

OPINION 6
EDUCATION MUST
BE STUDENT-CENTRIC**WORLD 9**
QUEEN'S COFFIN LEAVES BUCKINGHAM
PALACE FOR FINAL JOURNEY**MONEY 10**
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Cong chhodo yatra in Goa! 8 MLAs join BJP

Congress calls it 'Operation Kichad' against success of Bharat Jodo Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra received a major jolt on Wednesday when eight of its 11 MLAs in Goa deserted the party and joined the BJP.

An outraged Congress has described this as "Operation Kichad" of the BJP, which, it said, was rattled by the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The eight MLAs joined the BJP in the presence of Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and State BJP chief Sadanand Shet Tanavade.

In a similar move in July 2019, 10 Congress MLAs had switched over to the BJP in Goa.

The BJP retained power in the coastal State after the Assembly elections in March this year. It has 20 MLAs in the 40-members Assembly. The Congress' strength will now come down to three.

The eight Congress MLAs Kamat, Michael Lobo, Delilah Lobo, Rajesh Phaldesai, Kedar Naik, Sankalp Amonkar, Aleixo Sequeira, and Rudolf



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and BJP Goa president Sadanand Shet Tanavade with eight Congress MLAs who joined the party in Panaji on Wednesday

PTI

Fernandes — were seen interacting with Sawant in a viral photo shoot ahead of formally joining the BJP.

"We have joined the BJP to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant... 'Congress Chhodo, BJP jodo (Leave the Congress, join the BJP)', said Michael Lobo.

Incidentally, ahead of the Assembly elections, these MLAs had taken the loyalty pledge at a temple, church, and dargah in Goa.

Justifying his decision,

Kamat said, "Yes, I had taken an oath before God not to defect. I am a God-fearing man. I went and met god again and explained the current circumstances asking God what I should do. God told me to take a decision and he would back me."

Reacting to the development, the Congress described it as a part of the ruling party's Operation Kichad and said the saffron outfit was rattled by the huge success of its ongoing 3,500 km padayatra.

"Operation Kichad of BJP in Goa has been fast-tracked

because of the visible success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. BJP is nervous," Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said.

"A daily dose of diversion and disinformation is handed out to undermine the yatra. We remain undeterred. We will overcome these dirty tricks of the BJP," he said.

His party colleague Pawan Khara echoed him and said the BJP, rattled by the Bharat Jodo Yatra, had organised "Operation Kichad (muck)" in the coastal State.

Continued on Page 2

India protests US F-16 package help to Pak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday conveyed its concern over the US decision to provide F-16 sustenance package to Pakistan during telephonic conversation between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin. It was the first high-level objection registered by India.

"I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide a sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet. Look forward to continuing dialogue with Secretary Austin to further consolidate India-US partnership," Rajnath tweeted after talks. The two Ministers also reviewed the bilateral defence and strategic ties between the two countries.

Last week, the Ministry of External Affairs reportedly expressed its concern during a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu. He was here to take part in the Quad Senior Officials Meeting (SOM).

India had then raised objection to the US plan for Foreign Military Sales (FMS) worth \$450 million for hardware, software, and spares for the F-16 fighter jet programme with Pakistan.

New Delhi stressed the technology and support provided to Pakistan for the F-16, which Pakistan claims are needed for "counter-terrorism operations", are used for operations against India. Lu reportedly said the F-16 package was a maintenance deal for F-16s,



some of which are 40 years old and part of the US' global policy of maintaining its defence sales for their entire lifecycle.

In an interview to a private television channel, he also said, "We heard several concerns from the Indian Government" and clarified, "Let me say this very clearly, this is a safety and maintenance programme. There are no new aircraft being considered, no new capability and no new weapons system."

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry statement on the talks said Rajnath conveyed India's concerns over the US decision to provide a sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet.

The statement said the two leaders had a warm and fruitful telephonic conversation. They reviewed the multi-faceted India-US defence cooperation and reiterated mutual commitment to further strengthen military-to-military ties.

Austin expressed support for India's defence modernisation programme and looked

forward to further strengthening India-US defence industrial and technology collaboration. The two Ministers also discussed regional issues and affirmed their shared desire for maintaining peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The two Ministers reiterated that both sides would continue their productive engagements with the objective of deepening India-US Strategic Partnership.

Rajnath conveyed that he looked forward to welcoming Secretary Austin in India for the next Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue in 2023. Incidentally, the talks took place a day after India and China completed the disengagement process from the stand-off site in Gogra Hot Springs (Patrolling Point-15) in Eastern Ladakh.

Troops from both sides were in an eyeball to eyeball confrontation there for the last two years since trouble erupted at various friction points in Eastern Ladakh leading to tension in the border region.

Nitish ropes in PK to unite Opp parties

Poll strategist calls on Bihar CM on advice of Pawan Varma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In his efforts to bring the Opposition parties under one umbrella to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has reached out to poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who has been highly critical of the Janata Dal (U) supremo in the recent past.

The Bihar CM and Kishor held a one-hour-long meeting at the former's official residence on Tuesday night. Former diplomat and expelled JD(U) leader Pawan Kumar Varma too was present.

Sources said that the Bihar CM had asked Varma to play a mediatory role and convince PK to help Nitish in his effort to unite the Opposition parties. PK shared an excellent

rapport with a host of Opposition leaders who have used his services as a poll strategist. They include K Chandrasehkar Rao, MK Stalin, Mamata Banerjee, Uddhav Thackeray, and Arvind Kejriwal among others.

Sources said that Varma flew to Patna two days ago and held separate talks with PK and Nitish before the poll strategist called on the Bihar CM.

While Nitish confirmed meeting PK, there were no words from the poll strategist on his talks with the Bihar CM. On Wednesday, PK was in Champaran in north Bihar making preparations for his Padyatra beginning October 2.

On whether Kishor will rejoin the JD(U), Nitish told reporters, "You better address this question to him. What's the harm in the meeting? We have known each other for long."

In 2020, the JD(U) expelled Varma and Kishor after they opposed Nitish Kumar's stand on the CAA and the NRC.

Pak boat with ₹200 crore drugs ordered from Punjab jails seized

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), Gujarat, have jointly apprehended a Pakistani boat with six crew members carrying approximately 40 kilogram of drugs worth ₹200 crore on Indian waters.

The drugs were being smuggled as part of a racket run by two traffickers, including a Nigerian national currently lodged in jails in Punjab, said Gujarat Director General of Police DGP Ashish Bhatia.

As much as 40 kg of heroin that was seized was meant to be transported to northern States like Delhi and Punjab by road after being offloaded with the help of Malik and Jaggy, he added.

Questioning of the eight accused revealed that drug traffickers Meeraz Rehmani and Ani Chief Obinna, alias Chief (who is a Nigerian), were running the racket while sitting in prison, said Bhatia.



Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad in a joint operation with the Indian Coast Guard seized 40 kg heroin worth ₹200 crore from a Pakistani fishing boat in the Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast

PTI

"While Rehmani is in Kapurthala jail, Obinna is in Amritsar jail. They were running the racket using WhatsApp and VOIP (Internet phone) calls. Earlier too, drug seizure in Gujarat was linked to

Punjab jails," the senior police official said.

The Coast Guard said in a tweet that the apprehended Pakistani boat was named "Al Tayyasa".

Continued on Page 2

Want power subsidy in Delhi? Give missed call

Those who don't won't get. An offline form can also be filled for subsidy, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Starting next month, subsidies on power bills in Delhi will be extended only to those consumers who apply for it. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday announced that both online and offline methods will be made available to consumers to opt for power subsidy from Wednesday.

He said the consumers in Delhi can give a missed call on 7011311111 to opt for the subsidy. "Many residents were willing to pay their electricity bills in full and wanted an option to give up the power subsidy," Kejriwal claimed.

Calling it a correct demand, the Chief Minister

said only those people should get the subsidy who really need it. "Some people don't want to get free electricity. Now only those people in Delhi will get an electricity subsidy who will apply for it. You can start applying from today," he said.

At present, those whose power consumption is less than 200 units do not have to pay any electricity charges. Those whose consumption is up to 400 units get a 50 per cent subsidy. "In the electronic method, consumers can give a missed call on the phone number 7011311111. They will receive a message with a link, and clicking on this, they will get a form that can be filled up and sent back. The number can also be used on WhatsApp by sending "Hi" and a form will be received that can be filled up and sent to apply for subsidy," he said.

"In the physical method, consumers can fill up a form attached with their power bill

and submit it at designated collection centres and the subsidy will continue from October 1," said Kejriwal.

"Within 3 days of registration through physical or electronic method, confirmation will be sent to consumers through SMS or e-mail that subsidy will continue. This facility can be availed electronically from today. Those who apply till Oct 31 will get the subsidy for the month. Those who don't do so will have to pay their bills but they can apply next month to get it," he said.

"A comprehensive campaign to inform people about the scheme will be soon started so that no one is uninformed in this regard. We will do it once a year so that people can apply to opt for subsidy or withdraw it. I believe those who do not need subsidy will give it up and those who need it will benefit," Kejriwal said.

Continued on Page 2

Modi gifts to go under hammer on birthday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would "give away" on September 17, his 72nd birthday, around 1000 gifts and mementos received by him. The day is being observed as "Seva Pakhwada" by the BJP.

Going away from the tradition of receiving "gifts" on birthdays, the gifts received by Modi which include Trishul, a chess set, statues, and a work depicting Mahatma Gandhi as the father of the nation and him as the son of the nation, would, instead, be auctioned on September 17.

The e-auction will be the fourth in the series of such auctions launched by the Prime Minister's office in 2019. The auction, to be conducted by the Culture Ministry, will continue until October 2.



The chess set presented to Modi by Chennai's Chess Olympics would also be auctioned with the bidding starting at ₹55,000. A Trishul presented by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur would also go under the hammer. A canvas showing

"change" brought about by Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharat scheme would also be auctioned.

The proceeds of the auction will be contributed to the "Namami Gange" programme involving cleaning the holy river. *Continued on Page 2*

Relief for Ganguly, Jr Shah as SC OK's BCCI rules changes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

With all cricket associations supporting change of norms, the Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed modification of the BCCI's constitution and paved the way for its president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah to continue in office without having to serve the mandatory cooling-off period.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said an office-bearer can have continuous tenure of 12 years which includes six years in State Association and six years in the BCCI before the cooling-



off period of three years triggers.

The bench said an office bearer can serve on a particular post for two consecutive terms, both at the BCCI and the State Association level, after which he would have to serve a three years cooling-off period. "The purpose of the cooling-off period is not to create undesirable monopolies," the bench said.

Continued on Page 2

Al plane catches fire on Muscat taxiway, 151 flyers rescued

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A total of 151 passengers, including four infants, were evacuated from an Air India Express flight at the Muscat airport on Wednesday following a fire in one of its engines. The incident happened when the Kochi-bound Boeing 737-800 aircraft was taxiing at the airport. Some passengers suffered minor bruises during evacuation.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered an enquiry in the incident. Videos and images on social media showed smoke emanating from the plane parked at the Muscat airport.

As per preliminary information, the aircraft VT-AXZ was scheduled to operate flight IX442 from Muscat to Kochi.

Continued on Page 2

ED seizes ₹47 crore gold and silver from secret lockers of firm

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday seized 431 kg of gold and silver worth over ₹47 crore from secret lockers of a Mumbai-based bullion company as part of a money-laundering probe linked to an alleged bank loan fraud case.

The premises of Raksha Bullion and Classic Marbles, both based in Mumbai, were searched in connection with a case against a company called Parekh Aluminex Ltd, accused of duping banks to the tune of ₹2,296.58 crore, the ED said.

During the raids, keys of some "private lockers were found on the premise of the bullion company," it said. "Upon searching the pri-



vate lockers, it was found that the locker operation was being done without following proper norms. No KYC was followed and there was no CCTV camera installed on the premises and there was no in and out register," it said.

The premise had 761 lockers of which three belonged to Raksha Bullion, it said. "Upon operating the lockers, 91.5 kgs of gold (bars) and 152 kg of silver was found in two lockers which were seized. An additional 188 kgs of silver was also seized from the premises of Raksha Bullion," it said.

Continued on Page 2

NCR-PULSE

MCD TO ORGANISE INDIAN SWACHHTA LEAGUE ON SEPT 17
New Delhi: With an aim to make the national Capital garbage free, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will organise Indian Swachhta League on the occasion of Seva Diwas on September 17, 2022. According to a senior MCD official, this programme is being organised by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Government of India under the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav which is being celebrated from September 17, 2022 to October 2, 2022.

2 SCRIBES, 1 TEACHER HURT DURING SCHOOL COVERAGE
New Delhi: Two mediapersons and a teacher received minor injuries during a scuffle over shooting a news report in a Delhi Government-run school in northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura area. According to the police, a PCR call was received at Bhajanpura police station at around 1.40 pm regarding the incident on Tuesday. Two FIRs have been registered on the complaint of both the parties and their medico-legal cases have been prepared, the police said, adding an investigation is underway.

22-YR-OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR KIDNAPPING MINOR GIRL
New Delhi: A 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping a minor girl from near her house in east Delhi's Preet Vihar area. The accused, Sachin, is a resident of Jagatpuri and is a psycho drug addict. He kidnapped the seven years old girl on September 11 in an auto-rickshaw from East Gurgaon Nagar for sexual pleasure.

SCHOOL STUDENTS UNDERSTANDING PATRIOTISM: SISODIA
New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday said the children of the city Government schools are understanding various aspects of patriotism due to the Deshbhakti curriculum, which has had a positive impact on their behaviour. To review curriculum-related activities and its impact on students, the deputy chief minister visited a government school on Wednesday.

2 DEATHS IN SEWER MANHOLE TO BE PROBED
New Delhi: Days after a security guard and a man died in a in a sewer manhole in Bakkarwala, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) constituted a committee to investigate the two deaths. "On the directions of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, the authority has constituted a committee to investigate the two deaths. Committee constituted has been asked to submit its report on the cause of accident, lapses if any, on the part of officers or contractors, and remedial measures to be undertaken for prevention of such incidents," DDA official said.

'YOG-NATUROPATHY FOR HOLISTIC HEALTH' TO BE HELD
New Delhi: On the occasion of the PULSE - 2022 - the 50th year of annual intercollegiate fest of All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, International Naturopathy Organization (INO) and Surya Foundation is jointly organising a seminar 'Yog-Naturopathy for Holistic Health' on September 18, in association with Students Association of the institute in which medical students, and Yog - Naturopathy practitioners and students from across India and SAARC countries will participate, according to a statement here.

DU SIGNS MOU WITH ICT ACADEMY
New Delhi: Delhi University on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICT Academy to offer skill- and employment-based courses. The MoU was signed between the varsity registrar Vikas Gupta and head of ICT Academy Raghav Shrinivas. During the programme, certificates were handed over to Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) students, who successfully completed 75 hours of Banking and Financial Literacy course.

120 ICE-CREAM CARTS OK'D AT KARTAVYA PATH: NDMC
New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday announced that the newly-christened Kartavya Path can have a maximum of 120 ice-cream carts and water dispensing trolleys at six vending locations. According to the NDMC Vice Chairman Satish Upadhyay, there are six vending zones on Kartavya Path between Central Vista Lawns and India Gate.

ED seizes... Modi gifts to go...

From Page 1
The total value of the seized gold and silver is Rs 47.76 crore, the ED said. The money laundering case against Parekh Aluminex Ltd was registered in March, 2018 in which it was alleged that the company "duped banks and took loans to the tune of Rs 2,296.58 crore."
This money, the ED claimed, was thereafter "siphoned off by layering through various companies."
"The money was routed to various accounts in the context of providing unsecured loans and investments. The same was not the purpose of taking the loans and there were no agreements in place for such transactions," the agency said.
It had earlier attached assets worth more than Rs 205 crore in this case in 2019.

From Page 1
This year, Modi will be in Madhya Pradesh on his birthday where he will release eight cheetahs being brought from Namibia into the Kuno National Park. The wild cats were declared extinct in the country in the 1950s.
Beginning September 17, the BJP will also hold several events till October 2 to mark the Prime Minister's birthday. Exhibitions at State and district levels will be organised on the personality of Modi as well as on his achievements. The BJP will organise "seva pakhwada" (a fortnight of service) this year to mark Prime Minister's birthday.
Campaigns will also be run to promote tree plantation and cleanliness, as well as make people aware of the need to conserve water.

LG reviews security situation along LoC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the forward areas of Poonch where he took a first-hand assessment of the prevailing situation at the Line of Control (LoC) and forward areas at the border village of Degwar Terwan in Poonch.
He was accompanied by Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta; Brigadier Rajesh Bisht; ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh; DIG, Dr. Haseeb Mughal; Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar.
The local army officers briefed the Lt Governor on the overall security situation in the region, measures taken to strengthen the counter infiltration grid and operational preparedness of the troops.
While interacting with the officers and personnel of the Armed Forces, the Lt Governor, commended them for the selfless service in challenging situations. He appreciated the excellent synergy between civil administration, J&K Police, army and other security agencies.
"I salute the exemplary bravery of our Armed Forces. J&K UT is witnessing a new



dawn of peace, progress and prosperity. Our armed forces, police, CAPFs are handling the challenges with full strength, valour & dedication. India will give a befitting reply to anyone who tries to disturb peace, unity & integrity of the country," Lt Governor said.

Maha local polls: MNS to contest all seats in BMC

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
The Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) appeared to be testing electoral waters on Wednesday, as it announced that it would contest all the 227 seats in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls to be held later this year.
Talking to media persons here, MNS' spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande said here that his party chief Raj Thackeray had told the party cadres to prepare themselves to contest all the 227 BMC seats.
"At a party meeting held today, the MNS chief asked the party office bearers Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Aurangabad and other cities where municipal corporation polls are scheduled to be held in the coming weeks, to prepare them to go it alone in the civic polls," Deshpande said.
Deshpande's announcement should be seen in the context of the fact that ruling Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and BJP — both of which have for some time been trying to woo the MNS chief to have an electoral alliance with his party for the BMC polls.



Jacqueline appears before EOW in ₹200 cr extortion case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
The Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez on Wednesday appeared before Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing in connection with an extortion case of Rs 200 crore linked to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhkar. The actor was accompanied by Pinki Irani who allegedly introduced her to Chandrashekhkar. Meanwhile, police have also called actor Norah Fatehi for questioning on Thursday.
The actor was questioned for more than eight hours after she reached EOW Mandir Marg police station at around 11:00 am on Wednesday. Jacqueline had been told that her investigation might get stretched for a couple of days.
According to a senior police official, the police team questioned her on several things including the gifts she took from Sukesh.
"Pinki Irani and Jacqueline will be called again for questioning. Nora Fatehi has been called tomorrow and Pinky along with Fatehi will be interrogated as there are certain things that need to be clarified," said the senior police official adding that there is no direct connection between Fatehi and Jacqueline in the case.

Minibus falls into gorge in Poonch, 12 die, 29 injured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU
At least 12 passengers were killed and over two dozen received injuries when an overloaded minibus they were travelling in veered off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday.
The mishap occurred around 8.30 am. The ill-fated bus was on its way to Poonch from Gali Maidan when it fell into a deep gorge in the Sawjiyan area located along the Line of control. The majority of passengers present on board the minibus were school going children and local commuters. Prime Minister Narendra



Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar ,LG Manoj Sinha and several leaders from Jammu and Kashmir expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.
According to police, nine passengers were found dead on the spot, while three more succumbed to injuries at a hospital.
The condition of nine of the 29 injured is critical, and six of them were airlifted to the Government Medical College and Hospital in Jammu for specialised treatment, they said.

Relief for Ganguly, Jr Shah as SC OK's BCCI rules...

From Page 1
The top court's order came on the Board's plea seeking to amend its constitution concerning the tenure of its office bearers, including its president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah by doing away with the mandatory cooling-off period between tenures of office bearers across state cricket associations and the BCCI.
The BCCI, in its proposed amendment, has sought the abolition of a cooling-off period for its office bearers which would enable Ganguly and Shah to continue in office as President and Secretary despite them having completed six years at respective State cricket associations. The Centre represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and State Cricket Associations supported the BCCI's petition. The apex court appointed senior advocate Maninder Singh as Amicus Curiae in the matter. BJP leader Subramanian Swamy who objected to the extension of tenure increase later withdrew saying that he is agreeable to the proposal of the Amicus Curiae, who also suggested extension of tenures of BCCI and State Cricket Associations.
Earlier, Justice R M Lodha-led committee in 2018 had recommended reforms in the BCCI which have been accepted by the top court. The constitution of the BCCI, which was earlier approved by the top court, stipulates a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for anyone who had served two consecutive terms of three years each in the State cricket association or the BCCI. While Ganguly was an office bearer in the Cricket Association of Bengal, Shah had served in the Gujarat Cricket Association. They have already exceeded the total six years tenure.

