time of Opening (technical bid): 22.09.2022 up to 15:00 hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> & <http://paradiport.gov.in>

Traffic Manager
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/193/22-23, dtd.13.09.2022

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

e-TCN No. EM/IOHP-30/2022

Name of the work "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection/ Commissioning of 3200TPH Capacity Ship Loader at IOB" Estimated cost: Rs. 30,12,50,000/- Last date & time of submission of bid up to 1800 Hrs. on 27.09.2022. Refer our website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for details.

PPA/PR/194-22-23 13.09.2022 Sd/- Executive Engineer (Mech) Iron Ore Handling Plant

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

KURUKSHETRA-136119

Advt.No.11/2022

E-Tender Notice

E-Tenders are invited for the services of Manpower supply on SITC basis as mentioned below:-

Description of Services	Last date & Time of submission the tender
Providing Outsourcing Services of Skilled Manpower for technical assistance works on contract basis at NIT KURUKSHETRA	03.10.2022; 09:00 AM
Providing Outsourcing services of Un - Skilled/Semi i Skilled/ Skilled/Highly Skilled Manpower for estate and office attendant works on contract basis at NIT KURUKSHETRA	04.10.2022; 09:00 AM
Providing Security Services in Campus, Departments, Offices and Hostels at NIT KURUKSHETRA	04.10.2022; 09:00 AM

The details and conditions of E-tender are available on Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in and <https://mhrd.euniwizarde.com>.

Registrar I/c

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	E file No- 140025
Name of Work and its Location	Tender for "Provision of complete filment of Air Brake double ferrule pipe line in LHB coaches during MLR Schedule at RCNK/SNP" for a period of 12 months.
Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 3,69,09,582.00/- (Rs. Three Crore Sixty-Nine Lacs Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Two only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 3,34,600.00
Completion Period of Work	12 months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash / by Post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 30.09.2022 Opening of Tender at 11:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. E File No. - 140025 Dated: 08/09/2022	2379/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Many countries interested in bilateral rupee trade: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said many countries have evinced interest for bilateral trade in the rupee after the RBI announced a mechanism recently.

Speaking at Hero Mindmine Summit, she said this along with other steps taken by the Government is towards full capital account convertibility.

“It isn’t the ruble-rupee which was in the old format. Now this (bilateral rupee trade) formulation, which I am glad the RBI has come up at a time which was so critical,” she said when asked if India is ready for capital account convertibility.

Highlighting that many countries have evinced interest in trade in the rupee, she said, in a way it is opening the Indian economy more than what can be imagined.

“Post-pandemic, India is coming up with so many out-of-the-box solutions...I would like to highlight the fact that we are a lot more open with the Indian economy, a lot more open in the way we are talking to countries, we are willing to have our digital platform become interoperable between countries to enable cross-border transactions,” she said.

It is to be noted that the RBI in July issued a detailed circular asking banks to put in place additional arrangements for export and import transactions in the rupee in view of increasing interest of the glob-



al trading community in the domestic currency.

The announcement by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow cross-border trade transactions in the rupee is a timely move and a step towards internationalisation of the currency. Currently, a large part of bilateral trade between India and Russia is getting settled in the rupee due to sanctions imposed by the US and Europe following Moscow’s attack on Ukraine.

The RBI had said that for settlement of trade transactions, banks concerned will require special rupee vostro accounts of correspondent banks of the partner trading country.

“Indian importers under-

taking imports through this mechanism shall make payment in INR which shall be credited into the special vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country, against the invoices for the supply of goods or services from the overseas seller/supplier,” it had said.

Exporters undertaking overseas shipments of goods and services through this mechanism will be paid the export proceeds in the rupees from the balances in the designated special vostro account.

As per the circular, the rupee surplus balance held can be used for permissible capital and current account transactions in accordance with the mutual agreement.

Stocks upsurge for 4th straight session

Nifty crosses 18,000-level

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equities rallied for the fourth straight session on Tuesday with Sensex jumping 455 points and Nifty closing above the key 18,000-mark for the first time since April as foreign institutional investors remained bullish on the domestic market.

The Sensex surged 455.95 points or 0.76 per cent to close at a five-month high 60,571.08 points and 24 constituents of the 30-share index ended in the green.

In a reflection of strong investor sentiments, the broader Nifty climbed 133.70 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 18,070.05 points. Previously, the Nifty had closed above the 18,000-mark on April 4 this year.

In four consecutive sessions, Sensex has gained over 1,540 points or 2.59 per cent while Nifty has risen by 445 points or 2.9 per cent.

Analysts said the market rally was primarily driven by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) who have turned net buyers of domestic equities. Retail investor participation also added to the momentum.

FIIs continued to invest in domestic equities, mainly in financial and FMCG shares.

Among the Sensex shares,



Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Bharti Airtel, Titan and Bajaj Finance were the main gainers. HDFC Bank, HDFC, Power Grid, L&T, ITC, Reliance, SBI and Infosys also closed in the positive territory.

TCS was the biggest loser among the Sensex pack, declining 0.37 per cent.

“The ongoing market rally is primarily driven by the sudden reversal of FII strategy: from relentless sellers to relentless buyers. Retail investor support and fundamental support to the market from a strong economy are aiding the rally,” V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

FIIs pumped in Rs 2,049.65 crore into the domestic equities on Monday, according to data available on BSE.

