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माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

नरेन्द्र मोदी

द्वारा

**कूनो राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में
चीता पुनर्स्थापन**

17 सितम्बर, 2022

पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे

नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

- भारत से विलुप्त एकमात्र बड़े स्तनपायी चीते की पुनर्स्थापना
- देश के सर्वाधिक बाघ, तेंदुआ, गिद्ध, घड़ियाल और भेड़िया वाले राज्य के बाद, मध्यप्रदेश अब देश का पहला चीता राज्य
- पर्यटन गतिविधियों में वृद्धि, रोजगार के नये अवसरों का सृजन

लौट रहा है चीता

आइये, सब मिलकर स्वागत करें

अध्यक्षता

मंगुभाई पटेल

राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

ज्योतिरादित्य सिंधिया

मंत्री, नागरिक विमानन एवं इस्पात
भारत सरकार

कुंवर विजय शाह

मंत्री, वन विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन

नरेन्द्र सिंह तोमर

मंत्री, कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण, भारत सरकार

भूपेन्द्र यादव

मंत्री, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
भारत सरकार

अश्विनी कुमार चौबे

राज्य मंत्री, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
भारत सरकार



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

D-11088/22

लाइव जुड़ें



DD NEWS
दूरदर्शन एवं अन्य चैनल्स



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Will consider normalised CUET scores for UG admissions: DU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi University (DU) on Friday said it will consider the subject-based normalised Common University Entrance Test (CUET) scores for admission to undergraduate (UG) programmes for the academic session 2022-23. Meanwhile, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said that at least 12 candidates have scored 100 percentile normalised score in all five subjects in CUET-UG while 104 got the perfect score in four subjects. As per the NTA, a total of 21,159 candidates have scored 100 percentile in at least one subject. The top scorers include 12,799 female candidates and

8,360 male students. While English has the highest number of 100 percentile scorers (8,236 candidates) Political Science is on number two (2,065) followed by Business Studies (1669). Other subjects which have witnessed over 1,000 candidates with 100 percentile are Biology, Economics and Psychology, meaning the cutoffs for college admissions in these subjects are likely to be high. “The merit lists will be prepared by participating universities, who will decide about their individual counselling on the basis of the CUET-UG score card,” Sadhana Prashar, Director (exams) NTA said in a statement.

Will release merit list based on normalised CUET scores: JMI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Jamia Millia Islamia, which is taking admission through CUET for only 10 UG courses, said that the varsity will release a merit list based on the normalised CUET scores as soon as the NTA will provide them with score cards of students. According to Nazim Jafri, the varsity Registrar, as soon as NTA will provide us scorecards

of students who have shown interest in taking admission in Jamia.” We will prepare a merit list based on the normalised CUET score. The university will begin classes for students admitted in these courses from October 6. We will induct students adhering to our reservation policies. The admission process will likely conclude by the last week of September. And classes will begin on October 6,” Jafri added.

‘3.6% rise in fatal crashes in Delhi’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an increase of 3.6 per cent in fatal crashes in Delhi as compared to 2020, a total of 4,720 accidents were reported in the national Capital leading to 1,239 deaths while 4,273 people were injured in 2021. Delhi Traffic Police has prosecuted 1,04,369 vehicles for plying without pollution under control certificates (PUCC) in 2021 and penalised more than 91,000 riders for not wearing helmets. According to the Traffic Police report titled ‘Delhi Road Crash Report, 2021’, released by Delhi Police Commissioner, Sanjay Arora on Friday, pedestrians were the most vulnerable victims in road accidents. “In 2021, 40.7

per cent of the total people killed in road crashes were pedestrians. Scooter and bike riders were the second most vulnerable victims constituting 38.1 per cent of the total persons killed,” the report stated. The report listed “disobeying traffic rules” and “over-speeding” as two major reasons behind road accidents in the city in 2021. While causes were mentioned for 320 fatal road accident cases, no such factor was highlighted for 886 such cases in the report. According to the report, 277 fatal crashes were caused as traffic rules were disobeyed, 213 such cases occurred due to over-speeding, five for taking sharp U-turns and three for “unguarded civil work”.

MCD planning 16 new garbage fills across Delhi, alleges Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a jibe at the BJP ruled Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday claimed that “these people are conspiring to build 16 new garbage mountains all over the national Capital, they will ruin the lives of Delhiites, and AAP Government vehemently opposes this move.” Addressing the media, Kejriwal said that the city will turn into a ‘garbage capital’, there will be stench and filth 24x7, every locality will have a garbage mountain in front of it. “It is being reported that instead of clearing these three garbage mountains out, these people now plan to build 16 more all over Delhi. If there are 16 more mountains of garbage all over Delhi it puts the life of

every single Delhiite under threat,” he said. “Delhi Government installed 500 sky-high Tirangas across Delhi, making it a city of Tirangas. But these people want to turn Delhi into a city of debacles. They want to build Garbage Mountains All Over and turn the national capital into a city of filth,” Delhi CM said. “I am certain that all the people of Delhi and the whole country are against build 16 new garbage mountains. We strongly condemn it. We shall vehemently oppose it as much as we can. We will not let Delhi turn into a city of garbage. We will not let them build 16 new mountains of garbage in Delhi,” Kejriwal concluded.

Kejriwal running university of lies, retorts BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP leaders lambasted the Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia claims that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi was planning to create 16 more landfill sites here for dumping garbage, saying that Arvind Kejriwal is running a ‘University of lies’ and lowered the dignity of the chief minister’s post. The BJP leaders challenged Kejriwal to prove that the MCD is planning to set up 16 more landfill sites. Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that if 16 landfill sites were being built in Delhi, it would either have a proposal in the MCD or the names of the places where they are to be built, but neither CM nor the Deputy CM presented any document regarding their claim.



DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS POONCH

Fax/Tel No.: 01965-221369, 01965-220408 Email:- dpopoonch@jkipolice.gov.in

LOOKOUT NOTICE

As intimated by Dy. SP Hqrs, Poonch vide his letter No. Hqrs/Rdr/98/2022/8397 dated 09-09-2022 that one girl namely Shahista Saqi @ Sabah D/o Farooq Ahmed R/o Sawjian A/P Bandichachian who was undergoing FMPHW training at District Hospital Poonch wherefrom, she gone missing on 07-09-2022. On this, a missing report was entered vide DDR No. 29 dated 08-09-2022 at P/S Poonch.