J'khand raises reservations for SC, ST, others to 77%

PTI ■ RANCHI
The Jharkhand Government on Wednesday gave its nod to a proposal for granting 77 per cent reservation in state government jobs for the members of the SC, ST, backward classes, OBC and economically weaker sections, an official said.
The State Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, hiked the OBC reservation to 27 per cent from the present 14 per cent.
The Hemant Soren-led UPA government on Wednesday also gave its nod to a proposal to use the 1932 land records to determine those who are local inhabitants. The decision was taken in the backdrop of tribals' demand that the last land survey conducted by the British government in 1932 be used as the basis for defining locals.
The developments came amid a political crisis in Jharkhand over the threat to Chief Minister Hemant Soren of his disqualification as an MLA in an office-of-profit case.
"The Cabinet has given nod to a reservation bill for amendment in Jharkhand Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services Act, 2001

for 77 per cent reservation to SC, ST, backward classes, other backward classes and economically weaker sections," Cabinet Secretary Vandana Dadel told reporters after the meeting.
It was decided in the meeting that the state government will request the Centre for inclusion of the bill in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.
In the proposed job reservation policy, local people of the SC community will have a quota of 12 per cent, ST 28 per cent, extremely Backward Class 15 per cent, OBC 12 per cent, and economically weaker section barring those from other reserved categories 10 per cent.
At present, the STs get a 26 per cent reservation in Jharkhand, while SCs have 10 per cent.
The OBCs currently get a 14 per cent quota in the state and increasing it was an electoral promise of all mainstream parties in 2019, including the ruling alliance — JMM-Congress-Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) — in the current dispensation.
Jharkhand Congress which has been pressing for 27 per cent reservation of government jobs for OBCs, termed it a historic move and said it will arrest the migration of people to other states for jobs.

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No.-23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation
This is to bring to your notice that POONAM H THAPA/ VISHNUMAYA THAPA (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBGUR0003923735 located at **FLAT No-3, 1208, 12TH FLOOR THE SERENAS TOWER 3 SECTOR 36 GURGAON**
The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.
The Bank has informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **September 06, 2022** informing that **STERNAL BUILCON PVT. LTD** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.
Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.
Dated: September 15, 2022
Place: Delhi/ Ncr
For ICICI Bank Limited
Sd-

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed that Plot No.-9, Block-A, Sector-40 Noida Gautam Budh Nagar (Area-156.04 Sq. Mtr.), whose original allottee is Shri Guru. Banchan Singh, Resident- N. E.-10SD, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi IP GPA was done in favor of Mr. O.P. Rai, S/o Late Shri Mahatam Rai, R/o- Purvanchal Heights, Tower No.-6, Flat No. A/ 01 Greater Noida, and which is registered in the Deputy Registrar's office Noida on AD Book Number-IV, Volume-83 of Page No.-197-208 dated February 06, 1997 and the Sales deed is registered by AD Book Number-5, Volume-136 of Page No.-523- 534 dated 06 February 1997 in favor of Smt. Asha Rai wife Shri O. P. Rai R/o Opposite DIG Banglow Civil Line, Blandpur Gorakhpur. The share certificate has been transferred by Paradise View Co-Op H. B. Society Limited in the name of Smt. Asha Rai. Therefore, now the transfer paper of the above is being submitted to the Authority for transfer in favor of, Mrs. Asha Rai. W/o Mr. O.P. Rai Resident-Opposite DIG Banglow Civil Line, Blandpur Gorakhpur on the basis of GPA. If any person has any kind of objection in this regard, then please file your objection along with the evidence in the plot department (प्लॉट विभाग) of Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this information.
Mr. O.P. Rai
PD (90170)A

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Harendra Kumar Varshney R/o SD-95A, Sector-45, Noida(U.P.) have changed my daughter's name from KANUPRIYA to KANUPRIYA VARSHNEY for all purposes.
PD (90170)A

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.
VEHICLES FOR SALE
1) TATAMOTORS TATA LP913 REG. NO. HR73A7531 YOM 2019
2) MAHINDRA 265 DI SARPANCH REG. NO. HR13N4823 YOM 2018
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT
BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : GUNJAN SINGH KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 8510032426 EMAIL-gunjans.singh1@kotak.com

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र
क्र. 436/या.वि./2022 भोपाल, दिनांक 14.09.2022
निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत डेकेडर परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	घरोर राशि	प्रपत्र राशि	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित रकम	कार्य की अवधि
01	2022_UAD_204659_2	RENEWAL MAINTANANCE OF ROAD BY ASPHALTING IN SARVODHARAM A SECTOR SAINATH COLON, MAHABALI NAGAR, SARVODHARAM B AND C SECTOR, SHRIDIPURDAM, GOOD SHEPHERD COLONY, AND VARIOUS OTHER PLACES IN WARD NO. 82, IN Z-18 (SECOND CALL)	1,75,02,024/-	87,510/-	12500/-	mpuadd issr 2022	06 month
02	2022_UAD_205010_3	ASPHALTING OF VARIOUS ROAD OF SANT HIRDARAM NAGAR ZONE 01 (THIRD CALL)	1,00,88,672/-	50,443/-	12500/-	mpuadd issr 2022	06 month

1. निविदा प्रपत्र को निर्धारित राशि एवं घरोर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी **www.mptenders.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती हैं।
2. किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।
कार्यालय यंत्री (सिविल)
नगर निगम भोपाल
नि.क्र. 629/022/023

Cong chhodo yatra in Goa; 8 MLAs...

From Page 1
"Once again it has been proven that the BJP can only break," the Congress' communication department head said in a tweet in Hindi.
"Those who are not able to support this difficult journey of uniting India, fearing the threats of BJP, cross over to those who break..." (they) should understand that India is watching," he added. The Congress and other Opposition parties have often accused the BJP of poaching legislators under its 'Operation Lotus'. Lotus is the BJP's poll symbol.
Asked about the developments in Goa and whether the Congress was caught off-guard, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said the party was not clueless, but one cannot have a dialogue with people who compromise their values beyond a point.
"I think it is erroneous for anybody to believe that we did not know," she told reporters at a Press conference at AICC.
Those MLAs who crossed over had sought votes from people against the BJP, she said.

Want power subsidy in Delhi? Give missed...

From Page 1
"Some people have demanded that they can pay their power bills and they should be given the option to give up their subsidy. It was a genuine demand because subsidy should be given to those only who need it. Around Rs 3,000 crore is spent on subsidies by the Government, Kejriwal said.
"The system has been improved so that it does not

crash due to a rush of applicants and the Government is planning ways like holding camps to inform people about the new arrangement," he added.
How to apply
**Fill a form sent along with the electricity bill and submit it with the bill.
**O orve a missed call or send "Hi" on WhatsApp on the number 7011311111 for applying for a subsidy.
**Fill the form sent to you on your phone number and submit it
**The Delhi Government will also send messages to those consumers whose mobile number is linked with their electricity bill.
**Three days after the application, you will be informed by SMS or e-mail that your subsidy is in progress.

AI plane catches fire on...

From Page 1
During taxiing, one of the engines had fire and smoke and subsequently, all the passengers and crew were evacuated on the taxiway. Slides were deployed to evacuate the people, the DGCA official said.
According to another input, an observer reported that during taxiing, one of the plane's engines was on fire, the official added.
In a statement, an Air India Express spokesperson said there were 141 passengers onboard the plane, which

was to depart Muscat at 1120 hours (local time).
"While it was on the taxiway, another aircraft reported observing fumes from one of the engines. However, there was no fire warning indication in the cockpit. As a matter of abundant precaution, and following the prescribed SOPs, the crew stopped on the taxiway and activated the onboard engine fire extinguishers," the statement said.
Air India Express also said the matter is being investigated by the regulatory authorities as well as the air-

line's flight safety department. A senior official at the DGCA said the regulator is probing the incident and appropriate action will be taken after the investigation is completed. Air India Express has arranged a relief flight to bring back the guests from Muscat. Air India Express said full support was extended by Muscat Airport authorities and the passengers were brought to the terminal building. There are no major injuries reported, except minor bruises to some passengers while evacuating.

L-G orders disciplinary action against 5 cops

PCA for action against policemen for lapses, misconduct in discharge of duty while attending PCR complaint in 2018

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena on Wednesday ordered initiation of disciplinary proceedings against two Station House Officers (SHOs), two Sub-Inspectors (S-Is) and one Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Delhi Police following serious lapses and misconduct in discharge of duty while attending a PCR complaint December 8, 2018.

The Police Complaints Authority (PCA) after thorough examination of the matter has recommended appropriate action against the policemen. According to an official, ASI Heera Lal, SI Rahul Sagar, SI Ravi Poonia, present SHO Harish Kumar and the then SHO, Sanjeev Gautam committed serious lapses and misconduct in the discharge of duties while attending a complaint regarding a man being



physically assaulted by two others. The said police personnel in their deposition before PCA have themselves accepted their lapses and misconduct. The victim Musa was kicked and punched by two persons Farid and Shaan Ali and succumbed to his injuries on December 30, 2018.

“A complaint by Asma Bibi filed at the PCA on January 15, 2019, detailed that the PCR call made by her son Hasrat had gone unaddressed by the Investigation Officer (IO). He neither got a medical examination of the victim done nor did he take any action against the accused persons,” the official said.

On December 18, Asma Bibi's brother Musa had to be admitted to the Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital and information was given to local police, with a case FIR No registered by S-I, Ravi Poonia.

On December 30 the victim died due to the injuries sustained during the assault on December 8 but no action was taken by the IO. On the contrary, the MLC observed that the patient had been brought in with self-inflicted injury at 4.30 PM on December 15.

“The police did not conduct any inquiry or register any FIR or investigate the matter, nor did it file any charge sheet with regard to an injury in the stomach with a sharp edged object and the subsequent death of the victim due to this injury.

There was total inaction on part of the police officials who dealt with this matter,” the official added. “The PCA, after thorough examination of the matter recommended appropriate action against the above-named police personnel.

Perusal of reports revealed that the said police personnel in their deposition before PCA, themselves accepted their lapses and misconduct,” the official said. “The LG in his order has stated ‘recommendation of PCA is accepted. Delhi Police is directed to initiate appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the delinquent police personnel, as per rules,’ sources added.

Now Delhiites to get power subsidy only if they opt for it

But language of pre-written form raises hackles

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Wednesday that Delhiites can avail the benefits of the free electricity scheme from October only if they opt for it by giving a missed call on the phone number 7011311111.

After giving the missed call, the consumers will receive a message with a link and by clicking on it, they will get the form.

However, within hours of the announcement, a controversy erupted over the language used in the form that requires to be filled for availing the benefit. The form, which is in the Devanagari script, is an application addressed to the Chief Minister. The pre-written application form mentions that the applicant will be “highly obliged” if the subsidy is continued further.

“We are thankful for the rebate in electricity bills that you (Chief Minister) have given so far. I wish to continue availing the rebate on electricity. I would be highly obliged for that,” the form mentions.

The language of the application has drawn a sharp reac-

Discoms say arrangements made for hassle-free process

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the Delhi Government launched a phone number 7011311111 to opt for the power subsidy through a missed call or WhatsApp message, the discom officials on Wednesday said that adequate arrangements have been made for a hassle-free process for consumers.

According to Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) spokesperson, they will be extending options to all eligible customers to opt-in to continue to receive power subsidy from October 1 onwards and have made adequate arrangements for a hassle-free process. The application for availing subsidy can be filled both offline and online manners, he said. The option will be extended through multiple digital channels like WhatsApp, SMS, missed call services in compliance with the directions

from the public and resident welfare associations (RWAs).

Atul Goyal, president of the United Residents Joint Action (URJA), an umbrella body of RWAs, criticised the language

from the government, said the TPDDL spokesperson. “In addition to the digital options, the customers will receive the Subsidy Application Form (SAF) issued by the government with their monthly electricity bill with a unique QR code,” he said.

In case of any queries or concerns, customers “can call us 19124 or visit our customer care centres,” he added. Three power discoms BRPL and BYPL of BSES and TPDDL supply electricity to over 58 lakh domestic power consumers in the city.

The BSES discoms did not comment on the subsidy application. The BSES discoms supply power to entire Delhi barring north and northeast Delhi supplied by TPDDL, and NDMC and Delhi Cantt areas.

Delhiites can avail the free electricity scheme from October only if they opt for it, Delhi Chief Minister announced on Wednesday.

in the form. “This language is not good. They want people to beg. This is a language of flattery. They are forcing people to thank them. As if they are doing some kind of a favour to people,” Goyal said.

LoP Bidhuri: Delhi Govt has no money to give power subsidy

NEW DELHI: The Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Wednesday slammed Delhi Government over the move of waiving of the power subsidy by default instead the people who want to continue to avail the subsidy had to apply for it, in the national Capital.

Bidhuri said that the Kejriwal Government has made the entire people of Delhi beggars. Now every person would need to request the Government for the electricity subsidy.

“Kejriwal has bankrupted the national Capital and is now trying to find out different ways to stop the electricity subsidies being given to its consumers. The Delhi Government has no money to continue the power subsidy to all that's why he asked power consumers to give a missed call to opt to subsidy,” he added. Bidhuri said that there are 58 lakh electricity consumers in Delhi. The Government has asked everyone to fill the form. From the very first day, people have started complaining on social media that they are not getting the forms. People will face a lot of trouble in the process for applying to continue the power subsidy.



“If the intention of the Kejriwal Government was clear, then it would have said that subsidy will continue to all, but those who do not want to take subsidy, need to fill the forms to give up the benefit.

In that condition, those who do not fill the form will continue to get subsidy as before, but the Delhi Government has increased their problems by keeping everyone in the beggar category so that at least people get the facility of subsidy,” he said.

“Even if someone gets power subsidy, the maximum benefit is only Rs 800 per month, while the Government is charging huge amount from them in the form of bills on other hand. In Delhi, in the name of fixed charge, Rs 125 per KW is being charged from the domestic consumer and Rs 270 per KW from commercial every month, which is the highest if compared to the whole country. SR

DDA approves allotment of 1,675 EWS-category flats

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has approved a 10 per cent increase in land rates for calculating conversation charges from leasehold to freehold in respect of commercial and industrial properties and multilevel parkings for 2022-23. The approval shall be forwarded to the MoHUA for final approval.

The DDA in its meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena also approved the allotment of 1,675 Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category flats constructed at Jailor Wala Bagh, Ashok Vihar.

The DDA will also allot 18 flats to the Ministry of External Affairs at five per cent discount on the cost of flat and parking. “In-situ slum rehabilitation of JJ Cluster at Jailor Wala Bagh,



Ashok Vihar, has been taken up by DDA. Eligible JJ dwellers are to be shifted to 1,675 built-up EWS flats near JJ cluster on payment of Rs 1,71,000.

There are about 1,640 households and eligible households will be allotted these flats through draw of lots. After rehabilitation, the land so vacated measuring approximately 11,129 sq. mtrs will be disposed of by DDA through auction,” a press statement said. An official said the DDA

has been directed to re-examine the increase in rates of additional FAR and use conversion charges proposed by them and come up with more details in the next meeting. However, the period of applicability of rates which was valid up to June 30, was further extended up to December 31. “DDA allotted 772 EWS flats at Shivaji Marg under DDA Housing Scheme-2014. Upon receiving representations from allottees alleging higher cost of these flats in

comparison to that mentioned in the scheme brochure many allottees approached the Delhi High Court challenging the cost of the flats. Some of them subsequently sought permission of the court to allow them to deposit the amount demanded by the authority, after expiry of the last date,” he informed.

“Meanwhile, the DDA had purchased 333 CWG flats located in Akshardham Residential Complex from EMAAR and MGF groups in 2009. A large number of flats were allotted or disposed of through open auction.

However, on not getting a positive response, it was decided to allot remaining flats to Government institutions. At present, only 19 flats remain unsold at CWG. The price for disposal has been worked out as Rs 3,28,400 per sqm for the year 2022-2023,” he said.

Panel to probe Bakkarwala sewer deaths

New Delhi: Days after two men died in a sewer manhole in Bakkarwala, the DDA on Wednesday constituted a committee to investigate the incident on the directions of L-G Saxena. The authority also said that the families of the victims are being provided ex-gratia relief as per norms.

The committee has been asked to submit its report on the cause of accident, lapses if any, on the part of officers or contractors or any other person, and remedial measures to be undertaken for prevention of such incidents. Meanwhile, an FIR has also been registered by Delhi Police in the matter.

AAP protests at Ghazipur over MCD's inefficiency

NEW DELHI: To mark their protest against the BJP-ruled MCD's garbage mismanagement and to highlight the situation of an impending health crisis for those living around the landfills, the AAP MLA from Kalkaji, Atishi along with party workers protested at Ghazipur landfill site in the national Capital.

Atishi said that whenever someone is about to enter Delhi they can see a mountain of garbage, no matter from where they come and this is a matter of utter shame for the people of the city. “We are raising our voice against it but we are unable to make sense of why the police have put barricades to stop us from going to the landfill. People can see this mountain from as far as two kilometers. If you stop us



from going to the landfill site, it does not mean that the mountain of garbage will not be visible,” said Atishi.

“Going by their current pace, these landfills won't be cleared within the next 200 years. Even if they shut the landfill's intake down and work on clearing it, it will take 27 years. AAP is exposing the reality of BJP's landfills in front of everyone,” said Atishi. “We are inviting all Delhiites to come along to landfills with us. Today we came to the Ghazipur Landfill. On September 15, we

will visit the Okhla Landfill and on September 16 we will go to the Bhalswa landfill. We invite every resident of Delhi to come with us and see the reality of BJP's rule themselves,” said Atishi.

Hitting hard at the BJP, Atishi said that the saffron party will be thrashed out of Delhi in the MCD elections in the same manner that people throw their trash out from their homes. “BJP thought it could stop the people from seeing the landfill by placing barricades in our way but the huge mountain of garbage they have given to Delhi is visible even from a distance of 2 kilometers. These mountains of garbage will only get cleared out of Delhi when BJP's maladministration and incompetence gets cleared out of city,” said Atishi.



Pedestrians walk down a road amid rainfall during ongoing monsoon season, in Gurugram on Wednesday

PTI Photo

Contractor sets builder's Mercedes on fire over non-payment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

Peeved over the alleged non-payment of his dues worth over Rs 2.50 lakh, a construction contractor set a builder's luxury Mercedes car in Noida on fire. Contractor Ranveer (40) has been arrested by the Gautam Budh Nagar police, is native of Bihar and resident of Rojapur Yakubpur village. The incident had taken place outside the builder's home in Sadarpur village of Noida on Monday and the episode was

caught on a CCTV camera. Police said that investigation revealed that the accused was unhappy as the complainant had not cleared his pending payment of Rs 2.68 lakhs from the past couple of years.

According to a senior police official, the incident took place on Monday and the entire incident was captured in a nearby CCTV camera. The video of the incident went viral on Tuesday evening. In the video, a man can be seen coming on a two-wheeler and

parking it in front of a white Mercedes on the street. He then goes on to pour a flammable liquid, presumably petrol, over the car and set it on fire, before fleeing the spot.

“A resident of Sadarpur village identified as Ayush Chauhan submitted a complaint at the Sector 39 police station on Tuesday evening stating that his Mercedes Benz car was set on fire outside his house. The accused was identified and arrested on Wednesday.

He was upset for non-payment of dues of over Rs 2 lakh,” said the senior police official. It was found that Ranveer is a construction contractor while Chauhan is a property builder. The complainant had hired Ranveer to install tiles at houses. They had been working together since 2019.

Police further mentioned that over the past couple of months, Ranveer's payment was allegedly due over Chauhan, worth Rs 2,68,00.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Targeting the Arvind Kejriwal Government over the alleged irregularities in the tender process for the procurement of 1,000 low floor buses, in the national Capital, Delhi BJP alleged that the AAP Government has not replied to the corruption charges so far.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said that the Kejriwal Government has always avoided speaking on the issue of corruption following which they try to divert the attention of the people.

But the fact is corruption incidents have come to the fore in the purchase and sale of 1000 low floor buses. “On November 7, 2019, the tender was about to go to the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) board, and if there had been any officer in the DTC board as chairman then he would have definitely raised objection on the matter.

Therefore, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal went



against the rules and made Transport Minister Kailash Gehlot the chairman of the board of DTC a day earlier so that the tender could be passed without any objection,” Gupta said.

Gupta claimed that the corruption in the purchase of low floor buses was done very thoughtfully and meticulously and his intention was already

clear. A well-known reputed company of the country had talked about taking this tender at a low rate, but in spite of this, the JBM Company of people close to him was awarded the tender so that it could fill the money back in their pocket. “A huge scam has been committed in the purchase of 1000 floor buses and then the money spent on their repair was four

times more than the actual cost,” he claimed. “Kejriwal government neither followed the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC's) guidelines in buying the buses nor took care of other things. Kejriwal is not able to explain the logic of paying four times on repairs because buses, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), and conductors, every-

thing belongs to the government. So what is the point of giving Rs 35, 00 crore to JBM company in the name of maintenance,” he stated. “Kejriwal does not believe in CVC, but only in ‘DCC’ means Direct Cash Collection. AAP's only sin is to continue to carry out corruption. Kejriwal is now very active in his journey from scheme to scam,” Gupta added.

Traffic cops on drive to make use of rear seat belts a habit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to push people to use rear seat belts, the Delhi Traffic Police has launched a drive on Wednesday in the national Capital.

On the first day of the special drive, the police conducted checks on the Barakhamba Road near Connaught Place in central Delhi to ensure compliance and a total of 17 court challans were issued to offenders. The offenders were fined Rs 1,000 each. According to a senior traffic cop, a total of 17 court challans were issued during the drive from 11 am to 1 pm under Section 194B (use of safety belts and the seating of

children) of the Motor Vehicles Act. The drive comes after former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry (54) died in a road accident in Maharashtra's Palghar district on September 4. According to police, Mistry, who was sitting in the rear, was not wearing a seat belt.