Markets started the week on a firm note and gained over half a per cent, in continuation of the prevailing trend, Ajit Mishra, VP - Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said.

“The global markets have recently joined the rally ahead of the release of US inflation data, as the market expects further ease in inflation, which would help the Fed take a less hawkish stance.

“Although the domestic CPI at 7 per cent indicates a rising inflation trend due to increased food prices, core inflation of 5.9 per cent offers some solace,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

In the broader market, BSE MidCap advanced 0.32 per cent to 26,252.08 points while BSE SmallCap gained 0.24 per cent to 29,893.97 points.

Among the sectoral indices, FMCG rose 0.77 per cent, Finance went up 0.85 per cent, both Industrials and Metals gained 0.74 per cent, Capital Goods went up 0.69 per cent and Consumer Durables increased 0.66 per cent.

On the other hand, Energy, Oil & Gas and Realty indices closed with losses.

Gains in global equities also supported the local markets.

In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index gained nearly 0.1 per cent, Japan’s Nikkei 225 advanced 0.3 per cent and South Korea’s key Kospi index jumped 2.7 per cent.

However, Hong Kong’s benchmark Hang Seng index declined 0.2 per cent.

Brent crude rose to USD 95.15 per barrel in London.

No shortage of fertilisers in the country: Mandaviya

PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA

Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday said there is no shortage of crop nutrients in the country and asserted that there will be no hike in the prices of non-urea products.

The minister also said that Nutrient Based Policy (NBS) for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the Rabi season (October 2022 to March 2023) will be announced shortly.

“There is no shortage of fertilisers in the country,” Mandaviya told reporters on the sidelines of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit here.

He was responding to a query about the supply situation for the upcoming Rabi sowing season that would start from October.

On when the government would announce the NBS policy for P&K fertilisers for the Rabi season, he said it will be done shortly after analysing international prices.

“We will not allow any increase in retail prices of DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate) and other non-urea fertilisers,” Mandaviya said, adding that the government would absorb the burden of high global prices.

Earlier, the minister projected that the government’s fertiliser subsidy would be



between Rs 2.25-2.5 lakh crore this fiscal as against Rs 1.62 lakh crore in the last financial year.

Mandaviya also said that farmers are increasingly adopting nano liquid urea, which is good for soil health as compared to the conventional urea.

Nano urea has been launched in the country by cooperative major IFFCO.

In July, Mandaviya said that India would not need to import urea by 2025-end as the domestic production of conventional urea and nano liquid urea is expected to be sufficient to meet the country’s annual demand.

At present, the country’s urea (conventional) production is 260 lakh tonnes while around 90 lakh tonnes are imported to meet the local demand.

The government is making available urea and 25 grades of P&K fertilisers to farmers at subsidised prices through fertiliser manufacturers/importers.

Rupee rises 36 paise to close at 79.17 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by 36 paise to close at 79.17 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking the dollar’s decline versus its major peers and foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.30 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.03 and a low of 79.33 during the session.

It finally ended at 79.17, up 36 paise from its previous close of 79.53.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.40 per cent to 107.89.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.96 per cent to USD 94.87 per barrel.

“The Indian rupee registered the biggest one-day gains after July 27, amid long unwinding in the dollar and risk-on sentiments. The dollar inflows from foreign institutions and corporates also sup-



ported the rupee,” said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

The dollar gauge fell for the third consecutive day, the longest losing streak in a month, in the run-up to the CPI data.

The market participants’ pricing in the US consumer price data due later Tuesday, will show that inflation is near peaking, challenging the dollar-dominance narrative, Parmar added.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 455.95 points or 0.76 per cent higher at 60,571.08, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 133.70 points or 0.75 per cent to 18,070.05.

‘India not defending INR, Rupee can take care of itself’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday said India is not defending the rupee and the Reserve Bank of India is taking necessary steps to ensure that the movement of the rupee is gradual and in line with market trends.

Nageswaran further said that the rupee is being managed in a manner that reflects the fundamentals of the economy.

“India is not defending the rupee... I don’t think Indian fundamentals are such that we need to defend the rupee. The rupee can take care of itself,” he said at an event here.

The Indian rupee, in August, had touched an all-time low of 80.15 against the US dollar. It is currently hovering at 79.15 level against the American currency.

“The RBI is making sure that whatever direction the rupee is moving in line with the market trends is just gradual and doesn’t impose burden either on the importers or the

exporters,” Nageswaran added.

On declining foreign exchange reserves, he said, “Global risk aversion prevents capital from coming in. Naturally that is what (foreign) reserves are meant for.”

The country’s foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 3.007 billion to USD 561.046 billion in the week ended August 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

In the previous week ended August 19, the reserves had dipped by USD 6.687 billion to USD 564.053 billion.

The fall in the reserves during the reporting week ended August 26 was on account of a dip in the foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, and the gold reserves, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on September 2.

Responding to a question on rise in inflation in August, he said the price rise is also partly due to base effect.

Gold futures fall on low demand



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Tuesday fell by Rs 231 to Rs 50,400 per 10 gram in futures trade as speculators reduced their positions.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for October delivery traded lower by Rs 231 or 0.46 per cent at Rs 50,400 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 9,786 lots.

Analysts attributed the fall in gold prices to the trimming of positions by participants.

Globally, gold was trading 0.38 per cent lower at USD 1,734 per ounce in New York.