S.No.	Name	Shahista Saqi @ Sabah	
1	Father	Farooq Ahmed	
2	Residence	Sawjian A/P Bandichachian	
3	Age	24/25 years	
4	Language Known	Urdu/ Pahari/ Gujri	
5	Complexion	Whitish	
6	Height	5' 3" approx.	
7	Build	Normal	
8	Sex	Female	
9	Hair	Black	
10	Dress	Salwar Kameez.	
11	Date of Missing	07-09-2022	

Through this medium every body is requested to have a sharp lookout, if traced or any clue struck out, please contact on the following numbers:-

- PCR Poonch 01965220258, 9086253188
- Dy. SP Hqrs. Poonch, 962224956
- SHO P/S Poonch, 9419215555
- P/S Poonch 01965220225,

No:-SSP/Rdr/27/2022/10539-49/DPO
Dated - (09 -09-2022
DIP/J-8533/22
Sr. Superintendent of Police Poonch

Confused, angry students vent ire on social media

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Disappointed with CUET results and lack of clarity over admission process in colleges on Friday, students

expressed their views and confusion over choice of college on social media. Surbhi Tiwary said students were clueless about the admission process and some of them were forced to settle with a local college and not one of their choice.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nikhat Fouzia Khan W/o. Abdul Basit Khan, R/o. R-257/3, Near Qadri Masjid, Jogabai Extension, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my daughter's name from Zoya Fatima to Zoya Fatema Khan for all future purposes.

“CUET was the biggest disaster. Students who otherwise would have been sure of their future and college according to their plans, are now clueless. Even the brightest ones do not have an option now except for doing their UG from a local college which hardly makes any sense,” she wrote on Twitter. Another student Shrabani Singha, who scored an average of 88 percentile after normalisation, wondered if she can get admission in any of the Delhi University colleges under the current method.

2 killed, 7 injured after house collapses in N-E Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two people were killed while seven others, including a woman, were injured after a house collapsed in northeast Delhi's Johripur Extension on Friday. The deceased has been identified as Mukesh (20) and a 17-year-old boy, both residents of Loni in Ghaziabad. A police team also reached the spot and carried out rescue operation along with officials of the DDMA and Delhi Fire Services. Police said labourers were engaged in renovating the house when suddenly the roof of the first floor collapsed.

Police post video on benefits of wearing helmet while driving

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have shared a video on Twitter with a caption “God helps those who wear helmet!” to make people aware about the need to wear a helmet. The video shows a motorcycle rider being saved twice by his helmet. The rider first collided with a car and as the bike slides along the floor, it smashes into a lamp post on the divider but the man is saved by the helmet. The lamp post, apparently damaged after being hit by the bike, comes crashing down on the rider, hitting his head. He is thrown back onto the ground. Both times, the rider was only saved because he was wearing a helmet.

Registered 1,100 dogs since April 1: MCD on checking canine attacks

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday said it has registered about 1,100 pet dogs since April 1, an exercise that began to check rising incidents of dog-bites in the city. The MCD had on September 11 asked residents to get their pets registered in view of “rising incidents of dog-bites” in the National Capital Region, and warned that action could be taken for non-compliance of the norm. “About 1,100 pet dogs have been registered from April till now,” a senior official said.

सशक्त नारीशक्ति, समर्थ भारत

स्व-सहायता समूहों का सम्मेलन

3 लाख 86 हजार महिला स्व-सहायता समूह कार्यरत

43 लाख 32 हजार परिवार हुए सशक्त



मुख्य अतिथि नरेन्द्र मोदी प्रधानमंत्री

अध्यक्षता मंगुभाई पटेल राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश

विशिष्ट अतिथि शिवराज सिंह चौहान मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

गिरिराज सिंह मंत्री, ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायत राज मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

डॉ. महेन्द्र सिंह सिसोदिया मंत्री, पंचायत एवं ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन

रामखेलावन पटेल राज्यमंत्री, पंचायत एवं ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन

समूहों द्वारा पोषण आहार संयंत्रों का संचालन

समूहों के उत्पादों के विक्रय हेतु राज्यस्तरीय पोर्टल

बैंक ऋणों पर 3 प्रतिशत का अतिरिक्त ब्याज अनुदान

खाद्य, पोषण, स्वास्थ्य एवं स्वच्छता पर 21 लाख सदस्यों को प्रशिक्षण

मुख्य अतिथि नरेन्द्र मोदी प्रधानमंत्री

अध्यक्षता मंगुभाई पटेल राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश

विशिष्ट अतिथि शिवराज सिंह चौहान मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

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शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

17 सितम्बर, 2022, पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे | मॉडल स्कूल मैदान, कराहल, जिला श्योपुर, मध्यप्रदेश

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पंचायत एवं ग्रामीण विकास विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश

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OPINION 6

FIGHT TYRANNY WITH
BIBI ZAINAB'S GRIT

WORLD 9

'EX-PREZ SIRISENA IGNORED
EASTER ATTACKS WARNING'

MONEY 10

SENSEX DIVES 1,093 PTS AS
GLOBAL RISKS WEIGH

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

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INDIA WOMEN'S
LOSE T20 SERIES
AGAINST ENG
12 SPORTEnsure resilient supply chains to
bypass Ukraine war hurdle: PMAt SCO summit, Modi calls for better
transit connectivity, 'Millet Food Festival'PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES
■ NEW DELHI/SAMARKAND

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to ensure reliable and resilient supply chains to overcome hurdles created by the ongoing Ukraine conflict and Covid-19.

He also called upon the SCO members to work towards better connectivity and grant "full rights" to transit facilities to mitigate disruptions. Modi said the pandemic and the war have created "unprecedented" energy and food crises.

The PM made these assertions in his message at the SCO summit in Samarkand in Uzbekistan. The meet was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Leaders of several Central Asian countries too took part in the event.

It was the first time that Modi and Jinping came face to face since the face-offs at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh in May 2020. During a photo-op before the summit, Modi and Jinping stood side by side. However, they avoided any handshake or hug, something routinely did in the past. Earlier this week, armies of the countries disengaged from a standoff site in Gogra-Hot Springs in Eastern Ladakh.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the SCO nations deliberated on the regional security situation and ways to enhance trade and connectivity.

Addressing the summit, Modi said the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent this year and that India supports "greater cooperation and mutual trust" among the SCO member states.

"The SCO should strive to develop reliable, resilient and diversified supply chains in our region. For this, better connectivity will be required, as well as it will also be important that we all give full rights of

transit to each other," he said. This call came against the backdrop of Pakistan's reluctance to provide such a facility for two-way trade between India and Pakistan.

Referring to food insecurity across the globe, the Prime Minister pitched for promotion of the cultivation and consumption of millets.

"The world today faces another major challenge and that is ensuring the food security of our citizens. One possible solution to this problem is to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets," he said.

Highlighting the qualities of this grain, Modi said, "Millets is a superfood that has been grown for thousands of years, not only in SCO countries but in many parts of the world, and it is a traditional, nutritious and low-cost alternative to the food crisis." He suggested the SCO should organise "Millet Food Festival".

On the issue of economic cooperation, Modi said the role of the SCO has become very important when the whole world is facing the challenges of economic recovery after the pandemic.

He pointed out that the SCO member countries contribute about 30 per cent to global GDP, and 40 per cent of the world's population also resides in member countries of the grouping.

As regards India's economic upward trajectory, the Prime Minister said, "We are making progress on making India a manufacturing hub. India's young and talented workforce makes us naturally competitive. India's economy is expected to grow at 7.5 per cent this year, which will be the highest among the world's major economies."

