

OPINION 6

WHY CALL THE KING OF ENGLAND CHARLES III?

WORLD 9

LANKA WON'T BE PART OF ANY INDIAN OCEAN TURF WAR: PREZ

MONEY 10

DOMESTIC FLIER TRAFFIC ROSE 5% TO 1.02 CR IN AUGUST: ICRA

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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PM to discuss regional issues at SCO summit

Modi, Putin, Xi to deliberate on security, trade, energy supplies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he was looking forward to exchanging views during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan on topical, regional and international issues.

The summit will take place on Friday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan where Modi will join Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping to deliberate on regional security challenges, boosting trade and energy supplies among other issues. In his departure statement ahead of the visit to Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the PM also said expansion of the SCO grouping may also be discussed. Modi left for Uzbekistan on Thursday evening to be there for 24 hours.

Besides Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and Iran President Ebrahim Raisi are among the 15 leaders taking part in the event.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Samarkand to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conclave PTI

Modi is likely to hold bilateral meetings with Putin and Raisi on the sidelines of the summit on Friday. As regards the likelihood of such meetings with the Chinese President, Sharif and Putin, there was no official word so far.

Asked about the chances of the meeting days after India and China pulled back their respective troops from the stand-off site at Gogra Hot Springs (Patrolling Point-15) in Eastern Ladakh, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said here on Thursday, "We will keep you apprised when

schedule of PM's bilateral meetings unfolds." Modi is visiting Uzbekistan at the invite of President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

In his statement, Modi said, "I will be visiting Samarkand at the invitation of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to attend the Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of SCO.

"At the SCO Summit, I look forward to exchanging views on topical, regional and international issues, the expansion of SCO and on further deepening of multifaceted and

mutually beneficial cooperation within the organisation. Under the Uzbek Chairship, a number of decisions for mutual cooperation are likely to be adopted in areas of trade, economy, culture and tourism. "I also look forward to meeting President Mirziyoyev in Samarkand. I fondly recall his visit to India in 2018. He also graced the Vibrant Gujarat Summit as its Guest of Honour in 2019. In addition, I will hold bilateral meetings with some of the other Leaders attending the Summit," he said.

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Cong blames Didi for BJP rise in WB, raps AAP, Left

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday slammed the Trinamool Congress (TMC) holding the party boss Mamata Banerjee "singularly responsible" for the rise of the BJP in West Bengal and alleging that the CPM and the BJP were two sides of the same coin in Kerala. The Congress also attacked the AAP as "B" team of the BJP.

The Congress said it cannot have a deal of unity of Opposition with parties working backdoor to weaken the party. The Congress said that its former party chief Rahul Gandhi is the only leader in India who has consistently targeted the BJP.

"Mamata Banerjee is singularly responsible for the rise of the BJP in West Bengal. The Left is singularly responsible for the encouragement of the BJP in Kerala because they know the Congress will get weak if the BJP gets strong. They know this. It suits the Left to fight the BJP instead of fighting the Congress. Why? Because the Left is one extreme and the BJP is another extreme.

"The Centre is only the Congress. So the Left will always prefer to fight with the right because it is easier. But when you are occupying a Centre spot, you are in an advantageous position," said AICC general secretary in charge of communication Jairam Ramesh, in an interaction with the media during the yatra at Kollam in Kerala. They (the CPM) may come with the



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi takes selfie with students during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala on Wednesday PTI

Congress in other States. For example, the Left was with us in Manipur. In Tamil Nadu, the ruling party coalition is the DMK, the CPM, the CPI, the Congress, the VCK and some smaller Tamil parties," said Jairam.

Asserting that the Bharat Jodo Yatra is not a yatra for Opposition unity, Jairam said the Bharat Jodo Yatra is a bid to strengthen the Congress party.

"Without a strong Congress, you cannot have Opposition unity. Secondly, no political party which wants to ally with the Congress should think that an alliance means I take everything from the Congress and don't give anything to the Congress. So far, everybody has been trying to weaken the Congress," Jairam said.

"Even Mamata Banerjee, one day in the morning will praise the RSS, and in the afternoon, she will do something else. Arvind Kejriwal (AAP convener), we know, is the 'B' team of the BJP. So there is no other political party, there is no other political leader that is why the ED is set on Rahul Gandhi," Jairam said.

"We will not allow this to happen. We will strengthen the Congress party, and if there is need for Opposition unity, we will certainly work towards Opposition unity. But we cannot have Opposition unity with parties who are intent or hell bent on weakening the Congress," Jairam said talking to the media during the yatra in Kollam in Kerala.

Addressing the questions on the CPM's criticism, Jairam

reiterated his claim that the CPM in Kerala was the "A" team of the BJP.

"At the national level, the CPM has a different view. But in Kerala, the CPM is doing its best to encourage the BJP because only by encouraging the BJP will the CPM succeed in weakening the Congress in Kerala," he said.

"Nationally they may have one view of the Congress... but in the context of Kerala the CPM and the BJP are two sides of the same coin. Nationally, if the CPM wants to support the Congress, they are welcome. Remember in 1989, the CPM and the BJP had combined to support the VP Singh Government. The Congress is the only political party in India which has never had an alliance with the BJP," he said.

Can't admit Ukraine returnees in medical colleges: Govt to SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a setback to thousands of undergraduate medical Indian students who returned from war-hit Ukraine, Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that they cannot be accommodated in medical colleges here for lack of provisions under the law.

In an affidavit, the Centre said that till now, no permission has been given by the National Medical Commission (NMC) to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/university.

Government's response was in a batch of petitions filed by students, who are undergraduate medical students of first to fourth-year batches in their respective foreign medical colleges/universities, who are primarily seeking transfer to medical colleges in India in their respective semesters.

"It is humbly submitted that in so far as such students



are concerned, there are no such provisions either under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 or the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 as well as the regulations to accommodate or transfer medical students from any foreign medical institutes/colleges to Indian medical colleges," said the affidavit filed by the Government.

It, however, said that to aid and assist such returnee students who could not complete their MBBS courses in Ukraine, NMC in consultation with the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has issued a public notice dated September 6, 2022, indicating that NMC would accept completion of their remaining courses in other countries (with the approval of parent university/institution in Ukraine).

The Government said that after such completion of their remaining courses, the certificate, of course, completion/degree is expected to be issued by the parent institutions in Ukraine.

Continued on Page 2

Six accused of rape-murder of two Kheri Dalit sisters arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Postmortem reports have confirmed that the two Dalit teenaged sisters, who were found hanging from a tree in Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday, were raped and then strangled.

Amid massive uproar and protest, the police on Thursday arrested half a dozen accused within 24 hours of the incident.

The girls, aged 15 and 17, were found hanging from a tree in a sugarcane field, about a kilometre from their house in Nighasan police station area on Wednesday.

"We have arrested Junaid, Sohail, Hafizur Rehman, Karimuddin, Arif and Chhotu in an overnight operation," Lakhimpur Kheri's Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Suman disclosed to reporters on Thursday while claiming to have solved the case.



Junaid and Sohail were allegedly in a relationship with the two sisters, he said.

"According to preliminary investigation, the two sisters left their home on Wednesday afternoon after they were persuaded by Junaid and Sohail. Junaid and Sohail have confessed that they strangled the girls after raping them," the SP said. The duo then called Karimuddin and Arif to dispose of the bodies. They later hanged the bodies from a tree to make it look like suicide, Suman said.

The autopsy was conducted

ed by a panel of three doctors. Everything is being done with the consent of the girls' family members, the SP said, adding that Junaid was shot in his leg when he tried to run away during his arrest.

According to reports, Sohail and Junaid dragged the two Dalit girls to the sugarcane field and brutally raped them on Wednesday. The girls were later murdered and hanged from a tree with their dupattas after they asked the boys to marry them as they had forcibly made sexual relations.

"The girls were introduced to the boys by one Chhotu who stays in their neighbourhood. The boys developed friendship with the girls and took them to the fields on their motorcycles. There Sohail and Junaid sexually assaulted the girls and murdered them after they insisted on marriage," the police stated.

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Nora grilled for 5 hrs in Sukesht extortion case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor Nora Fatehi was grilled for five hours by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Thursday in connection with an extortion case linked to alleged conman Sukesht Chandrashekhar. She was quizzed, along with Pinky Irani, by the police officials at EOW's Mandir Marg police station.

Fatehi had reached the EOW Mandir Marg police station around 1 pm on Thursday.

This is the second time that she has been summoned for questioning by the Delhi Police for her alleged role in the case. According to Ravindra Yadav, the Special Commissioner of Police, EOW, Fatehi was called so that she could confront Irani who introduced her and



Jacqueline Fernandez to Sukesht Chandrashekhar.

"The contradictions were cleared by the police team after both of them were called together," said the Special CP.

Continued on Page 2

Putin survives assassination bid

IANS ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin's limousine was attacked in an alleged "assassination attempt" amid Moscow's raging war against Ukraine, a report said.

According to the report by General SVR, a Russian Telegram channel, Putin's limousine was allegedly hit by a "loud bang from the left front wheel followed by heavy smoke," but he was unharmed as the vehicle drove to safety, Mirror.co.uk reported.

The channel said that the President was returning to his official residence in a decoy or "backup" motorcade amid deep security fears.

The motorcade comprised five armoured cars, with Putin in the third, it said, without



mentioning the date of the incident. The Russian leader's car "despite the problems with control" made its way out of the attack scene to reach the safety of the residence, the channel added.

Without providing details, General SVR said more information on the supposed attack were "classified," reports Mirror.co.uk.

Continued on Page 2

Call on Agnipath participation by new Govt after polls, says Nepal

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Nepals Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday said the new elected Government to be installed after the November 20 polls will take a decision on India's Agnipath scheme of short-term recruitment into the Armed forces.

Speaking at a regular Press briefing, Ministry spokesperson Sewa Lamsal said there was no possibility of taking a decision about the scheme anytime soon. The remarks came a day after Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande said New Delhi may be forced to withdraw vacancies for enlisting soldiers from Nepal under the new scheme in the ongoing cycle if the Himalayan nation does not take a call in time.

Pande, while addressing a function in New Delhi, said he



has got the sense that a new Government to be formed in Nepal after the elections will take a decision on the Agnipath scheme.

This issue has been put on hold by the Government of Nepal until the elections are held. There will be no talks and

dialogue on the Agnipath scheme before the polls, Lamsal added.

"What we communicated to the Indian side is that the new Government will take the decision on the Agnipath scheme. This is not going to be discussed or settled now. But

the Indian officials might communicate and clarify their position.

"Now with the consultation of all political parties, the new government in Nepal will take the decision," he said in response to General Pande's remarks.

The Indian Army Chief had visited Kathmandu earlier this month during which he held talks with his Nepalese counterpart, General Prabhuram Ram Sharma about the Agnipath scheme.

With Nepal's decision, the proposed recruitment rallies stopped in Butwal and Dharan on August 25 and September 1, respectively.

The Nepal Government is in a dilemma whether to allow youths to join the Indian Army under the short service scheme.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

WB BOARD EX-CHIEF HELD IN RECRUITMENT SCAM

Kolkata: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested Kalyanmoy Ganguly, former president of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, in connection with Group C recruitment scam case. Ganguly was arrested after several hours of questioning by CBI officials. The Central probe agency conducted searches at six locations in Delhi and Kolkata.

ED SUMMONS KARNATAKA CONG CHIEF SHIVAKUMAR

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Congress president DK Shivakumar on Thursday said he has received summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear before it in connection with a case of money-laundering.

ANTI-CONVERSION BILL OK'D IN K'TAKA COUNCIL

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Legislative Council on Thursday passed the "contentious" legislation against religious conversions for consideration and passage. The "Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill" was passed by the Legislative Assembly in December last.

NCR-PULSE

38-YEAR-OLD AMBULANCE DRIVER SHOT DEAD
New Delhi: A 38-year-old ambulance driver was shot dead on Thursday morning allegedly by two unidentified people in southwest Delhi's Jafarpur Kalan. An incident of murder was reported around 9.30 am in Jafarpur Kalan area on a road connecting Samaspur Khalsa and Kazipur villages. The deceased, identified as Sunil, was a resident of Dhansa village and drove an ambulance.

ANIL RAPS KEJRIWAL FOR MAKING POWER SUBSIDY OPT-IN
New Delhi: Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar on Thursday slammed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over his move to waive of the default power subsidy and making people to apply for the scheme to continue to avail the benefit. "Kejriwal, who came to power by making hollow promises to the poor, has announced the withdrawal of power subsidy and those who were getting zero bills, will now have to 'opt in' to continue subsidy, the poor people living in unauthorized colonies will suffer the worst with this move.

BJP TO CELEBRATE MODI'S BIRTHDAY AS SEWA PAKHWADA
New Delhi: The BJP's Delhi unit on Thursday said it will celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday as 'sewa pakhwada' and hold a special race with participants from slums as part of events beginning September 17 to mark the occasion. The race will be flagged off by Union Home minister Amit Shah on October 18, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said on Thursday.

SISODIA VISITS SARVODAYA BAL VIDYALAYA
New Delhi: To assess the impact of the curriculum on children and inspect the activities of Deshbhakti Classes, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia visited Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, West Vinod Nagar on Thursday. He also interacted with teachers and students to know their experiences. While interacting with the students, Sisodia said that the Deshbhakti Curriculum is making our children curious about learning and understanding more about the country and this curiosity of children will teach them to feel proud of the country.

SINCE UNIFICATION, MCD ATTACHED 210 PROPERTIES
New Delhi: Since the unification of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the civic body has attached 210 properties along with the 89 bank accounts of property tax defaulters in all 12 Zones for not paying property tax to the tune of Rs. 37.12 Crore. The corporation on account of indifference of them to deposit the tax, A&C Department, of all 12 Zones recovered nearly Rs. 4.25 Crore.

3.4 L CONSUMERS APPLY FOR AAP'S ELECTRICITY SCHEME
New Delhi: Around 3.4 lakh consumers applied for power subsidy under the AAP Government's electricity scheme in the first two days since Delhi Minister Arvind Kejriwal kickstarted the process for people to opt in. Discom officials said till 5.30 pm Thursday, the BSES discoms — BRPL and BYPL — received 1,56,162 and 1,02,065 applications respectively, while Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) received 81,323 applications for power subsidy.

E-COMMERCE FIRM EMPLOYEE HELD FOR CHEATING PEOPLE
New Delhi: A 32-year-old e-commerce firm employee was arrested for allegedly cheating people by showing fake profit on a fake website. The accused has been identified as Sanjeev Kumar Singh, a resident of Gurugram in Haryana, originally from Samastipur, Bihar. Singh is hearing and speech impaired by birth but can write and read English and Hindi.

4 ROB 54-YEAR-OLD TRADER OF BELONGINGS
New Delhi: Four suspects allegedly robbed a 52-year-old trader of his belongings in northwest Delhi's Adarsh Nagar area. According to police, the accused chocked the trader before committing the crime. Two people have been arrested in connection with the incident. Police were informed about the robbery, near metro pillar number 76 on GTK Road, around 5.30 pm on Wednesday.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)

- 11/SM(JAL)-I/2022-23, Name of Work-** Development & Maintenance of Village (Raising of Manhole cover frame due to C/o new cement concrete road in Village-Mamura) Noida. Cost Rs. 47.18 Lacs.
- 12/SM(JAL)-I/2022-23, Name of Work-** M/o W/s (Renovation, Painting, Repairing of boundary wall and Pump house, Guard room, D.G. room, Electrical room, Cleaning of Jungle and other misc., work in WWV Sector-132, 135 and 162 and sector-130 and village-Gulavali, Mohiyapur, Yakootpur, Nagla Nagli, Nagli Sakhpur, Rohilapur) Noida. Cost Rs. 81.73 Lacs.
- 21/SM-Jal-III/ET/22-23, Name of Work-** M/o W/s (Cleaning of OHT & UGR Sector-41 & Boosting Station in Sector-39, 155 & 158 & Re-Development of TV & S/L Pea Gravel in Network Sector-39, 40, 41, 49, 96, 126 & 127, 125, 94 & 124, Shahpur, Barolla) Noida. (AMC For Two Year) Cost Rs. 34.57 Lacs.
- 22/SM-Jal-III/ET/22-23, Name of Work-** Newly Allotted Plots for 5% Abadi in Village-Sultanpur Nr. Barat Ghar Sector-128, Noida. (P/L Sewer & Water line) Cost Rs. 53.16 Lacs.
- 23/SM-Jal-III/ET/22-23, Name of Work-** M/o W/s (Water line repair, PVC/C/I/DI/MS, Repairing Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve, Repairing of Chamber etc. related work Sector-39, 40, 41 & 49) Noida (AMC for Two Years) Cost Rs. 71.19 Lacs.
- 24/SM-Jal-III/ET/22-23, Name of Work-** D/o Village (Replacement of Old Choked Water line, Making Connection of Sewer line in Gaya Public School of Anilpal House, Making Connection & Loop through M.S. Pipe in Culvert at Different Places in Village- Gejha) Noida. Cost Rs. 70.62 Lacs.
- 25/SM-Jal-III/ET/22-23, Name of Work-** Diversion of Drain from Irrigation Drain to SPS Phase-II Near Hosiery Complex, Noida. Cost Rs. 99.21 Lacs.
- 26/SM-Jal-III/ET/22-23, Name of Work-** M/o Sewerage (Annual Maintenance of P/F Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer Manholes in Sector-46, 47, 48, 83, 84, & 85) Cost Rs. 50.10 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date 29.09.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 30.09.2022 at 11.00 AM.

(B)

- 08/SM(JAL)-I/2022-23, Name of Work-** M/o W/s (Cleaning of UGR/OHT, Painting and Renovation work, R/o fire fighting, Motor Guage filling of pea-gravel and P/L interlocking tiles in Network Sector-1 to 7) Noida Cost Rs. 43.83 Lacs.
- 79/SM-JAL-I/ET/2021-22, Name of Work-** Development of Sector-151 (P/L Water line for newly developed residential plots in sector-151) Noida. Cost Rs. 47.55 Lacs.
- 91/SM-JAL-I/2021-22, Name of Work-** M/o Sewerage (Cleaning of Sewer Line by Super Sucker Machine in different Network Sector-17, 18, 19, 27, 104 & Village-Hazipur, Atta) Noida. Cost Rs. 52.03 Lacs.
- 10/SM-JAL-III/ET/21-22, Name of Work-** M/o Sewerage (Desilting & Cleaning of Sewer Line by Super Sucker machine in Sector-42, 43, 44, 45, 76, 77, 141, 142, 143 & 144) Noida. Cost Rs. 35.80 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date 22.09.2022 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 23.09.2022 at 11.00 AM.

Office : Sector-5 **Dy. General Manager (Jal)**
Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Opp raps UP Govt over rape-murder of 2 girls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The entire Opposition, including the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal, hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party Government in Uttar Pradesh over the murder of two Dalit minor sisters in Lakhimpur Kheri, claiming that the law and order was in a bad shape and the Government had failed to protect girls.

The Opposition leaders also compared the twin murders in Kheri with the Hathras gang-rape and murder.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday attacked the BJP over the Kheri incident, saying women's security could not be expected from those facilitating the release of rapists.

"The kidnapping and murder of two minor Dalit sisters in

Lakhimpur in broad daylight is a very disturbing incident," Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. "Women's safety cannot be expected from those facilitating the release of rapists and welcoming them," the former Congress chief said in an apparent reference to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case being set free last month from the Godhra sub-jail after the BJP-led Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy.

Rahul stressed on the need for creating a safe environment in the country for women. As soon as the news about the alleged murder of the Dalit girls broke, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also attacked the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government over "increasing" crimes against women in the State.

Govt took swift action: Pathak

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The State Government, on Thursday claimed that no compromise would be made on the law and order front and whosoever will try to commit crime, will be punished and it took swift action.

"The Government will take such an action that will make the souls of future generations shiver, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said on Thursday while reacting to the Opposition's criticism after bodies of two Dalit minor sisters were found hanging from a tree in Lakhimpur Kheri.

Six accused of rape-murder of two Kheri Dalit sisters...

From Page 1

All accused hail from Lalpur village while Chhotu is the neighbour of the two girls.