“The legal provisions were already there but it has become a topic of discussion after the recent incident (Mistry's death). The Delhi Traffic Police is already running a campaign to spread public awareness regarding (the importance of) wearing seat belts. We are also taking legal action,” said Aalap Patel, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), New Delhi Traffic. Last

week, the Delhi Police took to Twitter to urge citizens not to over-speed and always wear seat belts. According to official data, more than 1,900 people died in Delhi last year in road accidents involving negligence on the part of drivers or passengers of vehicles.

The Delhi Traffic Police issued over 1.2 crore notices last year to offenders for not wearing seat belts, improper parking, jumping red lights and speeding.

S Velmurugan, chief scientist, Traffic Engineering and Safety Division, Central Road Research Institute (CRR), appreciated the traffic police's special drive. “This is an excellent move by the Delhi Traffic

Police. The Motor Vehicles Act, 2014 mandates that people sitting in the rear seat have to wear seat belts. This enforcement can lead to a reduction in fatalities by 10 per cent.

Usually, people tend to speed during the lean traffic hours, which leads to crashes,” Velmurugan said. However, Atul Goyal, president of United Residents Joint Action Of Delhi, said mandating rear seat belts may not be a feasible move. “Pushing for safety norms is a good step but Indian families are bigger. Generally, more than two people sit in the back seat. Either there should be a provision for a third seat belt in cars or mandating it would not be feasible. So the

government should come up with an alternative. Provide alternatives before making rules,” he said. Separately, the Delhi Traffic Police also launched a drive to check vehicles with tinted windows. “Starting today, #DelhiTrafficPolice shall be penalising those who have tinted glass/glass films beyond permissible limits.

Also, we will keep a check on minors indulging in driving without license and penalise vehicle owners,” the police said in a tweet. “We urged people to follow traffic rules and cooperate with traffic personnel. The commuters are also being sensitised about traffic rules and their safety,” said an official.

India, France review bilateral ties

Indo-Pacific trilateral dev cooperation on the cards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



India and France on Wednesday reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties and agreed to set up an Indo-Pacific trilateral development cooperation that would facilitate development projects. The two sides also discussed the situation in Ukraine, tensions in the Indo-Pacific, consequences of the corona pandemic, developments in Afghanistan and the prospects of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action during the talks between External Minister S Jaishankar and his French counterpart Catherine

Colonna. It was her first visit to India as the Foreign Minister. Giving details of the talks, Jaishankar later said in a joint media interaction with Colonna, "We agreed to work towards the establishment of an Indo-Pacific trilateral development cooperation that would facilitate development projects, especially in the framework of International Solar Alliance." The ISA now has now firmed up projects in three countries which shows the impact India and France make together in Bhutan, Papua New Guinea and Senegal, he said.

The Indo-Pacific trilateral will also provide a platform for Indian innovators and startups to demonstrate their relevance to the requirements of other societies, Jaishankar said. On bilateral ties, Jaishankar said India sees France as a major power with a global outlook and an independent mindset. France is central to emergence of multi-polarity and has also been extremely responsive to India's concerns and priorities, Jaishankar said. With China adopting an aggressive stance in the Indo-Pacific region leading to tension, the French minister said

both the countries want to ensure there is no imbalance in that region and elsewhere in the world. "We will continue to do the best we can. We can continue to support each other so that each of us can develop our own strategic autonomy," she said. "We have spoken a lot about the general situation in Indo-Pacific, and many challenges that have emerged because of China. We have the same analysis, and we also share the same concerns because we know the kind of role the Chinese are playing," Colonna said. The visiting minister said the conflict in Ukraine is a serious matter for the entire world and not Europe alone. The two ministers favoured dialogue and diplomacy to end violence. The two Ministers decided to resume co-operation under the India-France-Australia Trilateral mechanism and welcomed the inaugural meeting of the Focal Points of

the India-France-UAE Trilateral Framework, which took place in July 2022. France announced its support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lifestyle for the Environment (LIFE) initiative, and will seek to work with India on promoting sustainable lifestyles to fight climate change. The two Ministers welcomed the signing of the Credit Facility Agreement under which the French Development Agency (AFD) will provide a 48-million-euro loan to overhaul the water supply system in Chandigarh to ensure that every citizen of the City Beautiful has access to sustainable drinking water 24/7. To boost the exchange of young talents aged between 18 and 35 years, the two Ministers stressed their commitment to reaching the quota of 500 beneficiaries on each side as soon as possible as part of the Young Professionals Scheme provided for in the Indo-French part-

nership agreement on migration and mobility. Both sides agreed on developing promotional actions and ensuring a prompt and streamlined process through one-stop shops. Colonna reiterated France's goal to welcome 20,000 Indian students by 2025. France and India have launched a new Indo-French Campus for Healthcare, which will confer dual degrees in healthcare from as early as next year, and is open to students from the entire Indo-Pacific region. Colonna later called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and conveyed to him President Emmanuel Macron's message of "friendship and cooperation", besides discussing bilateral issues. "Modi fondly recalled his recent meetings with President Macron in Paris and Schloss Elmau, Germany, and conveyed his desire to welcome the President in India at an early opportunity," officials said.

New Delhi slams OIC for allowing Pak to push J&K, anti-India agenda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/GENEVA

Taking exception to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) remarks regarding Jammu and Kashmir, India on Wednesday termed them "factually incorrect and unwarranted references". This sharp response came after the OIC on Tuesday alleged in the United Nations Human Rights Council "illegal unilateral action to change the status of Kashmir" and accused India of trying to make demographic changes in Kashmir. In a separate statement, Pakistan had alleged "human rights abuses" and "physical and digital iron curtain" in Jammu and Kashmir. Rejecting "factually incorrect and unwarranted references to India in the statement by OIC, Pawan Badhe, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to United Nations (UN), Geneva said "we regret that the OIC countries with whom we have close ties, have failed in preventing Pakistan for misusing OIC platform to push anti-India propaganda". There are 57 members of the OIC. "Extrajudicial abductions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and tor-

tures have been used by Pakistan as tools of state policy to target human rights defenders, political activists, students, and journalists and to crush dissent," he said while exercising India's Right of Reply. The envoy also said "Pakistan has an abysmal record on promotion and protection of human rights of its people...Pakistan has one of the worst records in ensuring the right to freedom of religion or belief for its minorities. We urge the Council and its mechanisms to call upon Pakistan to take credible steps to end its state-sponsored terrorism and dismantle terrorist infrastructure in the territories under its control. Considering Pakistan's own top leadership in the past openly acknowledged creating terrorist groups and training them to fight in Afghanistan and Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan's audacity as a self-styled torch-bearer for human rights of people of India, is appalling. My delegation rejects its baseless statements; they do not deserve our response," Badhe said adding Pakistan has again abused the platform offered by this august Council for peddling its "malicious propaganda" against India.

Hatti community of HP gets Scheduled Tribes status

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a Constitution amendment bill that seeks to grant tribal status to the Hatti community living in the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district. Addressing the media, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said the Cabinet has also approved proposals to grant Scheduled Tribes status to the Binjhia community in

Chhattisgarh and the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities in Tamil Nadu. After the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill 2022 becomes an Act, around 1.6 lakh members of the Hatti community Trans-Giri region will be able to derive benefits meant for STs under the existing Government schemes. They will also be entitled to benefits of reservation in services and admission to educational institutions according to government policy. Information and Broadcasting

Minister Anurag Thakur, who addressed the media after the Cabinet meeting, said people belonging to the community in Himachal Pradesh had been asking for inclusion in the ST list for more than 50 years. He said the Hatti community in the Jaunsar region of Uttarakhand had already been given tribal status. "The Trans-Giri region of Sirmour shares the border with Jaunsar, and the two have a cultural similarity. It is a historic decision. I thank PM Modi for this," Thakur said. Munda said the

Binjhia community's demand for inclusion in the ST list of Chhattisgarh had been pending for around 15 years. The

inclusion of the Betta-Kuruba community as synonym of "Kadu Kuruba" in Karnataka has also been approved.

Sports Min: ₹60 cr will be spent for hosting Under-17 FIFA Women's World Cup

PNS: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the signing of guarantees for hosting the Under-17 FIFA Women's World Cup in India from October 11 to 30. India is hosting the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Navi Mumbai, Goa and Bhubaneswar from October 11 to October 17 this year. Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said ₹60 crore will be spent for hosting the tournament that will see participation of 16 teams, including India. An assistance of ₹10 crore to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for field of play maintenance, stadium power, energy and cabling.

Bhutan King, PM review bilateral ties, ways to strengthen them

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Wednesday and both leaders reviewed bilateral ties and the ways to further strengthen them. Wangchuck was in India enroute to London to attend Queen Elizabeth II's funeral, officials said. He also met Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra. India and Bhutan share historically strong ties which have stood the test of time. In a tweet message later, the Prime Minister said "Had a warm meeting with His Majesty the King of Bhutan. Discussed various ideas to further strengthen the close and unique India-Bhutan friendship. Conveyed my appreciation for the guiding vision provided by successive Druk Gyalpos in shaping our relations." India and Bhutan share historically strong ties.

Vacate Govt bungalow within 6 weeks, HC asks Subramanian Swamy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed former BJP Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy to hand over possession of his government bungalow to the estate officer within six weeks after Government assured to instal Z security at his private home. Justice Yashwant Varma noted that the allotment of the bungalow was made for five years and that period has come to an end. The judge said the court has not been shown any material which mandates and requires the allotment of government accommodation to a Z category protectee. The judge said all that is required to be done by the Government is to ensure that adequate arrangements are made in the residential premises, which the petitioner will now occupy, for his safety and security. The high court disposed of Swamy's petition seeking re-allotment of the same bungalow, which was allotted to him on January 15, 2016, and he has been living there since then in view of security threats to him. Swamy's term as a member of the upper house came to an end on April 24, 2022. Swamy's counsel submitted that bearing in mind the security arrangements which are required for Z category pro-



tectee, the accommodation originally allotted to him must be continued in his favour. The court noted that documents placed on record appeared to suggest that the premise came to be allotted to the petitioner on account of the threat perception which was accessed by the authorities at that stage. Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, representing the Government, submitted that while Swamy continues to remain a Z category protectee, the policies and guidelines which govern such protectees do not obligate the government to also provide residential accommodation from the general pool. He said while Union Government shall continue to extend Z category protection to the petitioner subject to due periodical review, it would not be possible for the bungalow in question to be reallocated to Swamy. ASG Jain said in any case, petitioner has his residential premises where he can possibly shift and protecting agencies shall take all further steps on that premises as may be warranted to ensure his safety and security.

Prez Murmu to attend State funeral of Queen Elizabeth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will attend the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth and offer condolences on behalf of the government of India during her visit to London on September 17-19, the ministry of external affairs said here on Wednesday. Queen passed away on September 8 at the age of 96 years at her Balmoral Castle summer residence in Scotland. She will be laid to rest at a state funeral at Westminster Abbey on September 19. Several world leaders including US President Joe Biden are expected to attend the funeral. Earlier, President Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had expressed their condolences. Modi remembered her as a "stalwart", saying she "provided inspiring leadership to her nation and people" and "personified dignity and decency in public life." External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the British High Commission here on September 12 to convey India's condolences. India also observed a day of national mourning on Sunday. In the 70 years of reign of Queen Elizabeth II, India-UK ties have evolved, flourished and strengthened immensely. She played an important role in the welfare of millions of people around the world as Head of the Commonwealth, the ministry said in a statement.

BA.4.6, new subvariant of Omicron, spreading in UK

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when the Covid-19 cases seem to be on the wane all across the world, BA.4.6, a subvariant of the omicron Covid variant is rearing its head with a few cases reported from the US while confirmed to be spreading in the UK. It is not entirely clear how BA.4.6 has emerged, but it's possible, say experts, it could be a recombinant variant. Recombination happens when two different variants of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) infect the same person, at the same time. The variant has also been identified in several other countries around the world. However, India is yet to report any such mutation, officials say here. The latest briefing doc-

ument on COVID variants from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) noted that during the week beginning August 14, BA.4.6 accounted for 3.3 per cent of samples in the UK. It has since grown to make up around 9 per cent of sequenced cases. Similarly, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, BA.4.6 now accounts for more than 9 per cent of recent cases across the US. BA.4.6 is a descendant of the BA.4 variant of omicron. BA.4 was first detected in January 2022 in South Africa and has since spread around the world alongside the BA.5 variant. While BA.4.6 will be similar to BA.4 in many ways, it carries a mutation to the spike protein, a protein on the surface of the virus which allows it to

enter our cells. This mutation, R346T, has been seen in other variants and is associated with immune evasion, meaning it helps the virus to escape antibodies acquired from vaccination and prior infection. Fortunately, omicron infections generally cause less serious illness, and we've seen fewer deaths with omicron than with earlier variants. We would expect this to apply to BA.4.6 too. Indeed, there have been no reports yet that this variant is causing more severe symptoms. BA.4.6 appears to be even better at evading the immune system than BA.5, the currently dominant variant. Although this information is based on a preprint (a study that is yet to be peer-reviewed), other emerging data supports this.

Studying N Atlantic ocean-Himalaya link vital for India's water security

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The North Atlantic Ocean and Western Himalayas may be thousands of kilometers apart but they are linked with each other. A research study has said that the amount of winter rain and snow in the Indian side could vary by almost 50 per cent depending on the air pressure gradient over the Atlantic Ocean between the Azores and Iceland. The researchers from the University of Reading, said that advance notice of any shift towards wetter or drier weather from observing the North Atlantic could be a lifeline in preparing for water shortages, or even flooding in India's western Himalayas. They said that keeping a tab could also be useful to improve

yields of important crops, such as wheat and barley, and to help manage vital water supplies in the country. The researchers used 70 years of data from the Reading-based European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts and other organisations, as well as rainfall gauge data from the western Himalayan region provided by the Indian Meteorological Department. The authors found the correlation was strongest within the 2-3 and 12-16 year cycles in North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) variation. The slow variations in NAO offers scope for improving the forecasting of wetter or drier-than-average north-west Indian winter weather up to three months in advance. Scientists had spent decades trying to establish the

causes of a link between the two regions. This new study provides important evidence that could lead to better forecasting of winter precipitation levels in India, months in advance. Dr Kieran Hunt, a research scientist in tropical meteorology at the University of Reading and lead author of the study, said: "Despite being several thousand miles apart, we have known that pressure patterns over the North Atlantic have some influence over winter weather in the western Himalayas. However, making sense of that link and how strong it is has puzzled scientists for years. "The link we have found could be incredibly useful for states and rural communities in north-west India that rely on winter rain and snow for sup-

plies of food and water. Advance notice of any shift towards wetter or drier weather from observing the North Atlantic could be a lifeline in preparing for water shortages, or even flooding." The new research, published in Climate Dynamics, focused on the correlation between the fluctuating phases of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and winter rain and snow in the western Himalayan region. During a positive NAO phase, the strong contrast between high pressure around the Azores and low pressure around Iceland forces the North Atlantic jet stream northwards, which in turn causes more instability in the subtropical jet stream that runs over Africa towards India. The additional disturbances in the subtropical jet are

carried as storms to north-west India. The research showed that winter storms in the region were on average 20 per cent more frequent and 7 per cent more intense during a positive NAO phase, compared to a negative phase. This increased to 31 per cent more frequent winter storms in areas that already see them most often. This resulted in 40 per cent more moisture being carried along the subtropical jet on average, and therefore 45 per cent more rain and snow in the western Himalayas in winter months during a positive NAO phase. The increase in storms in north-west India is likely to affect states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat and southern Pakistan. These are mostly rural areas but do contain cities such as Srinagar,

PUBLIC NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Raj Pal Dhiman, Raj Rani, Ramesh Malik, V.k Tex India, H. No-22 Malik Enclave, Near Luxmi Garden Panipat Haryana, A/c No.LBPNP00002275932	Flat No. T152003, 20th Floor, Sare Crescent Parc Township Sector-92, Gurgaon Haryana	02/07/2022 Rs. 10,28,668/-	06/04/2022

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : September 15, 2022
Place : Gurgaon

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005
Whereas
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.	Manoj Kumar/ Asha Devi/ LBDEL00000440452	Flat No-2174, 17th Floor, Plot No Gh 11A, Sector 1, Crc Sublimis Tower 2, Noida 201307/ September 09, 2022	April 16, 2022 Rs. 42,02,826/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Sameena Ahmad/ Kamran Ahmad/ LBDFB000002636119	Flat No 05151, 15th Floor, Tower 5, Ats Allure, Plot No P77TS02A, Sector 22d Yamuna Expressway, Industrial Development Authorit, Noida/ September 09, 2022	April 28, 2022 Rs. 35,96,777/-	Delhi/ NCR
3.	Satwant Kaur/ Amarjeet Singh Bhatia/ LBDFB000002636119	Flat No-1802, 18th Floor, Tower S3, Ecovillage-1, Plot No-8, Sec-1, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201307/ September 09, 2022	April 16, 2022 Rs. 25,99,584/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Ipsita Bahuguna/ Rajeev Bahuguna/ LBGHZ000002277222	Flat No R-17142 16th Floor Tower-R 16th Park View, Townshipgaur Yamuna City Sec-19, Jaypeesports City, Yeida Yamuna Expressway Noida Uttar Pradesh 201307/ September 09, 2022	April 16, 2022 Rs. 2,493,206/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Manoj Mishra/ Nisha Mishra/ LBDEL00002045300	UNIT NO -C GF17, Ground Floor, Tower-C Gardenia Gateway Plot No-9, Sector-75, Uttar Pradesh, Noida / September 09, 2022	April 28, 2022 Rs. 30,14,568/-	Delhi/ NCR
6.	Maya Devi/ Nareesh Kumar/ LBGHZ00004406478	Flat No 2002, Floor 20, Tower 2, Plot No- 3C, White Orchid, Sector 16C, Gaur City-2, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201307/ September 09, 2022	April 16, 2022 Rs. 26,06,374/-	Delhi/ NCR
7.	Subhash Kumar/ Rakhi Saini/ LBDEL00002259664	Flat No-1601, 16th Floor, Tower-B, Gayatri Aura, Plot No- GH-11, Sector-1, Noida Extension, Greater Noida West, Noida/ September 09, 2022	July 06, 2021 Rs. 21,89,348/-	Delhi/ NCR
8.	Rajesh Kumar/ Rekha/ LBNOD00002351926	Flat No 1601, 16th Floor, Tower A, Plot No Gh 11, Sector 1, Gayatri Aura, Greater Noida, Noida/ September 09, 2022	July 06, 2021 Rs. 19,27,394/-	Delhi/ NCR
9.	Sachidanand/ Vandana Tiwari/ LBGUR000002302549	Flat No- B 1607, 16th Floor, Block- B, Gayatri Aura, Plot No- Gh 11, Sector 1 Greater Noida, Noida/ September 09, 2022	July 06, 2021 Rs. 19,16,629/-	Delhi/ NCR
10.	Rajiv Dhar Prasad/ Priti Prasad/ Jyoti Pandey/ LBNOD00000262810	Flat No C-GF04, Ground Floor, Tower-C, Gardenia Gateway, Plot No 09, Sector-75 Noida, Noida/ September 09, 2022	April 28, 2022 Rs. 33,79,973/-	Delhi/ NCR
11.	Uma Gaur/ Sudhir Kumar/ LBDEL00004353303	Flat No A-11004, 11th Floor, Tower A, Village Basantpur Land Craft Metro Homes, Tower- A, Nh-58 Opp Him College, Meerut Road Sentell Tehsil, Modi Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201001/ September 09, 2022	March 14, 2022 Rs. 19,42,569/-	Delhi/ NCR
12.	Neha Sharma/ Sharad Kumar/ LBNOD00003669332	Flat No A-604, 6th Floor, Tower-A, Quantum Homes ,khasra No 1116 and 1123 Noor Nagar, Raj Nagar Ext, Uttar Pradesh Ghaziabad 201004/ September 09, 2022	April 25, 2022 Rs. 12,87,073/-	Delhi/ NCR
13.	Puneet Sharma/ Baldev Raj Sharma/ LBNOD00001205027	Flat No- UG 1, 357, Niti Khand- lindirapuram Ghaziabad./ September 09, 2022	April 16, 2022 Rs. 7,82,380/-	Delhi/ NCR
14.	Ashok Aggarwal/ Nareesh Bhatia/ LBGHZ00001026489	Flat No- 210, 2nd Floor, Supertech Avant Garde on Group Housin, Plot-1 Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)/ September 09, 2022	July 06, 2021 Rs. 9,66,024/-	Delhi/ NCR
15.	Mahendra Yadav/ Droupati/ LBDEL00001983023	Flat No-401, 4th Floor, Tower-B8, Plot No-Gh01, Sector-16B, Supertech Eco Vill-2, Greater Noida- 201307/ September 09, 2022	March 14, 2022 Rs. 14,55,577/-	Delhi/ NCR

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 15, 2022
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

BJP attacks Didi, Nitish for ‘lawless’ States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday attacked West Bengal and Bihar Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee and Nitish Kumar respectively for allegedly turning the two States ‘lawless’. It asked Banerjee why she is “repeating” the ruthlessness of the erstwhile Left-front Government and sought Kumar to “stop” his “pretention of being a Sushasan Babu”.

The comments came in the backdrop of the alleged high-handedness of the Trinamool Congress Government in dealing with the protesting BJP leaders and workers in West Bengal a day earlier. BJP senior leader and former Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Banerjee could be trying to “divert attention” from the rivalry “within her party” by using force against BJP members.