Underlining the country's focus on the proper use of technology in its people-centric development model, the Prime Minister said India is supporting innovation in every sector. He urged the SCO members to tap this Indian experience as it has more than 70,000



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with President of Russia Vladimir Putin during a meeting on the sidelines of SCO Summit in Samarkand in Uzbekistan on Friday

PTI

Modi to Putin: It's
no more era of warPIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

India and Russia reviewed the entire gamut of their ties on Friday during the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

It was the first meeting between the two leaders since the Ukraine conflict started in February and Modi reportedly said, "It is no more an era of war."

"We spoke on the phone

several times about India-Russia bilateral relations and on various issues. We should find ways to address the problems of food, fuel security and fertilizers. I want to thank Russia and Ukraine for helping us to evacuate our students from Ukraine," Modi said.

Responding to Modi, Putin said he knew about India's position and its concerns on the conflict in Ukraine. "We want all of this to end as soon as possible. We will keep you abreast of what is happening there," Putin said.

India, so far, has refrained from voting against Russia in the UN and the United Nations

Security Council (UNSC) regarding its military action in Ukraine.

The Prime Minister also met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the SCO summit during which they reviewed bilateral relations and discussed ways to deepen cooperation in diverse sectors.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the two leaders had "useful discussions" during the meeting.

Modi also held bilateral meetings with Uzbek President Mirziyoyev and Iranian President Raisi.

Pak PM raises
Kashmir with Xi

AGENCIES ■ SAMARKAND

The issue of Kashmir was raised by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Samarkand.

Jinping called on Pakistan to provide "solid protection" for hundreds of Chinese working on the CPEC projects in the country. Recent reports said trouble is brewing between the all-weather friends with China increasingly getting critical of Pakistan's failure in protecting Chinese workers who came under periodic attacks from the militant groups.

AAP Okhla
MLA held
in Waqf
graft case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB), which reports to the Delhi LG, on Friday arrested AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan after grilling the legislator in connection with irregularities in the Delhi Waqf board.

His arrest came after the ACB found incriminating material and evidences against Khan during searches conducted on premises of the MLA and his aides.

The ACB allegedly recovered ₹24 lakh in cash, two illegal arms and ammunition from two of Khan's associates.

Following the raids Khan, the chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board, tweeted, "I was called to #ACB office for questioning and in my absence the Delhi Police was sent to my home to harass my family members. @LtGovDelhi, the truth never hurts, remember. I have full faith in the Constitution and judiciary of this country." A senior ACB official said the searches were conducted on Friday the houses of Khan, his business partner, Hamid Ali Khan, Masood Usman and another associate.

The raids were related to a case against Amanatullah Khan in 2016 following a complaint from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Headquarters), Revenue department, alleging that appointments to various existing and non-existing posts by Khan in the Waqf Board were arbitrary and illegal.

Continued on Page 8

ED raids 40 spots
across country in
Delhi liquor scam

ED officials outside the residence of MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy during a raid as part of a money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, in New Delhi, on Friday

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday launched fresh searches at about 40 locations across the country as part of a money laundering investigation into alleged irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy. The agency also questioned Delhi Minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain inside the Tihar jail in the money laundering probe linked to the excise policy scam.

The searches were conducted on the premises linked to liquor businessmen, distributors and supply chain networks in Nellore and some other cities in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil

Nadu, and Delhi-NCR, officials said. The action started early morning with agency teams being escorted by police and paramilitary personnel at the locations being searched by them.

This is the second round of searches by the agency in this case after it first conducted searches on September 6 at about 40 locations across the country, including that of some Punjab Government Excise Department officers.

The policy implemented from November 17, 2021, was scrapped by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Government in July this year following Delhi LG VK Saxena's recommendation for a CBI probe into its implementation.

Continued on Page 8

World Bank warns
of global recession
amid higher rates

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The threat of a global recession is growing as central banks focus on bringing down soaring inflation rates, the World Bank has warned, calling on governments to help boost supply to ease the constraints behind rising prices.

Inflation worldwide has been rising at the fastest pace seen in decades, due to supply constraints amid high demand as countries emerged from the pandemic. It has been exacerbated this year by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Covid lockdowns in China.

Major central banks have responded forcefully, raising borrowing costs to cool demand and douse red-hot inflation.

But in a new paper, World

INDIAN ECO TO GROW BY 7.5%
THIS YEAR: MODI (SEE P10)

Bank economists warned the actions may not be enough to bring high prices under control, leading to a need for more interest rate hikes, which in turn will put the brakes on growth. Many countries will not be able to avoid a recession, but the worldwide slowdown and tightening monetary policy "could give rise to significant financial stress and trigger a global recession in 2023," the paper said.

In that scenario, global GDP growth would slow to 0.5 per cent in 2023 — a 0.4 per cent contraction in per capita growth, meeting the technical definition of a global recession.

Continued on Page 8

CAPSULE

ASPIRANTS SLAM CUET
DUBIOUS MARKING

New Delhi: Disappointed with the results of CUET and lack of clarity over admission process in colleges on Friday, students on social media expressed their views and confusion over choice of college. "I scored 200 out of 200 in Business Studies but after normalisation it has reduced to 186...I lost around 50 marks in normalisation process," Ramandeep Singh wrote on Twitter.

AMARINDER SINGH TO
JOIN BJP NEXT WEEK

Chandigarh: Former Chief Minister and Punjab Lok Congress chief Amarinder Singh will join the BJP next week, a party spokesperson said on Friday.

MOOSEWALA KILLING:
TWO SHOOTERS HELD

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force on Friday arrested two main shooters of a gang involved in the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and others pose for photographs during Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand on Friday

PTI

Help Ukraine returnees finish
medical courses: SC to Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday called upon the Centre to assist the Indian students who had returned to the country from Ukraine in view of the war with Russia. The SC suggested that the Centre may create a web portal giving details of the foreign universities where they could complete their courses as per the academic mobility programme.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia said there should be a transparent system and the web portal should specify complete details of the fees and the number of seats available in the alternative foreign universities from where they could complete their courses.

At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre said he is not taking an adversarial stand

and sought time to get instruction from the Government on the suggestions of the bench. The bench posted the matter for hearing on September 23.

The top court was hearing 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.

The Centre, in its affidavit filed on Thursday, said they (students) cannot be accommodated in medical colleges here for lack of provisions under the law and 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.

Continued on Page 8

8 Namibian cheetahs India's hope

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wildlife experts and officials associated with India's cheetah projects are keeping their fingers crossed claiming the success of the plan would depend on how fast the big cats multiply in the region and adds to its population and revive India's extinct species.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release eight cheetahs — five females and three males brought from Namibia — in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park on his birthday on Saturday. "Until at least they mate and one of the female big cats becomes pregnant and raises her cub to independence, the project will not be considered successful. Reproduction means the animals have settled in and can raise young," said an expert.

The experts cited the example of Sariska Tiger Reserve where the first inter-State tiger relocation pro-



A cheetah lies inside a transport cage at the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, on Friday, before being delivered to the Kuno National Park in India

PTI

gramme was executed in 2008. However, till 2015 no successful breeding was reported in the tiger habitat. The unusually slow multiplication of the big cat population was attributed to large-scale miscarriages suffered by its tigresses.