An FIR was registered under sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 452 (house-trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint), 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Meanwhile, the entire Opposition, including the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party, and the Rashtriya Lok Dal, hit out at the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh over the murder

of the Dalit sisters, claiming that the law and order was in a bad shape and the Government had failed to protect girls.

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Can't admit Ukraine returnees in medical...

From Page 1

It referred to the allegations of the students that even though public notice of September 6, conveys no objection to the academic mobility programme, which is a temporary relocation of the affected foreign students in different foreign countries globally, it is not clear as to whether Indian universities are also included in the realm of "Universities in different countries globally".

Government said that these students have claimed that when they tried applying under the academic mobility programme at their respective Ukrainian Medical Universities, such universities refused to entertain their applications for academic mobility in their first semester of the

Transplant co-ordinators session held in AIIMS for organ donation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With people becoming increasingly aware and shedding superstitions to come forward to donate organs to save lives, a first-of-its-kind brainstorming session for transplant coordinators of Delhi and NCR was held in AIIMS here to discuss threadbare various aspects of organ donation process intensively.

"A transplant coordinator is one among the most significant components involved in an organ and tissue donation. Their work is exhaustive as they are the focal point of contact for the donor family and all other stakeholders involved in the process of organ donation.

"This initiative of brainstorming session being the first-of-its-kind is a great learning experience for the transplant coordinators," Professor Subrata Sinha, Dean, AIIMS, Delhi said.

Park mgmt cries foul after HSVP leases out land to liquor store in Gurugram

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

The Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) has leased out its land in Sector-42 which was a maintained park with several trees to a private party to establish a liquor vend there.

However, the HSVP official said this is a temporary liquor shop which will be shifted after a few months.

Meanwhile, Golf View Corporate towers management who maintained the park for the last 10-12 years alleged that the HSVP didn't take their consent before leasing out the land to a liquor store.

A company official requesting anonymity said they will soon raise their concern before the HSVP and will demand its immediate removal.

"The liquor vend will be a serious threat to our employees as well as nearby residents. The construction of the proposed liquor shop needs to be stopped as it will attract "anti-social ele-



ments in future," he alleged.

They also alleged that suspected a few trees were also chopped for the shop, suspected without getting the required approvals from the concerned department.

The liquor vend is being set up behind the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) bus stop, in front of the company and adjacent to the residential society and Rapid Metro station.

On getting information, Divisional Forest Official Rajeev Tejyan said, "A forest team will be visited the location soon and if we found any tree is being chopped off strict action will be taken against the concerned person".

Call on Agnipath...

From Page 1

Ahead of the recruitment date, Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka discussed the matter with Indian Ambassador Naveen Srivastava and communicated that Nepal will make a position on the scheme once wider political consultations are held.

But no political consultants have been arranged so far, a senior Government official said.

"Whether to allow Nepali youths to be recruited under the Agnipath scheme requires a national consensus so there is no possibility of taking the decision in an immediate effect," said Lamsal.

Nora grilled for 5 hrs in Suresh extortion...

From Page 1

"Fatehi had told police that she was called by Suresh's wife for a function at a studio in Chennai. The studio is owned by Suresh's wife and instead of paying the fee, Fatehi was told that they are gifting her a car. She claimed that she did not know that the studio had links with the criminal syndicate," said a senior police

official.

"Fatehi also told police that she was suspicious about Suresh when he called her repeatedly but broke all contact with him," said the senior police official. Suresh is accused of cheating several people, including some high-profile individuals such as former Ranbaxy owner Shivinder Singh's wife Aditi Singh. He

was allegedly running an extortion racket worth Rs 200 crore when he was lodged in Rohini jail, posing as officials from the union law ministry and the PMO, on the pretext of getting her husband out on bail. According to the ED, actresses Fatehi and Fernandez received luxury cars and other expensive gifts from Chandrashekar.

Putin survives assassination...

From Page 1

"The head of the President's bodyguard (service) and several other people have been suspended and are in custody," the channel further claimed.

"A narrow circle of people knew about the movement of the president in this cortege, and all of them were from the presidential security service.

official.

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After the incident, three of them disappeared. These were exactly the people who were in the first car of the motorcade. Their fate is currently unknown. The car on which they were traveling was found empty a few kilometres from the incident," General SVR added.

PM to discuss...

From Page 1

Giving details of his schedule at the summit called Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of SCO, Kwatra said India expects discussions at the forum to cover topical issues, trade, connectivity and regional cooperation.

The Prime Minister will also have bilateral meetings with the Uzbek president and some other leaders on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Asked about Pakistan continuing to back various terror groups, Kwatra said there is a deeply held understanding in SCO about ways to deal with terrorism in region. The member states of the SCO are Russia, China, India, Pakistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

"The Prime Minister is there for the SCO Summit for a brief period; he reaches there later tonight, attends the restricted and extended sessions and a couple of other engagements tomorrow, along with a set of bilateral meetings.

He is then scheduled to return tomorrow night," Kwatra said.

He also said the Prime Minister's participation in the

summit was a reflection of the importance that India attaches to the SCO and its goals.

The summit of the eight-nation influential grouping is taking place amid the growing geo-political turmoil largely triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Strait.

Asked to comment on China's growing influence over the SCO, Kwatra did not give a direct reply but said India remained focused on strengthening its linkages with central Asia and the extended neighbourhood.

The SCO summit in Samarkand will have two sessions — one restricted session which is only meant for the SCO member states and then there will be an extended session that is likely to see the participation of the observers and the special invitees of the chair country. The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

Iran is likely to be given the status of a permanent member of the SCO at the Samarkand summit.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA,
NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-581
File No-C-IIM-IFB-06/2019 (PT) No. 34529 Dtd. 12.9.2022
2nd Corrigendum Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-13/2022-23

The tender for the works at Sl. No.1 & 2 invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-13/2022-23 dtd.05.08.2022 have been modified as per Works Department, Government of Odisha O.M. No.12586 dtd.09.09.2022-Amendment to Rule-3 of Appendix-VIII of O.P.W.D. Code Volume-I are as follows.

Sl. No	Name of work	Class of bidder as per DTGN	Modification Class of bidder as per Corrigendum
1	Construction of RCC Retaining wall alongwith sand filling on the road from NH-5 to Ardaulay from 10/250 to 11/535 km in the district of Jajpur under State Plan.	Super Class	Super Class/ Special Class
2	Improvement such as widening and strengthening to Jalarpur-Pahanga road from 0/000 km to 11/128 km in the district of Cuttack under State Plan	Super Class/ Special Class	'A' Class/ Special Class

The last date of bid submission has been extended up to **5.30 PM of 19.09.2022.**

Bids received on line shall be opened at **11.30 Hours on 20.09.2022** in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Nirmana Soudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged

OIPR-34111/11/0033/2223 Chief Engineer, DPI & Roads, Odisha

म.प्र. गृह निर्माण एवं अधोसंरचना विकास मंडल

रेनबो रेसिडेंसी योजना के निर्माणाधीन परिसर स्नेहलतागंज इन्दौर में व्यावसायिक संपत्ति का ई ऑफर के द्वारा विक्रय



दुकानें एवं व्यावसायिक हाल
आवेदन फार्म रु. 1180/-
रेरा पंजीयन क्रमांक P-IND-17-243
आवेदन एवं धरोहर राशि जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 26.09.2022
ऑफर बिड डालने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 28.09.2022
ऑफर दिनांक 29.09.2022 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे खोला जावेगा

उपलब्ध संपत्ति का विवरण

01	मूलतः पर निर्मित कुल दुकान क्रमांक 1 से 32 मे से कुल 10 दुकानें उपलब्ध (कै. 08 से 11, 14 से 17, 19 एवं 20)
02	प्रथम तल पर दुकानें क्रमांक 01 से 33 मे से कुल 23 दुकानें उपलब्ध (कै. 03 से 06, 08 से 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31 एवं 32)
03	द्वितीय तल पर 3 व्यावसायिक कक्ष (कै. 01, 02 तथा 03) तथा तृतीय, चतुर्थ एवं पंचम तल प्रत्येक तल पर व्यावसायिक कक्ष (कै. 01 से 06 तक (कुल 21 कक्ष)

नियम एवं शर्तें

- अपेक्षित मूल्य एवं धरोहर राशि का अवलोकन आनलाईन ब्रोशर में किया जा सकता है।
- समस्त अस्वीकृत प्रस्तावों की धरोहर राशि 45 दिनों मे बिना कटौती एवं बिना ब्याज के आवेदन मे अंकित बैंक अकाउंट मे लौटाई जावेगी। आवेदन फार्म की राशि वापसी योग्य नहीं है। प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करने के उपरान्त आवेदन निरस्तीकरण पर 60 प्रतिशत धरोहर राशि राजस्वत कर शेष राशि वापस की जावेगी।
- स्वीकृत ऑफर मूल्य के अतिरिक्त भूति दायवर्जन शुल्क, लीज रेंट, 12% GST, स्वरखाव शुल्क (कार्य फण्ड), अन्य व्यय, दस्तावेज शुल्क तथा शासन का देख अन्य प्रचार आदि पृथक से देय होंगे।
- मण्डल तथा शासन के नियम एवं योजना के ब्रोशर में लिखी शर्तें लागू।
- आवेदन एवं धरोहर राशि आनलाईन /आर टी जी एच (RTGS) से जमा होगी। ऑफर आई.डी. रजिस्टर्ड मोबाईल पर प्राप्त होगा।

नियम दिनांक को प्राप्त आवेदनों के पर्याप्त विक्रय हेतु शेष संपत्ति का विक्रय 30 नवम्बर 2022 तक निम्नानुसार किया जावेगा...	धरोहर राशि जमा होने की दिनांक	बिड डालने की दिनांक	ऑफर खोलने की दिनांक
	11 / 10 / 2022	13 / 10 / 2022	14 / 10 / 2022
	25 / 10 / 2022	27 / 10 / 2022	28 / 10 / 2022
	14 / 11 / 2022	16 / 11 / 2022	17 / 11 / 2022
	28 / 11 / 2022	29 / 11 / 2022	30 / 11 / 2022

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M.P. Madhyam/106403/2022

L-G nod to ACB enquiry against 4 vice-principals

4 serving and retired vice-principals of Govt school allegedly paid salaries to ghost guest teachers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena has given a nod to the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) to probe four serving and retired vice-principals of a Delhi Government school for allegedly paying salaries to ghost guest teachers.

According to sources, the four V-Ps are, Chhote Lal Shastri, PGT Sanskrit/V-P (Retd.), Satyendra Kumar Sharma, V-P (Retd.), Rajiv Kumar, V-P and Ravinder Kumar Jatav V-P. They allegedly committed misappropriation and embezzlement of Government funds and fraudulently drew salaries in the name of "non-existent guest teachers" at the Government Boys Senior Secondary School (GBSSS-I) in Mansarovar Park.

Sources said that an audit done in November 2018 observed that in GBSSS No. 1, Mansarovar Park, for the peri-



od of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018, there were discrepancies and irregularities in preparing the bills in respect of salary of guest teachers and it reported misappropriation of Government funds. It was found that a payment of Rs 4,21,656 was made to three persons namely Samiksha Arya (Rs. 1,35,900), Uma Shastri (Rs. 1,42,078) and Chhotey Lal (Rs. 1,43,678), despite the fact that "neither of the three were appointed in the school." In fact, Uma Shastri was the wife of V-P Chhotey Lal Shastri.

"In what could well be the proverbial tip of the scam in the appointment of about 25,000 Contractual Guest Teachers in Delhi Government Schools,

this case brings to the fore the devious modus operandi that involves fraudulently appointing ghost guest teachers against permanent vacancies, cooking up their non-existent attendance and drawing salaries in their names that only went to the corrupt officials and their bosses in the Education Department," sources said.

"If an amount of more than Rs. 4 lakh could get misappropriated in the name of just three ghost teachers, this scam involving thousands of guest teachers could well run into crores," they claimed.

"These irregularities were first detected by the audit team and established through a preliminary inquiry vide report dated November 22, 2019. Since the matter pertained to embezzlement of Government funds, it was taken up with the ACB, Delhi Government for registration of FIR," they said.

"The ACB then moved for grant of permission of the POC (Amendment) Act, 2018 for registration of FIR. Thereafter the matter was examined by the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV), which proposed for approval of the L-G for proceeding of the POC (Amendment) Act, 2018," sources said.

BJP releases another 'sting' video on liquor policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Launching a scathing attack on the Arvind Kejriwal Government over its 'tainted' Excise Policy, the BJP on Thursday released a second 'sting' tape which claims to be exposing the corruption that happened in handing over of contracts of liquor vends. BJP MP Dr Sudhanshu Trivedi, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta and Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Thursday aired the two alleged sting videos and slammed the AAP dispensation for "facilitating bribe culture" in the city's liquor business.

In a separate press conference, former Union Minister and MP Dr Harsh Vardhan, other BJP MPs Ramesh Bidhuri, Pravesh Sahib Singh and Hansraj Hans accused the Delhi Government of misappropriating crores of rupees by changing the liquor policy and demanded his resignation.

The alleged sting video, aired by the BJP claims that Rs 100 crore were given by liquor giants to the AAP in cash, to be used for elections in Goa or Punjab. "Licence given earlier for Rs 10 lakh, was brought up to Rs 5 crore so no small player exists. The Government was not getting money from retailers, only wholesalers, so they stopped fixing a quota for wholesalers," the BJP claimed.

The alleged sting tape features Amit Arora – one of the accused in the Excise Policy



scam who claimed that the AAP Government fixed commission for licences and used that money for elections in Punjab and Goa. Arora claimed that the Delhi Government deliberately kept smaller players out of its "tailor-made" Excise Policy, now scrapped, to help a few monopolise the market.

Arora further claimed that while earlier commission for wholesaler/supplier was approximately five per cent, it was now raised to 12 per cent to weed out the small players. The Government was not getting money from retailers, so they stopped fixing a quota for wholesalers to earn big," said the person in the video. The same policy was applied in

Punjab but at 10 per cent rather than 12 per cent.

Dr Trivedi said that no party's character has been distorted so much by power than that of the AAP in the last seven-eight years. Blasting the AAP, Trivedi said, "The scam accused number – nine Amit Arora has exposed everything. How much money was taken from whom. How scams happened."

Sirsa, who was present in the press conference said Kejriwal has no moral right to continue. Tiwari, BJP MP from North-East Delhi also took to Twitter and said that Delhi's fraud excise policy was exposed now with this sting operation and the Kejriwal-Sisodia duo deserve the blame for this.

CBI must arrest me if video is true: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the BJP released an alleged "sting operation" video to claim that the AAP Government framed its liquor policy to help a select few, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia challenged the BJP saying "if the sting video is true then I am ready to be arrested."

Challenging the BJP, Sisodia said if the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) does not arrest him within four days, it will be accepted that the sting video is "yet another lie" and part of the conspiracy 'hatched at the offices of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi' to topple the Arvind Kejriwal-led Government in Delhi.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal lauded his deputy for the statement, saying only "a true and courageous person can throw such a challenge."

"Wow Manish! Only a true and courageous person can throw such a challenge. I am sure the BJP will accept your challenge," the Chief Minister said in a tweet in Hindi. "The entire country is

proud of your work and your honesty. They are scared of the work that you have done in schools. They want to stop that. You keep doing your job," he added.

"Since the CBI did not get anything from my residence and bank locker while carrying out searches, they have brought a new sting," Sisodia told reporters at a press conference when asked for his comment on it.

"I want to request the BJP to hand over this so-called sting right now to the CBI. The CBI, which is an extended branch of the BJP, should carry out a speedy investigation and must arrest me within four days, till Monday, if there is any truth in the sting," he added.

He alleged that conspiracies like filing of fake CBI and ED cases as well as raids and searches by the central probe agencies are hatched "day and night" at the offices of the BJP and the Prime Minister to topple the other parties' Governments.

"If the CBI does not arrest me on the basis of the sting till Monday, it will be accepted that the sting was yet another lie," Sisodia said.

BJP for probe in 10K DTC marshals' recruitment

MLA Vijendra Gupta writes to L-G, hands over recruitment related documents

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP MLA Vijendra Gupta wrote to Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena, alleging a scam in the recruitment of 10,000 marshals for DTC buses and demanded action on the issue. Gupta also met the L-G at Raj Niwas and handed over the documents of the alleged marshal recruitment scam. The BJP leader had registered a complaint with the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) in 2019 regarding the issue, however, the FIR was registered in 2020.

In his letter, Gupta said, "Despite the FIR being lodged in January 24, 2020 on a scam of a serious nature, the culprits are moving scot-free." Gupta alleged in the complaint that fake Aadhaar cards were made in the office of Shahdara District Officer, Delhi Government on public holidays on August 11 and 12, from the fake addresses of residents of other States.

"This Aadhaar centre was



opened from early morning till late night on August 15, which is also a public holiday. Immediately after making the fake Aadhaar cards, training certificates of 460 people were also distributed without informing the department. The surprising thing is that all these people belong to one caste and one State which is Rajasthan," Gupta alleged.

"Division Magistrate (Shahdara) Kuldeep Pakad acted as kingpin in complete complicity and connivance of Transport Minister, Kailash Gahlot, Divisional

Commissioner, Rajiv Verma. The Divisional Magistrate (HQ) Mohd. Abid has filed a formal report with the higher authorities exposing the scam. The Delhi Government has ordered an enquiry which violates basic rules of an enquiry as it is being conducted by a junior officer against an IAS officer of senior rank," reads the letter.

"The rules and regulations in hiring of 10,000 marshals in DTC buses were grossly flouted. The posts were not advertised. Even the applications were not invited. The policy

regarding reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs and EWS was thrown to the wind. Even the condition for recruiting the local candidates was violated," it read.

"It is reported in particular that District Magistrate Kuldeep Pakad issued fake certificates to over 400 people from Rajasthan to help them secure employment. The accused tried to pressurise District ADM and SDM who refused to toe his line of action. Pakad, allegedly issued certificates in the form of Aadhaar card to 400 people, mostly from his home State, certifying them as Delhi residents. Huge money is also involved in the recruitment process. The candidates, most of who came from poor economic backgrounds were compelled to pay ₹2 lakh per head for hiring," the letter said.

"The serious irregularities are being committed in the recruitment process right under the nose of the Kejriwal Government to deprive employment to the unemployed youth of Delhi.

Kejriwal should drop security cover, travel in autos, BJP taunts CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a swipe at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, BJP MLAs on Thursday "gifted" him five autorickshaws to move around in the national Capital. This comes days after the AAP supremo had an argument with Gujarat Police personnel after they tried to stop him from travelling in a three-wheeler. The BJP MLAs also demanded that Kejriwal and his Ministers should leave the security cover in Delhi and travel in autos. "Kejriwal has a convoy of 27 vehicles but he enacted a drama in Gujarat by insisting on travelling in an autorickshaw." Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said outside the Chief Minister's Flagstaff Road residence.

During a two-day visit to Gujarat earlier this week, Kejriwal had dinner at an auto



driver's house in Ahmedabad on September 12. He was picked up from his five-star hotel by the auto driver.

A heated argument broke out between Kejriwal and police personnel who are part of his security detail after they tried to stop him from travelling in the auto citing security concerns. Later, a policeman sat beside the auto driver and two police vehicles escorted the autorickshaw.

Lambasting Kejriwal, Bidhuri said, "He has a convoy

of 27 vehicles and 200 security personnel have been deployed for his security and yet he enacted a drama by insisting on travelling in an autorickshaw in Gujarat. So, we are gifting him these autos to fulfil his wish of travelling in three-wheelers in Delhi."

"One autorickshaw will serve as a pilot, one with the Tricolour is for the Chief Minister, another two are for those who will escort him, and one is for his private secretary," the BJP leader said.

AAP to hold its first Rashtriya Janpratinidhi Sammelan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will hold its first ever Rashtriya Janpratinidhi Sammelan on Sunday in which all of AAP's elected public representatives from across the nation will meet to hold discussion on strengthening the party.

The conference will bring together every single public representative that has been elected from the AAP across the country. Besides Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann will participate in the conference along with all MLAs and MPs from Delhi, Punjab and Goa.

AAP's Councillors, Zila Panchayat Members, Chairpersons, Mayors, Block Pramukhs, Sarpanchs and Pradhans, from across the country, will also join the conference. Aam Aadmi Party has

invited elected representatives of its organisation spread all over the country to attend the conference.

AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal will hold discussion with the representatives on strengthening the party organisation in view of the ongoing Operation Lotus across the country.

According to a senior AAP leader, the preparations for the Rashtriya Janpratinidhi Sammelan are going on in full swing. Public Representatives from all over the country are being invited to attend this conference on Sunday. Both of AAP's CMs will be present at the conference besides all ministers, MPs and MLAs of the party.

"The conference will see the presence of 62 MLAs from Delhi, 92 MLAs from Punjab and two MLAs from Goa. AAP's 10 Rajya Sabha MPs from Delhi and Punjab will also

attend the conference. Apart from this, all the councillors, mayors, chairpersons, zila panchayat members, block Pramukhs, Sarpanchs and Pradhans will be present from all over India," he said.

"All the elected public representatives from across the country have been invited by the AAP Headquarters to attend the Rashtriya Janpratinidhi Sammelan. In this meeting, the operation Lotus being run by BJP will be discussed in detail. Earlier, under Operation Lotus in Delhi, Senior AAP leader and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia was threatened using investigative agencies and even lured him with the offer of the CM seat," he claimed.

"When they could not break him, an attempt was made to buy out several AAP MLAs by offering them Rs 20 crore each," he further said.

MCD trashes Sisodia's charge of plan to set up 16 sanitary landfills

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Thursday denied the claims made by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia that the corporation has planned to set up new 16 sanitary landfill sites across the national Capital. The civic body also said that there is no plan to establish any new sanitary landfill sites. In fact, the Corporation is working tirelessly to flatten the three existing landfill sites at Bhalswa, Okhla and Ghazipur.

According to the statement released by the MCD, the Corporation is delighted to share that at few landfill sites, it has reduced the height of garbage mounds by 10-15 meters.

"The Corporation is leaving no stone unturned to flatten the landfill sites. It has taken slew of measures to reduce the height of landfill sites from deploying trommel machines, offering inert and C and D waste free of cost, sale of Refuse Driven Fuel (RDF) to industry to co-opting public for segregation of waste at source and discouraging use of single-use plastic," the statement read.

"It is heartening to see that citizens of Delhi has responded with open heart to the urgency to reduce garbage dumping at landfill sites with as many as 28 colonies becoming zero-waste Colony and 30 more colonies become Harit Mitra. Many more colonies have joined the efforts to become zero waste Colony," the statement further added.

ACB summons Amanatullah to join probe in Delhi Waqf Board's bank accounts financial irregularities case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has asked AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan to join the investigation on Friday in the case which pertains to financial bungling in the bank accounts of the Delhi Waqf Board, creation of tenancy in the board's

properties, corruption in the purchase of vehicles and illegal appointment of 33 personnel in violation of the service rules.

According to the notice sent to Khan, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Rakesh Ahuja is conducting the investigation and Khan is directed to join the probe on Friday at 12 pm.

Earlier, in August, ACB has sought the removal of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan from the post of Delhi Waqf Board Chairman. In a letter to the Lieutenant-Governor's Secretariat, the ACB claimed that Khan's "criminal and bullying nature" was "preventing witnesses from speaking against him" and thus pre-

venting a fair investigation in a corruption case against the leader.

In the letter, SK Gautam, then Special Commissioner of Police (ACB), said the witnesses in the case were afraid of the Legislator due to his "aggressive behaviour" and his position in the Delhi Waqf Board.

Delhi Govt to hold blood donation camps across city on Bhagat Singh's birth anniv

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced that the Delhi Government will make special arrangements for blood donation at over 50 locations across the national Capital on the occasion of the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh on September 28.

Kejriwal also appealed to people in different parts of the country, especially the youth, to come forward to make arrangements and donate blood on the occasion as a tribute to the freedom fighter. Kejriwal also made the same appeal to different political parties across the political spectrum.

"I urge the youth to come forward and donate blood on

September 28, which is the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh, whose principles and ideals have been the guiding light for the AAP Governments in Punjab and Delhi.

"If there is no arrangement for blood donation in your locality, you should also take steps to make those arrangements," Kejriwal said during an online briefing. He said that the

blood donation drive will be a befitting tribute to Bhagat Singh, who sacrificed his life for the country at a young age.

"I urge those who do not suffer from ailments like diabetes to come forward and donate blood. I also request political parties across the country to be a part of this initiative," the Chief Minister said.

CONG BUOYED BY BHARAT JODO YATRA SUCCESS

West to east yatra in 2023 planned

Grand Old Party to hit streets of Assam, WB, Bihar, Odisha Jharkhand today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the success of the Bongoing Bharat jodo yatra, the Congress plans to undertake a similar exercise from West to East even as the party has decided to hit the streets of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha from Friday by holding State-specific yatras.

Senior party leaders Digvijaya Singh and Jairam Ramesh will visit the States through which the party's ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' will not pass to mobilise the State units to participate in the yatra.

"I, Digvijaya Singh and other party leaders as per the roster being done will visit Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha from September 16 onwards. Our effort would be to mobilise the state units to join the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Because the Congress wants all state units to partic-



ipate in the yatra," Ramesh said amidst the questions being raised in selective destinations.

Ramesh said that after the end of the ongoing yatra, the Congress may go for "an East to West yatra. It is possible that in 2023 the yatra will be from Porbandar in Gujarat to Parshuram Kund in Arunachal Pradesh."

Meanwhile, both Ramesh and Digvijaya will hold discussions on Saturday with senior leaders of Odisha to finalise 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' to be organised at the state level.

A 15 to 20 km stretch are likely to be covered every day during the yatra in the other states. Inn Odisha, the yatra is likely to cover a distance of 1,800 km with the focus on the western region and tribal

dominated districts. Ramesh defended the party's planning move to bypass both poll-bound states, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh and said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra is not linked to the election campaigns in Gujarat and Himachal.

The 3,500-km Yatra has been criticised by some, including the CPM, for spending "18 days in Kerala and only two in Uttar Pradesh" while skipping Gujarat and Himachal altogether.

A total of five alternative routes for the Bharat Jodo Yatra were studied. Based in geography, logistics and security, the final route from Kanyakumari to Kashmir was selected. It is the only route that enables a total padayatra," Ramesh mentioned.

New Cong prez may be authorised to pick PCC chiefs, AICC team

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the election of the new Congress president, the Central Election Authority (CEA) of the party on Thursday said it has been decided that PCC delegates who form the electoral college for the polls can pass a resolution authorising the incoming party chief to nominate the new PCC chiefs and AICC delegates.

The nominations for the top Congress post can be filled from September 24 to 30

This was decided in a meeting of the CEA of the party with the Pradesh Returning Officers. The meeting was called to take stock of the arrangements for the election that will take place on October 17 in the event of more than one contestant. .

Announcing this at the AICC press briefing, CEA

Chairman Madhusudan Mistry said the state returning officers for the election will convene meetings of the PCC delegates in which they can pass a resolution that the new party president can nominate the state Congress presidents and AICC delegates. This resolution, Mistry clarified, will have no bearing on the process to elect the new party president. "The resolution, whoever the incoming president is, will make it convenient for that person," he said.

The decision is expected to result in resolutions authorising Congress President Sonia Gandhi to nominate the PCC chief and AICC members. A meeting of the newly-elected PCC delegates from Kerala held on Thursday in Thiruvananthapuram has passed a resolution to authorise Gandhi to nominate PCC President and elect or nominate AICC members from Kerala.

‘Pandemic badly handled across globe and by WHO’

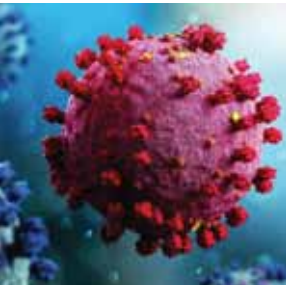
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 was badly handled by many countries at almost every stage whether it was prevention, transparency, rationality, basic public health practice, and operational cooperation or the international solidarity that resulted in an estimated 17.7 million deaths, most of which could have prevented, according to a new Lancet Covid-19 Commission report.

The report also said that costly delays by WHO to declare a "public health emergency" of international concern" and to recognise the airborne transmission of CoV-2 coincided with national governments' failure to cooperate and coordinate on travel protocols, testing among others.

It reversed progress made towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in many countries, said the report.

The report also found that most national governments were unprepared and too slow in their response, paid too little attention to the most vulnerable groups in their societies, and were hampered by a lack of international cooperation and an epidemic of mis-



information.

The Commission drew evidence using new epidemiological and financial analyses to outline recommendations that will help hasten the end of the Covid-19 emergency, lessen the impact of future health threats, and achieve long-term sustainable development.

The report warns that achieving these goals hinges upon a strengthened multilateralism that must centre around a reformed and bolstered World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as investments and refined planning for national pandemic preparedness and health system strengthening, with special attention to populations experiencing vulnerability.

Crucial investments also include improved technology and knowledge transfers for health commodities and

improved international health financing for resource limited countries and regions.

The Commission is the result of two years of work from 28 of the world's leading experts in public policy, international governance, epidemiology, vaccinology, economics, international finance, sustainability, and mental health, and consultations with over 100 other contributors to 11 global task forces.

"The staggering human toll of the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic is a profound tragedy and a massive societal failure at multiple levels," said Professor Jeffrey Sachs from Columbia University, US "We must face hard truths -- too many governments have failed to adhere to basic norms of institutional rationality and transparency; too many people have protested basic public health precautions, often influenced by misinformation; and too many nations have failed to promote global collaboration to control the pandemic," said Sachs.

The report noted that collective action should be taken immediately to promote public health and sustainable development to bring an end to the pandemic.

HCs urged to quickly set up fast-track special courts to hear heinous cases

13.8L cases against children, women, senior citizens pending: Rijiju

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has written to the Chief Justices of High Courts to accelerate the process of setting up fast-track courts and fast-track special courts in their respective States to hear cases of heinous crimes against women, children and senior citizens.

In the letter, the Minister noted that of the 1,800 Fast-Track Courts (FTCs) recommended by the 14th Finance Commission, only 896 were functional as of July 31 and more than 13.18 lakh cases were pending in these courts.

In the case of the Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs) set up under a centrally-sponsored scheme for hearing rape and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases, he noted that of the 1,023 courts sanctioned, 731 were operational as of July 31 across 28 states and Union territories. Minister highlighted that more than 3.28 lakh cases were pending in the FTSCs, which was "an alarming situation".

Uttar Pradesh accounts for more than 70 per cent of the 13.81 lakh pending trials in fast-track courts in cases of heinous crimes against women, children and senior citizens, according to data shared by Law Minister with Chief Justices of the High Courts. More than 9.33 lakh cases are pending in the fast-

BCI backs raising of HC, SC judges' retirement age to 67

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bar bodies led by the Bar Council of India (BCI) have unanimously favoured amending the Constitution to enhance the retirement age of judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court to 65 and 67 years, respectively. At present trial court judicial officers, HC and SC judges superannuate at the age of 60, 62 and 65 years, respectively.

"The Joint Meeting of all the State Bar Councils, the office-bearers of High Court Bar Associations and Bar Council of India held last week discussed the issue with regard to enhancement of age of superannuation of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court.

"On analysis, it reveals that while 88,000 (approx) monthly new cases are registered, case disposal is approximately 35,000, leading to ever increasing pendency of cases," said Law Minister in the letter dated September 2. With more than 60,000 cases pending in the FTSC, Uttar Pradesh also tops the list of the states where

imously came to a conclusion that there should be immediate amendment in the Constitution and the retirement age of Judges of high court should be enhanced from 62 to 65 years and the age of superannuation of the Judges of Supreme Court should be enhanced to 67 years," the BCI said in a statement.

BCI said the joint meeting has also resolved to propose to Parliament to consider amending various statutes so that even experienced advocates could be appointed as Chairpersons of various commissions and other Forums.

"The copy of the resolution was decided to be communicated to the Prime Minister of India and Union Minister for Law and Justice for immediate action on the resolution," said the statement issued on Wednesday by Srimaan Sen, the BCI Secretary.

Centre, Assam Govt sign pact with 8 militant groups to bring peace in State

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday signed an agreement with eight tribal militant organisations based in Assam to bring a lasting peace in some areas of the State. The tripartite agreement among the Central and State Government and the eight groups, including All Adivasi National Liberation Army, Adivasi Cobra Militant of Assam, Birs Commando Force, Santhal Tiger Force, and Adivasi People's Army, was signed here in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma among others.

The groups are in ceasefire



since 2012 and living in designated camps. "I am sure signing of the agreement will usher in a new era of peace and harmony in Assam," Sarma said. Except the hardline faction of the banned ULFA, led by Paresh Baruah, and the Kamatapur Liberation Organisation, all other rebel groups active in the state have entered into peace agreements with the Government.

In January, all cadres belonging to the Tiwa Liberation Army and the United Gorkha People's Organisations surrendered with arms and ammunition. In August, the Kuki Tribal Union militants laid down their arms. In December 2020, around

4,100 cadres belonging to all factions of the Bodo militant group NDFB had surrendered their arms before the authorities.

Later in the evening, Union Home Minister chaired meeting between Chief Ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh — Himanta Biswa Sarma and Pema Khandu — to resolve the boundary issues of the two States. Shah assured both the CMs of maximum possible assistance from the central government in this regard. He urged both the chief ministers to resolve the boundary dispute at the earliest in order to fulfill the vision of the Prime Minister of a peaceful and prosperous Northeast, sources said.

‘India procures oil from Russia via pvt entities’

MEA's reply comes amid G7 countries' bid to get India to back price-cap enforcement on Russian oil

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said its entities procure oil from Russia and this process is not covered under any Government-to-Government framework.

The entities buy oil from the market to respond to the country's energy security environment, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said here on

Thursday. He refrained from making any observation on the proposed price cap on Russian oil, a move initiated by the G7 countries to choke Moscow's oil revenue.

The G7 countries are reportedly seeking India's support to enforce the price cap on Russian oil. The G7 comprise Japan, the UK, the US, Canada, France, Germany and Italy.

The comments by Kwatra came at a media briefing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Uzbekistan to attend the SCO summit. India's procurement of discounted crude oil from Russia has seen a significant jump in the last few months notwithstanding an increasing disqui-

et over it by the Western countries.

"India is not a member of the G7. Deeper discounts, market pricing..

Look, we have said this several times that when the Indian entities go out and try to respond to India's needs of the energy security and procure oil, they essentially procure it from the market," Kwatra said.

He also said "these are not government-to-government purchases that we do"

As regards the G-7 proposed move, he said "On the price cap coalition, what form it takes, what shape it evolves into, something I think the countries that floated that idea perhaps can better answer to it," he said.

I&B Min offering progs to mark upgradation of Kartavya Path, unveiling of Netaji's statue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry's Central Bureau of Communication is offering a bouquet of entertainment-cum-infotainment programmes with a mesmerizing blend of music, dance, street plays, skits and exhibitions for a month to mark the inauguration of the upgraded Kartavya Path and unveiling of the grand statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at India Gate. The artistes of its Song & Drama Division (S&DD) are dazzling the visitors with their celebration of the inauguration of the statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, officials said.

The events organised on

Step Plaza open-air stage can be attended free of cost by people of all ages after sunset everyday and the celebration goes on till 8 PM.

On weekends, the ambience is enhanced with a special cultural fare which reflects India's rich cultural heritage mixed with a flavour of modern improvisations, they said.

An immaculate mix of information dissemination with entertainment, the event aims to convey citizen-centric messages on various developmental initiatives by the Government along with the cultural performances.

The CBC is also organising special programmes to mark important events like the Raktadan Amrit Mahotsav (blood donation drive) which is to be observed on September 17.

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

(See proviso to rule 8(6)) Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Sonu Kumar (Borrower), Shiv Kumar (Guarantor) Lan No. LBNOD00002252451	G/UH-801 8th Floor, Tower- G Urban Homes, Shahpur Bamthetta, Nh-24 Ghaziabad, 201001 Super Area: 585 Sq. fts	Rs.19.92, 088.42/- as on September 9, 2022	Rs.13.75, 000/- Rs.1,37,500/-	October 1, 2022, From 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	October 10, 2022, From 12:00 Noon to 01:00 PM

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-https://disposalhub.com) The Mortgagors/ notecee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till October 7, 2022 before 05:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured asset/s will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before October 7, 2022 before 05:00 P.M and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before October 7, 2022 before 05:00 P.M along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 on or before October 7, 2022 before 05:00 P.M. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited On 8126013708/ 7304914763

Please note that Marketing agencies 1. M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited 2. Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date : September 16, 2022 Place : Delhi NCR

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

Mountaineer Santosh Yadav RSS Dussehra prog chief guest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The noted mountaineer Santosh Yadav will be the chief guest at RSS annual Dussehra function in Nagpur.

Yadav , the first woman to climb Mount Everest twice has done BA (honours) in economics from Jaipur. She started climbing hills after finishing her primary course from Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. Thereafter, she went on to create many records, the best being her reaching at the top of Everest in 1993 and again in 1994.

She will be the first woman chief guest at the RSS event where the organisation's chief Mohan Bhagwat lays out its views on a variety of social and political issues and sets its agenda, said RSS' joint publicity chief Narendra Thakur.

Would-be moms exposed to ‘forever chemicals’ to bear children susceptible to liver ailments

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Would-be moms exposed to environmental chemicals like perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals" used in nonstick cookware and food packaging, and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) used as flame retardants in furniture and infant products give birth to babies prone to severe chronic liver disease and liver cancer in adulthood.

The findings by researchers from Mount Sinai University were recently published in JAMA Network Open.

"These findings can inform more efficient early-life prevention and intervention strategies to address the current non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) epidemic," said Vishal Midya, first author and post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Environmental



Medicine and Public Health.

NAFLD, one of the most widespread liver conditions in the world, is increasingly diagnosed in children, affecting 6 to 10 percent of the pediatric population and around 34 percent of obese children. Numerous pesticides, plastics, flame retardants, hazardous metals, and other environmental pollutants fall under the category of endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals interfere with hormone and metabolic systems in people, several experimental studies have shown, noting

that these chemicals can lead to liver injury and NAFLD. However, until now, the potential effects of prenatal mixture exposures to these chemicals have not been studied in humans.

In this study, researchers measured 45 chemicals in the blood or urine of 1,108 pregnant women from 2003 to 2010. The chemicals included endocrine-disrupting chemicals such as PFAS, organochlorine, and organophosphate pesticides, plasticizers (phenols, phthalates), PBDEs, and parabens. When the children reached the ages of 6 to 11 years old, scientists measured the levels of enzymes and cytokerin-18 that indicate risk for liver disease in the children's blood, finding elevated levels of those biomarkers in children who had been more highly exposed to environmental chemicals during pregnancy.

CBI takes over Sonali Phogat's murder case probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has taken over the probe into the mysterious death of Haryana BJP leader Sonali Phogat in Goa last month.

The CBI re-registered the FIR of Goa Police on a reference from the Union Home Ministry which was routed to it through the Department of Personnel and Training, officials said.

Teams of the CBI along with CFSL experts will reach Goa to collect documents and interact with the local police officials and doctors who had examined the former TV anchor after she was brought to the hospital.

Test reports of the victim's viscera samples will give a definitive clue about the causes of Phogat's death.

Nitish promises spl status to all backward States

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who is trying to forge "Opposition unity" after walking out of the NDA, on Thursday promised special category status, which he has been demanding for his State, to "all backward states".

Kumar, the JD(U)'s de facto leader who had snapped ties with the BJP last month accusing it of trying to break his party, made the averment in reply to a query from journalists on the sidelines of a function.

"If we get a chance to form the next government at the Centre, all backward states will get special category status. There is no reason why it cannot be done," said Kumar, who is now ruling the state as part of a seven-party coalition that comprises RJD, Congress and the Left.

Notably, Kumar has been demanding special status for Bihar, citing loss of revenue and mineral wealth upon creation



of Jharkhand, for nearly two decades. He has on many occasions shown the willingness to "support any government at the Centre" that fulfilled the demand.

The JD(U) leader, who last week met many key political figures opposed to the BJP in Delhi, also took a jibe at his former ally for weaning away legislators belonging to the Congress in Goa.

"It is well known who try to wean away people from other parties and what means are employed," he said in reply to a query about developments in the western coastal state, without explicitly referring to money changing hands.