“Is the fight for succession going on in the TMC?”, Prasad wondered, hinting at the apparent differences between the Chief Minister and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee without naming the second most powerful leader in the regional party. The BJP had launched the protest march against the ruling TMC’s alleged corrupt practices but they were detained by the police.

The BJP claimed that over 1,000 of its workers were injured in the use of force by police and alleged that Banerjee had surpassed the communist parties in inflicting atrocities.

Prasad said it is amazing that Banerjee who has suffered at the hands of the Left-front Government is now herself inflicting torture at the Opposition party adding conduct has been “contrary” to her



political evolution, noting her rise from the grassroots and long struggle against the earlier Left rule.

“What happened to you Mamtaji, where is your slogan of *Maa, Maati* and *Manus*”, wondered Prasad saying that contrary to the meaning of ‘Trinamool’ Banerjee’s party has become “rootless”.

Prasad said Banerjee speaks of saving democracy outside the State while crossing all limits to curb people’s democratic and civil rights inside Bengal. The Opposition is being denied its legitimate right to raise its voice, he said.

Prasad said Banerjee should draw a lesson from what happened to the then prime minister Indira Gandhi following the Emergency, when she had cracked down on the Opposition.

The BJP leader also took a swipe at the Bihar Chief Minister over incidents of crimes and controversial comments of State Ministers, saying he should now stop the “pretension” of being “sushasan babu”.

Referring to the random firing in Begusarai on Tuesday, which has killed one person and left several injured, and the comment of the State Agriculture Minister that his department was full of “thieves” and he was their leader, Prasad hit out at Kumar for not uttering a single word as the head of new Government in the State.

Cops held back, didn’t fire at rioting BJP workers: TMC



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Hours after senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad slammed Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for destroying rule of law in her State the Trinamool Congress on Tuesday hit back at him saying his statements were of no value and that he was making such remarks to please Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Tuesday’s massive violence on Kolkata’s streets saw BJP workers and the police fighting pitched battles leaving scores of people from both sides injured.

While an Assistant Commissioner of Police Debjit Chatterjee got a fractured hand senior State BJP leader a councillor and former Kolkata Deputy Mayor Meena Devi Purohit had to be admitted to a hospital with head injuries from alleged brickbats.

The police arrested 15 people in connection with

attacks on policemen and torching of a PCR van

Five people were arrested and booked under ‘attempt to murder’ charges for attacking ACP Debjit Chatterjee and two persons were arrested for torching a PCR van sources said.

The Chief Minister who was in West Midnapore said, “people from outside... Even outside Bengal were brought to create trouble... The police handled the situation very deftly and peacefully... They could have resorted to firing but desisted from doing so.”

Alleging that the “BJP cadres resorted to hoodlum politics,” Banerjee said, “they don’t have support of people so they resorted to goondaism to draw attention... The business of Burra Bazar area was affected... People and police were attacked with bombs and brickbats... The goondas took shelter in railway station from where they threw bombs and brickbats... This cannot be tolerated and law will take its own course.”

Meanwhile, the National

Commission for Women has demanded reports from Kolkata Police Commissioner regarding the injuries sustained by Meena Devi Purohit. During the day senior TMC leaders including Firhad Hakim visited the hospital where Purohit was admitted. Her condition was stated to be stable.

Reacting to Prasad’s comments, the TMC’s senior MP Saugato Roy said, “His (Prasad) statements are of little value and does not merit reaction,” while another party MP Shantanu Sen said, “Ravi Shankar Prasad is making such comments to increase his marks before the Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah... The BJP spent Rs 11 crore to create disturbance in Kolkata.”

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh reminded Prasad of the situation in UP and Tripura where he said, “Opposition parties are not allowed to speak... In UP they bulldoze and in Tripura our party offices are attacked by them.”

Cong accuses Modi of ceding territory to China ‘without a fight’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of ceding 1,000 sq kms of Indian territory to China “without a fight” and asked when will the government restore status quo ante of April 2020.

The opposition party’s attack came after Indian and Chinese armies carried out a joint verification of the disengagement process at Patrolling Point 15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area in eastern Ladakh after withdrawing their troops and dismantling temporary infrastructure from the friction point.

Both sides completed the disengagement in a phased and coordinated manner, according to people familiar with the development.

Attacking the government, Rahul Gandhi tweeted, “China has refused to accept India’s



demand of restoring status quo of April 2020. PM has given 1,000 sq kms of territory to China without a fight.”

“Can the government of India explain how this territory will be retrieved?” he asked.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said this is not the first time “we are disengaging and creating buffer zones” out of destinations where Indian side was patrolling up to.

First it happened in Galwan, then it happened in Gogra and now it is happen-

ing in Hotsprings. Why is our army being made to push back, why is our army being to give up patrolling points where we had been patrolling up until now,” Shrinete said.

Raising the issue of status quo ante as in April 2020, Shrinete said the prime minister had promised this country “we will go to status quo ante”.

Why is there no status quo ante as far as April 2020 is concerned, she asked.

“We also want to know that with cheap publicity and cheap popularity with domestic audience, why is our foreign security and foreign policy being compromised,” the spokesperson said.

Noting that there is tension on the border with China for the last 31 months, Shrinete asked why has the Modi government not done anything decisive to ensure that India’s national security is not compromised?

Disengagement process at Gogra-Hot Springs is one problem less on border, says Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after India and China completed the disengagement process from the stand-off site at Gogra-Hot Springs (Patrolling Point-15) in Ladakh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Wednesday it is “one problem less” on the border.

“We have had disengagement at PP15. The disengagement, as I understand, was completed. That is one problem less on the border,” he said during a media briefing after his talks with French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna.

He also took an indirect pot shot at China while replying to a question about “one country” blocking proposals at the UN Security Council to designate proscribed terrorists.

Indian and Chinese armies carried out a joint ver-



ification of the disengagement process at PP-15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area in eastern Ladakh after withdrawing their troops and dismantling temporary infrastructure from the friction point on Monday.

The disengagement that came days ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Uzbek city of Samarkand for the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) triggered speculations about a bilateral meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines the summit this week.

New State chiefs, AICC delegates to be elected before Sept 10: Cong central election authority

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress central election authority has asked all returning officers to ensure that new state unit chiefs and AICC delegates are elected before September 20 and all PCC delegates to be given identity cards with QR codes.

This was conveyed by the chairman of the authority conducting organisational elections Madhusudan Mistry with all Pradesh returning officers during a meeting. They said Mistry while reviewing the internal elections of the Congress, told the returning officers to end the process of electing all AICC delegates in every state across the country between September 16 and 20. A schedule for holding such elections in every state will be out soon.

The notification for the Congress president’s election will be out on September 22 by when all the PCC and AICC delegates will be finalised and electoral roll published.

Muslim-centric parties to mobilise people to oppose madrasas’ survey

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Several Muslim-centric parties have announced to launch a campaign and mobilise people to oppose the

survey of madrasas that kicked off in the state. The move comes days after the Yogi Adityanath government ordered the survey of unrecognised madrasas in the

state. The parties include All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), Peace Party and Rashtriya Ulama Council and Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind.

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 15.09.2022

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/FH/1062	SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT TYPE OF FEEDER PILLARS	1.11 Cr.	2,22,000	05.10.2022 15:30 HRS	05.10.2022 16:00 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/GP/1063	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS SIZES OF INSULATED PIERCING CONNECTORS (IPCS)	2.5 Cr.	5,00,000	05.10.2022 15:30 HRS	05.10.2022 16:15 HRS
CMC/BR/22-23/RB/PR/RJ/1064	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF RTU & FRTU (ON TURNKEY BASIS FOR SCADA) AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN BRPL.	1.05 Cr.	2,10,000/-	05.10.2022 15:00 HRS	05.10.2022 16:30 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc, please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com
Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Ajit Sharma, Kavita Sharma, LBNO00002221691, Ska-106 Shipra Krishna Apts Plot- 14 Ahisha Khand-1 Indrapuram Ghaziabad- 201014	Flat No. Ska-106, First Floor Shipra, Krishna Ahinsa Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad- 201001	06/08/2022 Rs. 13,55,316/-	06-05-2022
2.	Lalita Khandwal, Sunil Khandwal, LBNO00002973479, A 538 Sec 47 Uttar Pradesh Noida 201301	Flat No-202, 2nd Floor, Tower Q, Ajnara LE Garden, Plot No Gh-02, Sector-16, Uttar Pradesh, Noida 201307	06/08/2022 Rs. 3,33,534/-	11-03-2022
3.	Anurag Gupta, Himani Gupta, LBDEL00000877219, Flat No. F3, Plot No. 2/6, Sector- 9 Near Gudge Colony, Vaishali Ghaziabad- 201010	Flat No- F-3, Plot No- 2 / 6, Sector- 9, Vaishali Ghaziabad 201010	06/08/2022 Rs. 1,38,596/-	09-05-2022
4.	Bishnupriya Roy Choudhary, Deepankar Roy Choudhary, LBDEL00001974839, WZ- 216 2nd Floor Gali No. 2 Virender Nagar New Delhi Delhi- 110058	Flat No- Sat 7- 918, 9th Floor, Logix Blossom Zest, Plot No- Gh 02, Block- 3, Sat-07, Type C, Sec- 143 Noida- 201301	06/08/2022 Rs. 5,97,661.94/-	11-05-2022
5.	Buta Ram, Rajni Devi, LBGU000003417958, Plot No. 67/11 Gali No. Sec- 52, Wazirabad Gurgaon- 122001	Flat No- 912, 9th Floor, Habitat Tower- A, Sector- 99 A Gurgaon 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 17,26,326/-	06-04-2022
6.	Dवेश Kumar Singh, Kanchan Singh, LBGHZ00002958630, Flat No- 2 B-208 River Heights Tower No- 2, Raj Nagar Ext Ghaziabad Balrampur- 201003	Flat No- 313, 3rd Floor, Tower - 4 Asotech Business Cresterra, Plot No- 22 Sec-135, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar- 201301	06/08/2022 Rs. 14,18,533/-	06-05-2022
7.	Dilip Roy, Bechan Roy , LBGHZ00005177041, 1 130 3rd Floor, Shakurpur Delhi Delhi- 110034	Flat No- 803, 8th Floor, Tower- 4 Plot No- Gh- 6 A, Sector- 5, Greenwood Enclave Dream Homes, Wave City Nh-24 Ghaziabad- 201001	06/08/2022 Rs. 19,08,130.01/-	23-04-2022
8.	Gaurav Sikka, Renu Bala, LBGU000005104628, E-1004 Ireo UP Town Sector 66, Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon- 122011	Plot No- 101, Sector- 40, Urban Estate Gurgaon- 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 25,06,835.34/-	10-04-2022
9.	Gaurav Sikka, Jagdish Lal Sikka, LBGU000005104628, E-1004 Ireo UP Town Sector 66, Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon- 122011	Plot No- 101, Sector- 40, Urban Estate Gurgaon- 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 25,06,835.34/-	10-04-2022
10.	Khushendra Rai, Chandan Dayashankar Khetya, LBDEL00003092657, H No 829 A 2nd Floor Rishi Nagar Rani Bagh Pitampura Saraswati Vihar North West Delhi Delhi- 110034	Flat No- 8006, 8th Floor, Tower- E5, Krishna Housing Scheme, Sector- 14 Sohna Gurgaon- 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 9,26,979/-	30-05-2022
11.	Khushendra Rai, Sanika Rai, LBDEL00003092657, H No. 829 A 2nd Floor Rishi Nagar Rani Bagh Pitampura Saraswati Vihar North West Delhi Delhi- 110034	Flat No- 8006, 8th Floor, Tower- E5, Krishna Housing Scheme, Sector- 14 Sohna Gurgaon 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 9,26,979/-	30-05-2022
12.	Naveen Chandra Chandola, Poonam Chandola, LBDEL00005334490, E-4/119 New Kondli Mayur Vihar 3, New Kondli Mayur Vihar 3 Delhi- 110096	Lig Flat No- 615, Ground Floor, Kondli Ghareli, Mayur Vihar Phsfe- 3, Delhi Delhi- 110096	06/08/2022 Rs. 19,74,637/-	08-05-2022
13.	Niraj Kumar, Anjali Raj, LBFD000005165752, 263- A Upper Ground Floor, Saraswati Lane Sec-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad- 201016	Flat No- G15011, 15th Floor Tower- 17, River Heights, Nh- 58 Raj Nagar Extension, Village Noida Nagar Paragana Loni, Ghaziabad 201001	06/08/2022 Rs. 24,99,617.42/-	31-03-2022
14.	Raj Kumar Sukhwani, Sukhwani, LBNO00001330124, 24/14, 1st Floor Shakti Nagar N. Delhi Delhi- 110007	Flat- No-0701, 7th Floor, Block-16, Unitech Horizon, P. No-6, Sec- PI-II Alistonia Estate, Greater Noida- 201306	06/08/2022 Rs. 11,98,912.62/-	16-04-2022
15.	Raj Kumar Sukhwani, Life Care Medica, LBNO00001330124, 24/14, 1st Floor Shakti Nagar N. Delhi Delhi- 110007	Flat- No-0701, 7th Floor, Block-16, Unitech Horizon, P. No-6, Sec- PI- II Alistonia Estate, Greater Noida- 201306	06/08/2022 Rs. 11,98,912.62/-	16-04-2022
16.	Raj Kumar Sukhwani, Jyoti Sukhwani, LBNO00001330124/ 24/14, 1st Floor Shakti Nagar N. Delhi Delhi 110007	Flat- No-0701, 7th Floor, Block-16, Unitech Horizon, P. No-6, Sec-PI-II Alistonia Estate, Greater Noida- 201306	06/08/2022 Rs. 11,98,912.62/-	16-04-2022
17.	Santosh Kumar, Kavita Devi, LBGU00004879702, 179 FF Gali No 3 Dharam Colony Fir Shiv Mandir Road Palam Vihar Extn Gurgaon 122017	Flat No- C 903, 9th Floor, GLS Avenue 51- Tower- C, Village Wazirpur, Sector- 92 Gurgaon- 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 17,33,487/-	15-04-2022
18.	Santosh Kumar Singh, Sandhya Singh, LBDEL00001998809, C/o R P Sengar A 2 Nathu Colony, Sector 49 Barolla Noida- 201301	Flat No- G-702, 7th Floor, Avj Heights Plot No- Gh-12/2, Sector- Zeta-1 Greater Noida, Greater Noida Noida- 201307	06/08/2022 Rs. 7,47,812.9/-	15-04-2022
19.	Subhojit Sikdar, Tandra Mondal, LBDEL00005370129, B 201 Poonam Aashtha Tripti Ngr Phase 2, Maharashtra Thane- 401303	92, Krishnagar Mouza Holding No-27/2 Khotta Para Lane, Rs Dag No- 6906, LR Dag No-10044, LR Khatian No 38898 Ps Kotwali Ward No 7 Krishnagar- 741101	06/08/2022 Rs. 10,79,562/-	16-04-2022
20.	Sumit Devraj Mishra, Devraj, LBGHZ00004982146, B1 903 Krishna Apra Garden Ghaziabad, Shipra Mall Indrapuram Ghaziabad- 201010	Villa No- C-11, Plot No- BGH-A, Paramount Golf Foreste Surajpur Greater Noida, Site-C, Extn Phase- 1 Noida 201307	06/08/2022 Rs. 19,50,129/-	11-03-2022
21.	Sunil Kumar, Sheela Sharma, LBGU000005436476, H No 1389 First Floor Near Mother Dairy, Gurgaon Near Mother Dairy and Kishan Mandir Gurgaon- 122001	Flat No- 106, 1st Floor, Block No- B 09, Avl 36 Gurgaon, Village Sihl, Sector-36A Manesar Urban Complex, Gurugram 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 24,87,307/-	06-05-2022
22.	Tara Chand Gupta, Ashish Gupta, LBGU00002634282, H No 616 A, Gali No 9 Madan Puri Gurgaon, Gurgaon- 122001	Flat No- 807, 8th Floor, Tower- 1, Pyramid Urban Homes Sec- 70A Gurgaon- 122001	06/08/2022 Rs. 18,57,124/-	08-05-2022
23.	Vijay Pal Singh, Asha Bharti, LBDEL00004983395, House No-34A Pocket-D2 Ghareli Extension Mayur Vihar Phase-3 Near Dda Market Delhi- 110096	Flat No- 91A, Ground Floor, PKT- D2 Sec-D Kondli Ghareli Mayur Vihar Phase- III Delhi- 110096	06/08/2022 Rs. 19,71,535/-	11-04-2022
24.	Brajesh Kumar Singh, Sushma Singh, LBDEL00001308291, Flat No-S-6, Plot No 378, Sec-4, Vaishali Ghaziabad- 201010	Flat No-201, 2nd Flr, St, (Front Side), P No- 378, Sector No- 4, Vaishali Ghaziabad- 201010	06/08/2022 Rs. 2,57,629.77/-	09-05-2022
25.	Brajesh Kumar Singh, Sushma Singh, LBDEL00000978658, Flat No- S-6, Plot No 378, Sec-4, Vaishali Ghaziabad- 201010	Flat No- S- 1, Second Floor (With Roof), Plot No - 378 Sector-4, Vaishali Ghaziabad Ghaziabad- 201010	06/08/2022 Rs. 10,25,159.45/-	09-05-2022
26.	Mohammed Shahjad, Rashida Malik, LBNO0000494064, House No.03 Gali No.01, Getha Tilpatabad Near Shiv Mandir Sector 93 Noida Noida 201304	Flat No- O- 625, 6th Floor, Wing - B Gaur City Center, Plot No- GH-01 at Gaur City, Sector-4 Greater Noida Noida 201307	06/08/2022 Rs. 7,48,045/-	06-05-2022
27.	Mohammed Shahjad, Rashida Malik, LBNO0000494064, House No.03 Gali No.01, Getha Tilpatabad Near Shiv Mandir Sector 93 Noida Noida 201304	Shop No O-977, 9th Floor, Wing B Gaur City Center, Plot No- GH01 Gaurcity Sector-4 Greater Noida Noida 201307	06/08/2022 Rs. 5,12,957/-	06-05-2022
28.	Sandeep Sharma, LBFD00001566568, Flat No- 806 The Prem Cghs Ltd P No- GH-12 A Sector-21 C, Part-III Faridabad 121001	Flat No 806, The Prem Cghs Ltd P No- GH-12 A Sector-21 C, Part-III Faridabad 121001	06/08/2022 Rs. 18,93,525.22/-	02-04-2022
29.	Arvind Kumar Pandey, Neetu Pandey, LBGU00003245913, H No C 20/ 19 Sec 71, Ps Sector 24 Teh Dadri Dist Gautam Budha Nagar Uttar Pradesh Noida 201301	Ews Flat No.19, 2nd Floor, Block No. C-20, Sec 71, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301	06/08/2022 Rs. 4,59,576.76/-	31-01-2021
30.	Arvind Kumar Pandey, Neetu Pandey, LBGU00003245906, H No C 20/ 19 Sec 71, Ps Sector 24 Teh Dadri Dist Gautam Budha Nagar Uttar Pradesh Noida 201301	Ews Flat No.19, 2nd Floor, Block No. C-20, Sec 71, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201301	06/08/2022 Rs. 3,94,870.76/-	31-01-2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : September 15, 2022
Place : Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

A yatri reminisces about Bharat Yatra 1983 by Chandra Shekhar

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Bharat Jodo Yatra, the 3,570 Km long walkathon led by Congress scion Rahul Gandhi across India has all the bearings of a mobile head quarters of a corporate entity. Hundreds of SUVs, container freighters converted into caravans, a 24X7 communications room and of course the well trained commandos of paramilitary forces guarding the young Gandhi.

Nearly four decades ago, to be precise in 1983, Kerala had played host to another Bharat Yatra. It was an odyssey undertaken by S Chandra Shekhar, the then chief of the Janata Party, who went on to become the Prime Minister of India for a brief period in 1990. Chandra Shekhar’s walk across the country took place at a time when the Opposition parties were literally down and out as the Congress-led by Indira Gandhi had registered a landslide win in the 1980 Lok Sabha election

decimating the rivals.

“But for a battered old van meant for carrying the essential items of Chandra Shekhar, there were no cars or even two-wheelers accompanying the Yatra. All of us joined the Yatra from Kanyakumari on our own and there were no mechanism to screen the Yatris,” reminisces Rosaline Panjikaran, the lone woman participant in the Yatra till it reached Karnataka.

Rosaline said though she had heard about Netaji (as Chandra Shekhar was addressed) , her first one-to-one meeting with him took place only after she joined the Yatra. “There were no high profile political leaders to accompany Netaji and he never wanted any brand ambassadors to promote the same. Throughout the Yatra, he held informal meetings and interviews with ordinary people like farmers, artisans, traders, women and small time merchants whom he came across during the yatra,”



said Rosaline.

It was Rosaline who took personal care of Chandra Shekhar and others in the Yatra when they were afflicted with blisters on their foot. “The evenings were for applying warm water on the feet of Chandra Shekhar who would have developed blisters because of the high speed walk. Those sessions were used by Chandra Shekar to educate us with the political shadow boxings which were happening in New Delhi and other State capitals. The Yatra

was a big education for us,” remembers Rosaline who is with the Loktantrik Janata Dal now.