However, the STR is now having a viable population following several steps taken to make the habitat inviolate.

The officials from the Union Environment Ministry said that at Kuno Palpur, the large carnivores aged between 3-5 years will be constantly under post-release monitoring through GPS and VHF tracking collars.

They will be provided with supplementary feeding for a month into the park's quarantine enclosures until the cats begin making kills on their own on a regular basis.

Twenty-four villages have been relocated. Just one remains on the fringes of the park, they said.

The officials further pointed out that having safe release sites with sufficient pre-base and zero-conflict with humans or other predators while rigorous post-release monitoring will ensure the success of the reintroduction process.

Cheetahs reach reproductive age between 20 and 24 months, with females coming into heat at any time of year. Gestation lasts approximately three months, resulting in a litter of between four and six cubs, as per wildlife experts.

As per the earlier plan of India's first inter-continental translocation project, the cheetahs were to be flown to Jaipur before being brought to Madhya Pradesh.

However, the plan was changed as the felines will be flown on the plane operated by the IAF, to Gwalior early Saturday morning, from where they will be taken to the KNP in a special helicopter.

Continued on Page 8

Nitish to discuss '24 strategy with Sonia

Bihar CM has sought time to meet Cong prez during his Delhi visit next week

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI/PATNA



With Congress president Sonia Gandhi set to return to the country on Friday, Bihar Chief minister Nitish Kumar has sought time to meet her during his scheduled visit to the national Capital next week to attend the INLD convened rally on September 25. Sources close to Nitish said that while the Opposition unity will be foremost on the agenda on the Sonia-Nitish meeting, the senior JD(U) leader may like to discuss the grand old party's strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Sources also said that a change in the UPAs leadership, now with Sonia, may also be discussed to bring back a host of regional parties which are to accept Congress' leadership. Party sources said before undertaking a second round of

tours to call on Opposition leaders, Nitish would like to impress upon the Congress leadership the need to mend fences with the likes of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Rao AAP convenor, and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. And TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee. While Rao and Mamata gave favoured the formation of a third front minus Congress, Nitish called for the "main front" that also includes Congress and the Left. Nitish coined the expression "main front" main front during a Press conference held jointly by him and his Telangana counterpart KCR during the latter's visit to Bihar recently. Nitish has already met for-



mer Congress chief Rahul Gandhi during his last visit to Delhi. He could not meet Sonia as she was abroad for her treatment. The Congress president's arrival to Delhi had to be delayed due to the demise of her mother in Italy. Sonia traveled there accompanied by Priyanka Gandhi. Nitish also met other significant leaders from Opposition camps like NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, former UP CM Akhilesh Yadav, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, INLD patriarch OP Chautala and Left leaders. Pawar last week too clarified he is not interested in the PM race rather keen to unite opposition.

Need of hour to fight Hindutva: Yechury

CPI(M) leader calls Cong yatra schedule party's internal matter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after a section of the CPI(M) criticized Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra for spending 18 days in Left-ruled Kerala and just two days in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on Friday said Rahul Gandhi-led Yatra and its schedule were Congress' internal affair and need of the hour was the united effort of secular –democratic parties to prevent the Hindutva agenda of the ruling BJP. He also said that all these parties have to unite at the national level while focusing on the local level differently. "It is Congress party's internal affair. It is for the Congress party to decide the scheduling of their Yatra. It is the time for the united effort by all secular, democratic parties to prevent the communalism and rise of Hindutva agenda by ruling BJP," said Yechury, avoiding a volley of questions of CPI(M)'s Tweet against Rahu's Yatra. "All the parties (secular, democratic) have to unite at the

national level to prevent the rise of communalism, though differences in the local level, he added. Yechury was addressing the media here after the two-day-long polit bureau meeting. "The polit bureau decided that the party will work to develop its independent strength, strengthen Left unity and forge unity of Left and Democratic forces. The CPI(M) shall join the efforts to bring together secular democratic parties in defence of the Indian Constitution; democracy; democratic rights and civil liberties of the people and safeguarding the secular democratic character of the Indian republic," said the CPI(M) in a statement. Yechury said that the PB meeting decided on an all-India campaign from September 14-24 against the burdens being imposed on people's livelihood and to safeguard democracy, democratic rights, secularism and the Indian Constitution will be observed through various forms all across the country and will culminate in state-level public meetings and rallies. Polit bureau demanded that tax concessions to the rich and mega loan waivers to cronies be stopped forthwith and to deploy these resources to hike public investments in job generating works.

BJP-RSS giving rape-murder of Kheri Dalit sisters communal colour: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Friday accused the BJP and RSS of giving communal colour to the alleged rape and murder of two Dalit sisters in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri and demanded that justice delivery in the case be fast-tracked. The Opposition party also asked d the Narendra Modi Government to implement the SC/ST Act with "full force". Two teenage sisters were found hanging from a tree in a sugarcane field located about a kilometre from their house in Lakhimpur Kheri's Nighasan police station limits Wednesday. Six people were arrested on Thursday in connection with the alleged rape and killing of the two girls. Addressing the media at the AICC press conference, the party's Scheduled Caste department head Rajesh Lilothia said the alleged rape and murder of the two sisters should not be seen as an isolated incident and alleged that atrocities against Dalits have been rising. The National Crime Records Bureau data revealed that 70,818 cases of atrocities



against Dalits are pending investigation till 2021, he said. "On one hand, big claims are made that the Modi government is working for the welfare of Dalits on the other hand there are these statistics," Lilothia said. He also accused the RSS and BJP of giving communal colour to the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. "The Congress demands justice from the UP government for the family of the victims. It also demands that the Modi government should implement the SC/ST Act with full force," Lilothia said. The Congress leader also

accused the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh of not providing justice in the 2020 Hathras rape case. According to Lakhimpur Kheri Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjiv Suman, the preliminary probe has revealed that the girls had left their home on Wednesday afternoon with two of the accused, Junaid and Sohail. The duo was introduced to the girl by one Chottu. All the six accused have been sent to judicial custody for 14 days, the SP said. The girl's mother had earlier alleged that they were abducted.