Reiterating that his long alliance with the BJP had been

a "mistake", Kumar claimed that his siding with the opposition camp had left the saffron party jittery causing its leaders to "speak irresponsibly" against him.

He took a dig at his former deputy Sushil Kumar Modi for getting "sidelined despite sharing the surname with the prime minister" and lambasted Union minister Giriraj Singh for provocative remarks about the freak shooting incident at the latter's Lok Sabha constituency Begusarai.

"These people seem hopeful of getting something from their (BJP's) top leadership as reward for launching a tirade against me. They are welcome to do so," remarked Kumar, who is longest serving Chief Minister of Bihar.

The CM said he was getting "regular updates" with regard to the sensational incident at Begusarai, in which one person was killed and many were injured, and expressed confidence that the guilty will soon be identified and nabbed.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The slanging matches between the ruling Trinamool Congress and Opposition BJP continued in Bengal with the TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee prescribing bullets for the "BJP hooligans" who attacked police officers and vandalised government properties and a senior State BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul hitting back demanding public execution of cow and coal smugglers.

While senior TMC leader including party strongman Anubrata Mondal was in jail on charges of cattle smuggling Banerjee is himself in ED and CBI radar in the coal smuggling case.

Banerjee who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said after paying a visit to the injured and hospitalised Assistant Commissioner of Police Debjit Chatterjee --- who was badly beaten up by a band of saffron men on rampage --- that he would have shot through the forehead of the hooligans had he been in the place of the injured police officer.



"I salute the ACP for his patience ... or else had I been in his place I would have simply shot through the foreheads of those hooligans who attack the police, torch police vehicles and destroy government properties" Banerjee had said.

The senior TMC leader also targeted a section of the judiciary for being soft towards the saffron party and unjust to the opposition.

Incidentally hours before Abhishek's remarks the Chief Minister had congratulated the police for tactfully handling the situation. "I must thank and congratulate the police for patience they showed ... they could have resorted to firing but they were restrained and did their duty by handling the situation peacefully.

While the BJP leadership promptly confronted Abhishek Banerjee wondering whether his will or that of her aunt's should prevail in Bengal senior leaders and MLAs like Agnimitra Paul spit fire on Thursday saying "if Abhishek Banerjee has the wild desire of shooting the BJP workers through their foreheads then I also have a desire of stoning to death all those bands of cow traffickers and coal smugglers right in the market."

Daring junior Banerjee to "go ahead with your plans if

you can," Paul said "I challenge Abhishek Banerjee and his policemen to shoot at the BJP workers ... I dare them to go ahead and see the consequence."

State BJP president Sukanto Majumdar however, was more restrained in his remarks saying "Abhishek Banerjee's remarks are instigating in nature ... he is only instigating the police to resort to firing at the agitators which is not ideal for a democracy ... are we living in a democracy or a police state."

CID notice to BJP leader in coal smuggling case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Criminal Investigation Department has sent a notice to TMC-turned-BJP leader and former Asansol Mayor Jitendra Tewari asking him to appear before its officers. When asked Tewari said he had indeed received a notice to appear as a witness adding "I do not know why they have called me in 2022 in a case related to 2019," why other BJP leaders said the CID

letter was an act of retaliation against the CBI notice to Bengal minister and Asansol MLA Maloy Ghatak in coal smuggling case. Ghatak however avoided appearance on two consecutive occasions.

Bengal BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said "they want to victimize Jitendra ji because their own minister has received a notice from CBI ... but one wonders whether the CID can investigate a case where the CBI is already investigating it."

CBI arrests ex-president of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education in recruitment scam

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The CBI on Thursday arrested Kalyanmay Ganguli, a former president of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, in connection with the Group-C recruitment scam case in government schools, officials said.

Ganguly was called for questioning at the agency's Kolkata office and taken into custody after he was found non-cooperative, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered the case on May 20 against five accused, including Ganguly, the officials said.

It is alleged that the accused extended undue advantage to undeserving and unlisted candidates to the posts of Group-C staff in various schools across West Bengal in a criminal conspiracy with each other. "The aforesaid persons collected the vacancies of Group-C in an unauthorised manner after the expiry of the panel on May 18, 2019 in violation of provisions of School Service Commission Rules, 2009," the FIR alleged.

Holiday in J&K on birth anniv of Raja Hari Singh

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Conceding the long pending demand of the common residents of Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday agreed in principle to grant holiday on the occasion of birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh falling on September 23.

The announcement in this regard was made by the senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Dr Nirmal Singh after stepping out of the Raj Bhawan premises.

"Today a delegation of BJP leaders called on LG Manoj Sinha where he apprised us that he has agreed in principle to announce a holiday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh on September 23" Dr Nirmal Singh told reporters. "It's a historic day today, he added.

"I congratulate people of Jammu and Kashmir and espe-



cially the people of Duggar Pradesh Jammu for their efforts as the LG Administration has principally agreed to announce the Holiday on the Birth Anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on 23rd September", Dr Singh said. The notification for the same will be issued separately after completing the necessary formalities, he added.

Veteran Congress leader and son of Maharaja Hari Singh, Dr Karan Singh had earlier endorsed the demand in support of a gazetted holiday on September 23 to mark the birth anniversary of the last ruler of the kingdom of Jammu and Kashmir.

Karnataka Legislative Council passes anti-conversion Bill

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Legislative Council on Thursday passed the contentious "anti conversion bill", amid objections from the opposition Congress and JD(S).

The 'Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill' was passed by the Legislative Assembly in December last.

As the Bill was pending for passage in the Legislative Council, where the ruling BJP was short of majority then, the government had subsequently promulgated an ordinance in May this year to give effect to the bill.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra piloted the Bill for the consideration of the Upper House today.

The Bill does not take away anyone's religious freedom and anyone can practice the religion



of his or her choice, but not under pressure and allurements, Jnanendra said.

The Minister had moved some amendments to substitute certain clauses in the Bill like-"It (legislation) shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 17th day of May 2022"; also that "....The ordinance is hereby repealed"-which has now been accepted with the passage of the bill.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council B K Hariprasad even tore the copy of the bill in protest as the protem Chairman Raghunath Rao Malkapure was in the process of putting the bill to vote.

'New mobile banking virus on prowl in Indian cyberspace'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A new mobile banking 'Trojan' virus — SOVA — which can stealthily encrypt an Android phone for ransom and is hard to uninstall is targeting Indian customers, the country's federal cyber security agency said in its latest advisory. The virus has upgraded to its fifth version after it was first detected in the Indian cyberspace in July, it said.

"It has been reported to CERT-In that Indian banking customers are being targeted by a new type of mobile banking malware campaign using SOVA Android Trojan. The first version of this malware appeared for sale in underground markets in September

2021 with the ability to harvest user names and passwords via key logging, stealing cookies and adding false overlays to a range of apps," the advisory said.

SOVA, it said, was earlier focusing on countries like the US, Russia and Spain, but in July 2022 it added several other countries, including India, to its list of targets.

The latest version of this malware, according to the advisory, hides itself within fake Android applications that show up with the logo of a few famous legitimate apps like Chrome, Amazon, NFT (non-fungible token linked to cryptocurrency) platform to deceive users into installing them.

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Rajkiya Shramik Divas Function
on the auspicious occasion of
Birth Anniversary of
Bhagwan Vishwakarma Ji
Chief Guest
Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana
Guest of Honour
Sh. Anoop Dhanak **Sh. Rao Inderjit Singh**
Minister of State, Labour & Employment
(Independent Charge), Haryana Union Minister of State and
MP, Gurugram

Scan
QR Code
to join the
programme

Date
Saturday, September 17, 2022

Time
11:00 AM

Venue
**Leisure Valley Ground,
Sector 6, Gurugram**

“Heartiest Greetings to all on
Vishwakarma Jayanti. I pay my
respects to the worshipper of Lord
Vishwakarma who strengthened
the spirit of 'Shrameva Jayate'.
- Narendra Modi

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FIRST COLUMN

INDIAN DIPLOMACY ON THE FAST TRACK

It's a busy foreign affairs calendar for India. The diplomats must live up to the challenge



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A couple of events, in the past week, spilling into the current one, mark the busy foreign affairs calendar for the government of India, besides testing the agile diplomatic arc, which India needs to draw.

Last week, India's close long-term ally and neighbour Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, was on a four day tour. The bilateral visit took stock of the ongoing joint projects between the neighbours and reaffirmed further deepening of bilateral ties on several issues related to trade, energy security, and connectivity.

The two sides agreed on an interim water sharing agreement for Kushiyara River, a challenging issue for India and Bangladesh, given the complex nature of democracies in the two countries. This water sharing agreement could serve as a test case for the long pending and much more contentious water sharing agreement for Teesta River.

Meanwhile, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh landed in Tokyo for a 2+2 Ministerial dialogue with Japan. The emphasis was on increasing economic and strategic security partnership between the two countries with a clear view on the Indo Pacific theatre. It comes at a time when China has



been testing Japan's patience by lobbing a few missiles in the latter's maritime economic zones in the Taiwan straits and a belligerent North Korea declaring itself a full non-reversible nuclear power state. Meanwhile, India continues to stall China at its northwestern borders, while keeping an eye on the dragon's mischief in the greater Indian exclusive economic maritime zone. It helps that India and Japan are partners in several multilateral and plurilateral platforms and both are in leadership roles next year for the powerful G20 and G7 groupings respectively. Jaishankar's remarks summarised the way forward "for ensuring a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific... That is done through a range of policies and mechanisms, including cooperation in the Quad framework, utilization of Asean platforms and participation in bodies like ReCAAP, Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, etc. Together, we are also poised to take forward the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, amongst others." Around the same time Piyush Goyal was in the American west coast negotiating with 13 other nations on a new age economic partnership stewarded by the US, called the Indo Pacific Economic Partnership (IPEF). Most of the 13 nations in IPEF are in South or Southeast Asia. India joined three out of four pillars of IPEF negotiations and chose to sit out on the trade pillar. This should be seen in the context of India setting itself a target of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030.

However, it is not part of any large trade agreement bloc. India had earlier walked out of Regional Comprehensive Economic partnership, due to the disproportional influence of China in the trade agreement. The IPEF may not be a binding trade agreement yet, but it still has an important trade pillar on which other pillars related to secure supply chains, tax and regulations and climate fiancé are dependent. Meanwhile, Ukraine managed to gain some upper hand in the war against Russia, where its forces managed to push back Russian troops in the northeast and gain some 3000 square kilometer territory. Incidentally, Chinese and Nepalese legislative wings signed an agreement reconfirming a push ahead to China funded Belt and Road initiative in Nepal.

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

Water-forest relations need to be respected



Since forests are the primary source of almost 75 per cent of freshwater in the world, there's a need for concerted global efforts to conserve these

Approximately 75 per cent of the world's accessible freshwater resources come from forested watersheds on which over half of the global population relies for their basic needs. Forests and trees play essential roles in the water cycle and are therefore vital for our water security. They not only influence how and where the rainfalls take place but also act as a natural water purifier. They regulate the quantity, quality, and timing of water.

Despite the important interlinkages between forests and water, the forest-water relationship is often overlooked in policy-making and planning. Only 25 per cent of forests are managed, with water as the main yield. Water-related ecosystem services are crucial for sustainable and responsible forest management – contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12: sustainable consumption and production patterns – and maximizing water-related ecosystem services.

It is also fundamental for achieving many other SDGs, including providing clean water and sanitation, food security, combating climate change, etc. Over the past two centuries, forest cover and structures have been impacted globally by anthropogenic activities, like, fragmentation, over-exploitation, and land-use change. In consequence, these factors have influenced the hydrological processes in forested watersheds and altered the groundwater, base flows, and precipitation patterns at both local and regional levels.

Hence, balancing the competing demands for water and non-water natural resources from forests should be a major forest management challenge. Understanding how various environmental, physiological, and physical drivers interactively influence hydrological and biogeochemical processes in forest ecosystems is critical for sustainable water supply to forested watersheds.

According to a United Nations report, the world is likely to face a 40 per cent water deficit by 2030. Global water demand will increase by 55 per cent by 2050, largely due to climate change and galloping population growth. Therefore, forest management approaches focused on biomass production need to be transformed into a water-centered approach to prioritize water-related ecosystem services.

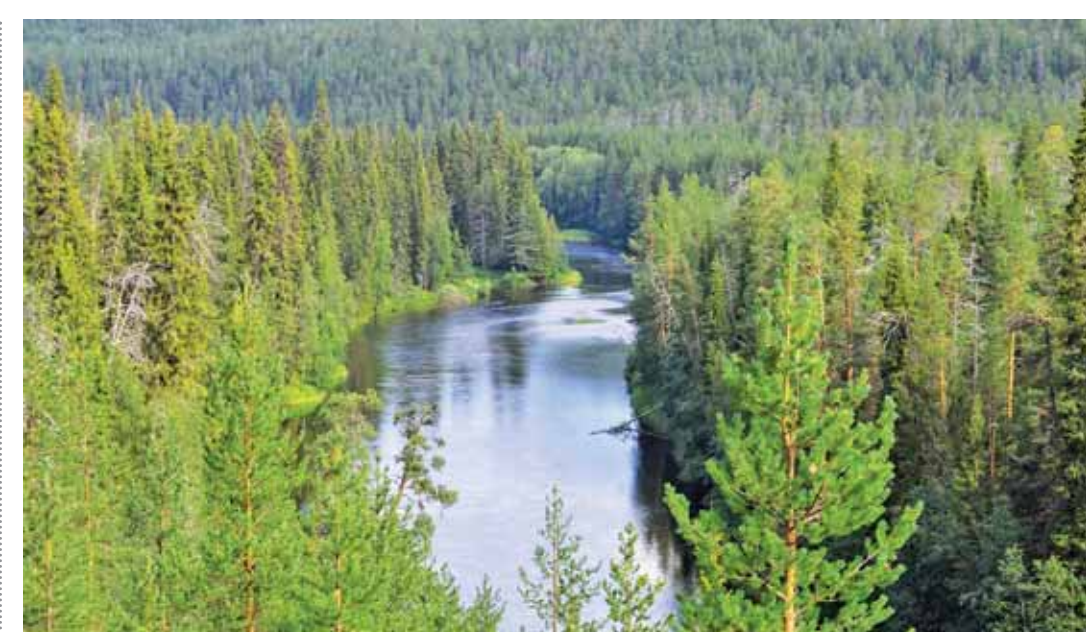
Comprehensive, integrated water and land management plans are urgently needed to tackle the problem of water quality and availability. We also require new management approaches, models, and best management practices to ensure healthy watersheds. For example, watershed restoration measures like slope stabilization, gully control, and landslide prevention can increase water-related ecosystem services.

Watershed programmes demand knowledge of the diverse local and regional contexts across India, where one-size-fits-all approaches are unlikely to succeed. The average rainfall in India is approxi-



FORESTS PROTECT WATER BODIES AND WATERCOURSES BY TRAPPING SEDIMENTS AND POLLUTANTS FROM UP-SLOPE LAND USES. HOWEVER, THE EXTENT TO WHICH FORESTS PERFORM THESE FUNCTIONS DEPENDS ON LOCAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING SOIL, FOREST TYPES AND THEIR DENSITY

(The author is Ex. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP)



mately 118 cm. Forest as a hydrological unit receives about 92 million hectares (Mha m) of precipitation, percolation into the soil, immediate evaporation, and surface water accounting for 49.5, 16.10, and 26.45 Mha m respectively.

About 23 per cent of the land is covered with forest vegetation, which transpires about 55 Mha, compared to 55 Mha m by irrigated and unirrigated crops that occupy 46.5 per cent of land area. Evaporation losses are lumped at 60 Mha m but work out to 13.8 Mha m for forested land.

The immediate evaporation is calculated at 70 Mha m and the forest area is estimated at 16.10 Mha m. Based on the available data, about 25 Mha m of water can be stored in the forest soil mantle on a sustained basis. Foresters seldom tried to understand the amount of water received from the forest and the quantity of water dispersed from it, for example -- Transportation of water from different forest stands or compartments; Interceptions from forest stands, forest types, management regime, etc; Permeability of forest soils; Inter and base flow from forested tracts and its impact on stream flow; Evaporation losses from forested areas as compared to their other land uses; Quality of water received, processed, and discharged.

If one was to restore water in a reservoir it would cost enormous money. Therefore, considerable efforts are needed to establish and maintain an extensive, intensive, and efficient network of forest meteorological stations for collecting data on snowfall, rainfall, hail, dew, wind, temperature, humidity, evaporation, radiations, etc. A better understanding of the interactions between forests and water (particularly in watersheds) is also essential for enhancing forest-water management strategies and action plans.

Forest management practices such as gap filling, restoration, and protection can increase water yields, regulate water flow, minimize surface runoff, and reduce drought effects. Forests intercept precipitation, moisture that evaporates from vegetation surfaces, transpire soil moisture, capture fog water, and maintain soil infiltration, thereby increasing the amount of water available from groundwater, surface watercourses, and water bodies. By improving soil infiltration and soil water holding capacity, they influence the quality and timing of water delivery.

Forests protect water bodies and watercourses by trapping sediments and pollutants from up-slope land uses. However, the extent to which forests perform these functions depends on local conditions, including soils, forest types and their density, structure, vegetation, climate, mining, etc.

The effects of such plantations remain a major research question for the scientific community. Thus, forest management decisions must be based on science and an understanding of forest-water relationships at different temporal and spatial scales as well as changing climate conditions. In some circumstances, land use change may involve the removal of ground lit-

ter along with vegetation cover, resulting in increased soil erosion, sedimentation, and deterioration of water quality.

Forest managers need to strike a balance between optimizing water yield and keeping an adequate canopy to minimize soil erosion, maintain albedo and enhance water quality. They also need to consider the impact of land-use change on hydrological processes at local, regional, and global levels and across seasonal, annual, and multi-decade time frames.

Much-needed research and monitoring on forest-water interactions, along with forest and tree management for water-related ecosystem services are required. Therefore, awareness raising and capacity building in the forest-water nexus and forest hydrology is necessary to ensure that we apply our knowledge to better manage forests and trees for their multiple benefits, including water quantity, quality, regulation, and the associated socio-economic benefits.

The importance of embedding this knowledge and research findings in policies is paramount. It is also necessary to develop institutional mechanisms to enhance synergies in forests and water issues and to implement and enforce national and regional action programs.

However, management of forest and water resources often falls under different jurisdictions, and due to the narrow focus of both sectors on their respective subjects, it has been challenging to reach a consensus and ultimately establish collaboration between the forest and water sectors.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE ATTACKS WERE THE HANDIWORK OF TMC SUPPORTERS WHO GOT INTO THE RALLY. OUR ACTIVISTS ARE BEING FRAMED. —BJP NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT DILIP GHOSH



THE POLICE COULD HAVE OPENED FIRE ON THE VIOLENT BJP PROTESTERS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT EXERCISED MAXIMUM RESTRAINT. —WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE



Elizabeth II strongly championed climate action

The British monarch led by example, and sought coordinated action from world leaders against climate change

The 8th of September saw the end of an era, as Queen Elizabeth the second, Britain's long-serving monarch, breathed her last at the Balmoral Castle in the UK. The Queen, who saw the appointment of 15 Prime Ministers in her era, the recent most being Liz Truss, was a remarkable personality, who stood witness to a kaleidoscope of world events, be it the Second World War or even India's Independence.

The stunning span of the Queen's reign included the term of Winston Churchill, the era of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru and as recent as playing host to Narendra Modi at the Buckingham Palace. The Queen's 96 years of life journey almost seems unreal,



KOTA SRIRAJ

(The author is a foreign affairs commentator)

given scores of global events the monarch was witness to.

The Queen was passionate about her health, which is evident in her longevity, but perhaps the less-known fact is that she was also very passionate about nature and environment. For a person born in 1926 when environmental concerns were a far off worry, the Queen quickly adapted to the awareness of worsening environment and climate change. As a result the British monarchy officially discontinued the use of furs in designing the royal wardrobe and increased the use of hybrid cars in the royal motor pool of Buckingham Palace. Additionally, curbs were also placed to limit the use of private jets by the members of

the royal family, hers included. These were some of the first active steps taken by the Queen to rein in the carbon footprint of the monarchy.