IPO pricing of new-age tech cos: Buch says Sebi has no role; i-bankers should allay concerns

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sebi has “no business” suggesting IPO pricing for new-age tech companies, and it is the investment bankers who should allay any concerns around the issue, chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said on Tuesday.

Buch, an investment banker-turned-regulator, said that companies need to be more forthcoming on disclosures on how valuations have changed between a pre-initial public offering (IPO) placement of shares and the price which is being asked for in the issue.

“A lot has been said about the pricing of IPOs of the new tech companies. Our view is simple. At what price you choose to do your IPO is your business. We have no business to suggest the price... You are free to price the issue at whatever price you consider appropriate,” Buch said at an event organised by industry lobby Ficci here.

It can be noted that there have been concerns about investors, especially the unsuspecting retail ones, being taken

for a ride due to high valuations sought by new-age tech companies. The share price of payment platform Paytm collapsed to a third of the IPO issue price within a few weeks of listing, and a few other companies also faced similar outcomes.

Amid the speculation over Sebi’s response on such issuances, a member of the audience asked Buch about remedial measures which can be adopted to protect investor interest.

Buch parried the question saying there are many i-bankers who sell such issues in the audience and also the stage from which she was speaking, and it is for the i-bankers to reply on such concerns.

Seeking to drive the point about disclosures, the first woman chief of Sebi explained through an example of a company selling shares to investors at ₹100 and then asking for ₹450 in an IPO within a few months.

She said a company is free to ask for a higher price, but needs to disclose what happened in the intervening period which justifies the massive change in the valuation.

Time for multilateral institutions to be relevant in post-pandemic world, says FM



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said it is time for multilateral institutions like World Bank and IMF to make themselves relevant in the post-pandemic world.

She also said there is a need for debate over ‘freebies’.

Speaking at the release of book titled Recalibrate: Changing Paradigm, the minister said, there is a strong case for setting up of Fiscal Council as recommended in the book to further strengthen the fiscal discipline.

The book is authored by Finance Commission Chairman N K Singh and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister P K Mishra.

Automobile dealers seek protection from loss due to sudden exits of foreign automakers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automotive dealers on Tuesday sought protection from loss in case of sudden exits of foreign automakers from the country, besides seeking an equitable say in the running of business through the launch of a model dealer agreement.

The Federation of Automotive Dealers Associations (FADA) said many foreign automobile manufacturers have different contracts for dealerships in India, which are more stringent compared to what they have in their home countries.

“There have been dealer



agreements between OEMs and the dealer and primarily, it is one sided agreement. It only expresses the point of view of the the OEMs and dealers have always felt the need for a balanced model dealer agreement,” FADA president Manish Raj Singhania told PTI here on sidelines of FADA auto retail conclave.

He said through the Model Dealer Agreement (MDA) launched on Tuesday, the dealership community has tried to create a level-playing field between the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) and auto dealerships.

“If there is any kind of issue in any auto industry or in the business, both should be able to get adequate compensation or adequate settlement, it should not be one sided,” Singhania added.

One of the key issues that the MDA seeks to address is the fallout of foreign auto manufacturers leaving India and the resultant sufferings of the dealers, he said.

Coal India shares rise nearly 2%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shares of Coal India rose nearly 2 per cent in the morning trade on Tuesday as the government is set to auction 10 coal blocks under commercial coal mining this week.

Shares of Coal India opened at Rs 233, then gained 1.64 per cent to Rs 235.30 apiece on BSE. On NSE, the scrip opened at Rs 232.70 and climbed nearly 2 per cent to Rs 235.30. The broader market was trading in the positive territory, with Nifty above the 18,000-level. The Government will auction 10 coal blocks under commercial coal mining this week as part of efforts to ramp up domestic coal output. Eight mines will be auctioned under the fifth round of commercial coal mining on Tuesday while the remaining two blocks will be put on sale on Wednesday under the second attempt of the fourth round of commercial coal mine auction. The mines to be put on sale include Sursa, Dahegaon/Makardhokra-IV, Basantpur, Bandha North, MarkiMangli-IV, Jitpur and Rampia.

It also cites the relevant clause in the offer letter to drive home the point.

“Any violation of these clauses will lead to disciplinary action which could even lead to termination of employment,” the mail said.

An email sent by PTI to Infosys for comments did not elicit a response.

“Moonlighting is a practice of working on a second job during the normal business

hours/outside business hours. Infosys as a company strictly discourages dual employment,” according to the mailer.

The company has urged managers to sensitise their teams on dual employment and the “consequences” of moonlighting.

“You are expected to immediately report any instances of moonlighting to your respective unit HR,” Infosys said.

Infosys shoots off stern missive to staff on moonlighting

No two-timing, it warns

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Infosys has shot off a missive to its employees, asserting that dual employment or ‘moonlighting’ is not permitted, and has warned that any violation of contract clauses will trigger disciplinary action “which could even lead to ter-

mination of employment”.

“No two timing - no moonlighting!” India’s second largest IT services company said in a strong and firm message to employees on Monday.

Put simply, moonlighting refers to employees taking up side gigs to work on more than one job at a time.

Infosys’ internal communication titled “no double lives” makes it clear that “dual employment is not permitted as



per...Employee Handbook and Code of Conduct”.

HAALAND SET FOR DORTMUND REUNION

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Borussia Dortmund know only too well of Erling Haaland's ability to destroy defences in the Champions League, but the German giants may die by the sword they previously lived by when they visit Manchester City on Wednesday.