BJP workers to gift Modi 'TB-mukt Bharat'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A rainbow of activities would mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 72nd birthday on Saturday with BJP workers planning to adopt one tuberculosis patient for one year to accomplish Modi's call to make the country "TB mukt" by year 2025. The Prime Minister who is to travel to Madhya Pradesh on his birthday to release the cheetahs brought from Namibia in Kuno National Park would deliver four speeches at events linked to wildlife, environment and women empowerment, skills and youth development, and next-generation infrastructure. According to officials, Modi will also address the students of ITSs at its first-ever convocation ceremony on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti. Around 40 lakh students will be joining this programme. In the evening, Modi will launch the important National Logistics Policy and speak at the occasion. To mark the occasion, the BJP would organize "unity in diversity" festivals, blood donations, and a cleanliness drive



across the country as part of its fortnight-long "seva" campaign. "Unity in diversity" festivals in all districts of the country would send out the message of "Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat" (One India, Great India) to people, according to Party general secretary Arun Singh. As part of these festivals, BJP functionaries will identify a state different from theirs and adopt its language and culture for a day, he said. BJP workers would organize blood donation camps in 964 districts of the country, free health check-ups, covid19 vaccination camps, distribute equipment to 'divyangs' and would plant 10 lakh 'Peepal' trees across the country. The campaign will be launched on Modi's birthday on September 17 and conclude on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Restaurant to serve 56-inch thali for 10 days to mark PM's birthday; winners to go on Kedarnath darshan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17, a restaurant in Lutyens' Delhi will be serving a 56-inch thali for 10 days. Two lucky winners will also get a chance to visit the Kedarnath shrine as part of the scheme. According to the owner of the restaurant, Suvett Kalra, Ardor 2.1 restaurant, located in Connaught Place, is famous for its thalis. "We are huge fans of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Our restaurant is known for its thalis. The 56-inch thali is an assimilation of 56 dishes culminated into a single thali. It is to commemorate his birthday and to honour what he has done for the country and its citizens," Kalra said. Kalra added that out of those who will be eating the thali between September 17 to September 26, two winners



will be chosen and they will get a chance to go on a free trip to Kedarnath, which according to Kalra, is one of the favourite places of Modi. "The thali will also be giving joy to a family by arranging their visit to the Kedarnath shrine. I feel this will make personally make Modiji really happy," he added. The thali will have 20 different kinds of sabzis, various kinds of breads, dal and gulab jamun, with a choice of kulfi also.

LG to mark Modi's birthday as 'Sewa Diwas', initiate welfare schemes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of the Birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena will mark the 'Sewa Diwas' by inaugurating several initiatives and programs aimed at welfare and service of the ordinary people of the national capital. Saxena will lay the foundation stone of an integrated sports arena, including an international cricket-cum-football stadium, in Dwarka and he will inaugurate at programs organised by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Police, to facilitate the students, sanitation workers, sportsperson of the Capital.



'Govt working towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

Indigenisation of 310 items proof of effort to make Def sector self-reliant, says Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said here the Government is constantly focusing on self-reliance and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India one of the strongest and most respected countries in the world. He also said the Government is leaving no stone unturned to realize the dream of a 'New India' which is not dependent on any country to fulfill its needs, especially those related to security. Elaborating on a number of steps taken by the Ministry of Defence to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, Rajnath said in an event, the issuance of three positive indigenisation lists of 310 items as well as encouraging the private sector to become a part of the nation's growth story is testament to the Government's unwavering commitment to provide the Armed Forces with indigenously developed state-of-the-art weapons. He said the domestic industry has the capacity and capability to manufacture the latest defence platforms in water, land, sky and space in the next few years and the government is making all efforts to provide them with the neces-

sary environment. Throwing light on the progress achieved due to the Government's efforts, the defence minister said, defence exports, which were once ₹1,900 crore, have now crossed ₹13,000 crore. He exuded confidence of achieving the target of ₹1.75 lakh crore of defence production by 2025, which includes the export of ₹35,000 crore. He made special mention of the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, with 76 percent indigenous content, which was commissioned by the Prime Minister on September two in Kochi. He termed it an important milestone in India's path to achieving self-reliance. Rajnath, however, made it clear that 'Aatmanirbharta' does not mean isolation. He defined it as India's resolve to give hope and relief to the whole world.

Conventional treatments can help check LSD, say Ayurveda experts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As the cattle epidemic continues to rage in the country due to highly infectious Lumpy skin disease (LSD), Ayurveda experts have said that there are several conventional methods that can help check the spread of the viral disease that has claimed nearly 70,000 milch cattle across the States. Caused by a virus called Capripoxvirus, the LSD is an infectious condition with no treatment so far, but if a cow gets infected, several traditional medicines can be used to treat them, said Dr Devesh from National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Dr. RP Parashar, Medical Superintendent Ayurvedic Panchkarma Hospital, Prashant Vihar in Delhi. Dr Devesh elaborated on the steps to create a traditional cure for the treatment saying that a paste combined of betel leaves, black pepper, 10-gram salt, and jaggery can be given to the animal in modest quantities. "On the first day, give it one dose every three hours. From the second day to the second week, provide three doses each day. For other treatments, one should use 1 handful fenugreek leaves, 10 garlic cloves, 1 handful neem leaves, 1 handful henna leaves, 500 cc coconut or sesame seeds, 20 grams turmer-



ic powder, 1 handful of basil leaves. And give it to the affected cattle," various reports quoted him. If a cow is diseased and these conventional methods are followed, a lot of improvement can be offered. However, keep in mind that throughout this period, the diseased animal should be kept in isolation. Allow no other animals to approach the ill or consume its remaining water or feed, said Dr Devesh. Dr. Parashar too battled for the ayurvedic medicines saying that these will prove helpful to prevent and treat the disease. Ayurvedic medicines are already in use in Rajasthan and other states to tackle the menace which has helped restrict the disease and the resultant losses, he said. Tulsi leaves, cinnamon bark and ginger mixed with jaggery given to the cattle provide immunity against the disease. Ayurvedic medicines like kalmegh and kutki mixed with sesame seeds and cow ghee are also effective in preventing the

disease, said Dr Parashar. Similarly, If tulsi leaves, betel leaves, Neem leaves, garlic, black pepper, nutmeg, mace, coriander and haldi powder and rock salt mixed in jaggery are given to the infected cattle, it starts decreasing severity of the disease within 3 days and the cattle gets cured within 10 to 15 days, said the ayurveda expert. He further said, "Solution of turmeric mixed with neem, henna and alum is quite effective against the infected skin, if sprinkled twice a day on the cattle. Further, fumigation of neem and henna leaves, valerian, myrrh, etc. make the atmosphere free from virus and bacteria." This disease has spread to around 17 states in the country. The incubation period of the disease is 7 to 14 days and milk from the cattle is supplied in the market before the symptoms. Hence, it is necessary to get the milk properly boiled before consumption to avert any untoward effects on the human body, suggested the ayurveda experts. According to a report by GAVI, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, LSD is "an emerging threat to livestock worldwide". This disease affects cattle and water buffalo mainly through vectors. The symptoms of Lumpy Skin Disease include excessive nasal and salivary secretion.

Chidambaram flays Sitharaman for '1991 eco reforms half-baked' remark

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram on Friday took a dig at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for calling the 1991 economic reforms "half-baked". "Thank God, Dr Manmohan Singh did not serve over-cooked and unpalatable food like Demonetisation, multiple-rates GST and savage taxes on petrol & diesel. We thank the FM for revealing that she took bakery and cooking courses in University," Chidambaram said reacting to Sitharaman's remarks. Chidambaram's reactions came after Sitharaman at an event on Thursday said that the 1991 economic reforms undertaken by the then Congress government as "aadhe-adhure reforms" (half-baked reforms), where the economy was not opened in the right way but as per the strictures imposed by the IMF. Singh was finance minister in 1991 in the P V Narasimha Rao's government. Hitting back at Chidambaram, BJP's IT department in-charge Amit Malviya said the reforms in 1991 were truly half-baked, as they were driven out of "compulsions" and not "conviction" or a desire to reform. "Congress's economic policies in the first four decades led to a situation where we had to sell and pledge our gold to fund our expenditure! It was under Atal Ji when reforms like the New Telecom Policy, ERBM, several market reforms, NHAI, Idea of GST were conceived, out of 'conviction'," Malviya said. "Congress was and will always remain a talk-shop with no real intent to take decisions. You are the face of that incompetence," he said in response to Chidambaram. In her remarks, Sitharaman had said no progress happened till the BJP's Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the prime minister and that his focus on infrastructure building, roads, and mobile telephony helped us a lot.