The Queen also kept a watchful eye over how much non-renewable energy was used across her estates, monitoring consumption through a network of 60 smart meters. Furthermore, in an initiative to cut down power usage, energy-efficient LED lighting, which promised to use 86 per cent less electricity, were installed in the royal estates at the Queen's insistence.

It is also interesting to know that the Queen's estate is also not heated by the National Grid of Great Britain, instead the Buckingham Palace and Windsor castle both use com-

bined heat and power plants and boilers to convert natural gas into electricity.

Queen Elizabeth has always been known as a hands-on person. Apart from serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War as an Ambulance driver, the Queen is also a trained nurse and vehicle mechanics expert. For such an action oriented person, the inaction on account of mitigating climate change and reining in global temperatures was exasperating. At the United Nations climate change summit held in 2021, the Queen remarked that the time for words has now moved to the time for action, as she urged world leaders to think of future generations when negotiating a deal to limit

global warming. She urged the global leaders to shun the politics of the moment and focus on the environmental needs of the hour. This she said will establish the legacy of a successful summit and would help our children.

In a further effort to take on the fight against climate change, the Queen's office has been relentlessly involved in raising awareness on climate change and its adverse impacts worldwide.

Recently, the Queen personally wrote to 650 Anglican bishops across the world and explained the impending hazards climate change can have on the downtrodden and the disadvantaged. The Queen emphasised that the effects of climate change are threatening the livelihoods of many peo-

ple and communities, especially the poorest and those who are weak and therefore less able to adapt and adjust. This passionate reaching across the social spectrum by Queen helped raise global awareness regarding the debilitating impact of climate change.

The British monarchy generally considered as a vestige of the past was till now led by a monarch who dispelled any such feelings of an archaic institution looking for a meaningful existence in the present world of nano chips and artificial intelligence. Instead Queen Elizabeth instilled vigour and passion in her pursuits pertaining to environmental conservation and sustainability by setting examples through action.

This is evident in the recent example wherein a petition was forwarded to the Queen's office to re-wild the barren lands in the Queen's estates and the same was positively responded to and suitable actions initiated.

The British monarchy evokes mixed feelings for many, especially the commonwealth nations who were at one time colonies under the British flag. However, it is remarkable how the same institution has been able to ensure posterity for raising voice and initiating action against a common challenge of climate change. For this the entire credit goes to Her Royal Highness Elizabeth II whose actions for the environment spoke louder than words.

Ukraine war: Russia’s problems on battlefield stem from failures at top

THE CONVERSATION
PORTSMOUTH (UK)

For authoritarians like the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, the military can serve a number of functions. Not only is it a key aspect of maintaining control and projecting power, but in Putin's case it has served as a key national resource to plunder for personal wealth and to enrich key allies. Yet while the military is a key pillar that keeps his regime in power, Putin is also conscious of the threat it could pose to his role.

Since taking power, Putin has instituted a range of measures to maintain oversight and control over the Russian state, with the military being no exception. While this approach helps him keep his grip on power, it is not without draw-

backs. Indeed, the rigid and inflexible command structure hampering Russian forces on the battlefield can be linked back to both Putin's coup-proofing efforts and attitudes left over from the nation's Soviet past.

The blistering Ukrainian advance into Russian-held territory has invited serious questions about the conflict's conclusion. It is now reasonable to consider the looming possibility of a Russian defeat, not just in terms of their modest objective of consolidating control over the Donbas region, but across the entire conflict.

Even given the widely acknowledged and extensive list of Russian military problems, the pace of the recent Ukrainian counteroffensive might come as a surprise to many. It is particularly telling

that Russia has failed to effectively marshal its forces to address the Ukrainian advance. While Russian forces may be able to regroup and offer limited resistance, they will struggle to overcome the trauma that the Ukraine has inflicted on Russia's command-and-control infrastructure.

At the moment, Russian military leadership is in crisis. The Ukrainian military has managed to overwhelm its forces, not only physically but intellectually as well.

The success of the Kharkiv counteroffensive is rooted in the deception of Russian intelligence that caused them to redeploy their forces at the critical moment. There is talk of Russia falling back to establish a new frontline, though their capacity to coordinate their limited forces into a meaning-



ful barrier is doubtful.

Failure of leadership
The natural Russian reaction was to fire the man in charge of the region, Lieutenant General Roman Berdnikov, bringing his three-week com-

mand to an end. But the problems run deep. Russia's military is of course under the control of its commander-in-chief, President Vladimir Putin. Beneath Putin lies the Russian military infrastruc-

ture, much of which is directly involved in the invasion of Ukraine. The initial invasion was top heavy, involving no fewer than four of Russia's military district headquarters. This introduced a great deal of bureaucracy and slowed decision making.

Russia's military additionally struggles to coordinate the different components of its forces - land and air, for example - and get them to work properly together. By contrast, the Ukrainian side has been much more flexible, demonstrating the ability to react rapidly where needed.

On the ground, a lack of confidence in commanders has been apparent since the beginning of the war, corroding the morale of frontline soldiers.

Russia has lost an alarming number of its senior officers

to enemy fire.

More junior officers are either not empowered to make decisions without oversight or lack confidence, so senior commanders have had to maintain a direct presence on the battlefield to provide direction and motivation.

The absence of effective communication technology has compounded this issue, placing generals into the line of fire. These measures have apparently done little to mitigate Russian command failings.

Fear of failure
Why doesn't the Russian military adapt its command structure? It can't. It has been aware of these shortcomings for some time, and while it has tried to take action to improve the abilities of its forces to make quick decisions through both technology and reforms to mil-

itary doctrine, these have failed to make an impact.

Even in 2022, the contemporary Russian military is still struggling to overcome its Soviet legacy of rigid command structures and top-down decision making. An ingrained fear of failure does not permit risk or experimentation on the battlefield while the capacity for field commanders to make rapid decisions is also in doubt.

Following orders from the top has become ingrained in the hierarchy. These are deep-rooted issues that are unlikely to be resolved anytime soon.

The latest setback in Kharkiv is just one of the many consequences of Russian command failings. They keep happening because a prerequisite for learning from these events is recognising that they have taken place.

Putin, Zelenskyy court major allies as Ukraine makes gains

AP ■ KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy are each courting major allies on Thursday, seeking to prop up their efforts in a war whose fortunes have tilted toward Ukraine in recent days.

In Uzbekistan's ancient Samarkand, Putin was hoping to break through his international isolation and further cement his ties with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a geopolitical alliance increasingly seen as potent counterweight to the Western powers.

Putin and Xi were due to meet one-on-one and discuss Ukraine, according to the Russian president's foreign affairs adviser.

In Kyiv, Zelenskyy was shrugging off a traffic collision the previous night that left him with no major injuries, officials said. On the agenda was a meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who once more showed full commitment to Ukraine's cause.

Von der Leyen said she would address "how to continue getting our economies and people closer while Ukraine progresses towards accession" to the European Union, which is likely still years away in even the best of circumstances.

While Russian forces in some areas are increasingly being pushed back toward the border, Russia is still striking from behind the front line.

Ukraine's presidential



office said Russian troops fired seven missiles at the dam of the reservoir close to Zelenskyy's birthplace, Kryvyi Rih. The damage flooded over 100 homes as efforts were underway to contain more spillage.

The head of Kryvyi Rih, Oleksandr Vilkul, said on Thursday that officials blew up two dams to help the river flow and added levels had begun to subside. Authorities continue their search and rescue efforts. He didn't immediately elaborate.

The attack so close to his roots angered Zelenskyy, who said the strikes had no military value.

"In fact, hitting hundreds of

thousands of ordinary civilians is another reason why Russia will lose," he said in his nightly address late on Wednesday.

The presidential office said that Russian shelling of seven Ukrainian regions over the past 24 hours killed at least two civilians and wounded 14.

Zelenskyy himself remained in a buoyant mood, saying that almost 400 settlements had been retaken in less than a week of fighting.

"It was an unprecedented movement of our warriors - Ukrainians once again managed to do what many considered impossible," he said.

Zelenskyy is expected to ask for more Western military

material, which has been essential in driving the counteroffensive, and request even harsher sanctions against Moscow as the war approaches the seven-month mark.

Despite the renewed Ukrainian vigor on the battlefield and the first rumblings of criticism at home, Putin is staying steadfast with his determination to fully subdue Ukraine, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said.

After a phone call with Putin earlier in the week, Scholz said that "unfortunately, I cannot tell you that the realization has grown over there by now that this was a mistake to start this war."

'Zelenskyy's car collides with another vehicle, no serious injuries'



AP ■ KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's car collided with another vehicle early Thursday after a battlefield visit, but he was not seriously injured, his spokesman said.

Zelenskyy was returning to Kyiv from the Kharkiv region, where he visited troops in the recaptured city of Izium.

A passenger vehicle collided with the president's motorcade in the Ukrainian capital, his spokesman, Sergii Nikiforov, said in a Facebook post.

The driver of the other vehicle received first aid from Zelenskyy's medical team and was taken away by ambulance, he said. Medics examined the president, who suffered no serious injuries, Nikiforov wrote. He did not specify what injuries Zelenskyy might have suffered.

The spokesman added that the circumstances of the accident are under investigation.

Zelenskyy was late in posting the nightly video address that he has given during the war, possibly because of the car accident.

Xi, Putin meet in Uzbekistan as Ukraine war dominates

AP ■ SAMARKAND

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin met for talks on boosting ties between their countries on Thursday, an encounter that follows a major setback for Moscow on the battlefield in Ukraine.

The two leaders met in Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a security alliance created as a counterweight to US influence that also includes India, Pakistan and four ex-Soviet nations in Central Asia.

Along with Russian's attack on Ukraine, backdropping the summit are the brief eruption not far from the event site of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as strains in China's relations with Washington, Europe, Japan and India due to disputes over technology, security and territory.

Speaking at the start of his one-on-one talks with Xi, Putin blasted what he described as an "ugly" effort by the United States and its allies to maintain their perceived global domination.

"Attempts to create a unipolar world have recently taken an absolutely ugly shape. They are absolutely unacceptable for the vast majority of countries on the globe," the Russian president said in opening remarks.

Xi was more careful, saying that together with Russia, China was ready to "set an example of a responsible world power and to play a leading role to take the rapidly changing



world on a track of sustainable and positive development."

The SCO summit in the ancient city of Samarkand is part of Xi's first foreign trip since the start of the coronavirus pandemic 2 1/2 years ago, underscoring Beijing's desire to assert itself as a regional power.

The presidents' meeting came after Russia was forced to pull back its forces from large swaths of northeastern Ukraine last week amid a swift Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Ukraine regaining control of several Russian-occupied villages and cities represented Moscow's largest setback since its forces had to retreat from areas near the Ukrainian capital early in the war.


Xi's government, which said it had a "no limits" friendship with Moscow before the invasion of Ukraine in late February, has refused to criticize Russia's military actions.

Beijing and India are buying more Russian oil and gas, which helps Moscow offset the impact of Western sanctions imposed over the invasion.

"We highly appreciate the well-balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection with the Ukrainian crisis," Putin said at the start of his talks with Xi.

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

"We condemn the provocations of the US and its satellites in the Taiwan Strait," Putin told Xi. Putin also met Thursday with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, whose country is on track to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Raisi said Moscow and Tehran were finalizing a major treaty that would bring their relations to a "strategic level."




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Letter No. 2700/E-Tender Notice/2022-23

Date: 15.09.2022

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e - Tender Notice

On behalf of the Chief General Manager, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, Dehradun online tenders in **Two Bid System**, on item rate contract basis (inclusive of all materials & taxes) are invited for the following works in District Dehradun (Uttarakhand) under **Jal Jeevan Mission** from technically and financially capable bidders, registered with Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan/Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam in appropriate class & category up to prescribed date & time on the portal as mentioned in terms and conditions.

Bid No.	Name of Work	Bid Security (Earnest Money)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs)	Period of completion of works
01	Construction of Kaluwala Badowala Water Supply Scheme Including Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of Distribution System, repairing of OHT etc complete.	224400.00	₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
02	Construction of Barkot Water Supply Scheme Including Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of Rising Main & Distribution System, Construction of Pump House & Over head tank, Tube well & all appurtenance civil and E&M works etc complete.	312800.00	₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
03	Construction of Bagi Water Supply Scheme Construction of CWR Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Gravity Main, Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete	320300.00	₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
04	Construction of Khandwala Raiwala Water Supply Scheme Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete.	120000.00	₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
05	Construction of Khairi Kala Water Supply Scheme Repairing of OHT, Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete , SITC of Pumping Plant & all appurtenance civil and E&M works etc complete.	137000.00	₹4000.00 + GST	12 months
06	Construction of Gauhri Mafi Water Supply Scheme Repairing of OHT, Supply, Fixing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of Distribution System & providing of Household Connection etc. complete , SITC of Pumping Plant & all appurtenance civil and E&M works etc complete.	253200.00	₹4000.00 + GST	12 months

The tender time schedule (Key Dates) is as follows: -

S. No.	Description	Time Schedule (Key Dates)
1	Date of Online Publication	19.09.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2	Document download : Start Date	20.09.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
3	Pre-Bid Meeting : Date	24.09.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
4	Bid Submission : Start date	27.09.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
5	Bid Submission : End date	03.10.2022 up to 17:00 Hrs
6	Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavits and all supporting Document in support of qualification).	03.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs
7	Date of Bid Opening	06.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
8	Date of Financial Bid Opening	To be intimated later

“जल संचय-जीवन संचय”

Executive Engineer

Russians tortured Ukrainian detainees, often to death: Medic

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A life-saving Ukrainian volunteer medic captured by Russian forces during their deadly siege of the port city of Mariupol told US lawmakers on Thursday how Russians routinely tortured her and others, killing many detainees, in her most detailed public account of her months in captivity.

Yuliia Paievskia, detained in Mariupol in March and held by Russian and pro-Russian forces for three months, spoke to lawmakers with the Helsinki Commission, a government agency created in part to promote compliance with human rights internationally.

Known to Ukrainians by the nickname Taira, Paievskia became a popular figure in her home country. Her care of the wounded during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war received global attention after her bodycam footage was provided to The Associated Press.

"Do you know why we do this to you?" a Russian asked Paievskia as he tortured her, she recounted to the commission. She told the panel her answer to him: "Because you can."

A 7-year-old boy died in her lap because she had none of the medical gear she needed to treat him, she said.

Russian captors made Ukrainian prisoners remove their clothes before the Russians

set to bloodying and tormenting them, she said. Prisoners lingered in pain, screaming, for weeks before dying.

"Then in this torment of hell, the only things they feel before death is abuse and additional pain," she said.

Paievskia had been one of thousands of Ukrainians believed to have been taken prisoner by Russian forces. Mariupol's mayor said that 10,000 people from his city alone disappeared during what was the monthslong Russian siege of that city. It fell to Russians in April, with the city all but destroyed by Russian bombardment, and with countless dead.

The Geneva Conventions single out medics, both military and civilian, for protection "in all circumstance." Sen. Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat and co-chair of the Helsinki Commission underscored that the conditions she described for civilian and military detainees violated international law. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., called Russian President Vladimir Putin a war criminal.

Before she was captured, Paievskia had recorded more than 256 gigabytes of harrowing bodycam footage showing her team's efforts to save the wounded in the besieged city. She got the footage to Associated Press journalists, the last international team in Mariupol, on a tiny data card.

EU wants to toughen cybersecurity rules for smart devices

AP ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union's executive arm proposed new legislation on Thursday that would force manufacturers to ensure that devices connected to the internet meet cybersecurity standards, making the 27-nation bloc less vulnerable to attacks. The EU said a ransomware attack takes place every 11 seconds, and the global annual cost of cybercrime is estimated at 5.5 trillion euros in 2021.

The European commission said an increase of cyberattacks was witnessed during the coronavirus crisis, while Russia's war in Ukraine has raised concerns that European energy infrastructure could also be targeted amid a global energy crunch.

The law, proposed to be called the Cyber Resilience Act, aims at taking off the EU market all products with digital elements that are not well enough protected.

The Commission said the law will not only reduce attacks but also benefit consumers since it will improve data and privacy protection.

"When it comes to cybersecurity, Europe is only as strong as its weakest link, be it a vulnerable member state or an unsafe product along the supply chain," said Thierry Breton, the EU commissioner for the internal market.

UN chief, Putin discuss war in Ukraine

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin Wednesday about exporting Russian fertilizer through Ukraine's Black Sea ports to address a growing global food crisis that threatens multiple famines.

The U.N. Chief said they also discussed security at Europe's largest nuclear plant, where he said bombing has stopped for the past three days, and prisoners of war.

"I believe that there are negotiations still taking place," he said. "I strongly hope that the problem of prisoners of war will be entirely solved, and I strongly hope that all prisoners of war from both sides will be exchanged."

Guterres told a news conference that Putin said a fact-finding mission he appointed at the request of Russia and Ukraine to investigate killings at the Olenivka prison in a separatist region of eastern Ukraine on July 29 will be able to go there "through whatever way we choose, and that is a very important aspect." The warring nations accuse each other of carrying out the attack in which separatist authorities and Russian officials said 53 Ukrainian prisoners of war were killed and 75 were wounded.



Guterres said the call to Putin was a follow-up to his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Lviv on Aug. 18, and regular calls to the head of Zelenskyy's office, Andriy Yermak.

Putin is not attending next week's annual gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly which Guterres said is taking place "at a time of great peril."

"Our world is blighted by war, battered by climate chaos, scarred by hate, and shamed by poverty, hunger and inequality," the secretary-general said.

The war in Ukraine is not only devastating the country but dragging down the global economy, Guterres said, and hopes for a peace deal are "minimal." He added: "I would be lying if I would say that I hope that it will happen soon."

Sri Lanka will not be part of any Indian Ocean turf war: Prez Ranil

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka will not take part in any "big power rivalry" in the Indian Ocean and it is unfortunate that his country has been made the "punching bag" for Hambantota, President Ranil Wickremesinghe has said, weeks after India and China clashed over the docking of a high-tech Chinese ship at the country's southern port.

Wickremesinghe said the Indian Ocean region needs to be open to all to ensure freedom of navigation.

"That is important for commerce to carry on. We have to remember that the bulk of the petroleum supply and energy supply to the world goes through the Indian Ocean. A large amount of shipping goes through the Indian Ocean. We don't want this to be an area of conflict and an area of war," he said in his speech made at the National Defense College on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka will not participate in military alliances and does not want the problems of the Pacific coming into the Indian Ocean, he said while speaking on the crisis-hit country's position on the geopolitical stage.

"We don't participate in a military alliance, and we certainly do not want the problems of the Pacific coming to the Indian Ocean. We don't want this to be an area of conflict and an area of war. Sri Lanka will not take part in any big power rivalry," Wickremesinghe said.

His remarks came weeks after the Chinese embassy and the Indian High Commission here clashed verbally over the docking of the Chinese ship 'Yuan Wang 5' at Sri Lanka's southern Hambantota port for replenishment.

"When it comes to the



security of Sri Lanka, we are of the view that in looking after the security of Sri Lanka, we must also ensure that nothing adverse happens to the security of India. That we have been committed to, and we will go ahead with it. There will be no movement out of it," Wickremesinghe said.

"That's why we work with India on the Colombo conclave, on the trilateral security arrangements and many other fields, especially outside the military field of piracy, of human trafficking, of drugs. All those are useful ways in which we cooperate with India and the other island states. Then we also value our friendship with the Maldives, those small islands, and we know how important the Maldives is," he said.

Wickremesinghe said that the "geopolitics of the Indian Ocean has unfortunately made Sri Lanka the punching bag for Hambantota."

"It is not a military port.

Though ours is a commercial port it shows our strategic importance that many people come to conclusions which are unwarranted," Wickremesinghe said, in his second public comment on the issue in recent weeks.

He said that there are around 17 ports that are being operated by the Chinese in the Indian Ocean and all the ports are commercial ports, stressing that the Hambantota port is also a commercial port and not a military port.

Wickremesinghe said if there is security sensitivity, it is in the Australian port of Darwin where the Chinese ports are operating side by side in an area where Australian and US forces are being trained.

"We don't have that. We don't allow anyone to come and train here, but we do have our southern command of the navy. We have a divisional headquarters of the army and we have a detachment of the Air

Force. But none of them are involved. They only ensure that this is a commercial port and not less," he said.