Haaland blossomed into one of the world's most feared strikers during two-and-a-half years in Germany, scoring 86 goals in 89 games for Dortmund.

Eight games into his City career, the giant Norway striker with a devastating turn of speed has already scored 12 times for the English champions.

"His numbers in all his career, not just here but when he was in previous teams, is quite similar," said City boss Pep Guardiola after Haaland struck twice in a 4-0 win at Sevilla to kick off City's latest quest to break their Champions League duck.

"He has an incredible sense of goal."

Haaland's bargain 60 million euro (£51 million, \$63 million) buyout clause meant he had his choice of clubs after he had outgrown his surroundings in the Bundesliga.

Dortmund may provide the

perfect breeding ground for Europe's top talents to develop in the early years of their career, but they cannot compete financially with the continent's wealthiest clubs, nor satisfy the ambitions of the world's best players in the long term.

Haaland followed in the footsteps of Jadon Sancho, Christian Pulisic, Ousmane Dembele, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Robert Lewandowski and Mario Goetze as stars of the future to fly the nest after briefly leaving their mark in western Germany.

However, losing Haaland may prove the biggest loss of all with the 22-year-old threatening to rewrite records set by Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi that many believed would remain intact for generations.

Haaland's double against Sevilla took his tally in the Champions League to 25 goals in 20 games.

At the same stage of their careers, Ronaldo, the competition's all-time top goalscorer with 140, was yet to score, while Messi struck eight times in his first 20 matches in Europe's elite club competition.

"I love the Champions League. I have to say this, it's a big dream for me," Haaland told Telemundo Deportes this week as he revealed the competition's anthem is the ringtone on his phone.

"When I wake up every morn-



Dortmund may provide the perfect breeding ground for Europe's top talents to develop in the early years of their career, but they cannot compete financially with the continent's wealthiest clubs

ing, I listen to this song. It's my favourite competition."

Haaland's haul in the Champions League was also why City were so desperate to sign him as the successor to the club's all-time top goalscorer Sergio Aguero.

Under Guardiola, City have won four Premier League titles in the past five years and six in total stretching back over the past decade.

Yet, the billions invested in the club from Abu Dhabi since 2008 have so far fallen short when it comes to winning the Champions League.

The past two seasons they have come agonisingly close, losing their

first ever final to Chelsea in 2021 before blowing a two-goal lead in stoppage time of their semi-final against eventual winners Real Madrid in May.

Any doubts that the recruitment of a superstar could destabilise the collective effort that has characterised City's success under Guardiola have been blown away within weeks.

"This fella is going to break virtually every goalscoring record there is," tweeted former England striker Michael Owen.

"He's too big, too quick, clinical in front of goal and he's playing in a team that create dozens of chances."

Dortmund know what is coming. Halting the momentum of the man mountain they used to call their own is another matter.

SPURS 'CLEAR' FAVORITES

Antonio Conte's Tottenham are "clear favourites" in this week's Champions League Group D match, Sporting coach Ruben Amorim said on Monday on the eve of their game in Portugal.

"Tottenham are the clear favourites in the group. They are a team that have one of the best attacks in the world with a winning coach in Italy and England and world-class players," said Amorim.

"They are strong in transitions, have a lot of quality on set pieces. We will have to be wary because they will punish us for the slightest mistake."

Both teams won their opening match with Sporting top of the table after beating Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0 and Tottenham winning 2-0 against Marseille.

"Of course the previous game increases our confidence," continued Amorim, "but the pressure will in any case be on the Tottenham who will be favourites."

He added Tottenham would also be fresher having not played their scheduled Premier League fixture against Manchester City following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

"Often it is the English teams who have less recovery time," added Amorim.

Italian Conte agreed: "Of course not having played on Saturday changes the situation. It allows us to recover better."

"When you play every three days, you run the risk of having more injuries and less energy."

"I'm more relaxed when it comes to choosing my starting XI. The postponement of the game against City has allowed me to change the idea of the team I had in mind for tomorrow's game."

Abraham fires Roma to win at Empoli

AP ■ EMPOLI

Tammy Abraham struck the decisive goal in Roma's 2-1 win at Empoli on Monday which put them a point behind a trio of sides leading the way in Serie A.

Roma are just behind Napoli, Atalanta and AC Milan after Abraham forced home Paulo Dybala's cross from close range in the 71st minute.

The impressive Dybala had opened the scoring for the away side, who came into Monday's match off the back of two bad defeats at the hands of Udinese and Ludogorets, in the 17th minute with a beautifully guided shot after having already hit the post.

Jose Mourinho's side were looking at another poor result two minutes before the break when Filippo Bandinelli reacted brilliantly to bad Roma defending by guiding home a header from Petar Stojanovic's cross.

A draw would not have flattered Empoli who struck the woodwork through Martin Satriano and Jean-Daniel Akpa Akpro and created opportuni-

MONZA SACK STROPPA

ties after Akpa Akpro was sent off in the final few minutes.

But Abraham's second goal of the season was just enough to seal the three points, with Lorenzo Pellegrini also missing a penalty with 10 minutes remaining.

Monza have sacked coach Giovanni Stroppa, the Serie A club announced on Tuesday, after a poor start to their first Serie A season left them bottom of the table.

In a statement, Monza said the club's former youth team coach, Raffaele Palladino, would take charge of the team.