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it has frozen ₹46.67 crore funds of merchant entities kept in online payment gateway accounts of Easebuzz, Razorpay, Cashfree and Paytm following searches this week against a "Chinese-controlled" investment token app HPZ Token. The funds have been frozen under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The latest action comes after the Enforcement Directorate (ED), earlier this month, searched the Bengaluru premises of Razorpay, Paytm and Cashfree over alleged irregularities in the operations of instant app-based loan-giving companies "controlled" by Chinese persons. Later, a seizure order for ₹17 crore kept in their accounts was issued. The latest searches were launched on September 14 at multiple premises of the accused in Delhi, Mumbai, Ghaziabad, Lucknow and Gaya in a money laundering case being probed against an app-based token called HPZ and related entities. Sixteen premises of banks and payment gateways in Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bengaluru

were also searched by the ED as part of the same operation, the ED said in a statement. The ED case, filed under PMLA, stems from an October 2021 FIR against the accused company and its linked persons by the Kohima Police's cyber-crime unit in Nagaland. "During the search, various incriminating documents have been seized. Huge balances were found in the virtual accounts of the involved entities with payment aggregators. ₹33.36 crore was found with Easebuzz Private Limited, Pune, ₹8.21 crore with Razorpay Software Private Limited, Bengaluru, ₹1.28 crore with Cashfree Payments India Private Limited, Bengaluru and Rs 1.11 crore with Paytm Payments Services Limited, New Delhi," the ED said. Rs 46.67 crore was frozen in various bank accounts and virtual accounts, it said. The ED said HPZ Token "promised users of large gains by investing in mining machines for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies." The "fraudsters" lured the victims to invest in the company on the pretext of doubling their investment through the HPZ Token app, it said. "Payments were received from users through UPI and other various payment gateways/nodal accounts/individuals," it said.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind approaches HC to oppose plea challenging Waqf properties' special status

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind approached the Delhi High Court on Friday to oppose a petition challenging certain Waqf Act provisions that grant special status to Waqf properties. Petitioner and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay said he is "objecting to the intervention" and claimed that the applicant body is a "separatist organization" that had "supported triple talaq". He also informed the court that he will seek a transfer of his plea to the Supreme Court on account of the pendency of

other similar matters there. A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad asked the petitioner to file his reply to the impleadment application moved by Jamiat and directed that the matter be called for hearing on November 4. "Let notice be also issued to the Central Waqf Council," the court said. The lawyer appearing for the Jamait Ulama said the petition would impact the entire institution of waqf in the country and all the state waqf boards should be heard before any order is passed by the court. The petition, while assailing

certain provisions of the Waqf Act, has sought a direction to the Centre to enact a "uniform law for trust and trustees, charities and charitable institutions, and religious endowments and institutions" and claimed that waqf properties cannot enjoy any "special rights" that have not been given to the trusts, charitable and religious institutions run by non-Islamic religious groups. "The institution of waqf is well recognised in our country with a comprehensive legal mechanism in place for the same and the 'Waqf' refers to Muslim religious endowments," the application stated.

Mizoram, Assam CMs to hold border talks

Parleys will be held in New Delhi on September 19

PTI ■ AIZAWL

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma will hold talks on September 19 to find an amicable solution to the border dispute between the two north-eastern states, an official said on Friday. The CMO official, who is accompanying Zoramthanga in New Delhi, said the meeting will take place in the national Capital but the venue is yet to be decided.

"The two Chief Ministers conversed over the phone on Friday and decided to hold a meeting on the border issue on September 19 in New Delhi," the official told PTI.

They had earlier held a meeting on the issue in November last year in New Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

In an earlier telephonic conversation on August 10 this year, the two chief ministers had decided to hold the talks in



the later part of August or early September.

Three districts of Mizoram —Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit — share a 164.6-km-long border with three districts of Assam: Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj.

The long-standing border dispute between the two neighbouring states stems from two colonial demarcations of 1875 and 1933.

Mizoram holds that a 509 square mile stretch of inner line reserved forest notified in 1875 under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) 1873, a certain section of which now falls in Assam, is the actual boundary of the state.

Assam, on the other hand, claims that the boundary as per survey of India's map in 1933 is the constitutional boundary of the state.

Certain areas, which are now in Mizoram, fall under the 1933 demarcation.



The border dispute between Mizoram and Assam turned ugly on July 26 last year when police forces of the two states engaged in a gunfight, leading to the death of seven people, including six policemen from Assam, and injuries to around 60 people.

Following the violent clash, the delegations of both the states held a ministerial-level meeting on August 5 last year and decided to maintain peace along the inter-state boundary and resolve the dispute through dialogue.

So far, the delegations have held two rounds of talks in Aizawl and three virtual meetings. In the last meeting held on August 9, both the delegations agreed to maintain peace and take necessary measures to prevent any untoward incident along the border.

They had also decided to meet again in Guwahati next month.

Kerala Guv, CM feud touches new depths

Communists irrelevant, says Khan; Governor speaks nonsense, says Vijayan

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A meet convened by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan late Friday to brief the media about his proposed four-nation tour and the action program being implemented by the Kerala Government to counter the drug menace in the State turned out to be a diatribe against Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan while speaking to reporters at Kottayam on Thursday had declared that he would not sign on the recent legislations enacted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly to clip the wings of the Lokayukta and to free the Universities in the State from the shackles of Raj Bhavan. The Governor had also



come down on the appointment of relatives of the personal staff of chief minister and other ministers as faculty members in Universities. He was referring to the appointment of Priya Varghese as associate professor in the Malayalam Department of Kannur University. Priya Varghese is the spouse of K K Ragesh, private secretary to Chief Minister.

"Is there any rule that prohibits the appointment of relations of the Chief Minister in Government jobs? If the applicant is qualified and have the specified qualifications and experience, who can prevent the person from applying to that post? And how come the Chief Minister is privy to the application made by the candidate?" asked Vijayan in his media briefing when sounded about Governor's comments made at Kottayam. A visibly upset Pinarayi Vijayan asked how dare the Governor issue statements belittling the



Communist movement in the country. "He is after cheap publicity. If some news channel reporters push the mike towards him, he forgets about the position he holds and opens up to them," said Vijayan.

The Chief Minister charged that Governor Arif Mohammed Khan was behaving in a manner which does not augur well for the position he holds. "He is speaking nonsense and I do not want to go into the details. Something is wrong with his mental faculties and those who are closer to him should try to convince him about his responsibilities," said Vijayan.