On August 30, President Wickremesinghe appealed to all political parties to join an all-party government to tackle the island nation's worst-ever economic crisis and prevent "strong economies" from using it as a "tool of interference."

"We can no longer be a nation dependent on loan assistance. We can also no longer be used as a tool of interference by other countries with strong economies," Wickremesinghe said without naming any country.

In his address on Wednesday, Wickremesinghe also said that Sri Lanka would stay out of any big power rivalry, adding that the country must ensure the rivalry does not lead to conflict in the Indian Ocean.

He said Sri Lanka was open to the navies of all countries and there is no discrimination.

"If the navies want to come, we have no problem. They helped in the anti-piracy operations. But we don't want a level of rivalry which will affect the security and the peace of our area. Whatever it be that we will not join any big power or take sides, we will stay out of it. And that's why we want to ensure that the big powers and the rivalry don't need to certainly lead to conflict in the Indian Ocean. That's one thing we can't afford," he said.

Sri Lanka granted the port access to the Chinese vessel from August 16 to 22. There were apprehensions in New Delhi about the possibility of the Chinese vessel's tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian defence installations while being on its way to the Sri Lankan port.



Azerbaijan, Armenia hold cease-fire

AP ■ YEREVAN (ARMENIA)

A cease-fire between Armenia and Azerbaijan held on Thursday following two days of fighting that killed 155 soldiers from both sides.

Armen Grigoryan, the secretary of Armenia's Security Council, said the truce brokered thanks to international mediation took effect at 8 p.m. Wednesday. A previous cease-fire that Russia brokered Tuesday had quickly failed.

Armenia's Defense Ministry said Thursday that the situation on the border with Azerbaijan was quiet and no cease-fire violations were reported. There was no immediate comment from Azerbaijan's government.

The cease-fire declaration followed two days of heavy fighting that marked the largest outbreak of hostilities between the two longtime adversaries in nearly two years.

Armenia and Azerbaijan traded blame for the shelling, with Armenian authorities accusing Baku of unprovoked aggression and Azerbaijani officials saying their country was responding to Armenian attacks.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Wednesday that 105 of his country's soldiers had been killed since fighting erupted early Tuesday, while Azerbaijan said it lost 50.

Palace reveals details of Queen's state funeral on Monday

AP ■ LONDON

Two minutes of silence will be observed across the United Kingdom at the end of Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral at Westminster Abbey on Monday giving the public across the nation a chance to pay their respects to the late monarch.

Buckingham Palace released details Thursday of the



state funeral and a ceremony at St. George's Chapel in Windsor ahead of her private interment

WikiLeaks founder's family brings campaign to Mexico



AP ■ MEXICO CITY

This week the objective was to insert mention of Julian Assange into a meeting between Mexico's president and the United States' top diplomat. Next week, it will be to have Australia's prime minister bring it up with the US president at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral.

The efforts are part of the campaign by John Shipton, father of the WikiLeaks founder, to find allies and convince the US to drop espionage charges against Assange, who remains in a British prison awaiting extradition to the US.

The journey by the septuagenarian Australian architect together with another son, Gabriel, brought them this

week to Mexico.

The country has become the family's main ally in Latin America since President Andrés Manuel López Obrador offered Assange political asylum and called for the US to allow him to seek refuge there.

"We call President López Obrador an ice-breaker," because afterward the leaders of Chile, Colombia and Bolivia called for his release too, Gabriel Shipton said during the visit to Mexico. Among a packed scheduled of events, John Shipton received the key to the capital Wednesday on behalf of Assange, a ceremonial honour the city bestows on distinguished guests. The day before, he addressed Mexico's Senate.

China slams US Senate bill supporting Taiwan's defence

AP ■ BANGKOK

China's Foreign Ministry accused the United States of violating its commitment to the "One China" principle and interfering in internal Chinese affairs Thursday, after the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations committee approved a new bill that could significantly increase American defense support for the island of Taiwan.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters in Beijing that China had "lodged serious complaints" with Washington over the legislation, which still needs U.S. House and President Joe Biden's approval to become law.

"The one-China principle is the political foundation of China-U.S. Relations," she said. "If the bill continues to be deliberated, pushed forward or even signed into law, it will greatly shake the political foundation of China-U.S. Relations and cause extremely serious consequences to China-U.S. Relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."



China claims the self-governing democracy of Taiwan as its own territory, and has not ruled out retaking the island by force if necessary. The sides split after a civil war in 1949 and have no official relations, with China cutting off even informal contacts following the election of independence-leaning Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016.

Under its "One China" policy, the United States recognizes the government in Beijing while allowing for informal relations and defense ties with Taipei.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client HARIT SINGH and RAHUL SHYAM is purchasing the property i.e. House No.E-116, Kharsa No. 1089M, Janakpuri Colony, Village-Pasoda, Pargana Loni,Tehsil & Distt.Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201005 from SMT. DHANESH and mortgaging the same with DMV Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. SMT. DHANESH not having Originals 1. Title flow from M/s Maha Laxmi Land and Finance Co.Pvt.Ltd to vendor of sale deed dt. 23.08.1980. 2. Sale deed in favour of Sh. Laxman. 3. Sale deed in favour of Saroj Singh. 4.Registration particular of sale deed executed by Sheela devi, 5. Sale deed in favour of Kamlesh. It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.

ADREEM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M: 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that, Harish Goel S/o Sh. Kasturi Lal Goel R/o C-476, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018 owner/purchaser of DDA FS/Flat No. 72-A, On Ground Floor, Cat-II, Pocket-DG-II, Situated in Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018. The original documents i.e. Deed Form, cum-allotment Letter, Possession Letter, NOC For Water and Electricity Connection, Site Possession Slip & Other Relevant Documents of the above said flat has been lost. An F.I.R./NCR/INO 798357/2022 dated 15/09/2022 to this effect has been lodged in P-5 Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9811040523 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person, claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing)-S/5 or Director (H)-S/5, D Block, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known all general public that my client Mr. Jitender Marwah S/o Chander Pal Singh having residence at - H-308 3rd Floor/Vikasputi Delhi-110018. That my client Mr. Jitender Marwah and Mr. Rakesh Marwah are the owner of the said property through Sale deed dated 23/10/2012. Thereafter, Unfortunately, Mr. Amrit Sagar Sharma died leaving behind Mrs. Soma Devi, Mrs. Jeevan Lata Sharma, Mrs. Sawantari Sharma, Mrs. Veena Sharma, Mrs. Anila Sharma, Mrs. Sunila Sharma and Mr. Sanjay Sharma as his legal heirs. It is brought to your notice that, my client has not received SMC from the legal heirs mentioned above of the deceased Mr. Amrit Sagar. If any person has any objection regarding the above mentioned property at H-308 3rd Floor/Vikasputi Delhi-110018 contact the undersigned within 07 day from the date of publication. Date: 16.09.2022 Place: Delhi Sd/- Advocate Amarendra K. Dubey, (Cm No. D-20022013) S/O/A Sh. For, Usha Kiran Bldg. Comp. Complex, Akshar, Delhi-33 M. 9598901188.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Mayagel is the owner of Built up Residential Property bearing No. F-174, A-32-A, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 787/1, Situated in the revenue estate of Village Nangolai, ct. about known as Luxmi Park, Nangolai, Delhi, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 07.03.1983, Doc. No. 1193. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to mortgage the said property and intend to obtain a loan in the name of Harish Goel from our client against the said property. If anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above mentioned property, he/she may write to the undersigned at the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. 2008, R/S Associates (Advocates & Consultants) Kumer, 11th Floor, 23, Shivali Marg, Main Road, N. Delhi-15 Ph. 811-411527-28. Contact details: 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client namely Mr. Ravi Varshney S/o Late Mr. Subhash Gupta is the owner of the Built-up First Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 59 Sq. Yds., i.e. 77.75 Sq. Mtrs., Built on Property No.1/2464, Old Plot No. 1415-3/58, out of Kharsa No. 576, situated at Village Shikhar, in the Abad of Gali No.4, Ram Nagar East, Haryana, Delhi-110032 by virtue of Sale Deed dated 13.07.2002 regdt. at doc. No. 3552 and the said sale is to be financed & mortgaged with India-based Home Finance Ltd. Further it is informed that there are no other legal heirs of Late Mehendra Ram and Late Mehendra Kaur except for Mrs. Anjali Kaur, Mrs. Chiranjeev Kaur, Mrs. Kalvinder Kaur, Mr. Bhupinder Kaur, Mrs. Rajender Kaur, Mr. Jagji Singh, Mr. Harvinder Singh and Mr. Bevininder Singh. If any person(s) have any objection/s or claim in this property then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice or below address stating which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property. Raghuw Tiwari, Advocate Ch. 830, Patia House Courts, New Delhi-110001 Mob. +91-9871681328

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that the MIG FLAT NO G 253B, SECTOR-22, NOIDA has been allotted in the name of COLONEL RAJIVE SOOD S/O BALRAJ SOOD R/O 183 GOKALPURI SHAHADRA DELHI, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:- A GPA was executed in favour of DEVKI KARAN W/O KARAN SINGH R/O H-316, SECTOR-22, NOIDA which is duly registered in the office Sub Registrar, Delhi vide Book No. 4 Volume No. 21290 on pages 197 to 200 Document No. 9088 dated:15/04/2004 at and Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above flat goes in favour of SUDHA SAROYA W/O SHRI GURNAM SINGH R/O H-20/488, KALI BARI MARG, TURIPATI BALAJI MANDIR, GPO NEW DELHI-110001 if any one/above parties has/have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication this notice.

Signature Advocate Rachit Gupta

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED

Corporate Identity Number: L17226HR1984PL0033384

Regd. Office: Behrampur Road, Village Khandas, District Gurgaon, Haryana 122001
Phone: 0124 4809756; E-mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com; Web: ashnoortext.com

NOTICE OF 39th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

INFORMATION FOR REMOTE E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 39th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. to transact the businesses as set forth in the notice of the AGM, in compliance with the regulatory provisions and circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs(MCA) and Securities and Exchange Board of India permitted convening AGM through VC/OAVM, without the physical presence of the members at a common venue. In accordance with relevant circulars, the AGM of the Company through VC/OAVM shall be deemed to convene at the registered office of the Company. Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC/OAVM or view the live webcast at <https://linktimeet.linkintime.co.in>. All the members participating through VC/OAVM facility shall be counted for a quorum under section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

In compliance with relevant circulars notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for the financial year 2021-2022 has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories. Members may note that the Notice and Annual Report for the financial year 2021-2022 will be available on the Company's website www.ashnoortext.com, the website of the Stock Exchange, i.e., BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, and on the website of Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, Link Intime India Private Limited at www.linkintime.co.in.

The Company is providing to its members the facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means (e-voting) either remotely before the AGM or during the AGM in respect of all the businesses to be transacted at the aforesaid meeting using an electronic voting system to be provided by Link Intime India Private Limited. The remote e-voting period will start on Monday, September 26, 2022 (9:00 A.M. IST) and ends on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 (5:30 P.M. IST). During this period shareholders of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date (record date) of Thursday, September 22, 2022, may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting thereafter. A detailed procedure for voting by electronic means is given in the notice of the AGM. The members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again in AGM.

Pursuant to Regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant Rules the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Thursday, September 22, 2022 to Thursday, September 29, 2022 (both days inclusive) for AGM.

Any person who becomes a member of the Company after mailing the notice of AGM but before the cut-off date may obtain a login ID and password by sending a request to Mr. Neeraj Jain, Link Intime India Private Limited at Noble Heights, 1st Floor, Plot NH 2 C-1 Block LSC, Near Savitri Market, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 (Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent) at email ID-neeraj.jain@linkintime.co.in or phone number +91 11 49411000 for obtaining the credentials for remote e-voting. However, if a person is already registered with LIPL for e-voting then an existing user ID and password will be used for casting vote.

In case of queries/grievances regarding e-voting, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-Voting manual available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, under the help section or write an email to delhi@linkintime.co.in / enotices@linkintime.co.in or may call at: Tel : +91-11-49411000 / 022-491186000 or write to Mr. Neeraj Jain or write to the Company at atml_delhi@yahoo.co.in.

For and behalf of Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN-00052084

Place: Gurugram, Haryana
Date: September 14, 2022

Swedish PM formally resigns after right-wing bloc wins vote



AP ■ COPENHAGEN (DENMARK)

Sweden's Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson on Thursday handed in her resignation after a right-wing bloc that includes a nationalist, anti-immigration party won a narrow majority in Sweden's parliament.

Andersson met with Andreas Norlen, the speaker of Sweden's 349-seat Riksdag, to formally inform him of her departure. Andersson will continue in a caretaking capacity until a new government is formed. He has accepted her resignation.

Norlen said he would start talks with party leaders after the weekend. He is expected to ask the leader of the centre-right Moderates, Ulf Kristersson, to try to form a governing coalition.

Following Sunday's general elections, the right-wing bloc has 176 seats while the center-left bloc with the Social Democrats has 173.

On Wednesday, once 99.9 per cent of votes had been counted, Andersson conceded while populist Sweden Democrats leader Jimmie Akesson declared victory for the four-party right-of-centre bloc.

The Sweden Democrats won more votes than the Moderates but, and while it has moved to the mainstream in recent years it has not fully shaken off that stigma.

Still, because it won more seats than any other party on the right, and is now the country's second largest party in parliament, it is expected to have significant leverage in any government.

The Sweden Democrats stood on a platform of cracking down on crime and strictly limiting immigration. Sweden has in recent years seen an increase in gang violence and so far this year there have been 273 shootings, 47 of them fatal, according to police statistics. Those shootings also wounded 74 people, including innocent bystanders.

'Biden approval rises sharply ahead of midterms'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden's popularity improved substantially from his lowest point this summer, but concerns about his handling of the economy persist, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Support for Biden recovered from a low of 36 per cent in July to 45 per cent, driven in large part by a rebound in support from Democrats just two months before the November midterm elections.

During a few bleak summer months when gasoline prices peaked and lawmakers appeared deadlocked, the Democrats faced the possibility of blowout losses against Republicans.

Their outlook appears better after notching a string of legislative successes that left more Americans ready to judge the president on his preferred terms: "Don't compare me to the Almighty. Compare me to the alternative."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client HARIT SINGH and RAHUL SHYAM is purchasing the property i.e. House No.E-116, Kharsa No. 1089M, Janakpuri Colony, Village-Pasoda, Pargana Loni,Tehsil & Distt.Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201005 from SMT. DHANESH and mortgaging the same with DMV Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. SMT. DHANESH not having Originals 1. Title flow from M/s Maha Laxmi Land and Finance Co.Pvt.Ltd to vendor of sale deed dt. 23.08.1980. 2. Sale deed in favour of Sh. Laxman. 3. Sale deed in favour of Saroj Singh. 4.Registration particular of sale deed executed by Sheela devi, 5. Sale deed in favour of Kamlesh. It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.

ADREEM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M: 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known all general public that my client Mr. Jitender Marwah S/o Chander Pal Singh having residence at - H-308 3rd Floor/Vikasputi Delhi-110018. That my client Mr. Jitender Marwah and Mr. Rakesh Marwah are the owner of the said property through Sale deed dated 23/10/2012. Thereafter, Unfortunately, Mr. Amrit Sagar Sharma died leaving behind Mrs. Soma Devi, Mrs. Jeevan Lata Sharma, Mrs. Sawantari Sharma, Mrs. Veena Sharma, Mrs. Anila Sharma, Mrs. Sunila Sharma and Mr. Sanjay Sharma as his legal heirs. It is brought to your notice that, my client has not received SMC from the legal heirs mentioned above of the deceased Mr. Amrit Sagar. If any person has any objection regarding the above mentioned property at H-308 3rd Floor/Vikasputi Delhi-110018 contact the undersigned within 07 day from the date of publication. Date: 16.09.2022 Place: Delhi Sd/- Advocate Amarendra K. Dubey, (Cm No. D-20022013) S/O/A Sh. For, Usha Kiran Bldg. Comp. Complex, Akshar, Delhi-33 M. 9598901188.

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	Balance work of Washing line no.20 and Replacement of Old Washing cum pit line no.-19 in the section of SSE/WIL/DLI under ADEN/DLI.
2.	Approx cost of work	Rs. 4,40,45,679.08/- (Rupees Four Crore Forty Lakh Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Nine and Eight Paise Only)
3.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 3,70,200/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred 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/16-1022-23/W-3 Dated: 14.09.2022. 2407/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Gujarat State Board of School Textbook

"Vidhyayan", Sector-10/A, Gandhinagar-382010

E-Tender

Online tender Year 2022-2023 are invited for Request for proposal for on-field verification of printing press machinery and original document The Detail and terms & conditions are given in the tender.

- Board reserves The rights to reject the online tenders without mentioning any reason.
- More details regarding the tender are available on the website www.nprocure.com. The tender downloading and submitting facility are available on www.nprocure.com only.
- Kindly contact in person this office for further details regarding the tender during office hours.

No	Details	Date	Hrs.
1.	Bid Documents Download Start Date	15/09/2022	11:00 a.m.
2.	Last Date and Time of Online submission of bid	22/09/2022	14:00 p.m.
3.	Last Date and Time For Receipt of Bid Submission	22/09/2022	17:00 p.m.
4.	Opening Technical Bids	23/09/2022	11:30 a.m.
5.	Verification of Original Documents	date will be notified to qualified bidders separately.	
6.	Opening of Commercial Bid (Only For Qualified Bidders)		

Director
Gujarat State Board of School Textbooks, Gandhinagar

No/INF/VPN/2022/G/1398

Govt to approach capital market this month to raise funds for road projects: Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the government will approach the capital market this month to raise funds for road projects.

Addressing an event here, he said toll revenue of the NHAI will soar to Rs 1.40 lakh crore per annum in next three years from Rs 40,000 crore per annum currently.

"This month, I will be approaching the capital market to raise funds for road projects...Our toll income is very good and NHAI's rating is AAA...I am 100 per cent sure that we will get a good response from the capital market," the Road Transport and Highways minister said.

Gadkari said the insurance funds, pension funds have shown interest to invest in India's road projects because there is economic viability.

Last month, he had said the money will be raised through Infrastructure Investment Trusts



(InvITs), and there will be an investment limit of Rs 10 lakh for retail investors.

The minister had also said the government will soon list InvITs on stock exchanges so that retail investors can trade in units of InvITs.

InvITs are instruments on the pattern of mutual funds, designed to pool money from investors and invest in assets that will provide cash flows over a period of time.

Gadkari pointed out that the transport sector is responsible for 13.5 per cent of India's carbon emission, out of which the road transport's share is 90 per cent.

"We need to discourage use of personal vehicles and promote maximum use of modes of public transport," he emphasised.

India emerges as Sri Lanka's top lender in 2022, says Verite Research think-tank

PTI ■ COLOMBO

India has emerged as the top lender to Sri Lanka in 2022, disbursing USD 377 million in loans to the island nation as it grappled with an unprecedented political crisis and economic turmoil, according to the Verite Research think-tank.

The Asian Development Bank follows India with USD 360 million in loans. They account for 76 per cent of total disbursements from January to April 2022.



Out of a total disbursement of loans amounting to USD 968 million in the first four months this year, India with a contribution of USD 377 million has emerged as Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender, Verite Research, a Colombo-based independent interdisciplinary think-tank providing strategic analysis and advice for governments and the private sector in Asia, said.

Between 2017 and 2021, China has been the largest bilateral lender to Sri Lanka. In 2021, China had provided USD 947 million of which USD 809 million were borrowings from the China Development Bank.

The ADB has been the largest multilateral lender during the same period.

Domestic air passenger traffic rose 5% to 1.02 cr in August: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic air passenger traffic rose 5 per cent to 1.02 crore in August and a fast-paced recovery in the traffic is expected this fiscal on the back of normalcy in flight operations and widening vaccination coverage, according to rating agency Icr. Releasing the monthly domestic air passenger traffic data for August, Icr further said that international

traffic for Indian carriers surpassed the pre-Covid level of 19.8 lakh by 32 per cent.

"The domestic aviation industry continues to witness recovery, with domestic passenger traffic for August 2022 estimated at around 102 lakh, around 5 per cent higher compared to around 97 lakh in July 2022 and around 52 per cent higher in comparison to the domestic passenger traffic in August 2021, although it fell short by

around 14 per cent, compared to pre-COVID levels i.e. August 2019," Icr's Suprio Banerjee said. Banerjee is the Vice President & Sector Head - Corporate Ratings at Icr Ltd.