Stroppa took Monza up to Serie A for the first time in their history but just one point from their opening six games in the top flight wasn't enough for owner and former Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi.

Monza bought an almost entire new team after being promoted via the playoffs, signing players with extensive experience in the top division like Andrea Ranocchia, Stefano Sensi, Matteo Pessina, and Alessio Cragno.



Alcaraz, Ruud at 1-2 in ATP rankings; Swiatek, Jabeur in WTA

Carlos already back in Spain for Davis Cup Finals

AP ■ VALENCIA

It was a quick turnaround for tennis' new No. 1.

Hours after celebrating his first Grand Slam title at the US Open, Carlos Alcaraz arrived back home to try to help Spain in the Davis Cup Finals.

"I'm very proud to arrive as No. 1 and do my bit for the team," Alcaraz said on Tuesday. "Playing the Davis Cup is always special. It's a unique atmosphere and I'm looking forward to being with the team."

Alcaraz made it to Valencia the day before Spain was to debut against Serbia in the group stage on Wednesday.

It wasn't yet clear in

which condition Alcaraz arrived after having to play a gruelling series of matches on his way to the title in New York.

"Hopefully he can recover as soon as possible," Spain captain Sergi Bruguera said. "We don't know yet if he will be able to play on Wednesday."

Many expected Alcaraz to skip the Davis Cup after defeating Casper Ruud in Sunday's US Open final, which allowed him to become the youngest man to lead the ATP computerized rankings since they began in 1973.

The 19-year-old Alcaraz said following Monday's traditional Times Squad photo shoot that he "woke up dead"

after the four-set final against Ruud.

"We will see how he is feeling, we will discuss it with him," Bruguera said. "The sooner he can play, the better."

After facing Serbia, which is without Novak Djokovic, Spain takes on Canada on Friday and South Korea on Sunday in Group B. The top two teams in each of the four groups will advance to the quarterfinals, which will be played in November in the southern Spanish city of Málaga.

Alcaraz made it to Spain's Davis Cup team for the first time last year, but had to withdraw from the tournament after testing positive for the coronavirus just before the competition was to start.



AP ■ NEW YORK

Carlos Alcaraz's US Open Championship moved him to No. 1 at age 19, making him the youngest man to lead the ATP computerized rankings since they began in 1973.

"It's a dream. At the moment, I can't believe I reached No. 1. It's going to take time to understand it," Alcaraz said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I have to move on and find new goals. I have to keep at this level, at No. 1, for many

The Spaniard's victory by a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-3 score over Casper Ruud in Sunday's final allowed Alcaraz to win his first major title and to replace Daniil Medvedev atop the rankings

years. That's my goal — and, of course, to get more Grand Slams."

The Spaniard's victory by a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-3 score over Casper Ruud in Sunday's final allowed Alcaraz to win his first major title and to replace

2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev atop the rankings.

Alcaraz's three-spot jump from No. 4 ties the mark for biggest move up to No. 1.

Ruud, a 23-year-old from Norway, went from No. 7 to

No. 2 after reaching his second major final of the season. He was the runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open in June.

Sunday's matchup was the first Grand Slam final featuring two men both trying to win a first Slam trophy and with No. 1 on the line, too.

Nadal also entered the US Open with a chance to move back up to No. 1, but he stayed at No. 3 after losing in the fourth round to Frances Tiafoe, who wound up being the first American man in the semifinals at Flushing Meadows in 16 years and going from No. 26 to a career-high No. 19.

Medvedev dropped to No. 4, and Tokyo Olympic Gold medalist Alexander Zverev went from No. 2 to No. 5 after sitting out the US Open because of torn ligaments in his right ankle.

Novak Djokovic missed his second Grand Slam tournament this season because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 and slid one place down to No. 7.

Iga Swiatek's third major

title, and first in New York, kept her at No. 1 in the WTA rankings and left the 21-year-old from Poland with more than twice as many points as the new No. 2, Ons Jabeur, who was the runner-up Saturday.

Swiatek also won the French Open and is the first woman in six years to claim

two Slams in one season.

Anett Kontaveit slipped one spot to No. 3 after losing in the second round of the US Open to Serena Williams.

Two American players are in the top 10 in career-best positions after reaching the quarterfinals: Jessica Pegula at No. 5 and Coco Gauff at No. 8.



Ruud to begin 2023 campaign in Auckland

AP ■ NEW YORK

New world number two Casper Ruud announced on Tuesday he will start his 2023 season at the Auckland Classic when the ATP Tour event returns in January after a three-year hiatus because of Covid.

The 23-year-old Norwegian rose to a career-high second in the world despite losing Sunday's US Open final to Spain's Carlos Alcaraz.

It was Ruud's second Grand Slam final defeat of 2022 after falling to Rafael Nadal at the French Open in June.

Ruud, a winner at ATP tournaments in Gstaad, Geneva and Buenos Aires this year, will headline the Auckland men's tournament beginning January 9 as he warms up for the first Grand Slam of the year at the Australian Open in

Melbourne starting a week later.

"New Zealand is a very beautiful country. The conditions are very similar to Melbourne so it is a nice tournament to play," he said.

"I am a big fan of the Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings movies. I know the nature and scenery are incredible so it'll be nice to explore," he added.