Though there was no love lost between the Governor and the chief minister, this is the first time the spat between the duo went out of control. The chief minister gave vent to his feelings at the statement by the Governor that the Communist Parties have lost all relevance in Indian politics.

Opp blasts Kerala CM, Ministers' foreign jaunts for FDI, tie-ups

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The proposed foreign tours by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and five members of his Council of Ministers have evoked strong criticism from leaders of the Opposition parties, corporate heads as well the Union Government.

Vijayan accompanied by school Education Minister V Sivankutty and five senior bureaucrats are leaving for a four-day tour to Finland on October 2 seeking foreign direct investment from that country as well as to forge collaboration in the field of education, social security system and possibilities of setting up Ayurveda Centres.

This will be followed by a four-day trip to Norway in which chief minister would be joined by industries minister P Rajeev, minister for fisheries V Abdul Rehman. Vijayan would hold discussions with entrepreneurs and investors in Norway and invite them to set up enterprises in Kerala.

From Norway, the chief minister's entourage would be flying to London to seek

Britain's help in strengthening Kerala's health infrastructure.

Once the chief minister returns to Kerala, his new son-in-law Mohammed Riyaz, who is the minister for PWD and Tourism would fly to Paris to sign agreements and MoU with France to boost the State's tourism sector.

The foreign jaunts by the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues has evoked widespread criticism. Kummanam Rajasekharan, former Governor of Goa, who is a former BJP president of the State has lambasted the trips terming it as foolhardy.

"Kerala is on the boil with host of issues. The stray dog menace has claimed 25 lives during the last eight months and there were more than 2 lakh dog bites in the first eight months of the current financial year.

"The Covid-19 pandemic continues taking a huge toll on the State. Kerala has never experienced such pathetic plight at any time in the past. The last seven years of the CPI(M) rule has aggravated the issues faced by the State," said Rajasekharan.

Partha moves from ED to CBI custody

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Jailed former Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee was in for more trouble with a special court on Friday remanding him in CBI custody till September 21.

Chattopadhyay was earlier arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on corruption charges after the agency recovered a large number of documents from his house and Rs 50 crore from the apartments of his close associate Arpita Mukherjee.

The CBI has been investigating his role in the school level recruitment scam which has seen hundreds of jobs from teaching and non-teaching cadre getting sold to ineligible and unsuccessful candidates.

While Chatterjee a former number two in Mamata Banerjee Cabinet literally broke down before the judge saying he was not in the know of the fake recruitments as they were done by the School Services Commission an autonomous body.

He also told the court that he was old and ailing. The court however refused him bail and remanded in CBI custody where he is likely to be quizzed face-to-face with former chairman of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education Kalyanmoy Ganguly.

The former WBSE chairman was on Thursday arrested by the CBI after questioning him for six hours.

Elsewhere at Birbhum the CBI officials questioned



Sukanya Mondal the daughter of arrested TMC strongman and senior leader Anubrata Mondal who was last month arrested for his alleged role in cow smuggling.

The CBI officers questioned Sukanya after documents related to some more properties including some rice

mills were recovered from various places, sources said.

Meanwhile in a related development the youth wing of State BJP on Friday gheraoed police stations through Bengal in protest against alleged police atrocities on saffron cadres during Tuesday's Nabanna march by the BJP.

IAF to induct light combat choppers in Oct

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to its operational capabilities and self-reliance, the IAF is all set to induct light combat helicopters (LCH) into service in the first week of October at its airbase in Jodhpur. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is expected to be present at the event. The induction will come days ahead of the annual Air Force Day on October 8.

The helicopters are manufactured by the public sector aerospace conglomerate Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The LCH are capable of destroying enemy air defences, slow-moving aircraft, high-altitude bunkers as well as



carrying out counter-insurgency operations, sources said here on Friday.

Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in March given the nod for procurement of 15 helicopters for the IAF and the army from

the HAL at a cost of ₹3,887 crore.

Of the initial 15 limited series production helicopters approved, 10 are for the IAF and five for the army. The indigenously manufactured helicopter can land and take off from an altitude of 5,000

metre (15,000 feet) with weapons and fuel.

The helicopter has an indigenous content of 45 per cent and it will progressively increase to more than 55 per cent for the series production version. The HAL is hoping for follow-on orders as IAF and army are projected to have a combined requirement of 160 LCHs.

The light combat helicopter (LCH) is in the 'positive indigenisation list' that seeks to ban the import of different types of weapons, systems and ammunition over the next five to seven years to boost self-reliance in defence. In the last two years, the government has imposed a ban on the import of 310 defence items.

Patanjali Group will create jobs for 5 lakh people in 5 years

Legal notices issued to 100 over false allegations of adulteration, says Baba Ramdev

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Patanjali Group's turnover is expected to jump 2.5-fold to Rs 1 lakh crore in the next 5-7 years, Baba Ramdev on Friday said, and also announced plans to launch IPOs of four other group firms. Outlining the vision of Patanjali Group, he said the company will provide direct employment opportunities to 5 lakh people in the next five years.

Amid reports of adulteration in Patanjali products including ghee, Ramdev alleged that many people and organisations have been making attempts to tarnish the image

of the Patanjali Group through false allegations. The group has issued legal notices to more than 100 people and have filed FIRs, he said, adding the group will take serious action against such political, medicine, MNCs and corporate mafia.

Addressing reporters here, Ramdev also shared the company's long-term plans. "Patanjali Group's current turnover is around Rs 40,000 crore. The Group turnover is expected to reach Rs 1 lakh crore in 5-7 years."

He said Patanjali Foods (erstwhile Ruchi Soya) is already listed on stock exchanges and its market capitalisation has touched around Rs 50,000 crore.

"We will be launching Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) of four other group companies over the next five years," Ramdev said.

These four companies are

Patanjali Ayurved, Patanjali Medicine, Patanjali Lifestyle and Patanjali Wellness, he said, adding that the IPO of Patanjali Ayurved could be the first IPO.

On the media reports of adulteration in Patanjali Ghee found by a certified government lab at Rudrapur, Uttarakhand, Ramdev asserted that the findings of the lab were not correct and alleged the involvement of some officials in this.

"This is a blunder by a government agency. I do not know who are the people indulged in this but I know, the government is not involved," he said.

He also suggested that the Centre as well as state governments should improve their testing facilities at their laboratories and punish such "irresponsible officers".

The Patanjali Group has invested around Rs 500 to Rs



1,000 crore in its research & development and to modernise its testing facilities.

"All products are tested multiple times before it comes out. We also export our products to several countries which have very high-quality standards," he added.

Ramdev asserted that the

qualities of all products of Patanjali Group are good and said that efforts are being made by political, medicine and MNC "mafias" to tarnish the image of its brand.

Without naming any people and organisations, he said the Group has given legal notices to more than 100 peo-

ple and also lodged FIRs.

Ramdev alleged that the malicious campaign against him and the Patanjali Group's products on social media and other mediums are being done by "some people who are on payrolls of MNCs, medical mafia, religious mafia, political mafia and corporate mafia".

Muslims must not suffer due to crimes of invaders: Naqvi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said here on Friday that present day Muslims should not suffer because of the "cruel communal crime" committed by foreign invaders.