In the first five months of this fiscal, domestic passenger traffic is estimated at nearly 5.24 crore, a year-on-year growth of nearly 131 per cent. Icr noted that the airline's capacity deployment in August was around 37 per

cent, compared to the year-ago period but lower by nearly 10 per cent than the pre-COVID level.

It also said that a quick recovery in domestic passenger traffic is expected in FY2023, aided by normalcy in operations and waning pandemic. However, the earnings recovery for domestic airlines will be slow-paced due to elevated ATF prices and rupee depreciation against the USD.

No power crisis this festive season, already imported 20 mn tonne coal: Power Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India will not face any power crisis during this festive season due to coal shortage at thermal plants as 20 million tonne of coal has already been imported so far, Union Power Secretary Alok Kumar said on Thursday.

Last year around this time, the country faced power crisis due to coal shortages at thermal plants. This had prompted the Centre to take slew of measures to scale up supplies and manage the crisis in 2021.

"It (power crisis due to coal shortage) is not going to happen this time (during festival season). We have already imported 20 million tonne of coal so far (this fiscal year) and we have used 15 million tonne out of this," Kumar told reporters on the sidelines of conference 'INSIGHT2022' on green mobility. Festival season, especially in North India, will begin with the onset of Navratri in the last week of September 2022.

When asked whether India will import more coal, he said coal will be imported whenever needed.

About any specific plan to import more coal, he said there is always a back-up plan for any unforeseen situation.

Kumar also talked about the government's promotion of electric vehicles and its charging infrastructure.

He said the government would soon redraft Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles Scheme (FAME) to provide subsidy for setting up of upstream infrastructure to firms setting up EV charging infrastructure.

Sensex, Nifty pare early gains to close in red; fall for 2nd day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty gave up early gains to close in negative territory on Thursday dragged down by IT and pharma stocks which fell amid fears of recession in the global economy.

The 30-share Sensex opened higher and rose further to touch a day's high of 60,676.12 on gains in auto and capital goods shares. However, it gave up all early gains and later closed 412.96 points or 0.68 per cent lower at 59,934.01. The barometer fell 481.22 points or 0.79 per cent to a low of 59,865.75 during the session.

The Nifty dipped 126.35 points or 0.7 per cent to settle at 17,877.40.

From the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra fell the most by 3.13 per cent. Infosys, Tata Steel, Bajaj



Finserv, Axis Bank and Indusind Bank were among the major laggards.

Maruti, Power Grid, NTPC, HDFC, Bharti Airtel, Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India ended higher.

Shell to install 10,000 charging points by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shell plans to set up over 10,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across India by 2030 as it joins the electric mobility bandwagon to cut vehicular emissions.

Shell, which operates 327 out of the 83,888 petrol pumps in the country, launched its first EV chargers in India, for the four-wheeler and two-wheeler segments in Bengaluru on Thursday, the firm said in a statement.

"India is the first market for Shell to launch chargers for two-wheelers," it said. "The company plans to set up more than 10,000 charging points across India by 2030 and aims to provide safe, green, and integrated mobility solutions to its customers through the Shell Recharge Stations."

The power on the Shell Recharge chargers is 100 per cent green energy, it said without giving details.



Shell joins likes of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Reliance-bp in setting up EV charging infrastructure to boost EV usage.

In the first phase of its launch, Shell plans to set up charging stations in Bengaluru across its fuel stations located in Yeshwantpur, Marathalli, Old Madras Road, Brookefield and

Kanakpura.

"The company has plans to expand its EV charging infrastructure beyond its existing retail markets of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh," the statement said.

Shell will provide customized charging solutions at on-the-go locations such as Shell fuel stations, standalone EV hubs, home charging and destination locations.

For on-the-go and standalone EV hubs, the company will deploy 100 kilowatts (KW) and above direct-current (DC) fast chargers to enable fast charging and the lowest possible dwell time.

Customers will be able to operate these chargers through the 'Shell Recharge India app', available on both Android and iOS operating systems.

The app provides a hassle-free,

reliable EV charging experience to customers, allowing them to locate the nearest available charger, pick a charging method - by unit, time or by percentage and then make quick payments.

Customers can also view their charging status on a real-time basis.

Commenting on the launch, Sanjay Varkey, Director, Shell Mobility, India, said, "Being a solution-driven and customer-centric organization, we have developed a world-class offering for the electric-mobility customers drawing upon our global expertise and capabilities."

The Shell Recharge proposition is based on unique insights that we picked up in our research and global experience, he said adding this enables to provide safe, green, and integrated mobility solutions to customers.

Plays, skits & music captivate visitors at Kartavya Path

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Kartavya Path since its inauguration has been attracting people with performances of various art forms from various States that symbolise the cultural heritage of India. A bouquet of entertainment cum infotainment programmes with a mesmerizing blend of music, dance, street plays, skits and exhibitions for a whole month has been started by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The artistes of Ministry's Song & Drama Division (S&DD) are dazzling the visitors with their celebration of the inauguration of Kartavya Path and unveiling of the statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

The events, that take place on Step Plaza open-air stage can be attended free of cost by people of all ages after sunset everyday and the celebration goes on till 8 PM, says Ministry.

On weekends, the ambience is enhanced with a special cultural fare which reflects India's rich cultural heritage mixed with a flavor of modern improvisations.

An immaculate mix of information dissemination with entertainment, the event aims to convey citizen centric messages on various developmental initiatives by the Government along with the cultural performances. Ministry is also organizing special pro-



grammes to mark important events like the Raktadan Amrit Mahotsav (blood donation drive) which is to be observed on September 17, 2022.

The cultural evenings are enriched by the performance comprising folk arts from various states. Classical dance forms like Kathak, Odissi etc are being performed to provide a diverse and enchanting experience to the audience. Both classical and semi classical instrumental music performances are also added for the audience visiting India Gate canopy. The programmes are spreading the message of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' through patriotic songs and cultural programmes on freedom movement.

Songs on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose are the mainstay at these events to mark the unveiling of the grand statue of Netaji at India Gate. As a tribute to the brave national hero, each performance ends with the song "kadam kadambadhayeja", the marching song of Bose's Indian National Army.

Adobe buying online design firm Figma for USD 20 billion

AP ■ CALIFORNIA

Software company Adobe is buying online design company Figma in an approximately USD 20 billion cash-and-stock deal.

Figma, founded in 2012, allows those who design interactive mobile and web applications to collaborate through multi-player workflows, sophisticated design systems and a rich developer ecosystem.

The companies said that Figma's web-based, multi-player capabilities will accelerate the delivery of Adobe's creative cloud technologies on the web, making the creative process more productive and accessible to more people.

San Jose, California-based Adobe sells software for creating, publishing and promoting content, and managing documents.

"With Adobe's amazing innovation and expertise, especially in 3D, video, vector, imaging and fonts, we can further reimagine end-to-end product design in the browser, while building new tools and spaces to empower customers to design products faster and more easily," Figma co-founder and CEO Dylan Field said in a statement.

Air India puts in place transformation plan; aims 30% domestic market share in 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India aims to have a domestic market share of 30 per cent and significantly strengthen its international operations in next five years, with the Tata-owned airline putting in place a transformation plan after gathering feedback from staff.

The carrier, which plans to induct 30 new wide-body and narrow-body aircraft, on Thursday announced 'Vihaan.AI', a comprehensive transformation plan with a detailed road map for next five years.

Under the plan, the focus will be on dramatically growing both its network and fleet, developing a completely revamped customer proposition, improving reliability and on-time performance, and taking a leadership position in technology, sustainability, and innovation, as well as aggressively investing behind the best industry talent, according to a release.

"Over next 5 years, Air India will strive to increase its market share to at least 30 per cent in the domestic market while significantly growing the international routes from the present market share. The plan is aimed at putting Air India on a path to sustained growth, profitability and market leadership," the airline said.

Air India had a domestic market share of 8.4 per cent in July, as per the latest data from



aviation regulator DGCA.

The plan, developed after extensive feedback from Air India employees, will focus on five key pillars -- exceptional customer experience, robust operations, industry-best talent, industry leadership, and commercial efficiency and profitability.

"While the immediate focus of the airline remains on fixing the basics and readying itself for growth (Taxiing Phase), the more medium-to-long term focus will be on building for excellence and establishing scale to become a global industry leader (Take Off & Climb phases)," the release said.

Air India MD and CEO Campbell Wilson said the transformation has already started with a slew of initiatives in areas like refurbishing cabins, serviceable seats and in-flight entertainment system.

"We are also adopting proac-

tive maintenance and refining flight schedules to enhance on-time performance. Our fleet expansion will involve a combination of both narrow-bodied and wide-bodied aircraft to cater to varied network needs," he added.

'Vihaan.AI' plan was unveiled through Workplace, the airline's virtual communication and engagement platform. Over the coming days and weeks, the management team will engage employees across regions, departments, and locations through a series of physical and hybrid sessions.

In Sanskrit, Vihaan signifies the dawn of a new era.

The airline will be inducting 5 wide-body Boeing and 25 Airbus narrow-body planes over the next 15 months. The aircraft being leased are 21 Airbus A320 neos, 4 Airbus A321 neos and 5 Boeing B777-200LRs.



Flexi staffing grows 6.6% in April-June, adds 66,000 jobs: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The flexi staffing industry grew by 6.6 per cent in April-June compared to the year-ago period, adding 66,000 jobs, a report said on Thursday.

The staffing industry added 66,000 new flexi-workforce and registering a robust demand for flexi workforce after the third Covid wave, the report by the Indian Staffing Federation (ISF), an industry body representing formal staffing companies, said.

The Flexi Staffing Industry Employment growth report for Q1 FY2023 showed that the staffing industry grew 28 per cent y-o-y and added 2.33 lakh new formal contract workforce in the July 2021 to June 2022 period.

Formal flexi/contract employment growth was largely witnessed from sectors like e-commerce, retail, manufacturing, BFSI, as they generated high demand.

Flexi staffing refers to temporary hiring of employees either for a fixed period or for a particular project. General staffing demand from sectors like e-commerce, retail, manufacturing, BFSI were the main employment generators in the April-June 2022 quarter.

Other factors included renewed demand from across industries after the third Covid wave in Q4 FY2022, it stated.

With a successful vaccination programme and renewed confidence after minimal impact of the third Covid wave, growing consumption fueled demand for business growth and thereby growth in demand for workforce, it stated.

IT staffing industry demand remains cautious but employment is continuing with promising growth from Fintech, IT Infra, Cloud, Cybersecurity, Data analytics etc to address with demands for digital adoption across sectors, it stated.

IN BRIEF

INT'L SYMPOSIUM AT VIT-AP BIZ SCHOOL

VIT-AP School of Business (VSB) in association with the Academic Research office, VIT-AP University, is organising a 5-day International symposium on Writing and Publishing Research Articles in High Impact Journals from Sep 13 to 17. During the inauguration, chief guest Gunalan, CEO, VivSoft Technologies (USA), stressed upon the importance of research and the opportunities to explore the industry needs. The programme was presided by Dr S.V. Kota Reddy, Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP University.

BIO ETHANOL PLANT INAUGURATED

Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah at Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, along with Chief Minister of Gujarat, Bhupendrabhai Patel, and Dr Chandrapal Singh, Chairman, KRIBHCO, Dileep Sanghani, President NCUI and Board of Directors of KRIBHCO, laid the foundation stone of a bio-ethanol plant at the company's Hazira plant in Surat, Gujarat. Along with the foundation stone laying ceremony a Cooperative Meet was also arranged which was attended by several eminent members of cooperative societies.

PFC WINS RAJBHASHA KRITI THIRD PRIZE

Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has been conferred third prize of the prestigious 'Rajbhasha Kirti' award under PSU category ('A' region) at the 2022 edition of the All India Official Language Conference held at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium in Gujarat in Surat on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. Home Minister Amit Shah attended the event as the chief guest. Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendrabhai Patel and Ministers of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra and Nisith Pramanik were also present at the event. This award is given every year on the occasion of Hindi Diwas by the Department of Official Language for the best implementation of Official Language Policy under different categories

END OF AN ERA

Roger Federer says he is retiring from pro tennis at age 41

AP ■ PARIS

Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer is to retire after next week's Laver Cup after admitting on Thursday his battles with a knee problem had forced him to call time on his historic career.

"The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event," he said in a statement posted on social media.

The 41-year-old winner of 20 Grand Slam titles has been out of action since a quarter-final loss at Wimbledon in 2021, after which he underwent his third knee surgery in 18 months.

"The last 24 years on tour have been an incredible adventure," he wrote.

"While it sometimes feels like it went by in 24 hours it has also been so deep and magical that it seems as if I have already lived a lifetime."

Federer has struggled with the knee problem for the past three years that has restricted him to only three of the 11 Grand Slams staged since the start of 2020.

His fellow tennis legend Serena Williams is all but certain not to play again after bowing out of the US Open in the third round this month.

Federer said that his body had effectively told him it was time to bring the curtain down.

"I've worked hard to return to full competitive form," he wrote.

"But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear.

"I am 41 years old. I have played more than 1500 matches over 24 years.

"Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competi-



Halep has nose surgery & is out for rest of 2022

AP ■ BUCHAREST

Simona Halep has had surgery on her nose and will not play again this year, the former world number one said on social media on Thursday.

"I don't know how long the recovery will take," the 30-year-old Romanian posted on Twitter and Instagram next to a selfie showing her in a hospital bed with a bandaged nose.

"What is sure is that this year I won't be able to compete in any official tournament."

Halep said she decided to address her physical problem after dealing with mental issues earlier



in the year.

"I have been struggling for a while with nose problems and it got worse in the summer," she wrote.

"The problem made it hard to breathe."

"The only way to solve the problem was to undergo surgery."

Halep won the French Open in 2018 and Wimbledon in 2019, but slipped out of the top 20 in May and then lost in the second round at Roland Garros.

"In February, I was very close to stop tennis because I didn't believe I have enough power to come back to top 10," she wrote. "I was going through many anxious moments."

She said she worked on relaxing with coach Patrick Mouratoglou and her form briefly rebounded.

tive career."

'MOST FORTUNATE PEOPLE'

Wimbledon paid him a handsome tribute in keeping with him being a record eight-time champion in the only Slam played on grass.

"Roger, Where do we begin?" tweeted Wimbledon.

"It's been a privilege to witness your journey and see you become a champion in every sense of the word.

"We will so miss the sight of you gracing our courts, but all we can say for now is thank you, for the memories and joy you have given to so many."

Teenager Carlos Alcaraz, the coming man in tennis having won the US Open last Sunday to become the youngest ever world number one, paid tribute to him as well with a broken heart emoji on Twitter.

"Thank you for everything you have done for our sport," Alcaraz said.

The Laver Cup team event in London will also give him a final chance to play competitively as part of the 'Big Four', who dominated tennis over the past two decades.

Rafael Nadal, who holds the record for Grand Slam titles with 22; Novak Djokovic, who has won 21 Grand Slam crowns; and two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will all play together as part of Team Europe.

Federer paid tribute to them too.

"I was lucky enough to play so many epic matches that I will never forget," he said.

"We battled fairly, with passion and intensity, and I always tried my best to respect the history of the game.

"I feel extremely grateful. We pushed each other, and together we took tennis to new levels."

Federer had said back in July he hoped to play one more Wimbledon. He departs with regrets but added that he had lived a life that many would envy.

"This is a bittersweet decision because I will miss everything the tour has given me," added Federer.

"But, at the same time, there is so much to celebrate.

"I consider myself one of the most fortunate people on Earth.

"I was given a special talent to play tennis and I did it at a level that I never imagined for much longer than I ever thought possible."



Spain defeat Serbia in Davis Cup opener

AP ■ PARIS

Spain beat Serbia in their opening tie of the Davis Cup group stage on Wednesday as US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz watched from the sidelines.

Alcaraz, who made his Davis Cup debut in a qualifying tie against Romania in March, only arrived in Valencia on Tuesday after becoming the youngest men's world number one in history with last weekend's triumph in New York.

With Rafael Nadal also absent against a Serbia team missing Novak Djokovic, Albert Ramos-Vinolas won the opening rubber against Laslo Djere 2-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-5.

Roberto Bautista Agut secured the tie for Spain by defeating Miomir Kecmanovic 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5) in the second singles.

Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez will play Nikola Cacic and Dusan Lajovic in the doubles.

Lorenzo Musetti and Matteo Berrettini gave Italy the perfect start to their campaign with victory over Croatia in Bologna.

The 20-year-old Musetti saw off Borna Gojo 6-4, 6-2 in

the first rubber of the best-of-three Group A tie.

Former Wimbledon runner-up Berrettini had to fight back from a set down against Cincinnati Masters champion Borna Coric, but won 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-1.

Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini edged a final-set tie-break against Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic to complete a 3-0 sweep.

Italy have high hopes of claiming only a second Davis Cup title and first since 1976. Their top-ranked player Jannik Sinner could yet be ready to play against Argentina on Friday.

Cameron Norrie rallied from a set down to overcome Taylor Fritz 2-6, 7-6 (7/2), 7-5 and to bring Britain level at 1-1 against the United States in Glasgow.

Tommy Paul took down Dan Evans in three sets in the opening rubber.

Andy Murray and Joe Salisbury will play Jack Sock and Rajeev Ram in the decisive doubles rubber.

Germany won their first Group C tie against France after Tim Puetz and Kevin Krawietz defeated Nicolas Mahut and Arthur Rinderknech in the doubles in Hamburg.

Giroud, Dembele back in France squad | Prajnesh faces Ruud, Ramkumar up against Durasovic in Davis Cup

AP ■ PARIS

Olivier Giroud and Ousmane Dembele were both included in the final France squad before the World Cup on Thursday, as coach Didier Deschamps dealt with the absence of a host of big names for a UEFA Nations League double header and faced up to the possibility of Paul Pogba missing the World Cup.

Juventus midfielder Pogba -- who scored in France's 4-2 win over Croatia in the 2018 World Cup final -- faces a race against time to be fit for this year's tournament in Qatar after undergoing knee surgery last week.

"He will do everything to come back quickly, without taking risks. But nobody today can say yes or no with certainty," Deschamps told reporters in Paris.

"The number one condition is that he has recovered from his injury. I have never taken a player to a tournament if he has not fully recovered.

"I don't have the answers today but I would never take a player -- whoever that might be -- if there is a chance he is not fit for the first match," added Deschamps.

"He will not come if he is not ready. There is no point coming just for the sake of it. Even he doesn't want that."

France start their World Cup campaign against Australia on November 22.

Karim Benzema is also sidelined for this month's matches with a thigh injury suffered playing for Real Madrid.

With Chelsea's N'Golo Kante recov-



Toney gets first England call-up

AP ■ LONDON

Brentford striker Ivan Toney was the only fresh face in Gareth Southgate's England squad for their final two matches before the World Cup kicks off in November.

The Three Lions travel to Italy and host Germany in the Nations League later this month, aiming to make amends for a dreadful start to the competition.

Southgate's men have taken just two points from their opening four games in the group, including an embarrassing 4-0 home defeat to Hungary last time out.

Other than the inclusion of the in-form Toney, Southgate has remained loyal to the

core of the team that reached the Euro 2020 final.

Manchester United duo Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw are included in the 28-man squad despite losing their place at club level under Erik ten Hag.

Another two United players remain out of the squad as injury put paid to Marcus Rashford's hopes of a recall and there is no place for Jadon Sancho.

Tottenham's Eric Dier is rewarded for his consistent form under Antonio Conte with a recall, while Chelsea's Ben Chilwell returns after a lengthy injury absence.

First-choice goalkeeper Jordan Pickford misses out with a thigh injury.

ering from injury, Paris Saint-Germain defender Presnel Kimpembe sidelined, and Bayern Munich duo Kingsley Coman and Lucas Hernandez also ruled out, Deschamps has brought back some familiar faces and handed a first chance to others for France's games against Austria and Denmark.

Giroud, who will be 36 come the World Cup, is rewarded for a fine start to the season at AC Milan with a recall, while Dembele comes into the squad for the first time since June last year, when he limped out of the European Championship.