Ruud went out in the round of 32 when the Auckland Classic was last played in 2020, but has since become the first Norwegian to break into the top 10 and would have become world number one had he beaten Alcaraz in Sunday's US Open final.

American world number eight Coco Gauff last month announced she will feature in the women's Auckland Classic when the WTA Tour event begins on January 2.

Potter impressed by Boehly's vision for Chelsea

AP ■ LONDON

New Chelsea manager Graham Potter said he is impressed by chairman Todd Boehly's vision for the club despite criticism of the American's first few months in charge.

Potter left Brighton last week to sign a five-year deal at Stamford Bridge after Thomas Tuchel was sacked.

That decision was met with dismay by some as it came just days after a transfer window in which Chelsea spent over £250 million (\$290 million).

"It's the start of a really exciting period, I think," Potter told the club's website.

"New ownership, who I was really, really excited with and impressed by, firstly as people and then their vision for the club and what they wanted to do."

Chelsea sit sixth in the Premier League after a disappointing start to the season and lost their opening Champions League game 1-0 away to Dinamo Zagreb.

Potter built up a reputation for



Wales manager Page signs new deal

AP ■ CARDIFF

Robert Page has signed a new four-year contract as Wales manager as he prepares to lead the national team to only their second World Cup, in Qatar.

The 48-year-old has been in charge since November 2020, initially filling in temporarily for Ryan Giggs.

Giggs resigned in June as he awaited trial on domestic violence charges.

Page will be in the hot seat for

Wales's Euro 2024 qualifying campaign, with his contract running through to the 2026 World Cup.

"There is no bigger honour than coaching your national team and I can't wait for the challenge the next four years will bring, starting with our first FIFA World Cup in 64 years," said Page.

"This is an exciting time for Welsh football and I hope we can make the country proud in November and continue our success by qualifying for more major tournaments in the future."

punching above the weight of his resources at Brighton and playing an attractive brand of football in the process.

But the pressure will be on straight away when Chelsea host Salzburg in his first-ever Champions League game on Wednesday.

"We like to play in an attacking way, a balanced way, and players have to feel free to make decisions and express themselves," added Potter.

"It's about winning, creating a team which competes, is honest and works together. It's a combination between football and human values."

Warner, Cricket Australia to discuss overturning lifetime captaincy ban

PTI ■ SYDNEY

David Warner is set to have discussions with Cricket Australia to end his lifetime leadership ban in the coming weeks as the board looks for a replacement for former ODI skipper Aaron Finch. Finch retired from ODI cricket on Sunday after a poor run of form with just over 12 months left for the 50-over World Cup in India next year. While Test skipper Pat Cummins is favourite to take over the job if he can manage his workload, Warner may also be in the reckoning, especially as several former and current players have called for the south-paw's life ban to end. "I have spoken to Nick Hockley, we're going to try and have a catch up," Warner was quoted as saying by foxsports.com.au. "It's very difficult at the moment ... but I'm sure in the next couple of weeks we might be able to. But there's no rush for anything."

In the aftermath of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal in South Africa, former skipper Steve Smith was stripped of the captaincy and banned from leading Australia for two years, while Warner was handed a more severe punishment -- a lifelong leadership ban. For Warner, it would be a privilege to be entrusted with a leadership role again.

"I haven't had any conversations at all. But look, I think at the end of the day, any opportunity to captain would be a privilege," Warner said.

"But, from my end, there's a lot of water to go under the bridge, to have those conversations with Cricket Australia and my main focus is just actually



Not realistic to lead in all 3 formats: Cummins

IANIS ■ SYDNEY

Australia Test skipper Pat Cummins believes it is unrealistic for him to lead in all three formats of the game, given his workload as a pace bowler and the extremely competitive nature of the game.

Cummins has missed 28 of the last 66 ODIs, which means he might skip some matches or series, given the kind of bowling workload he will have to shoulder if he is made all-format captain.

"I think if you were going to do all the formats and every game, I don't think that's realistic," Cummins was quoted as saying by The West Australian. "Especially as a fast bowler I think you do need to find windows to rest. But I think you can manage that as well."

"It's not something I have really thought about. I am really happy with captaining the Test side ... I don't think they (Cricket Australia) need to rush into any decision," added Cummins, who guided

his side to a 4-0 Ashes win followed by a 1-0 Test series win against Babar Azam's Pakistan in the sub-continent.

Cummins had recently urged Cricket Australia (CA) to lift the leadership role ban on batting stalwart David Warner for his involvement in the ball-tampering episode during the 2018 Test series in South Africa.

CA have two months' time to decide who will replace Finch as their ODI skipper and Warner too has thrown his hat into the ring.

playing cricket."

The 35-year-old feels the ban was not just punishment for the ball tampering incident.

"Unfortunately a lot of the events before 2018 were with the board. The MOU stuff and all that. There was a lot of stuff that was... things got over and above in terms of more than the Cape Town stuff. There was more to it." "I think that's where my decision, the penalty that was handed down was more of stuff that was happening before that."

Warner, Smith and batter Cameron Bancroft were banned from playing domestic or international cricket as punishment for their roles in the infamous ball-tampering scandal.

Warner and Smith had been banned for one year, while Bancroft was suspended for nine months.

Asked about what conversation he will have with the board, Warner said: "I think at the end of the day it's about what questions do they want to ask me. That's where the conversation starts and then we can lead from there."

"At the end of the day, it's almost a completely new ball game from when 2018 happened. I would be interested to see and hear what their thoughts are and what not. And then we can probably go from there."