She said she was watching the Bharat Jodo Yatra with interest. “But . Chandra Shekhar’s Yatra was in a different era and different time. Times have changed. If Rahul Gandhi could usher in a new phase through this Yatra, it would be a welcome change. We have to see how he develops a national narrative through this Yatra,” said Rosaline.

FIRST COLUMN

IT'S BAD TO PUNISH THE DOG-LOVER

Feeding stray dogs cannot be crime, for it's part of our culture



S KALYANASUNDARAM

The Supreme Court recently in an oral observation has stated that a solution to Kerala's stray dog menace has to be found at the earliest, while also remarking that those who feed the street dogs could be made responsible for vaccinating them.

A bench comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and JK Maheshwari, which was hearing a batch of petitions concerning the stray dog menace in Kerala, also suggested that those who feed the street dogs should also bear the costs if somebody is attacked by a stray dog.

It is reported that around one lakh people have suffered stray dog bites, while 21 rabies deaths have been reported this year so far in Kerala. Of the 21 who died, five had received anti-rabies vaccines.

The SC bench was hearing a batch of appeals filed by the Animal Welfare Board of India and other parties against a 2015 judgment of the Kerala High Court that permitted capturing and killing stray dogs.

The SC said an interim order would be pronounced on September 28. When it is important to protect the citizens from stray dog bites, it is beyond comprehension how the persons who are feeding stray dogs can be penalized.

India is a sacred land where people believe and fulfil their tradi-



tions, customs and rituals. In the Hindu culture, everything is seen as of great significance whether it is a tree, bird, animal, water (Varun devta) or air (Vayu devta) or feeding the needy and underprivileged.

Dogs are considered as the 'vahana' of lord 'bhairava', the guardian deity to the abode of lord Shiva. Dogs have a special place in the Hindu mythology. They personify 'yama', the lord of death and guards the door of heaven and hell.

It is believed that offering food to black dogs on Saturday ends the problems of Rahu, Ketu and Saturn. To make the persons who are feeding dogs accountable for the misadventure of any dog, such feeding should be a punishable offence under Indian Penal Code. There does not seem to be any such provision. There also does not seem to be any law or government order to the effect prohibiting feeding stray animals.

By extending discussion on this line, will anyone be prosecuted for a crime done by another person for the reason that he has fed the criminal as a matter of charity? Does feeding a prospective criminal amounts to abetment?

Here we can refer to the case Animal Welfare Board of India v. A. Nagaraja & Others, wherein the Supreme Court has held that Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution is the 'magna carta of animal rights' and made several observations to safeguard the 'life' of animals under Article 21. With regard to Article 21, the Supreme Court notably held as follows: "Every species has a right to life and security, subject to the law of the land, which includes depriving its life, out of human necessity.

Article 21 of the Constitution, while safeguarding the rights of humans, protects life and the word "life" has been given an expanded definition and any disturbance from the basic environment, which includes all forms of life, including animal life, which are necessary for human life, fall within the meaning of Article 21 of the Constitution. So far as animals are concerned, in our view "life" means something more than mere survival or existence or instrumental value for human beings, but to lead a life with some intrinsic worth, honor and dignity." Let us wait for the final order of the Supreme Court to have clarity.

(The author is a retired banker)

Oil price cap to tame Russia will not work



UTTAM GUPTA

The European Union and other western countries still believe that sanctions could be substitute for military strength despite paying heavy economic costs

Faced with steep increases in the price of oil and natural gas or NG, the leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers or G-7 viz., the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Japan have pledged to put in place a system designed to cap the income of Russia from sale of these products.

The move has come in the back of the price of NG on September 4, 2022 being 400 per cent more than last year, while on the following day there was a further 30 per cent hike, courtesy the 'Nord Stream' shock – a 1200 km gas pipeline under the Baltic sea that carries gas from Russia to Germany now closed for an indefinite period – even as crude oil is hovering around \$100 barrel for over six months.

In June, 2022, the G-7 had agreed to explore the feasibility of measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level. Now, they have given a concrete idea of how they want to do it.

In a statement issued by Germany, which chairs the G-7 this year, the finance ministers (FMs) of the group said, "They confirm our joint political intention to finalize and implement a comprehensive prohibition of services, which enable maritime transportation of Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products globally. Providing those services would only be allowed if the oil and petroleum products are purchased at or below a price (the price cap) determined by the broad coalition of countries adhering to and implementing the price cap.

The statement did not give any figure for a price cap and also did not specify when the G-7 aims to finalize the plan. The Group is keen to involve as many importing countries as possible, in particular India, and sought their inputs on the price cap's design.

The idea of a price cap is bizarre. To get a sense, let us look at the positioning of Russia in the global energy landscape.

Russia is the world's second-largest producer of natural gas (NG) with a share of 10 per cent. In total world export of gas, its contribution is even higher at 25 per cent. As regards crude oil, Russia is the third-largest producer worldwide, accounting for over 12 per cent of global crude production. It is the second largest crude oil exporter just behind Saudi Arabia.

Most of Russian gas goes to the European Union (EU) countries with the latter drawing 40 per cent of their total NG supplies from the former. The EU countries draw close to 25 per cent of their crude oil requirement from Russia. While, these are percentage shares for the entire group, for some individual countries viz. Germany, the Netherlands and Poland, this is much higher. In the case of the US, however, the oil dependence on Russia is miniscule at two per cent.

Juxtapose the heavy dependence of EU countries on Russia for their oil and gas requirements with huge disruption in supplies from the latter due to a deadly



THE EU BLOC HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON RUSSIAN ENERGY. IT HAS PUT A BAN ON 90 PER CENT OF RUSSIAN OIL THAT COMES BY SEA TO BE MADE EFFECTIVE BY THE END OF 2022

(The author is a policy analyst)



cocktail of economic and financial sanctions imposed by the former (besides USA); physical incapacitation in the supply chain and clogging of sea transportation routes. We get the inevitable outcome i.e. short supply and that too at substantially higher price.

The EU bloc has ambitious plans to reduce its dependence on Russian energy. It has put a ban on 90 per cent of Russian oil that comes by sea to be made effective by the end of 2022. The bloc has also announced plans to cut purchase of NG from Russia by 2/3rd and substitute it with LNG supplies from other sources by this year's end.

These moves aim at building alternative and sustainable sources of supply, thereby reducing their vulnerability to imports from Russia. But, this could bear fruit only in the medium to long-run. For now, almost all countries of the bloc are forced to live with sky-rocketing energy prices and its devastating effect on industries, businesses, cost of electricity generation, unabated inflation and so on. They are being forced to give relief packages worth billions of dollars to rein in energy bills. It is also having a contagion effect on the rest of the world.

For instance, the EU countries decision to replace 2/3rd of their needs hitherto supplied by Russia with supplies from other sources means that they will be competing

with Asian countries, including India for about 100 billion cubic meter or 70 million tons of LNG (it accounts for 18 per cent of global LNG trade) for supplies from middle-East and the US.

This means that India has to pay a very high price – not just for purchase from the spot market; it will have ramifications for supplies from the long-term contracts as well.

Caught in a quagmire of their own creation (read: indiscriminate imposition of sanctions on Russia), the EU countries are now keen on securing supplies at lower cost by specifying a price cap below which they won't buy oil or NG from Russia. Ignoring the fundamentals of global demand-supply which are strongly pitted against them, they expect the very country which is placed in a vantage position and has the capacity to deliver and (namely, Russia) to supply at a price of their choice. This is laughable.

What makes it even more absurd is that the EU bloc intends to achieve the stated objective by leveraging the 'service providers' involved in maritime transportation. Being owned and controlled by corporations located in the EU or the U.K., hence amenable to the dictates of the respective governments, the group's logic is: the service providers will be told to provide those services only if

oil/NG is supplied at a price below the cap; otherwise not.

The logic is predicated on a fallacious assumption that the role of a service provider is more crucial than the entity which owns the product. What makes EU strategists feel that the latter will be cowed down by the threat of denying maritime transportation services? The group has resorted to invocation of such sanctions in the past. Yet, its members were forced to pay for supplies from Russia, a price of the latter's choice.

The proof of pudding is in eating. According to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, Russia received about 158 billion euros in revenue for the sale of oil, NG and coal from February to August, 2022, more than half of which - some 85 billion euros worth - was from the EU. Russia's revenue increased even as overall export volumes dropped by 18 per cent compared with the corresponding period prior to invasion of Ukraine.

Against this backdrop, it is a practical impossibility to expect any relief in price merely by invoking the price cap. The problem has to do with the mindset of the EU (and USA). To lessen the pain, the EU bloc should shed this mindset. They must withdraw from economic sanctions, which can never achieve military goals.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS CORRUPTION AND HOOLIGANISM. WE SHALL PROVIDE CORRUPTION-FREE, FEAR-FREE GOVERNMENT (IN GUJARAT). —AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

ARVIND KEJRIWAL



PEOPLE WON'T GET SWAYED BY FALSE PROMISES. THE BJP WILL AGAIN ROMP TO POWER IN GUJARAT WITH 2/3 MAJORITY. —UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH

Rahul's Yatra could be a transformational moment

Rahul Gandhi and the Congress should not miss this opportunity. He needs to impress the public that he is a 'doer'

Image building is a politically important tool for present-day politicians worldwide, and India is no exception. They employ specialised image-building companies, which tell their clients what to wear, how to speak, and what issues should be focused on at considerable costs to capture power.

In the past decade, many leaders have engaged these companies to build their public persona. They include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh, MK Stalin (Tamil Nadu), Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), and K Chandrashekhara Rao (Telangana).

Political yatras too have been around since the days of Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The author is a senior journalist)

March in 1930. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's present 'Bharat Jodo' Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir is one such considerable mass contact programme. Others like NT Rama Rao and LK Advani had undertaken similar yatras on 'raths' or buses. Some others, like Vinobha Bhave, Janata party president Chandrashekhar (1983), and Andhra Pradesh Congress leader YS Rajasekhara Reddy (2004) have also done yatras.

Since 2004, when Rahul entered politics as the first time Member of Parliament, he has been trying out different images for himself. Rahul is now attempting to portray a new persona. He wants to challenge and 'rescue' the country from PM Modi, don-

ning the role of a man of the masses and a grassroots leader—a leader for women and youth.

First, Rahul claimed to be in the learning process throughout Congress-led UPA rule (2004-14). He tinkered with the Youth Congress but failed. Then he projected himself as an angry young man, restless to change the system, and later on a reformer with new ideas of democracy. After the party's miserable defeat in the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls and losing 45 times in different states, Rahul resigned as the party chief in August 2019. And since then, he has been working through remote control.

Rahul is attempting a last-ditch effort with this

mass contact programme to connect with the sections that have moved to other parties. The Congress has been out of power for the past ten years. The next Lok Sabha polls are just two years away. And the workers will be demoralised further if the party loses in 2024.

The current campaign will provide him with a platform to improve his image. The mass contact programme is a significant show in post-Independent India, with a sizable contingent of Congress members, including party MPs participating, covering 3,500 kilometers through twelve states and two Union Territories in the next 150 days. Over 200 civil society organisations also support the move. The slogan for the

Yatra is "mile kadam, jude vatan" (walk together, unite the country).

During the next 150 days of the Yatra, Rahul Gandhi will remain a great listener. "This is a public, open, transparent exercise," says party spokesman Jairam Ramesh.

Rahul has little to show what he has done so far.

On the other hand, the BJP wants to depict Rahul as intellectually inadequate, emotionally unstable, organisationally inept, and a money launderer.

This yatra is the most protracted campaign in Rahul's nearly two-decade political career. He has cycled to Parliament to protest against high fuel prices. Rahul's strategists have released pictures of his body-

building exercises, his culinary skills, and swimming with fishermen.

The question is whether Rahul can convert the crowds into voters. Rahul claims he will be an alternative to the "politics of fear, bigotry and prejudice" and the "economics of livelihood destruction, increasing unemployment and growing inequalities".

He aspires that the yatra was like a Tapasya for him and that he was ready for the "long battle" to unite the country.

However, there are many ifs and buts in the gamble. Will Rahul be able to go through this ordeal without taking a holiday break?

Secondly, sustaining the public interest for five long months is hard. Rahul has to

find something new to keep himself and Congress in the news. He will not even be able to quit halfway without losing face.

Thirdly, the momentum should be sustained until the 2024 polls. It is a challenging task for Rahul ahead.

Fourthly, he can enjoy the success of the yatra only if he leads from the front.

Sonia Gandhi described the march as a "landmark occasion". The yatra could be a "transformational moment" for Indian politics, and a "decisive moment" for the party's rejuvenation.

Rahul and the party should not miss this opportunity. He needs to impress the public that he is a 'doer'. Mass contact programs generally help politicians.

Zelenskyy visits devastated city retaken from Russia

AP ■ IZIUM (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the recently retaken city of Iziyum on Wednesday, greeting soldiers and thanking them for their efforts in retaking the area, as the Ukrainian flag was raised in front of the burned-out city hall building. Russian forces left the war-scarred city last week as Ukraine pressed forward in a sweeping counteroffensive that has reclaimed vast swaths of territory in the country's north-eastern Kharkiv region in a matter of days.

Much of Iziyum has been devastated. Apartment buildings are blackened by fire and pockmarked by artillery strikes. The entire centre of one residential building had collapsed, a gaping hole and piles of rubble where homes used to be.

"The view is very shocking but it is not shocking for me," Zelenskyy said in brief comments to the press, "because we began to see the same pictures from Bucha, from the first de-occupied territories ... so the same destroyed buildings, killed people".

Bucha is a neighbourhood near Kyiv where the bodies of civilians, many of them bearing signs of torture, were found dumped in the streets, in mass graves and in yards after Russian forces withdrew hastily in March. On the northern outskirts of Iziyum, the remains of Russian tanks and vehicles lie shattered along the road.

"Our soldiers are here.



That's a very important thing. It supports people," Zelenskyy said. "I see how people meet them, in what a sensitive moment. It means that with our army, the life comes back."

Ukrainian troops have recently carried out a dramatic counteroffensive that has allowed them to recapture large swaths of territory around Kharkiv and inflict a stunning blow on Moscow's military prestige. Following those gains, a new front line has started to emerge in the war, a Washington-based think tank said on Wednesday.

The Institute for the Study of War said the Oskil River appeared to be becoming the new front line in the area after Kyiv's significant gains in recent days. The Oskil River flows

south and largely represents the eastern edge of Ukraine's Kharkiv region.

"Ukrainian forces are continuing localised ground assaults to threaten Russian positions behind the Oskil River," the institute said.

"Russian troops are unlikely to be strong enough to prevent further Ukrainian advances along the entire Oskil River because they do not appear to be receiving reinforcements, and Ukrainian troops will likely be able to exploit this weakness to resume the counter-offensive across the Oskil if they choose," it added. The counter-offensive has also left more weapons in Ukrainian hands.

Russian forces likely left behind dozens of tanks,

armoured personnel carriers and other heavy weaponry as they fled Ukraine's advance in the east of the country, a Ukrainian think tank said on Wednesday.

The Centre for Defence Strategies said one single Russian unit that was around Iziyum left behind 39 T-80 tanks and 35 infantry fighting vehicles, known by the acronym BMP. Another unit left behind 47 tanks and 27 armoured vehicles. The centre said Russian forces tried to destroy some of the abandoned vehicles through artillery strikes as they fell back. Typically, armed forces destroy equipment left behind so their opponent can't use it. However, the chaos of the Russian withdrawal apparently saw them leave untouched ammunition and weapons behind.

In other areas, Russia has continued its attacks over the past day, causing the death toll to keep rising in the war that has now dragged on for more than seven months. Russian shelling of seven Ukrainian regions over the past 24 hours killed at least seven civilians and wounded 22 more, Ukraine's presidential office reported on Wednesday morning.

Two people were killed and three injured after Russia attacked Mykolaiv with S-300 missiles overnight, said regional Gov. Vitaliy Kim. An educational institution, infrastructure objects and residential buildings were damaged. Settlements near the frontline in Mykolaiv region remain under constant fire.

There is sense of momentum by Ukrainian armed forces: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The White House has said that there is a sense of momentum by Ukrainian forces against Russia but cautioned that the ongoing war in Ukraine remains "unpredictable". "We've been watching closely. The events in the north are more dramatic than what we've seen in the south. I would let President Volodymyr Zelenskyy determine and decide whether he feels militarily they've reached a turning point. But clearly, at least in the Donbas, there's a sense of momentum here by the Ukrainian armed forces," said John Kirby, the Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House on Tuesday.

Responding to questions, Kirby said that in the north they have seen Russians evacuate, withdraw, and retreat from their defensive positions, particularly there in and around the Kharkiv oblast. "They have left fighting positions. They've left supplies," he said.

"They are calling it a repositioning, but it's certain they have withdrawn in the face of Ukrainian armed forces that are clearly on the offence. Obviously, these are some dramatic events we're watching, but it's war, and war is unpredictable. And I think we're going to watch this as closely as we can, but it's really the Ukrainian armed forces that -- that should speak to the -- to the progress they're making," he said.

Describing it as a dynam-



ic situation, Kirby said that it remains to be seen what their next steps are going to be here as the Ukrainians remain on the offensive up in the north and to continue to pursue a counteroffensive down in the south.

"They were invaded. They have a right to defend their country and their territorial integrity, and that means going on the offence," he asserted.

"It doesn't mean just defending. It's important to remember that even from the get-go here, but way back in February, in March, the Ukrainians were still on the offence as well as on the defence in this war," he noted.

Last week, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Milley said that Milley participated in the fifth Ukraine Defence Contact Group Meeting at Ramstein Air Base along with senior defence leaders from nearly 50 countries from around the world.

Austin highlighted, that these international leaders

came into the meeting with a lot of momentum and concluded the session even more united and resolved to keep up the shared support for Ukraine's right to defend itself.

During the meeting, Austin also announced the authorisation of a presidential drawdown of security assistance valued at up to USD675 million to meet Ukraine's critical security and defence needs, bringing the total amount of US security assistance to USD 17.2 billion since 2014.

"Ukraine continues to use this aid and that provided by other international partners to great effect on the battlefield in their fight to defend their country," Pentagon Spokesman Patrick Ryder told reporters at a separate news conference.

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Ryder said they have seen the Ukrainians demonstrate remarkable adaptability in their ability to use their warfighting capabilities to great effect, so it's not surprising to us that they have pushed as quickly as they have.

EU chief Von der Leyen to visit Ukraine to stress support

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen announced a visit to Kyiv later on Wednesday to show the bloc's support for Ukraine as it fights back against the Russian invasion. Dressed in the colours of Ukraine, von der Leyen said in her State of the European Union address that the bloc would come to the aid of Ukraine by opening its seamless single market more to Ukrainian products and said she would "discuss all this with President (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy".

Von der Leyen's trip symbolise the EU's increasing opposition to Russia's actions, which she called a war of "autocracy against democracy," pushed by Russian President Vladimir Putin. "And I stand here with the conviction that with the necessary courage and necessary solidarity, Putin will fail and Europe will prevail," she told the plenary of the European parliament in Strasbourg, France.

As Ukraine is pushing Russian troops back in the east with a lightning fast counteroffensive, von der Leyen took heart. "We have seen in the last days the bravery of Ukrainians paying off," she said. At the same time, she claimed there were increasing indications that Russia was suffering ever more from EU and other international sanctions — and certainly more that some critics of Western sanctions acknowledge.

Hasty Russian retreat leaves a devastated Ukrainian village

AP ■ HRAKOVE (UKRAINE)

There's not much left of Hrakove. Its houses and shops lie in ruins, its school is a bombed-out hull. The church is scarred by rockets and shells, but the golden dome above its blasted belfry still gleams in the fading autumn light.

Only about 30 people remain, living in basements and gutted buildings in this small village southeast of Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, according to resident Anatolii Klyzhen.

About 1,000 lived here when Russian troops rolled over the border in February, occupying the village shortly after. Those forces abandoned Hrakove around September 9 as Ukrainian soldiers advanced in a lightning-swift counteroffensive.

That blitz could be a turning point, setting the stage for

further gains in the east and elsewhere — but it could also trigger a violent response from Moscow, leading to a new and dangerous escalation in the war. There were no signs the Russian soldiers were about to leave. "Nobody knew anything. They left very quietly," said Viacheslav Myronenko, 71, who has lived in the basement of his bombed-out apartment building with three neighbours for more than four months.

The detritus of a fleeing army still litters the village: packs of empty Russian army food rations, abandoned crates with instructions for using grenades, a gas mask dangling on a tree, an army jacket trampled into the mud.

Just outside the village by the bus stop, a Russian tank lies rusting on a road pockmarked with craters from shells, its turret and cannon blown off its body.

Feral dogs roams the mud-rutted streets, and authorities warn of mines and booby-traps in the weeds.

"Before, the village looked really beautiful," said Klyzhen, who spent 45 days living in his building's basement while Russian soldiers occupied his now-trashed apartment on the second floor. He eventually managed to flee, deciding to take his chances at checkpoints. The Russian soldiers were both frightened and paranoid, he said, and would check residents' mobile phones for anything anti-Russian or anything they thought might give away their positions. Some people were taken away, and he never saw them again.

"I figured I could die at home or die at the checkpoint," the 45-year-old said Tuesday. But he made it through, and returned after Hrakove was liberated.



After retaking the village, Ukrainian authorities removed abandoned Russian military vehicles, and exhumed the

bodies of two men who had been buried by the side of a road after being shot in the head, Klyzhen said. He thinks

they were Ukrainian soldiers, but he's not sure.