There are first call-ups for the Eintracht Frankfurt striker Randal Kolo Muani as well as Monaco centre-back Benoit Badiashile and his club colleague Youssef Fofana. Kylian Mbappe, Antoine Griezmann and goalkeeper Hugo Lloris are among the six players in the squad who featured in the 2018 World Cup final. France host Austria in Paris on September 22 before playing Denmark in Copenhagen three days later.

While the matches serve as preparation for the World Cup, France are bottom of Nations League A, Group 1 so need points from their final two games to avoid relegation to League B.

They won the last edition of the Nations League last year.



PTI ■ LILLEHAMMER

Prajnesh Gunneswaran will open India's Davis Cup World Group I tie campaign against Norway number one and US Open runner-up Casper Ruud while Ramkumar Ramanathan will be up against lower-ranked Viktor Durasovic in the singles matches on the first day here on Friday.

The Indian team under non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal has gone by the rankings while choosing the singles players. Yuki Bhambri, who was the country's top singles player for long though he has dropped down in the rankings, will play in the doubles along with Saketh Myneni on Saturday.

Prajnesh, ranked 335 in the world, faces a tough job against world number 2 Ruud who has been in red hot form after finishing second best to Carlos Alcaraz in the US Open.

But India's number one player Ramkumar, ranked 276 in the world, can fancy his chances against Durasovic, ranked 325, in the second singles.

"Our number one Ramkumar will be playing against their number two player. Our number two singles

player I have chosen is Prajnesh and he will be playing against their number one player," Rajpal said.

"So, it is Ramkumar vs Jorasevic and Prajnesh against Casper Ruud on first day. Based on that, we will react on the second day in doubles."

This will be the first time that India will be meeting Norway in the Davis Cup. Though Norway have world number 2 Ruud in their side, their other players are ranked lower than the Indians and that would give hope to the

visitors.

In this scenario, the doubles match on Saturday could be crucial if India can pull off two wins in singles. In this context, veteran Rohan Bopanna's last-minute withdrawal due to an injury was a severe blow to the Indian team. The matches will be played on an indoor hard court at Hakons Hall in Lillehammer.

India had beaten Denmark 4-0 in the Davis Cup World Group I play-offs in New Delhi earlier this year.

Haaland scripts City's win but Chelsea held on Potter debut

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland scored an acrobatic late winner against his old club as Manchester City beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while there were hard-earned victories for Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain.

Meanwhile Chelsea were held by Red Bull Salzburg in their first match under new head coach Graham Potter, as Rangers lost heavily again and Celtic drew with Shakhtar Donetsk.

In Manchester, Haaland took on the club he left in the close season for 60 million euros (\$60m, £52m) after two and a half prolific years in the Bundesliga.

Yet it looked like Dortmund might spring a surprise as they went ahead just before the hour mark at the Etihad Stadium when England midfielder Jude Bellingham headed in.

City's equaliser did not come until Kevin De Bruyne set up John Stones to smash in with 10 minutes left, and Haaland got the winner in the 84th minute with an outrageous finish from Joao Cancelo's magnificent cross.

Haaland now has 13 goals in nine games for City, who have two wins from two in Group G.

"In the end we showed what we are," Haaland told BT Sport. "Dortmund were really good today (but) three points is what matters."

City's next two games will be against FC Copenhagen, who drew 0-0 with Sevilla in Denmark.

In London, Potter took charge of Chelsea for the first time but had to settle for a 1-1 draw against Salzburg in Group E, with Raheem Sterling's opener early in the second half being cancelled out by Noah Okafor.

"It has not been easy for the boys, they have responded to us really well over the last few days

and it's a point we will have to take and get better," Potter told BT Sport.

Earlier, group rivals AC Milan beat Dinamo Zagreb 3-1 at San Siro, with Olivier Giroud scoring a penalty before Alexis Saelemaekers and Tommaso Pobega added further goals either side of a Mislov Orsic strike for Dinamo.

LATE GOALS FOR MADRID

Reigning European champions Madrid needed two late goals to beat RB Leipzig 2-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu and maintain their perfect start in Group F.

Federico Valverde opened the scoring 10 minutes from time after being set up by Vinicius Junior, and substitute Marco Asensio sealed the victory with a tremendous first-time finish in injury time.

Carlo Ancelotti's side are clear at the top of the section from Shakhtar, who rode



their luck to claim a 1-1 draw with Celtic.

The Scottish champions went ahead early on when Reo Hatate's ball into the six-yard

box went into the net off Artem Bondarenko.

But Shakhtar, playing European home games in Warsaw due to the war in

Ukraine, equalised before the half-hour mark via an emphatic finish by Mykhailo Mudryk.

Celtic had chances to win the game, none better than a late

strike by Giorgos Giakoumakis that flashed agonisingly wide.

"We'll get our rewards if we keep playing that kind of football and showing that kind of commitment," said Celtic manager Ange Postecoglou.

At least they have a point, in stark contrast to rivals Rangers who lost 3-0 at home to Napoli in Group A.

PSG COME FROM BEHIND

In a dramatic second half, Rangers had American defender James Sands sent off for conceding a penalty which Piotr Zielinski had saved, only for Matteo Politano to score the rebound.

However, the referee ordered a retake, and Allan McGregor saved from Zielinski again.

Yet Napoli won another penalty midway through the second half, and this time Politano scored from the spot, before Giacomo Raspadori and Tanguy Ndombele added further goals.

The game had been postponed by 24 hours due to policing issues related to the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and Rangers ignored a decision by UEFA to reject their request to play the British national anthem before kick-off.

Paris Saint-Germain came from behind to beat Maccabi Haifa 3-1 in Israel as their superstar front three all scored.

Suriname international Tjaronn Chery put the home side ahead only for Lionel Messi to equalise before the break.

Messi then set up Kylian Mbappe to make it 2-1 midway through the second half, and Neymar sealed a second win in as many Group H games for PSG.

Juventus suffered a second straight defeat, though, as they lost 2-1 at home to Benfica.

Arkadiusz Milik's opener for Juve was cancelled out by Joao Mario's penalty, before David Neres struck Benfica's winner.

MASOOD, SHAHEEN IN PAK T20 WC SQUAD

PTI ■ KARACHI

Shan Masood on Thursday received his maiden T20 call while experienced batter Fakhar Zaman was dropped from the Pakistan team picked for the World Cup in Australia.

A fit again Shaheen Shah Afridi has also been named in the squad.

Masood, who captained Derbyshire in the Vitality Blast in England and did outstandingly well in red and white ball formats, replaces Zaman who is out with a knee injury.

Fakhar despite being discarded for the World Cup and home series against England has been named as travelling reserve for the World Cup.

Chief Selector Mohammad Wasim announced the World Cup squad besides 18 players for the home series of seven T20 matches against England in Karachi and Lahore at the PCB headquarters in Lahore on Thursday.

While the selectors have avoided any experiments in the World Cup squad they have named two uncapped players, all-rounder Aamir Jamal and mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed in the home squad besides including a reserve wicketkeeper batsman in Mohammad Haris.

Wasim said despite the fact that there was concern over the failures of the middle and lower order batting in the Asia Cup they had decided to stick with the same set of players who had been playing in the T20 set up since last year's World Cup in UAE.

"We have reposed faith in the same set of players who have won us matches frequently in this format and we also feel these players brought us several positive victories," the former Test batsman said.

Conceding that Pakistan's batting was a problem in the Asia Cup he said the team's strength remained the opening pair of captain Babar Azam and keeper Mohammad Rizwan.

The good news for Pakistan was the



return of tall left arm pacer and lynchpin of the bowling attack, Afridi who has not played any cricket since mid July due to a knee injury.

Shaheen, who is under treatment in London, is expected to resume bowling in the nets in early October and will join the team in Australia.

Pakistan besides playing the seven matches against England will also go to New Zealand for a tri-Series with the hosts and Bangladesh before flying to Australia.

The chief selector also said that Shan Masood had been included in the team because of his form in red and white balls formats including the PSL this year.

"Shan has battled in the ongoing National T20 Championship in the middle order and done well for Balochistan so we felt this was right time to recall him."

Shan has already played 25 Tests and 5 ODIs and last appeared for Pakistan in a Test match in New Zealand in late 2020 after which he was discarded by the selectors.

About the squad for the home series against England, Wasim said that they would try out different combinations keeping in mind the future as well.

Pakistan WC squad and traveling reserve: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Junior, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood and Usman Qadir.

Traveling reserves: Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Haris and Shahnawaz Dahani.

Pakistan squad for home series v England: Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Abrar Ahmed, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Junior, Naseem Shah, Shahnawaz Dahani, Shan Masood and Usman Qadir.



Afghanistan include Rasooli, pacer Safi

PTI ■ KABUL

Batter Darwish Rasooli and pacer Salim Safi were on Thursday picked in Afghanistan's 15-man squad for the T20 World Cup in Australia.

From the 17 players who were part of the Afghanistan Squad for the recently held Asia Cup, Samiullah Shinwari, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Afsar Zazai, Karim Janat and Noor Ahmad missed out.

Fit again Rasooli, leg-spin all-rounder Qais Ahmad and Safi made the cut. Afsar Zazai, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Rahmat Shah and Gulbadin Naib have been added to the travelling squad as reserves.

The side will be led by the seasoned Mohammad Nabi.

Chief selector Noor Malikzai said: "The Asia Cup was a very good opportunity for the team to buildup things nicely for the much-important

global event in Australia.

"Fortunately, Darwish Rasooli has recovered from injury (broken finger) and we are happy to have him available for the WT20, he has demonstrated good glimpses of him in the previously held Shpageeza Cricket League 2022 and offers an additional batting option to our middle order.

"Since the Australian conditions are fast bowling friendly, so we have added Salim Safi, the tall right-arm quick to add further impetus to our bowling department."

Squad: Mohammad Nabi (captain), Najibullah Zadran (vice-captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Azmatullah Omarzai, Darwish Rasooli, Farid Ahmad Malik, Fazel Haq Farooqi, Hazratullah Zazai, Ibrahim Zadran, Mujib ur Rahman, Naveen ul Haq, Qais Ahmad, Rashid Khan, Salim Safi and Usman Ghani.

Be careful against Wanindu in T20 WC: Muralitharan

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan on Thursday sounded a warning to the teams ahead of next month's T20 World Cup, saying they will have to be careful against Wanindu Hasaranga as the mystery spinner would be a threat on Australian pitches.

Hasaranga took nine wickets to power his team to the Asia Cup title win and Muralitharan said he would be one to watch out for during the T20 World Cup.

"He's a great T20 bowler. Last 2-3 years, he's done really well. He's a young guy," Muralitharan told reporters.

"In Australia, definitely the leg spinner will have more chances than finger spinners. He will be a difficult opponent to bat against. You have to be very care-



ful against him."

Talking about Sri Lanka's Asia Cup campaign, Muralitharan said: "We had a very young team in the past few years, we played best cricket in the Asia Cup. They looked like the best team and deserved to win the Asia Cup."

Sri Lanka will have to take

the qualifier route in the T20 World Cup where they are clubbed with Namibia, UAE and the Netherlands. Top two teams will make the main round — Super 12.

"We are looking forward to the World Cup as well. They are formidable but unfortunately we have to play the qualifiers to get into the main round," he said.

"The past few years we didn't play well to get a straight entry. But at the moment I'm very, very confident of doing well in the World Cup as well."

Muralitharan, who is the highest wicket-taker in Tests with 800 scalps, said Australian leg-spin legend Shane Warne was "better" than him.

"I think he was better than me, when I was playing I looked up to him and learnt things from him. We all miss him," an emotional Muralitharan said.

T20 WC clash between India and Pakistan sold out: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC T20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan has been sold out as over 500,000 fans have already booked their place to attend the showpiece event in Australia, starting October 16.

The clash between the arch-rivals, scheduled at the MCG on October 23, is sold out, "with additional standing room tickets snapped up within minutes of going on sale."

"An official re-sale platform will be launched closer to the event, where fans can exchange tickets at face value," ICC said in a release.

The ICC said "fans from 82 different countries have purchased tickets to watch the world's best players from 16 international teams, marking the return of full stadiums

at ICC events for the first time since the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020, which culminated with 86,174 fans for the final at the MCG."

"Current ticket allocations are also all sold for the double-header at the SCG on 27 October featuring South Africa v Bangladesh and India v Group A runner-up. Fans are encouraged to join the waitlist in the event of additional tickets becoming available."

The governing body said "only a very limited number of tickets remain for Australia's opening Super 12 fixture against New Zealand at the SCG on 22 October, the double-header featuring Pakistan v Group A runner-up and India v South Africa at Perth Stadium on 30 October, and Pakistan v South Africa at the SCG on 3 November."

Former Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf dies of cardiac arrest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Pakistan umpire Asad Rauf has died after suffering a cardiac arrest in Lahore. He was 66.

Rauf had made his first appearance as an umpire in international cricket in 2000. He officiated in 64 Tests (49 as on-field umpire and 15 as TV umpire), 139 ODIs and 28 T20Is and was one of Pakistan's leading umpires in the mid 2000s.

His family members confirmed that he suffered a cardiac arrest on Wednesday night and was taken to a hospital but he died there.

"He had not been feeling well for the last couple of days while running his business and came home early. Doctors say he had a cardiac arrest," his brother said from Lahore.

He will be buried in Lahore near his home on Thursday evening.

Rauf, who was also an accomplished first class batter and toured with the Pakistan team without playing a Test or an international match before turning to umpiring, also officiated in 11 women's T20 games.

"Saddened to hear about passing of Asad Rauf. Not only was he a good umpire but also



had a wicked sense of humour. He always put a smile on my face and will continue to do so whenever I think about him. Many sympathies with his family for their loss," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) President Ramiz Raja tweeted.

Rauf, who had played 71 first-class matches for National Bank and Railways before taking up umpiring, was appointed in the ICC elite panel in April 2006.

Gaikwad ton lights up opening day

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Ruturaj Gaikwad struck a fine 108 off 127 balls before New Zealand A fought back to dismiss India A for 293 on day one of the third and final unofficial Test here on Thursday.

Gaikwad, who has hardly played red ball cricket over the past 24 months, gave a good account of himself during his knock which had 12 fours and two sixes.

Gaikwad, who has played nine T20Is for India, shared a 134-run stand with Upendra Yadav (76) before a batting collapse saw India A being bowled out for 293 from a strong 245 for four. Upendra's effort comprised nine fours and two sixes.

The home team was all out in 86.4 overs with Matthew Fisher taking four wickets for



52 runs in 14 overs. Jacob Duffy and Joe Walker took two wickets each.

India A skipper Priyank Panchal (5) got out cheaply while opening partner Abhimanyu Easwaran (38) was not able to carry on after getting set.

Sarfraz Khan failed to open his account while Rajat Patidar got 30 off 52 balls.

Vettori backs 'adaptable' Ashwin to do well in upcoming T20 WC

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former New Zealand spinner Daniel Vettori feels R Ashwin's ability to adapt quickly and his vast knowledge of the Australian conditions will help him during the T20 World Cup.

When it comes to pace and bouncy pitches Down Under, spin bowlers are not that effective and India have the likes of Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel in their ranks for the ICC event in October-November.

"We all know Ashwin has been exceptional in Tests. The thing for him is he's coming off a great IPL, and he's obviously included in the T20 squad for India," the former New Zealand captain said.

"He's one of those guys who's very adaptable, he under-



stands what he needs to do in all situations. I think if he's picked he will know how to perform. He's been to Australia on a number of occasions," the 43-year-old said.

With Ravindra Jadeja injured, Ashwin can fit the bill for the spin-bowling all-rounder spot in the upcoming T20 World Cup, he said.

"India does have a plethora

of spin bowlers, a lot to choose from. The fact that most of the spinners are all-rounders as well I think that sets him apart and give the team a good balance."

Talking about India's future in the spin bowling department, he said: "Particularly when you see those legends at the top, the likes of Ashwin, Jadeja in Test cricket and their ability to transition through all three formats, so many young spinners aspire to that level."

"I can't talk much about the young group coming through but the Indian spin group is in good hands because of the players that I've mentioned."

"Ravi Bishnoi, Rahul Chahar coming through as well on the back of the IPL so when they play for India in pressure situations they are ready to succeed," he concluded.

MI Cape Town appoint Simon Katich as head coach; Hashim Amla to be batting coach

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former Australia cricketer Simon Katich was on Thursday named chief coach of the MI Cape Town while South African batting great Hashim Amla will be at the helm of the side's batting unit, the franchise announced ahead of the inaugural South Africa T20 League.

Joining Katich and Amla will be former New Zealand and Mumbai Indians batter James Pattam as the team's fielding coach and another former South African cricketer, Robin Peterson, as general manager.

"It is an absolute honour to be offered the position of head coach for MI Cape Town. It is always special to put together a new team, hone skills and build a team culture," Katich said in a

media release.

"I look forward to ensuring that MI Cape Town develops into a team that leverages local talent and has MI core values at its heart," he added.

"I'm thrilled to take up this assignment with MI Cape town. Big thanks to MI owners, management and my manager for facilitating this so smoothly. From everything they have planned it looks like it's going to be amazing platform that will attract our local talent," said Amla.

MI Cape Town has so far announced the signing of five players — Kagiso Rabada, Dewald Brevis, Rashid Khan, Sam Curran and Liam Livingstone.

The tournament is scheduled to be played from January to February.

Duleep Trophy: Kunnumal, Vihari tons put South in command

PTI ■ SALEM

Debutant opener Rohan S Kunnumal and skipper Hanuma Vihari's unbeaten hundreds powered South Zone to 324 for 2 at stumps against North Zone in the semifinal of the Duleep Trophy cricket tournament here on Thursday.

Opting to bat, South got off to a solid start with Kunnumal and Agarwal (49, 59 balls, 6X4, 1X6) matching each other stroke for stroke.

The 24-year-old Kunnumal from Kerala was the first to reach the half-century as they two added 100. Agarwal, who looked in good touch, was bowled by

spinner Nishant Sindhu.

Kunnumal appeared to be at ease in the middle, playing some good-looking drives and Vihari, who joined the Kerala right-hander in the middle, played himself in and allowed the young opener to play his shots.

Kunnumal cashed in whenever the spinners erred in line and length.

The duo was involved in a 167-run partnership that deflated the North Zone bowlers. Vihari brought up his 50 from 108 balls.

Kunnumal hit some lovely shots and reached his ton off 172 deliveries with a huge six down

the ground. He was lucky to survive a chance when he was dropped off Nishant Sindhu's bowling on 77.

He continued to get runs while the captain too appeared to pick up the pace of scoring. The huge stand between Kunnumal and Vihari was broken by pacer Navdeep Saini when he had the former bowled for 143.

His 225-ball innings was studded with 16 fours and 2 sixes.

The ton continued Kunnumal's superb run including last season's Ranji Trophy which included three centuries.

Vihari, on his part, did what



comes best to him, bide his time and wait for the bad balls to score off.

At stumps, he was on 107, while Tamil Nadu batter B Indrajith was giving him company on 20.

WEST ZONE AT 252 FOR 9

In Coimbatore, the formidable West Zone team was restricted to 252 for 9 at stumps on the opening day of the other semifinal against Central Zone with left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya Singh picking up a five-wicket haul.

Coming into the match after making a massive total against North East Zone in the

quarterfinal, the strong West batting line-up could not quite live up to the reputation.

Central Zone captain Karan Sharma won the toss and opted to field. Despite losing opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal for a duck, Prithvi Shaw hit a quick 60 (78 balls, 10 fours) and shared a 57-run stand for the third wicket with Rahul Tripathi (64 batting, 137 balls, 5 fours, 1 six).

Tripathi was also involved in a half-century partnership with Armaan Jaffer (23) but Central zone kept striking at regular intervals to keep the West batters in check.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane, who had hit a double ton in the

quarterfinal, fell leg-before to Gaurav Yadav for 8.

Jaffer looked in good nick before he hammered a delivery from Karan Sharma (1 for 32) straight into the hands of Aniket Choudhary.

All-rounder Shams Mulani (41) and Tanish Kotian (36) made handy contributions but it did not seem to be enough.

Kartikeya Singh's scalps included Atit Sheth, Shaw, Kotian, Het Patel and Jaydev Unadkat. His superb effort put the brakes on the West batting line-up.

Tripathi and Chintan Gaja (5 batting) were at the crease when stumps were drawn.