However, Warner feels Cummins will be offered the job first. "Obviously, Pat has the Test captaincy and he will be offered the job if he wants to take it, and rightfully so."

"For me, I know everyone is talking about it and I'm being endorsed by a few people but it's something for me, it's just about making sure Cricket Australia, if they are going to have those conversations with me that they do have those conversations."

Bishnoi should now perform to become undroppable: Gavaskar

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

With his sharp googly and attacking mindset, young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi has been one of the finds for India in T20Is this year. Since his debut against the West Indies in Kolkata this year, where he bagged the 'Player of the Match' award, Bishnoi has picked 16 wickets in 10 T20Is, averaging 17.12 and at an economy rate of 7.08. Many expected Bishnoi to be in the Indian side for the Men's T20 World Cup in Australia next month. But it wasn't to be as Bishnoi was named as one of the four reserves for the mega event in October-November.

Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar feels Bishnoi should not be disheartened by not getting into the squad of 15 for the World Cup as he has age on his side. He urged the Jodhpur-based leg-spinner to now perform in coming matches in such a way that he becomes 'undroppable'.

"Well, he has got age on his side. There is another T20 World Cup in a couple of year's time (2024, in West Indies and USA). There are so many T20 World Cups that he can play in the future. He should now perform in such a way that he becomes undroppable. So that's the only way to look at it. He is a young man, it's good experience for him to know he can't get into every team," said Gavaskar to India Today after India's squad announcement.

Further delving into India's squad for the showpiece event, Gavaskar has backed pace all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who has delivered with bat and ball in India's recent T20I victories, to be the team's trump card and replicate what former all-rounder and head coach Ravi Shastri did for the side in winning the 1985 Benson & Hedges



World Championship of Cricket in Australia.

"Yes, I think he could possibly do what Ravi Shastri did in 1985 where Ravi was the outstanding performer with both bat and ball in the entire tournament. Some good catches as well. Hardik Pandya is capable of doing that. Don't forget, at mid-off, he effects some electrifying run-outs as well."

"Direct hits at the bowler's end, catching the batter inches short. It's not just the bowling and the batting aspects of Hardik Pandya, the fielding aspect that could turn the game India's way. I won't be surprised if he is like the Ravi Shastri of 1985, if he is like the Champion of Champions."

Gavaskar signed off by saying India looked like a nice unit with the addition of right-arm pacers Jasprit Bumrah and

Harshal Patel while urging fans to support the 15-man squad for the tournament.

"This looks a very good team. With Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel coming in, it looks like India will be able to defend their totals. India have had problems in trying to defend totals. These two stalwarts coming in will certainly give the edge to India when defending totals."

"Deepak Chahar is one name that stands out, but they have also retained Arshdeep Singh, who gives a left-arm option in the attack. Like I said, it's a good selection. We can always crib about this thing and that thing. But now the selection is done, this is India's team. So let's not ask why not this, why not that? We should back this team 100%. Now that the selection is done, it's our team, back them 100 percent."



Renuka jumps to 13th among T20I bowlers

PTI ■ DUBAI

India seamer Renuka Singh has jumped five places to be 13th among bowlers while spinner Deepti Sharma continued to hold on to her seventh place in the latest ICC women's T20I ranking released on Tuesday.

Renuka, who bowled an economical spell, giving away just 23 runs in four overs in India's nine-wicket loss to England in the first T20I in Chester-le-Street last week, has 612 rating points.

Deepti continued to remain the only Indian bowler in the top 10 while also remaining static on fourth in the all-rounders' list.

In the batters' list, she moved up up three places to 33rd and wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh climbed four places to 75th.

Smriti Mandhana (710 points) was the highest-ranked

Indian among batters at number four, while Shafali Verma (686) and Jemimah Rodrigues (624) were static on sixth and 10th respectively.

England all-rounder Sarah Glenn has closed in on compatriot Sophie Ecclestone after a fine show in the first match of their three-T20I series against India.

Glenn is at a career-best-equalising second position and just 13 rating points adrift of left-arm spinner Ecclestone.

England batters Sophia Dunkley and Alice Capsey, too, have made notable gains after the first match of their series.

Dunkley's unbeaten 61 off 44 balls sees her move up 13 places to 44th position while Capsey's brisk 32 not out off 20 deliveries has lifted her 12 places to 52nd. Freya Davis has gained nine places and is 59th among bowlers.

'Virat opening the batting is definitely a big option for India'

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

Though India didn't win Asia Cup 2022, the return of form for talismanic batter Virat Kohli brought great joy for Indian fans. He was scratchy while making 35 in his 100th T20I against Pakistan. But as the tournament progressed, his fluency kept going up.

After two half-centuries and a duck, Kohli slammed a sensational, career-best 122 against Afghanistan, ending his century drought across formats of 1020 days. That effort, which sent fans into frenzy, came while opening the batting with KL Rahul as captain Rohit Sharma opted to rest to sign off from Asia Cup 2022 on a high.

Now, former India cricketer Rohan Gavaskar feels that Kohli opening the batting can become a huge option for the side ahead of the Men's T20 World Cup in Australia next month.

"Look, in terms of should Virat be opening, I think it's a great option. You look at his T20 numbers, they are outstanding. He averages about 55-57 and his strike rate is about 160. Those are phenomenal numbers."