"They were killing locals, shooting them," he said. "There

was nothing good in here."

Serhii Lobodenko, head of the Chuhiiv district that includes Hrakove, said the area saw fierce battles during six months of occupation.

"There were a lot of destroyed roads, private houses, a lot of people dead and a lot of people missing, both military and civilians," he said, as residents in nearby Chkalovske gathered to receive recently delivered aid. "Now we are trying to repair the infrastructure, the electricity and gas. The food is brought in because people did not have food."

During the Russian occupation, Myronenko and his neighbours banded together to clear junk out of the basement of their apartment building and turn it into a shelter. With their apartments destroyed, it remains their home. They found a couple of metal pipes and wedged them

between the floor and the ceiling, hoping that would keep it from caving in as the building shook from explosions, said one of the four, 70-year-old Oleh Lutsai. They ventured outside to plant potatoes despite the incessant shelling, knowing they needed food to survive.

"Of course it was scary, it is very scary for everyone, when everything is shaking in here," said Lutsai. An oil lamp hung on the wall, casting a soft glow over the cramped room. A kettle whistled softly on a wood-burning stove that Lutsai and his neighbours built.

Leaving wasn't an option for him. "I'm 70 years old, I was born here," he said. "Even if I had to die here — but obviously I want to live — I just want to die in Ukrainian Ukraine, not (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's one. ... So why should I run away from here?"

Faith cannot justify such evil, says Pope amid Russia's war

AP ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Against the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Pope Francis told the Russian Orthodox hierarchy and other faith leaders on Wednesday that religion must never be used to justify the "evil" of war and that God must never "be held hostage to the human thirst for power."

Francis opened an inter-faith conference in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan by challenging delegations to unite in condemning war and religious justifications for it. He cited a Kazakh poet in warning that "he who permits evil and does not oppose it cannot be regarded as a true believer. At best he is a half-hearted believer." In the audience of the 80 imams, patriarchs, rabbis and muftis was Metropolitan Anthony, in charge of foreign relations for the Russian Orthodox Church, which has firmly backed Russia's invasion. His boss, Patriarch Kirill, was supposed to have participated in the congress but canceled last month.

Kirill has supported Russia's invasion on spiritual and ideological grounds, calling it a "metaphysical" battle with the West. He has blessed Russian soldiers going into war and invoked the idea that Russians and Ukrainians are one people.

Francis didn't mention Russia or Ukraine in his remarks to the Kazakh conference. But he insisted that faith



leaders themselves must take the lead in promoting a culture of peace, since it would be hypocritical to expect that non-believers would promote peace if religious leaders don't.

"If the creator, to whom we have devoted our lives, is the author of human life, how can we who call ourselves believers consent to the destruction of that life?" he asked.

"Mindful of the wrongs and errors of the past, let us unite our efforts to ensure that the Almighty will never again be held hostage to the human thirst for power."

Francis then laid down a challenge to all those in the room to commit themselves to resolving disputes through dialogue and negotiation, not with arms.

"May we never justify violence. May we never allow the

sacred to be exploited by the profane. The sacred must never be a prop for power, nor power a prop for the sacred!"

Kirill sent a message to the congress read aloud by Anthony. In it, the Russian patriarch didn't refer to the war but in general to problems over the past two decades caused by "attempts to build a world without relying on moral values." The Russian patriarch has blasted the West's secular mentality and claimed the seeds of the Ukraine conflict were sown by foreign threats to Russia's borders.

He has depicted the conflict as a struggle against a foreign liberal establishment purportedly demanding countries hold "gay parades" as the price of admission to a world of excess consumption and freedom.

JeM chief Azhar not in Afghanistan, says Taiban Govt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Afghanistan's Taiban government spokeswoman on Wednesday firmly rejected media reports about the presence of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar in the war-torn country, saying such terrorist organisations can operate on Pakistan's soil - and even under official patronage.

The Taliban-led interim Afghan government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid made the strongly-worded remarks after a section of Pakistani media reported about Azhar's alleged presence in Afghanistan. They claimed that Pakistan has also sent a letter with demand to hand him over to Islamabad.

"We have written a one-page letter to the Afghan foreign ministry, asking them to locate, report and arrest Masood Azhar, as we believe that he is hiding somewhere in (eastern Nangarhar province) Afghanistan," The News reported on Tuesday, quoting a top Pakistani foreign ministry official. Mujahid in an interview with Afghanistan's ToloNews said that he has seen the news in the media. "But this is not true. Nobody has made such a demand from us," Mujahid said.

"Jaish-e-Mohammad chief is not in Afghanistan. Such organisations can operate on Pakistan's soil — and even under official patronage," Mujahid said. "We'll not allow



anyone to use Afghanistan's soil against any other country."

Azhar is a fugitive released by India in exchange for passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in 1999. He was serving a prison term in India for kidnappings of Western tourists in the country. After his release in 1999, Azhar formed the JeM and scripted many audacious terror strikes in India.

Pakistan has banned the JeM which is accused by India of several terrorist attacks, including the Pulwama attack in February 2019, which brought Pakistan and India to the brink of a nuclear exchange.

In May 2019, the United Nations designated Azhar a "global terrorist" after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist the Pakistan-based JeM chief, a decade after New Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.

Ukraine's military claims downing Iran drone used by Russia

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's military has claimed 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 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 on Tuesday published images of the wreckage of the drone. It resembled a triangle, or delta-shaped, drone flown by Iran known as the Shahed-136, or "Witness" in Farsi. Ukrainian troops encountered the drone near Kupiansk amid Kyiv's offensive that has punched through Russian lines around Kharkiv on the eastern front, the Ukrainian military said.

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 im-



mediately correspond to known Russian weaponry.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment. Russia did not acknowledge the Ukrainian claim.

The British military in an intelligence update on Wednesday similarly noted the Ukrainian shootdown claim, saying: "Russia has highly likely deployed Iranian uncrewed aerial vehicles ... In Ukraine for the first time." "The loss of a Shahed-136 near the front lines suggests there is a realistic possibility that Russia is attempting to use the system to conduct tactical strikes rather than against more-strategic targets farther into Ukrainian territory," the British said.

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 2,500 kilometres (1,550 miles), the British military said. Iran has issued few details about the drone, though it appeared in military propaganda footage in January 2021. 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.

Queen’s coffin leaves Buckingham Palace for final journey

PTI ■ LONDON

King Charles III and his sons, Princes William and Harry, joined a sombre procession as the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II left Buckingham Palace in London on Wednesday, on its final journey to be conveyed to Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament complex for Lying-in-State until the state funeral at Westminster Abbey nearby on Monday.

At 2.22 pm local time, the coffin placed on a horse-drawn gun carriage of the King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery began its ceremonial procession of under two kilometres to the Palace of Westminster.

The Queen’s heir, Charles, and her grandchildren William and Harry walked side by side behind the coffin, with gun salutes firing from Hyde Park and Big Ben tolling during a sombre journey.

The Queen’s other children, Princess Anne and Princes Andrew and Edward, were also among the senior royals in the procession behind the carriage.

Thousands lined the route of the procession, which went past the Mall towards the Palace of Westminster by the river Thames.

The coffin will be received at Westminster Hall by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Most Reverend Justin Welby, to conduct a short service assisted by the Very Revd Dr David Hoyle, the Dean of Westminster. This ceremony will be joined by other members of the royal family as well before the coffin is placed on a catafalque, or raised platform.

As the Lying-in-State stage of the ceremony begins, a continuous vigil will be mounted by officers of the Household Division, the King’s Bodyguards of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, The King’s Bodyguard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers and the Yeomen of the Guard.

Westminster Hall will then open from 5 pm local time to the many thousands queuing since Monday evening to begin filing past the coffin to pay their respects to the late monarch.

Overnight on Tuesday, the coffin



spent its final night in the Bow Room at Buckingham Palace for the most private part of the ongoing state

mourning since the Queen passed away in Scotland last Thursday. Earlier on Tuesday, crowds lined

the streets of Edinburgh as a cortege took the coffin to the airport after lying in state at St. Giles’ Cathedral in

the Scottish capital. There was applause as the coffin left the cathedral, where thousands filed past since Monday to pay their respects to the late monarch.

The Scottish government said more than 33,000 people had paid their respects in Edinburgh before the coffin was taken by road to Edinburgh Airport. It was flown to London, accompanied by the Queen’s daughter Princess Anne, on a Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft that was used to evacuate thousands of people fleeing the Taliban in Kabul last year. The C-17 Globemaster has also been used to take humanitarian aid and weapons to Ukraine following Russia’s invasion.

The aircraft landed at RAF Northolt before being taken to Buckingham Palace, where it was met by King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla as well as other members of the royal family. It was received by a guard of honour — formed by the King’s Guard — before being taken to the Bow Room inside the palace to be watched overnight by a rota of chaplains.

Earlier on Tuesday, King Charles left Scotland for Northern Ireland as part of his Operation Spring Tide tour of state mourning to different parts of the United Kingdom. He visited Belfast for the first time as monarch and met Northern Ireland’s political and religious leaders and took part in a prayer service at St. Anne’s Cathedral.

“Now, with that shining example before me, and with God’s help, I take up my new duties resolved to seek the welfare of all the inhabitants of Northern Ireland. During the years of my mother’s reign, it has been a privilege to bear witness to such a devoted life. May it be granted to us all to fulfil the tasks before us so well,” he said in a short statement.

The King is scheduled to Wales at the end of the week, ahead of ceremonial events and audiences planned as world leaders who begin arriving in the UK for the state funeral at Westminster Abbey on Monday morning. Queen Elizabeth II died aged 96 peacefully at her Balmoral Castle summer residence in Scotland on Thursday.

Russia spent \$300M to covertly influence world politics, says US

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Russia has covertly spent more than \$300 million since 2014 to try to influence politicians and other officials in more than two dozen countries, the State Department alleges in a newly released cable.

The cable released Tuesday cites a new intelligence assessment of Russia’s global covert efforts to support policies and parties sympathetic to Moscow. The cable does not name specific Russian targets but says the U.S. is providing classified information to select individual countries.

It’s the latest effort by the Biden administration to declassify intelligence about Moscow’s military and political aims, dating back to ultimately correct assessments that Russia would launch a new war against Ukraine. Many of President Joe Biden’s top national security officials have extensive experience countering Moscow and served in government when Russian President Vladimir Putin launched wide-ranging campaigns to influence the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential elections.

A senior administration official declined to say how much money Russia is believed to have spent in Ukraine, where President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his top deputies have long accused Putin of meddling in domestic politics. The official noted allegations of Russian influence in recent elections in Albania, Bosnia and Montenegro, all Eastern European countries that have faced historical pressure from Moscow. Unlike declared efforts by foreign governments to lobby for preferred initiatives, Russia’s



covert influence involved using front organizations to funnel money to preferred causes or politicians, the cable alleges. That includes think tanks in Europe and state-owned enterprises in Central America, Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

The U.S. Has in its history also covertly funded political groups and been responsible for efforts to topple or undermine foreign governments. The official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity under rules set by the administration, rejected comparisons between Russia’s activities and current U.S. Financing of media and political initiatives.

Putin was spending huge sums “in an attempt to manipulate democracies from the inside,” the official said.

State Department spokesman Ned Price called Russia’s covert funding an “assault on sovereignty.”

“It is an effort to chip away at the ability of people around the world to choose the governments that they see best fit to represent them, to represent their interests, and to represent their values,” he said.

Russia’s embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The State Department took the unusual step of releasing a diplomatic cable that was sent on Monday to many U.S. Embassies and consulates abroad, many of them in Europe, Africa and South Asia, laying out the concerns.

The cable, which was marked “sensitive” and not intended for foreign audiences but was not classified, contained a series of talking points that U.S. Diplomats were instructed to raise with their host governments regarding alleged Russian interference. Among steps diplomats were told to recommend include sanctions,

travel bans, and exposure of covert financing. According to the cable, intelligence officials believe Russia planned to transfer “at least hundreds of millions more” dollars in funding to sympathetic parties and officials around the world.

The cable does not say how intelligence officials came up with the total figure of \$300 million. It also does not address concerns that Russia or other adversaries may again try to interfere in U.S. Politics.

The official briefing reporters noted that Biden had recently extended a national emergency declaration addressing the continued threat of foreign election interference.

“We’re promoting coordination with our democratic peers,” the official said. “And we’ll be exchanging lessons learned, all to advance our collective election security, but also our election security here at home.”

China’s leader Li visits Bhaktapur, talks of similarities of Nepalese, Chinese cultures

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

China’s top legislator Li Zhanshu on Wednesday visited Nepal’s historic city of Bhaktapur and said that there were a lot of cultural and traditional similarities between the two neighbouring countries.

Li, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress - China’s parliament who arrived in Nepal on Monday on a four-day visit, also visited various historical shrines and architectural masterpieces in Bhaktapur Durbar Square.

Li and his delegation members viewed the historic Bhairab dance organised in his honour at Bhaktapur Durbar Square by the local government.

“The dance has reminded me of Chinese culture. The culture between China and Nepal is similar,” remarked Li, who is ranked No.3 in the ruling Communist Party’s hierarchy, after the show.

Gautam Lasiwa, the Chief of the tourism information centre at the municipality, informed him about the heritages in Bhaktapur that were destroyed in the 2015



earthquake.

Li showed his curiosity about whether or not foreign assistance was accepted for the reconstruction.

During his visit to the Bhaktapur, Li was surprised to witness various historic shrines including Nyatapoli, the five-story temple, which remained intact during the 2015 Earthquake as it was built by using traditional construction materials and traditional architecture.

Nepal and China shared abundant similarities in culture and traditions, Li observed after visiting the heritage sites in

Bhaktapur.

The Chinese delegation was given a replica of a wooden peacock window (Mayur Jhyal) featuring a traditional Newari artwork.

Li also presented gifts to Bhaktapur Mayor Sunil Prajapati and Federal Parliament member Prem Suwal among others.

Li will also be having a courtesy meeting with the President Bidya Devi Bhandari on Wednesday.

Li on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and other top political leaders of Nepal during which they discussed matters of mutual interests including bilateral trade, investment and connectivity.

Earlier, Li held meetings with National Assembly Chairperson Ganesh Prasad Timilsina and discussed various matters of Nepal-China relations including the inter-parliamentary exchanges and cooperation.

He also met former prime ministers K P Sharma Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda” and discussed bilateral ties and other issues of mutual interest.

Armenia, Azerbaijan trade blame for renewed shelling

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other of instigating new rounds of shelling Wednesday across their borders as hostilities reignited between the two longtime adversaries.

Armenia’s Defence Ministry accused Azerbaijani forces of launching combat drones in the direction of the Armenian resort town of Jermuk overnight and renewing shelling with artillery and mortars in the morning in the direction of Jermuk and the village of Verin Shorzhza.

The Azerbaijani military, in turn, charged that Armenian forces shelled its positions in the Kalbajar and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan,

near the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Armenia said at least 49 of its soldiers have been killed since fighting erupted early Tuesday, while Azerbaijan said it lost 50 troops.

In a claim suggesting that the Armenian losses could be higher, Azerbaijani authorities said they were ready to unilaterally hand over the bodies of up to 100 Armenian soldiers killed this week.

The two ex-Soviet countries 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.

Israeli officer, 2 Palestinian militants killed in shootout

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Palestinian gunmen opened fire on Israeli troops near a military checkpoint in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, killing an Israeli army officer, the Israeli military said.

Palestinian officials said that troops killed the two gunmen.

The overnight incident was the latest in a string of deadly clashes in recent months in the northern West Bank, where Israeli troops conduct nightly raids. Most of that fighting, including Wednesday’s, has taken place near the city of Jenin, which is known as a bastion of Palestinian militants.

The military said soldiers spotted the two militants approaching Israel’s separation barrier in the northern West Bank and that it dispatched forces to the area.

It said the two suspects began shooting automatic weapons at troops, who returned fire. The Israeli army said that Major Bar Falah, 30, was killed in the shootout.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that the Israeli army was holding the bodies of the two men.

It identified them as Ahmad Abed, 23, and Abd al-Rahman Abed, 22, both from a village



near Jenin.

The Israeli military confirmed that Ahmad Abed was a member of the Palestinian Authority security services, which coordinate with Israel in an uneasy alliance against their common foe, the Hamas militant group. Hamas praised the attack, hailing the two gunmen as “heroic martyrs.”

Israel has been carrying out nightly arrest raids in West Bank cities, towns and villages since a spate of attacks against Israelis in the spring killed 19 people.

Israeli fire has killed scores of Palestinians during that time, making it the deadliest year in the occupied territory since 2016.

The Israeli military says the vast majority of those killed were militants or stone-throw-

ers who endangered the soldiers. But several civilians have also been killed during Israel’s monthslong operation, including a veteran journalist and a lawyer who apparently drove unwittingly into a battle zone.

Local youths who took to the streets in response to the invasion of their neighborhoods have also been killed.

Israel says the arrest raids are meant to dismantle militant networks. The Palestinians say the operations are aimed at maintaining Israel’s 55-year military occupation of territories they want for an independent state.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war and the Palestinians seek those territories for a future state.



Border crossfire caused casualties, say Pak, Taliban

AP ■ ISLAMABAD


Afghan and Pakistani authorities blamed each other on Wednesday for an overnight clash at the border that caused casualties on both sides.

Taliban in a statement Wednesday said that Afghan authorities tried to stop Pakistani forces from building a check point close to the border in eastern Paktia province’s Dand-e Patan district, but the Pakistani forces opened fire.

Pakistan’s military said in a statement that three soldiers were killed in the country’s northwest by militant fire from across the Afghan border Tuesday night.

The attack hit a border security post in Kurram, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesman for the Taliban’s government said that by understanding, no military installations can be built near the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.




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Dated : 14.09.2022

Tender Notice
The office of Executive Engineer (Maintenance), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chhinalysaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:
Tender No: NIT- 35/EE(M)/MB-II/22-23
Name of work/Supply/Services: Annual General Electrical Maintenance of colony, L.T and H.T lines at Shaktipuram Colony, Chhinalysaur and Dharasu for the year 2022-23
Estimated cost: Rs. 1056000/- Only (Taxes extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: - 15.09.2022
Last date for submission of tender:- 06.10.2022 up to 11:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website
"www.ujvnl.com"
Executive Engineer
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity" (Maintenance)



NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

1.	Name of work	Annual zone work for the period ending 30.06.2023, repair, whitewashing and painting work for service buildings such as station offices, running room, laundry, sickline complex, washing line complex, capital store, platform and shelters etc. at ANVT SSEW/NDLS under DEN/Works in jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-III/DLI.
2.	Approx cost of work	Rs. 54,99,861.43/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty One & Forty Three Paise Only)
3.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 1,10,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand Only)
4.	Cost of tender document	Rs. 0.00/-
5.	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	07.10.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6.	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/e-Tender Notice/ NIT/43/2022-23/W-3 Dated: 13.09.2022. 2391/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring in kind notice to general public that Shri Shyami owner of Residential Plot GU 03 Sector-117 (Area 168sq mtr), Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar. Sh. Shaymi is dead. So After demise of Shri Shaymi the above Plot is being transferred in name of Akil Zehra W/o Shri Gajnar Ali, on the basis of registered WILL. If anyone has any objection regarding this matter, then that person can raise his objection in written, in Noida Authority, Residential (Plot) Department, Sector-6 Noida, within 30 days of Publication of this notice. After completion of 30 days Plot No. UG 3 Sector-117, Noida will be transferred in name of Akil Zehra.


Akil Zehra.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is Publicly notified that the Residential property Bearing no. 151, Block-D, Sec-61, Noida, Distt. G.B.Nagar U.P. allottee of Smt. Manita Midha D/O Inder Raj Sakuja & W/O Sh.Manish Midha R/O D-151, Sec-61, Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar, U.P. had sold on the basis of General Power of Attorney to the following persons. The GPA was registered on dated 17.06.2016, in the name of Mrs. Mona Arora D/O Sh. Inder Raj Sakuja & W/O Sh. Jagdeep Arora R/O 89, Hargovind Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi, and agreement to sell is not executed. Because agreement to sell is not executed so it is Publicly notified that the transfer of the property bearing Residential property Bearing NO. 151, Block-D, Sec- 61, Noida, Distt. G.B.Nagar (U.P.) is going to be transfer through G.P.A. in the name of Sh. Ram Swaroop Midha S/O Late Sh.Topan Dass Midha R/O D-151, Sec-61, Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar (U.P.), if some one has any objection he/she file his/her objection along-with the sufficient proof in the Residential Department of the Noida Authority with witness with in 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mrs. Mona Arora

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Sunil Batra S/o P.C Batra R/o 11/17 Old Rajender Nagar, New Delhi-110060. Owner of office/shop No-227 Shopping Complex underneath Defence Colony Flyover Market has applied for conversion of the aforesaid plot from leasehold to freehold vide application / Request ID No. LD17830CE/CN03032022 Dt. 03.03.2022 in DDA. That the original documents i.e 1) Possession Letter 2. NOC of Water & Electric, Initial Deposit slip, & Site possession, have been lost. An FIR Vide LRNO,115859/2022 Dt. 10.02.2022 against this effect has been lodged in Crime Branch Police station Delhi. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write or contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9810116632 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or right, to Dy. Director (CE) or Director (CE) with, A-Block, 2nd floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023, along with the documents.