"His last innings, again unbeaten innings of 122, tells you that he probably relishes opening as well. If memory serves me right, he wanted to open or he said he wanted to open in the Indian T20 league (IPL) in this edition or the last edition, he said that's the spot I want to be. So, it's obviously something that he wants to do. So, it's definitely a big option for the Indian team," said Gavaskar on 'Sports Over The Top' show on Sports18.

With Kohli showing signs of his dominant old self again, opening the batting with him will mean that KL Rahul, whose



approach with the bat in T20Is hasn't been impressive, will have to drop out of the eleven, with Suryakumar Yadav pushed to three, something which according to Gavaskar could well be a possibility.

"It does open up those options and you're right, SKY (Suryakumar) batting at number 3 it's a pleasing thought. But I have

to say if Virat opens, he showed what a tremendous success he is as an opener. It means one of my favourite players will have to make way which is KL Rahul."

"Because KL Rahul, I've said this before, he's an absolute class act. So look, it's one of those tricky sort of situations but SKY at number 3, I think that's what we want. His numbers you know and as rightly said, he's one of the best batters in T20."

India's next match in the format will be the first of three T20Is against Australia on September 20 in Mohali.

'KOHLI THAT WE KNOW'

Rohan said talismanic India batter Virat Kohli's unbeaten 122 against Afghanistan in Super Four match of Asia Cup 2022 was an exhibition of batting display where everyone felt like that his flamboyant, dominant version was back.

As captain Rohit Sharma was rested, Kohli was promoted to open the batting alongside stand-in captain KL Rahul. What followed next was something which anyone could not have predicted, as Kohli ended his drought of not scoring a century in international cricket for 1020 days with a sensational career-best 122 off just 61 balls, laced with 12 fours and six sixes, at a strike-rate of 200.

"When you say lethal, he was back to the Virat that we know. Back to the Virat, that 2016 Virat, an unbelievable run-scoring machine that he was in T20. So, he looked to be in that kind of form, which is great because he's peaking at the right time. With the big one, the world cup coming up, what you want is your players to peak at the right time and seems like he's speaking at the right time," said Gavaskar on 'Sports Over The Top' show on Sports18.

Root warns rivals that Eng are no 'one-trick pony'

AP ■ LONDON

Joe Root has warned England's rivals they are no "one-trick pony" after the team wrapped up a sixth Test victory in seven matches with their new hyper-aggressive brand of cricket.

England's fortunes in the red-ball game have been transformed under their new leadership team of head coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes.

The home side sealed a 2-1 series victory against South Africa at the Oval on Monday to add to a 3-0 success against New Zealand and a victory in the single postponed match against India. It is in sharp contrast to their dismal record in the latter stages of Root's captaincy, which ended in April with one win in 17 games.

The success under Stokes and McCullum has been attrib-

uted to unwavering positivity and has led to some rash dismissals, but Root feels England's performances were more nuanced as the season progressed.

"We're not just a one-trick pony," he said. "There's always going to be periods in Test cricket that you have to manage well and smartly."

"We've not got it right every time this summer but we've got it right more often than not and that's why we're sat here with six (wins) out of seven (Tests)."

"We're definitely not the finished article but to see the strides we've made in such a short space of time has been really a breath of fresh air."

England chased down 275-plus totals in the fourth innings of all three Tests against New Zealand and then set a new record against India, reaching their target of 378 with ease.



Former skipper Root, who averaged 68 at an impressive strike rate across the seven matches, believes the team's progress under Stokes is similar to the transformation of England's white-ball cricket under captain skipper Eoin Morgan. That culminated in their 50-over World Cup triumph in 2019.

"I've never had more fun playing professional cricket," said Root. "Honestly, it is hard to put into words. You turn up every day and you're very excited about what's going to happen. It's the unknown."

"It's quite a strange feeling to have played 120-odd games still to have that feeling when you turn up every day. It's a really good place to be."

"Keeps you very hungry and motivated. You can bounce off the energy of everybody else who is in the same mindset."

World C'ships: Vinesh loses 0-7 in qualification

PTI ■ BELGRADE

Triple Commonwealth Games champion Vinesh Phogat failed to put up a fight and was knocked down by Mongolia's Khulan Batkhuyag 0-7 in a major upset at the World Wrestling Championships here on Tuesday.

Fresh from winning a Gold in India's stupendous 12-medal winning show at the CWG Birmingham, the 10th seeded Vinesh looked jaded and lost her balance in the final seconds to be pinned by the Asian Silver medalist in the women's freestyle 53kg.

Batkhuyag took a 3-0 lead in the first period before slamming the former world Bronze medalist backward to the mat in the final seconds to take four



points and complete a dominating win.

Incidentally, Indian junior wrestler Antim, who was knocked out by Vinesh in the selection trials, had beaten the Mongolian at the U-23 Asian

meet earlier last month.

In the absence of former Silver medalist Anshu Malik, Vinesh was a strong medal favourite as she also got a favourable draw after the pull-out of reigning champion and Japanese sensation Akari Fujinami (injury). However, she was knocked out in the qualifications.

India had more disappointment in store as Neelam Sirohi lost to two-time world Silver medalist Emilia Alina Vuc of Romania 0-10 via technical superiority in the women's 50kg.

French wrestler Koumba Larroque, who was fighting with a highly strapped knee, pinned Shafali with a technical superiority in the women's 65kg.