Public Notice
SARV PRIYA MAHAJAN CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
in pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that following members of Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 1384) have resigned from the membership of the society i.e.1) Sh.Vinod Anand(M.No.528) 2) Sh. Varun Anand (M.No. 535) and 3) Ms. Neelima Rana (M.No.648).Further they have been issued account payee cheque for their deposited amount. If anyone have any objections/haicse may file his/her objection in the office of the RCS, Parliament Street, New Delhi or at society office i.e. 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza,LSC,C-Block Market,Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034 within 7 day from the date of publication of the public notice.
Secretary - Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd



HOTEL AND RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN INDIA
CIN No. : U55101DL1952NPL002161
Regd. Office: 406/75-76, Manisha Building, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
Tel: 011 - 26468103, 26433590, Fax: 011 - 26236201
Website: www.hranl.net.in, E-mail: hranl.1956@gmail.com

NOTICE OF 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION
Pursuant to Rule 20(3) (v) of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 notice is hereby given that 71st Annual General Meeting of Members of Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India will be held on **Friday, the 30th September, 2022 at 1200 hrs at Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport, NH 8, Block R, Mahipalpur Village, Mahipalpur, New Delhi - 110037 (Ph : 011 4250 0500).** The notice of the Annual General Meeting has been served to all Members of HRANI on September 14, 2022 and is available on the website of the company at **www.hranl.net.in**.
Following businesses will be transacted at the Annual General Meeting:

- Adoption of Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2022
- Appointment of Auditors
- Election of Members of Managing Committee for 2022-24.

Members may cast their votes electronically on the business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system of "Right2Vote Infotech Pvt Ltd" from a place other than venue of the AGM ('remote e-voting'). All the members are informed that:

- The business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through voting by postal ballots / remote e-voting/in-person voting at the AGM;
- The cut-off date for the purpose of completing all formalities for renewal of membership and thereby being eligible for remote e-voting and voting at the Annual General Meeting is **22nd September, 2022.**
- The remote e-voting shall commence on **September 26, 2022 (9:30 am IST)** and shall end on **September 29, 2022 (5:00 pm IST)**;
- To avail the voting through postal ballot, the Ballot Paper must reach the Secretariat before the AGM i.e. not later than Thursday, 29th September, 2022 by 2.00 pm IST.
- Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by Right2Vote Infotech Pvt. Ltd. beyond 5:00 p.m. IST on September 29, 2022 and once the vote on a resolutions is casted by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; b) the postal ballot arriving at the Secretariat beyond 2.00 pm IST on September 29, 2022 will not be considered for voting; c) the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting/postal ballot prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.
- In case of queries in regard to electronic voting, members may contact Right2Vote Infotech Private Limited, B406, HSI Side, Raheja Vihar, Chandivali, Mumbai - 400072 Ph +91 9920951306, Email contact@right2vote.in.

For Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India

Sd/-
Renu Thapliyal, Secretary General



HOTEL AND RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN INDIA
CIN No. : U55101DL1952NPL002161
Regd. Office: 406/75-76, Manisha Building, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
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For Hotel and Restaurant Association of Northern India

Sd/-
Renu Thapliyal, Secretary General

India has decided to authorise SBI to promote rupee trade with Russia: FIEO president



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has decided to authorise the country's biggest lender SBI to promote rupee trade with Russia and soon Moscow will name its bank to operationalise the mechanism, exporters' body FIEO said on Wednesday.

The RBI in July issued a detailed circular asking banks to put in place additional arrangements for export and import transactions in Indian rupees in view of increasing interest of the global trading community in the domestic currency.

Currently, a large part of bilateral trade between India and Russia is getting settled in rupee due to sanctions imposed by the US and Europe following Moscow's attack on Ukraine.

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

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president

A Sakthivel said that the SBI (State Bank of India) is equipped with doing business in rupee with Russia, but Moscow has to identify one bank.

"Yesterday commerce secretary (B V R Subrahmanyam) was there with us in the evening. He said that very soon Russian government is going to identify a bank...Rupee trade with Russia will happen," Sakthivel told reporters here.

He said that Russia is expected to announce the name of the bank in 15 days.

"So the SBI is already identified here...We have a good rupee payment mechanism in Iran, so same thing will happen (with Russia)...SBI is a huge bank to cater the need of exporters," he added.

FIEO has demanded from the government that rupee trade should be entitled for benefits currently available for trade in major currencies.

Once the mechanism comes into play, "we do not want to bother about the foreign currency fluctuations. Indian rupee

will speak for itself...I think very soon it will happen," Sakthivel said.

On September 7, Reserve Bank and the finance ministry asked top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push exports and import transactions in rupee.

According to sources, it was stressed during a meeting that banks should connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate cross-border trade in Indian currency rather than popular mode dollar.

They had stated that countries like Sri Lanka, Argentina and Zimbabwe may be interested in settling bilateral trade in rupee.

The announcement by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow cross-border trade transactions in rupee is a timely move and a step towards internationalisation of the currency.

In 2021-22, India's exports to Russia stood at USD 3.25 billion, while imports aggregated at about USD 10 billion.



Revenue dept officials to be trained to use tech tools for plugging leakages, says FM

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said revenue department officials will soon be trained to use modern technology tools to plug leakages.

She also said that better utilisation of artificial intelligence tools and data deep dives can help officials detect revenue leakages.

Asserting that mischief makers gaming the system by claiming wrong refunds or creating shell companies to cause a loss to the exchequer are a rarity, Sitharaman said training officials, especially the junior ones, can be of help.

"Sooner, we will be putting through in different parts of the country...A training so that each one of you will feel comfortable using technology to assist you to make sure that leakages are plugged," Sitharaman said while addressing revenue department officials at an event at the

Kharghar node here.

She hinted that existing tech company vendors may be tasked with the training imparting duties as well and added that she has already discussed the matter with Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj and Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBIC) Vivek Johri.

According to the minister, the training module to be followed by implementation in daily work will also help reduce the stress from the job for revenue department personnel who are keen to plug leakages.

Speaking at the event to inaugurate a housing project for Goods and Services Tax (GST) personnel, the finance minister was all praise for the work being done by the revenue department.

She also said the work being performed is visible every month in the robust GST collections and added that the officials who are performing well do not require any nudge.

Govt to soon invite bids for IDBI Bank privatisation: DIPAM Secy



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Wednesday said the department is working on the Expression of Interest (EoI) and would soon invite preliminary bids from investors for the privatisation of IDBI Bank.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank in May 2021.

Currently, the government holds 45.48 per cent in the bank, and Life Insurance Corporation of India, which is currently the promoter of the bank, owns a 49.24 per cent stake.

"We have been at it for quite some time. It is also a first of its kind transaction where through a bidding route we will be privatising a bank. Both government and LIC put together hold 94 per cent in IDBI Bank," he said while addressing 'FICCI CAPAM 2022 - 19th Annual Capital Markets Conference'.

As the bank has come out of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, he said its performance has improved which would generate greater interest among investors.

The RBI in March 2021 removed IDBI Bank from its enhanced regulatory supervision PCA framework after nearly four years on improved financial performance.

"We are working on the Expression of Interest (EoI) and (it) will be issued soon," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary said.

The government, along with LIC, will decide on the quantum of stake that they will sell in IDBI Bank before seeking initial bids. The quantum of stake dilution is expected to be outlined in the EoI.

The government has set a target of Rs 65,000 crore from divestment in 2022-23 (April-Mar). It has already raised Rs 24,544 crore, majority of which is contributed by listing of the country's biggest insurer LIC in May this year.

Shares of LIC were listed at discount at Rs 865 to the initial public offering price of Rs 949 per share. Since then, it has been trading below the issue price. Shares of LIC closed at Rs 663.20, down 1.04 per cent on Wednesday.

Speaking about LIC, Pandey said the insurance company is taking a number of steps to improve its topline and bottomline.

"The management is taking post-listing initiatives for eg: re-engineering process to improve 13-month and 25-month consistency where LIC has been relatively less than peers. LIC has been bringing new professionals in areas like investment relation, Chief Development officer, Chief Technology Officer, cash management, looking into actuarial valuation and regular IEV (Indian Embedded Value) disclosures," he said.



Investors' wealth dips ₹76,196 cr amid sell-off in markets

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 76,196.54 crore on Wednesday, with the market witnessing a sell-off amid rising concerns over possible aggressive interest rate hikes to tame high inflation.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies -- which is also an indicator of wealth of investors -- tumbled Rs 76,196.54 crore to Rs 2,85,94,997.40 crore amid the 30-share Sensex falling 224.11 points or 0.37 per cent to 60,346.97 points.

On Tuesday, when the markets had gained for the fourth straight session, the market valuation stood at Rs 2,86,71,193.94 crore.

The 30-share index rebounded more than 1,200 points from the early lows before settling at 60,346.97 points, a loss of 224.11 points or 0.37 per cent compared to Tuesday's closing level.

The broader NSE Nifty closed lower 66.30 points or 0.37 per cent at 18,003.75 points.

The Sensex had plunged 1,150 points to a low of 59,417.12 points, while the Nifty declined to a low of 17,771.15 points in early trade

on Wednesday, following deep losses in US markets.

Tracking the weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms had tumbled by Rs 2.21 lakh crore in initial deals. However, the markets showed steady recovery and pared most of the losses to settle 4 per cent down.

According to Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, Indian markets displayed strong resilience in the face of negative global cues.

While markets opened 1.6 per cent lower, it showed steady recovery throughout the day to wipe out the entire opening loss and managed to close near day's high with marginal loss of 0.4 per cent.

"Controlled inflationary environment v/s global peers, strong flows from retail, domestic as well as foreign institutions continue to drive the domestic equities.

"Although there can be bouts of volatility due to adverse global cues. Support base buying at lower levels are giving much needed strength to the Indian markets and any sharp decline will be good opportunity to buy in Indian equities," Khemka added.

Exports rise marginally in August; trade deficit more than doubles to USD 27.98 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports rose marginally by 1.62 per cent to USD 33.92 billion, while trade deficit more than doubled to USD 27.98 billion in August due to increased crude oil imports, commerce ministry data said on Wednesday.

The revised data showed that imports rose by 37.28 per cent to USD 61.9 billion in August this year.

The preliminary data released by the ministry on September 3 had shown a 1.15 per cent decline in exports to USD 33 billion in August.

During April-August 2022-23, exports registered a growth of 17.68 per cent to USD 193.51 billion. Imports during the five-month period of this fiscal grew by 45.74 per cent to USD 318 billion.

Trade deficit widened to USD 124.52 billion in April-August this fiscal as against USD 53.78 billion in the same



period last year.

The deficit in August last year was USD 11.71 billion.

Crude oil imports in August this year increased by 87.44 per cent to USD 17.7 billion. However, gold imports dipped by about 47 per cent to USD 3.57 billion, the data showed.

On the other hand, silver imports jumped to USD 684.34 million during the month under review from USD 15.49 million in the same month last year.

Rise in import values in August has been witnessed in

major commodity groups such as coal, coke & briquettes (133.64 per cent to USD 4.5 billion), chemicals (43 per cent to about USD 3 billion), and vegetable oil (41.55 per cent to about USD 2 billion).

Further, export products that recorded positive growth in August included electronic goods, rice, oil meals, tea, coffee and chemicals.

Export of petroleum products rose by 22.76 per cent to USD 5.71 billion. Similarly, chemicals and pharma shipments increased by 13.47 per cent and 6.76 per cent to USD 2.53 billion and USD 2.14 billion respectively.

Sectors which recorded negative growth in August included engineering (14.19 per cent to USD 8.3 billion), gems and jewellery (about 3 per cent to USD 3.33 billion), ready-made garments of all textiles (0.34 per cent to USD 1.23 billion), and plastic (1.10 per cent to USD 747.21 million).

Govt reducing compliances in food processing sector, says Union Minister Patel

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The government is focusing on reducing compliances further to promote the food processing sector, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel said on Wednesday.

Addressing the '14th Flici Foodworld India - The Global Convention for Food Business and Industry', Patel highlighted the need to enhance the marketing and branding of Indian food processing sector and products.

"The government is fully committed to supporting the industry and find solutions to the problems. We also need to further simplify the existing schemes by removing the bottlenecks and industry will play a critical role in this," he said.

The government's focus is on reducing compliances to support the industry and the sector, he said.

To boost the sector, he said, the government has already stepped up incubation centres to support the industry



and innovation.

The government is taking continuous steps to improve the food processing sector, including the introduction of a PLI scheme for the sector, he stated.

He further said the government is taking measures to not only cater to the domestic markets but also to global demand for processed foods.

The Indian food processing sector will be the backbone in achieving the USD 5 trillion economy target.

"There is a need to further strengthen the trust in the consumers for processed foods and the government along with industry have to work towards it," the minister added.

Bank of Baroda raises interest rates on deposits below ₹2 crore



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bank of Baroda has raised the interest rates on retail term deposits of below Rs 2 crore by up to 0.20 per cent. The new rates have come to effect from September 13, 2022.

The one-year tenor domestic and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) term deposit will offer an interest of 5.50 per cent, up from 5.30 per cent earlier, the bank said on Wednesday.

Deposits for above 400 days to 3 years will earn an interest of 5.50 per cent, up from 5.45 per cent. For above 3 years to 10 years, the new rate is 5.65 per cent, up by 0.15 per cent.

For senior citizens, there will be a higher rate of interest for one-year deposits at 6 per cent from 5.80 per cent earlier.

Likewise for other tenors applicable on resident senior citizens, the new rates will range in 6-6.65 per cent as against 5.95-6.50 per cent.

Among others, the bank has also raised the interest on 'Baroda Tax Savings Term Deposit' for 5 to 10 years tenor to 5.65 per cent, up by 0.15 per cent. For senior citizens, the deposits will earn up to 6.65 per cent.

The lender has also hiked the savings rate on Baroda Advantage Fixed Deposit of Rs 15 lakh and less than Rs 2 crore for domestic, NRO and NRE (Non-Resident External) account holders to up to 5.80 per cent from 5.65 per cent.

Baroda Tiranga Deposit Scheme, which is available in two tenor buckets -- offering interest rates of 5.75 per cent per annum for 444 days and 6 per cent per annum for 555 days -- continues to be available till 31st December, 2022.

Senior citizens earn an additional interest rate of 0.50 per cent per annum, while Non-Callable Deposits get 0.15 per cent per annum more, said the lender.

India likely to fill up vacuum created by Lankan tea output fall: TAI

PTI ■ KOLKATA

With embattled Sri Lanka witnessing a fall in tea production, India is likely to fill up the vacuum created by the island nation, the Tea Association of India (TAI) said.

TAI secretary general P K Bhattacharya said this is reflected by price rise of the orthodox variety produced by Indian tea planters, with auction realisation increasing sharply by about Rs 75 to Rs 100 per kg.

India produces around 110-



120 million kg of orthodox tea annually, as against the normal Sri Lanka produce of 300 million kg.

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka has caused the fall in its orthodox tea production, he said.

TAI said that till July 2022, the production of orthodox tea in Sri Lanka fell by around 19 per cent as against the corresponding period of 2021.

Bhattacharya told PTI if the present trend continues, Sri Lanka could end up with a fall in production of around 100 million kg of orthodox tea, and the resultant vacuum is likely to be met by the Indian producers.

Indian exporters have also been able to tap the markets in UAE and Iran, which are major orthodox tea consumers.

KPI Green Energy inks PPAs with 6 firms to supply green power

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

KPI Green Energy on Wednesday said it has inked power purchase agreements to supply a total of 15.88 MW wind-solar hybrid power from its projects to six companies.

"KPI Green has signed new long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) for sale of 15.88 MW (electricity from its) wind-solar hybrid power projects," a BSE filing stated.

WPI inflation eases to 11-month low at 12.41 pc in August

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to 11-month low of 12.41 per cent in August, on softening in prices of manufactured and fuel products, even as food items remained expensive.

Although the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation declined for three consecutive months, it remained in double digit for 17th months beginning April last year.

The inflation was 13.93 per



cent in July and 11.64 per cent in August last year. It had touched a record high of 15.88 per cent in May this year.

The inflation was lower than August print in September

last year when it was 11.8 per cent.

Inflation in food articles in August rose to 12.37 per cent, as against 10.77 per cent in July, on account of costlier cereals, fruits and vegetables.

The rate of price rise in vegetables was 22.29 per cent during the month under review, while in case of potato it was 43.56 per cent.

Inflation in cereals was 1.77 per cent, while in wheat and fruits it was 17.35 per cent and 31.75 per cent respectively.



2 GOALS = 3 POINTS

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich got the better of Barcelona as Robert Lewandowski returned to face his former club on Tuesday.

There was also a surprise defeat for Atletico Madrid, who were beaten on their trip to play Bayer Leverkusen.

Both Spanish visitors to Germany came away on the losing side, with Barcelona going down 2-0 at the Allianz Arena in Group C as Lewandowski came back to the club he left in the summer after eight prolific seasons in Bavaria.

The Pole scored a hat-trick on his Champions League debut for Barca as the Catalans beat Viktoria Plzen 5-1 last week.

He was desperately close to opening the scoring in the first half in Munich, but it was Bayern who went in front five minutes into the second half when Lucas Hernandez headed in from a corner.

Leroy Sane burst through four minutes later to make it 2-0 as Julian Nagelsmann's Bayern made it two wins out of two in the group.

They have now won their last five meetings with Barcelona, including two in last season's group stage and their 8-2 victory in the 2020 quarter-finals.

"I think for 'Lewy' it was really an emotional game to come back -- a little bit like coming home, because he was so successful here," Bayern captain Manuel Neuer told Amazon Prime of his old teammate.

"The luck in the decisive moments wasn't on his side — and that became our luck."

"When we talk about competing, we're talking about doing it at a corner, or in a transition," said Xavi, referring to defensive errors for Bayern's two goals.

"It's also about efficiency. You get in front of the goalkeeper and you should score."

"We did not score despite having seven clear chances, we have to put them away. I am angry but proud."

Barcelona midfielder Pedri was also denied by the impeccable Neuer when well placed and hit the post with another good opportunity.

"In the first half we had a lot of chances but if you don't take them against teams like this, you end up paying," he added.

Barcelona next face Inter Milan, who got their first points with a 2-0

Late Matip goal seals Reds win

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Joel Matip's 89th minute header kickstarted Liverpool's season as a 2-1 win over Ajax at Anfield put the Reds back in the running to reach the last 16 of the Champions League.

Jurgen Klopp's men had won just two of their opening seven games of the season, and suffered a 4-1 thrashing at the hands of Napoli on matchday one.

Last season's Champions League finalists were much more like their old selves but still needed a late winner from an unlikely source after Mohammed Kudus had cancelled out Mohamed Salah's opener.

Victory takes Liverpool level on three points with Ajax and Napoli, who travel to Rangers in the other game in Group A on Wednesday.

With Matip, Thiago Alcantara and Diogo Jota restored to the starting line-up after injuries, Liverpool were a far closer reflection of the side that came to within two games of a historic quadruple last season.

Jota's inclusion came at the expense of Darwin Nunez as Liverpool's new 80 million euro signing had to settle for a place on the bench for the second consecutive game.

The Portuguese international more than justified his inclusion, though, as he latched onto Luis Diaz's header and teed up Salah to score his first goal in four games.

But the defensive deficiencies that have dogged Klopp's men in the early months of the season were exposed for Ajax's equaliser.

Trent Alexander-Arnold was again guilty of not tracking a runner as Steven Berguis broke down Ajax's left and Kudus spun onto his cross before crashing in a shot off the underside of the bar.

Liverpool responded positively from that setback, but failed to make their dominance count for over an hour.

In the dying moments, just when it appeared Liverpool's luck was out, they struck from the resulting corner.

Matip rose highest to meet Kostas Tsimikas' corner and the ball had crossed the line before Dusan Tadic cleared.

"I think everybody could see that we understood and that we had to put a completely different shift into the game. The boys did that," Klopp told BT Sport.

"We played a lot of good stuff against a hard fighting opposition."



Sane's strike helps Bayern beat Barca on Lewandowski return

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich got the better of Barcelona as Robert Lewandowski returned to face his former club on Tuesday.

There was also a surprise defeat for Atletico Madrid, who were beaten on their trip to play Bayer Leverkusen.

Both Spanish visitors to Germany came away on the losing side, with Barcelona going down 2-0 at the Allianz Arena in Group C as Lewandowski came back to the club he left in the summer after eight prolific seasons in Bavaria.

The Pole scored a hat-trick on his Champions League debut for Barca as the Catalans beat Viktoria Plzen 5-1 last week.

He was desperately close to opening the scoring in the first half in Munich, but it was Bayern who went in front five minutes into the second half when Lucas Hernandez headed in from a corner.

Leroy Sane burst through four minutes later to make it 2-0 as Julian Nagelsmann's Bayern made it two wins out of two in the group.

They have now won their last five meetings with Barcelona, including two in last season's group stage and their 8-2 victory in the 2020 quarter-finals.

"I think for 'Lewy' it was really an emotional game to come back -- a little bit like coming home, because he was so successful here," Bayern captain Manuel Neuer told Amazon Prime of his old teammate.

"The luck in the decisive moments wasn't on his side — and that became our luck."

"When we talk about competing, we're talking about doing it at a corner, or in a transition," said Xavi, referring to defensive errors for Bayern's two goals.

"It's also about efficiency. You get in front of the goalkeeper and you should score."

"We did not score despite having seven clear chances, we have to put them away. I am angry but proud."

Barcelona midfielder Pedri was also denied by the impeccable Neuer when well placed and hit the post with another good opportunity.

"In the first half we had a lot of chances but if you don't take them against teams like this, you end up paying," he added.

Barcelona next face Inter Milan, who got their first points with a 2-0

Spurs suffer shock defeat against Sporting CP

AP ■ LISBON

Sporting Lisbon condemned Tottenham to their first defeat this season as Paulinho's last-gasp goal inspired a shock 2-0 win in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Antonio Conte's side paid the price for some sloppy finishing and two pieces of dismal defending in stoppage-time at the Jose Alvalade Stadium.

Richarlison, Harry Kane and Emerson Royal were all unable to beat Sporting keeper Antonio Adan, while Son Heung-min's goal-drought extended to eight games.

Tottenham were still on course for a point until the dramatic denouement as Paulinho



headed home before Arthur Gomes danced through the defence to seal Sporting's second successive Group D victory.

It was a first loss in eight games in all competitions for Tottenham, putting a dampener on a fine run that included a 2-0 win against Marseille in their Champions League opener last week.

Tottenham will still expect to qualify for the knockout stages, but this defeat adds pressure on them to avoid another slip in their remaining group games.

Sporting top the group with six points, while Eintracht Frankfurt joined Spurs on three points thanks to a 1-0 win in Marseille, with Jesper Lindstrom scoring in the first half.



Union aim to bring Berlin cool to Europe

AP ■ BERLIN

Cult club Union Berlin have enchanted German football on their fairytale rise all the way to the top of the Bundesliga, and this season they are hoping to carry their domestic form onto the European stage.

Union head to Portugal to play Braga in their second group game in this season's Europa League on Thursday, having lost at home to Union Saint-Gilloise last week.

"The only thing that matters on Thursday is that we get our first points on the board. We want to show our league face," Union goalkeeper Lennart Grill told German media on Tuesday.

The 1-0 loss to their Belgian opponents is the only blemish on a brilliant start to the campaign for Union, who reached new heights last weekend as they stormed to the top of the Bundesliga for the first time in their history. The popular minnows from East Berlin are full of confidence after notching up four wins from their opening six games in Germany's top flight.

Union are on the Bundesliga's longest unbeaten run, having not lost in 13 games, despite having faced Bayern Munich, RB Leipzig (twice) and cross-town rivals Hertha Berlin (twice) during that spell.

"I'm particularly happy about the 14 points, which will help us, because there will certainly be phases in which we are not doing well," said coach Urs Fischer.

"It's a nice moment to remember", the notoriously stoic Swiss said of his side's view from the top.

"They do a great job, but that's a different concept. You can't win the Champions League with that."

Despite their promotion ahead of the 2019-20 season, most observers expected Union to quickly fall back to the second division, particularly after the Covid-19 pandemic robbed them of their greatest asset — fans at the Stadion am Alten Foersterei, their 22,000-capacity home ground.

However, they finished an impressive 11th — equal on points with Hertha — in their first top-flight season, before seventh and fifth-placed finishes in their next two campaigns secured them European football.

They failed to make it beyond the group stage of last season's Europa Conference League before losing to Union Saint-Gilloise last week, although that was just their fifth loss at home in all competitions since the summer of 2020. While Union may have avoided some of the larger clubs like Manchester United, Arsenal, Monaco and Jose Mourinho's Roma in the draw, Braga, their opponents on Thursday, are in the middle of a purple patch of their own.

With five wins and a draw they sit narrowly behind Benfica — and ahead of Porto and Sporting Lisbon — in the Portuguese league.

Klopp mocks Boehly plan for Premier League all-star game

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Jurgen Klopp has poured scorn on the idea of a US-style all-star Premier League game floated by new Chelsea chairman Todd Boehly, asking whether the Harlem Globetrotters will be also be involved.

Blues' new co-owner Boehly, who also has stakes in the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and LA Lakers basketball team, told a New York conference he has already floated the idea with Premier League counterparts.

Both Major League Baseball and basketball's NBA have all-star exhibition games featuring the best players from the different leagues and conferences.

Boehly, speaking at a SALT "thought leadership" conference, suggested that money raised could be used to fund lower levels of the game.

"People are talking about more money for the pyramid - in the MLB All-Star Game this year we made \$200 million (£173 million) from a Monday and a Tuesday," Boehly said.

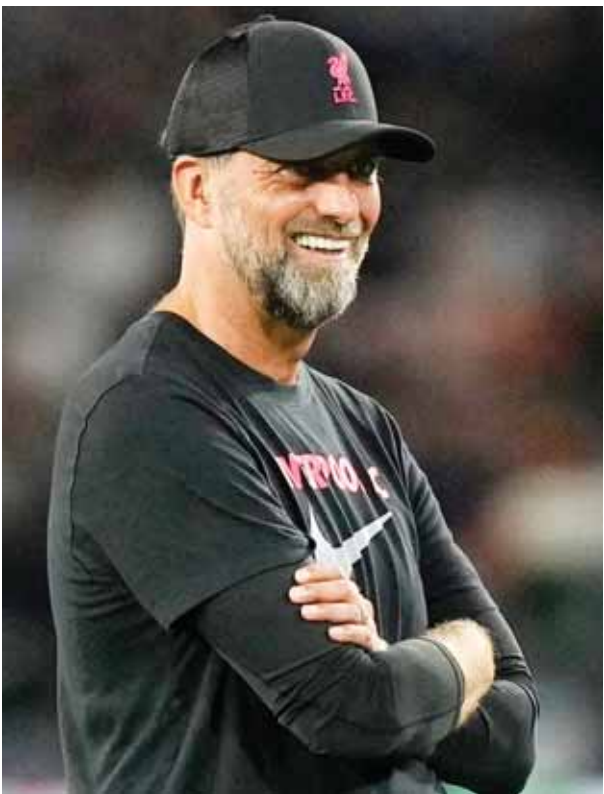
"So we're thinking we could do a north versus south all-star game for the Premier League, for whatever the pyramid needed quite easily."

But Klopp strongly criticised Boehly's proposal, pointing to the already congested English football calendar.

"He doesn't wait long," said the Liverpool manager. "When he finds a date for that he can call me."

"In American sports these players have four-month breaks. Does he want to bring the Harlem Globetrotters (exhibition basketball team) as well?"

"Maybe he can explain that. I'm not sure people want to see that — (Man) United players, Liverpool players, City players, Everton players all together. It is not the national team. Did he really say it?"



Fouaad eyes glory at World Championship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ace Indian equestrian Fouaad Mirza is all set for the FEI World Championship Eventing, starting at the historic Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy on Thursday.

The Asian Games double silver medallist, Mirza is the lone Indian to have qualified for the 15th edition of the World Championship Eventing, which will be conducted at the historic equestrian venue which had hosted the Eventing discipline at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

"I'm very excited to participate in the World Championship at the historic venue where top riders from across the world will compete. I have trained hard in Germany while preparing for the event and I look forward to giving my best and bringing glory to the country," Mirza said.

The Bengaluru-born Mirza will enter the competition along with his horses, Seigneur Medicott (FEI ID 103UA93) and Dajara 4 (FEI ID 105ZR23).

Seigneur Medicott was part of Mirza's historic Tokyo Olympics campaign last year, where he became the first Indian to reach the Olympics final. It was also the same horse, who helped the 30-year-old win two silver medals at the 2018 Asian Games.

Besides two horses, Mirza will be assisted by a team of six-member support staff at the championship, which will go on till September 25.

The prestigious Eventing World Championship will see the world's top 90 horse-and-athlete combinations from 27 countries, including Australia, USA, New Zealand, France and Great Britain.

Sports Ministry signs MoUs with NTPC, REC; 2 PSUs pledge ₹215 cr to NSDF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Thermal Power Corporation Foundation and Rural Electrification Corporation Foundation on Wednesday for the development of sports in India.

Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy RK Singh were present on the occasion.

The NTPC will extend a financial support of ₹115 Crores over the next 5 years for the development of archery discipline in India. REC Foundation has committed ₹100 Crores over 3 years to support women's Hockey, Athletics and Boxing. The support towards NSDF has come through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandate.

CMD of REC Vivek Kumar Dewangan and CMD NTPC Gurdeep Singh, DG SAI Sandip Pradhan, as well as athletes and coaches from archery, boxing, hockey and athletics disciplines, including Abhishek Verma (Compound Archery), Savita Punia (Women's Hockey), Amit Panghal (Men's Boxing) and Avinash Sable (Men's 3000m Steeplechase) were also present on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion Anurag Thakur said that two PSUs from the Power Ministry have contributed a total of ₹215 crore for the development of sports. This contribution by the Power Ministry will go a long way to energise the sports sector, he said. "Everyone, from the corporates to individuals and from various institutions to States, should work together as a team. This MoU signing will give a big motivation to our athletes," Thakur added.

"Earlier, I had urged online donations at NSDF, to adopt an athlete, a sport and an academy. Now, both NTPC and REC have adopted both sports and athletes. This has all happened because of the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

There are many PSUs but the ones who come forward help in building the soft power of India, help athletes keep away from addiction and also motivate them to perform higher at the international stage," added Thakur.

Elaborating on the MoU RK Singh said, "We from the Power Ministry are extremely happy to have done something for the further development of sports in India, through NTPC and REC. We have adopted just a few sports disciplines today but going forward, we want to adopt more disciplines and continue in the development of more facilities and coaches. We promise that our Ministry will be associated in doing all possible in further development of sports in the country. Creating sports culture in the country is part of Nation building."

The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890 and was notified by the Government of India in November, 1998. The purpose of the fund is to impart momentum and flexibility to assisting the cause of sports in India. It helps sportspersons excel by providing them with varied opportunities to train under coaches of international repute, provide financial assistance for development of infrastructure and other activities for promotion of sports.



MANDHANA SHINES IN INDIA'S WIN

PTI ■ DERBY

Opener Smriti Mandhana hit a stroke-filled unbeaten fifty after off-spinner Sneha Rana snarled three wickets to hand India women a comprehensive eight-wicket win over England in the second T20 International and level the series 1-1 here.

England's decision to bat first on Tuesday night backfired as Indian bowlers raised their performance by a notch to reduce the hosts to 54 for five inside 10 overs.

England found the going tough in the initial overs, losing wickets at regular intervals before teenager Freya Kemp (51 not out off 37 balls) and Maia Bouchier (34 off 26) shared 65 runs for the sixth wicket to resurrect their innings.

While the 17-year-old Kemp struck three fours and as many sixes during her rearguard knock, Bouchier decorated her innings with four boundaries.

But once Rana broke the dangerous-looking partnership, taking the wicket of Bouchier stumped by Richa Ghosh in the 18th over, the writing was on the wall for England.

Kemp, though, tried hard her level best and used her long handle to great effect to pick up 23 runs in the remaining 15 balls in the company of Sophie Ecclestone to take England to 142 for six and give their bowlers at least something to defend.

Rana was the wrecker-in-chief for India returning with fine figures of 3 for 24 from her four overs, while Renuka Singh (1/30) and Deepti Sharma (1/21) picked up two wickets at the top.

India began their chase in a fine fashion with Mandhana (79 not out off 53) and Shafali Verma (20) adding 55 runs in the first six overs.

Ecclestone finally got the breakthrough for England when Verma hipped back to the bowler, who dived to her right to complete a fine caught and bowled opportunity.



Dayalan Hemalatha (9) once again disappointed as Freya Davies cleaned her up 16 balls later.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (29 not out off 22) then joined her

deputy Mandhana at the crease and the duo played effortlessly, stitching unconquered 69 runs for the third wicket to complete the formalities as India 146 for two in 16.4 overs.

In fact, Mandhana hit three boundaries off Davies in the 17th over -- first smashing through backward covers, then creaming through mid-wicket and then completed the chase

with smacking shot over the bowler's head to the long-on boundary.

There were no sixes in the match from the Indian batters but Mandhana found the fence 13 times,

Confidence and calculative approach helped us level T20 series: Harman

PTI ■ DERBY

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur feels sheer confidence and a calculative approach helped the visitors level the three-match series with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over England in the second T20I here.

After a rather demoralising defeat in the first game on damp and wet conditions, India bounced back in style to secure a morale-boosting victory and take the series to the decider to be played in Bristol on Thursday.

"I'm really happy, we played well. Everyone was looking forward to winning today, that's something I'm happy about. We do have plans for all batters, but it was important that we executed them, the fielders supported the bowlers well," Harmanpreet said after the match on Tuesday night.

"We are improving as a fielding side, the way Radha fielded, she got injured in the last game, I'm happy with her effort today. Whenever we bat together (herself and Smriti), we have the confidence, we can calculate the approach well, the right-left combination is always a positive for us," she added.

Opener Smriti Mandhana, whose sparkling unbeaten half-century (79 off 53 balls) saw India through and secure a crucial win for the visitors, said the aim was to come back stronger and level the series.



"We were keen to come back stronger and level the series. I was pushing myself and happy that I could contribute to the victory. Good weather to bat (in England), before the CWG games, I think I found the going touch," Smriti said.

"Player of the Match - In T20 cricket, you'd look to try and get a good start to the team. Happy to contribute to the team," she added.

Smriti praised her opening partner Shafali Verma, with whom she stitched 55 runs for the opening wicket, something that helped India find the momentum right from the beginning of their chase.

"It depends on the day and the bowlers. Two years back, she (Shafali Verma) perhaps was just trying to dominate, but she now knows whom to target and to respect good bowling. The good thing is we can both take advantage of the batting powerplay, whoever is in good touch takes the lead in doing so," she said.

only two wicket takers.

England had won the first match by nine wickets. The third T20 of the three-match series will be played in Bristol on September 15.

Marsh, Starc, Stoinis ruled out of India tour due to injuries

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australia will miss the services of Mitchell Marsh, Mitchell Starc and Marcus Stoinis in the three-match T20 International tour of India after the trio was ruled for the series on Wednesday due to injuries.

While Starc has been suffering from a knee injury, Marsh and Stoinis have been ruled out due to ankle and side issues respectively.

According to cricket.Com.Au, the injuries are minor but Cricket Australia took the decision not to risk the players keeping in mind the T20 World Cup to be played at home, starting next month.

The recent development will further deplete the Australian squad as David Warner has already been rested for the tour.

The Australian selectors have included Nathan Ellis, Daniel Sams and Sean Abbott as replacements for Starc, Marsh and Stoinis.

While Marsh and Stoinis suffered the injuries during the ODI series against Zimbabwe and New Zealand, Starc's was a late exclusion following a scan on his knee on Wednesday.

Australia will play three T20s against hosts India at



Maxwell confident Finch will find form

IAN'S ■ MELBOURNE

Charismatic Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has predicted the country's T20I skipper Aaron Finch will find form in the upcoming series against India, given that the 35-year-old "enjoys batting there".

Finch has endured a prolonged poor form dating back to the 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE, though Australia lifted their maiden T20 WC

Trophy. Finch's form slump continued on the historic tour of Pakistan, IPL 2022, the ODI series against New Zealand recently. "He'll (Finch) certainly enjoy having these game in India, he enjoys batting there," Maxwell was quoted as saying by The West Australian.

"Once he gets out on the field and takes control of the team out there, he's been able to focus on the job at hand really well and that's a credit to him," Maxwell said.

Mohali on September 20, Nagpur on September 23 and Hyderabad on September 25.

After the whirlwind India

tour, Australia are set to play T20 series against the West Indies and England in the build-up to the T20 World Cup.

ICC T20I Rankings: Kohli jumps to 15th; Surya 4th

PTI ■ DUBAI

Star India batter Virat Kohli jumped 14 spots to be ranked 15th in the latest ICC T20Is batting rankings after a fine show at the recently-concluded Asia Cup.

Kohli made handsome gains after he produced a dominant batting display (276 runs in five matches) in the continental tournament held in UAE that also saw him scoring his first international century in almost three years.

Middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav continued to remain the best-placed Indian batter as he held on to the fourth spot with 755 points in the batting list headed by Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan (810).

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma also held on to his 14th position in the list with 606 points.

On the list for bowlers, India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar dropped a place to be ranked seventh while spinners Ravichandran Ashwin (up nine places to 41st) and Axar Patel (up 14 places to 57th) have also made notable gains.

The Pakistani bowling duo of Harris Rauf (up nine places to 25th) and Mohammad Nawaz (up seven places to



34th) were the biggest gainers after their strong performances in the Asia Cup.

However, the bowling chart is still headed by Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood with 792 points followed by South African Tabraiz Shamsi (716) and England's Adil Rashid (702).

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi has conceded the top place for all-rounders to Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hassan.

SC allows BCCI to modify mandatory cooling off period for office bearers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday allowed modification of BCCI's constitution and paved the way for its President Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah to continue in office without having to serve the mandatory cooling-off period. A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said that an office bearer can have continuous tenure of 12 years which includes six years in State Association and six years in BCCI before the cooling-off period of three years triggers.

The bench said that an office bearer can serve on a particular post for two consecutive terms, both at the BCCI and the State Association level, after which he would have to serve three years cooling-off period.

"The purpose of the cooling-off period is not to create undesirable monopolies", the bench said.

The top court's order came on the Board's plea seeking to amend its constitution concerning the tenure of its office bearers including its President Sourav Ganguly and Secretary Jay Shah by doing away with the mandatory cooling-off period between tenures of office bearers across state cricket associa-



tions and the BCCI.

The BCCI, in its proposed amendment, has sought the abolition of a cooling-off period for its office bearers which would enable Ganguly and Shah to continue in office as President and Secretary despite them having completed six years at respective state cricket associations.

Earlier, the Justice R M Lodha-led committee had recommended reforms in the BCCI which have been accept-

ed by the top court.

The constitution of the BCCI, which was earlier approved by the top court, stipulates a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for anyone who had served two consecutive terms of three years each in the state cricket association or the BCCI.

While Ganguly was an office bearer in the Cricket Association of Bengal, Shah had served in the Gujarat Cricket Association.



MI elevate Jayawardene, Zaheer to new central roles

MUMBAI: IPL franchise Mumbai Indians on Wednesday elevated former players Mahela Jayawardene and Zaheer Khan to new roles of global head of performance and global head of cricket development respectively. The appointments were a part of MI's central expansion plan.

According to a MI statement, Jayawardene will be providing senior leadership to the group's cricket operations worldwide, including overall strategic planning, the creation of an integrated global high-performance eco-system, as well as responsibility for each team's coaching and support structures.

He will work closely with the team's head coaches to ensure synergies, a consistent brand of cricket, and implementation of best practices set by the franchise.

Zaheer, on the other hand, will be responsible for player development, building MI's robust program around talent identification and grooming and adopting the same across geographies, which has been core to the franchise's philosophy and success.

PTI



IAN'S ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran batter Mahmudullah on Wednesday was left out of Bangladesh's 15-man squad for the Men's T20 World Cup to be played in Australia from October 16 to November 13. The 15-man squad, to be led by all-rounder Shakib Al

Hasan, also sees the return of wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das.

Apart from Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Nurul Hasan, Yasir Ali and Hasan Mahmud are included in the Men's T20 World Cup squad. The four come in the squad in place of Anamul Haque, Mahedi Hasan, Mohammad Naim and Parvez

England hire coaches Saker, Hussey

AP ■ LONDON

England's coaching group will have a distinctly Australian feel at the T20 World Cup taking place Down Under next month.

Already led by an Australian in head coach Matthew Mott, England has also hired two more people from Down Under — its former fast-bowling coach, David Saker, and ex-international batter Michael Hussey — to be part of the backroom team for the tournament.

Saker, who will begin his con-

sultancy contract during the forth-

coming T20 series in Pakistan that precedes the T20 World Cup, spent five years with the England men's team before leaving in 2015. He helped to build the bowling attack that took the team to No. 1 in the Test ranking as well as winning the Ashes in 2010-11.

Hussey has acted as a batting consultant for numerous teams since retiring. He has coached with Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and IPL franchise CSK as well being director of cricket with Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash.

The Bangladesh squad announced for Men's T20 World Cup will take part in the T20I tri-series in New Zealand, featuring the hosts and Pakistan as the third team, which will be played from October 7 and 14. All matches of the tri-series, seen as a preparation for the T20 World Cup, will be played in Christchurch.

Uthappa announces retirement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India international and IPL stalwart Robin Uthappa, announced on Wednesday that he is retiring from all forms of Indian cricket.

Uthappa, who played 46 ODIs and 13 T20Is for India, played for the Chennai Super Kings in the most recent edition of the Indian Premier League, scoring 230 runs in 12 matches at an average of 20.90 including a 50-ball 88 against RCB.

The right-hand batter, who regularly kept wickets too, is among the top ten leading run-scorers of the IPL all time with 4952 runs at an average of 27.51 in 205 matches.

In a tweet announcing his retirement, he

wrote: "It's been 20 years since I started playing professional cricket, and it has been the greatest honour to represent my country and state, Karnataka - a wonderful journey full of ups and downs; one that has been fulfilling, rewarding, enjoyable and has allowed me to grow as a human being." "However, all good things must come to an end, and with a grateful heart I have decided to retire from all forms of Indian cricket. While I will spend a significant time with my young family, I look forward to charting a new phase in my life."

He added a special mention for Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings saying, "A special mention to KKR & CSK for all the wonderful memories and support my family and I received during my time with them - something I will always cherish."