Addressing the concluding day of the training programme of UP BJP Minority Morcha at Visvesvaraya Hall here on Friday, Naqvi said that the heinous history of brutality against humanity could never be a part of the DNA of any Indian community. "But when some people try to become contenders for the crime of invaders, they actually help the nefarious elements in their evil design and harm commu-



nal harmony in the country," he added.

Naqvi said that questions were being raised on surveys being carried out on unrecognised madrasas. "We should not raise doubt on all madrasas but the commotion on survey itself raises the question: Why create doubt when there is nothing to hide?" he added.

He said the Government was committed to ensuring quality education for Muslims and hence madrasas which do not impart quality education should be identified. "What is wrong with that?" he asked.

After 32 years of service, INS Ajay to be de-commissioned on Sept 19

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After 32-long years of yeoman service to the nation, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ajay — which was forward-deployed in key operations like Op Talwar during the Kargil War in 1999, Op Parakram in 2001 and post Uri attack in 2017 -- will be de-commissioned at Naval Dockyard in south Mumbai on September 19.

During her service, INS Ajay has been operating as part of the 23rd Patrol Vessel Squadron under the operational control of Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area.

The ship's primary role has been anti-submarine warfare and with her formidable armament of long-range torpedoes and anti-submarine rockets, the submarine hunter has successfully discharged

her role of keeping our coasts safe.

During her illustrious stint with the Indian Navy, the ship has been forward-deployed on several occasions including for Op Talwar during the Kargil War in 1999, Op Parakram in 2001 and post Uri attack in 2017, maintaining vigil and remaining ever ready to give a befitting reply to the adversary against any misadventure.

Commissioned in the freezing temperatures of Poti Shipyard of erstwhile Soviet Union, which is presently in Georgia, in 1990, the ship will be decommissioned during the monsoons of Mumbai in an atmosphere filled with emotions and nostalgia.

Decommissioning is a formal, yet very emotional ceremony for a ship, her crew, and the Navy in general. During the decommissioning ceremony to be held on Monday next,



the National Flag, Naval Ensign, and the decommissioning Pennant of the ship will be lowered for the last time, at sunset, signifying the end of the ship's glorious stint with the Indian Navy.

Vice Admiral AG Thapliyal, AVSM - Bar (Retd), the commissioning Commanding Officer of INS Ajay, the very first man who took this war machine to sea,

would be the Guest of Honour at the decommissioning ceremony would be

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM ADC, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command will be the Chief Guest for the ceremony. The event will also be attended by several veterans that had the privilege to serve onboard the ship.

Former President Ram Nath Kovind launches book 'Ambedkar and Modi'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind on Friday launched a book titled 'Ambedkar and Modi: Reformer's Ideas Performer's Implementation' in the presence of Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur, former Chief Justice of India K. G. Balakrishnan, Minister of State of Information and Broadcasting Dr L. Murugan and Director of Bluekraft Digital Foundation, Hitesh Jain.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Kovind delved into the multi-dimensional persona of Dr Ambedkar. Recalling his contributions in the formative years of Independent India, Kovind said Baba Saheb's contributions shaped the policies related to banking, irrigation, elec-



tricity system, education system, labour management, revenue sharing system, etc.

Kovind recalled the time when the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi had organized a Gaurav Yatra in 2010 in Gujarat. Atop a decorated elephant was seated a large copy of the Indian Constitution, while CM Modi was walking with the people on foot. There is no better example of rever-

ence to the Constitution and respect to Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Drawing parallels between the vision of Dr Ambedkar and the policies of PM Modi, Kovind said that the new education policy, which has stemmed from over two lakh ideas submitted from across the country, and which provides for education in one's mother tongue is in line with Baba

Saheb's ideas. He further added that the four labour codes to replace a multitude of complex laws, the universal account numbers for labourers are fruition of the vision of Dr Ambedkar.


On his part, Anurag Thakur said the book is not just a collection of the lofty ideas and vision of the great reformer Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, but also a compilation of how the ideas have been executed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last eight years. It's a documentation of the herculean efforts being made to realize the vision of Dr Ambedkar.

Thakur recalled the contribution of Dr Ambedkar and said that he was a statesman par excellence whose ideas, interventions, and philosophies have formed the very foundation of our nation and country as we know it today.

FIRST COLUMN

PITRIPAKSH GIVES DIVINITY TO SOUL

Scriptures state that ‘Pitripaksh’ is of much importance for Hindus as the soul never dies



PRAMOD PATHAK

The 15-day period preceding the Navratra is called the Pitripaksh in the Hindu religion. This is the period during which we perform various rituals to propitiate our ancestors and the relatives who have passed away. It is a belief that rests on the basic premise that the soul never dies, which is without a beginning and an end. This is also one of the principal teachings of the scripture Bhagavad Gita.

When the human being dies, it’s the body that perishes but the soul leaves to another world that is called the pitrilok. However, if the soul is not satisfied, it remains wandering and is in perennial turmoil. The rituals performed during the Pitripaksh are to make the soul rest in peace and also to express the gratitude of the descendants to their ancestors.

The Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita tell us about the journey of the dead and the importance of the various rituals dedicated to them. The idea behind these rituals is to ensure the well-being of the departed ancestors and is a very lofty ideal of the Hindu religion that elevates ancestry to Godliness. Various acts and prayers performed during the Pitripaksh are for the peace of the dead relatives and their fond remembrance. It is through the various offerings made during the period that we seek their blessings for our well-being.

It is a firm belief in the Hindu religion that even after leaving the body the soul remains and is active and agile and feels for its kith and kin because it is emotionally attached. If the soul is neglected and not given due respect during the Pitripaksh it is hurt and feels offended.

The neglect to the departed souls may even invite their ire and wrath. That is why it is said that ‘Pitri kriya’ is of far greater significance and implication than ‘Dev kriya’. Our scriptures like the Garud Puran, Matsya Puran, Vishnu Puran and Vayu Puran give an account of the importance of Pitripaksh and Pitri kriya. These Purans tell us that by worshipping ancestors and performing ‘Tarpan’, we gratify our forefathers who get pleased and bless us. The worship that is called the ‘shraddh karm’ is performed on the ‘tithi’ (date according to Hindu calendar) of the departure of the soul. This tithi is the lunar day which may be different from the calendar date.

The rituals performed during this period have great religious significance. The worship is performed with great sanctity and every effort is made to please the ancestors so that they can rest in peace for the rest of the year. The food that was the favourite of the departed person is prepared and offered after performing puja and feeding the Brahmins. Many feed the poor, too. A small portion of the food prepared is also offered to the cow, the crow and the dog. They are believed to help in connecting with the pitri lok, the abode of the ancestors.

The shraddh performed during this period is a holy act like a yagn to worship the ancestors as deities. They are different from worshipping God. Shraddh is mainly performed for three generations of pitris or ancestors. The procedures and practices of these rituals vary from culture to culture and region to region but their essence is the same. To express gratitude to our ancestors, remember them, seek their blessings, and pass a message to the next generation about the significance of ancestry. This is the greatness of Hindu religion. It worships the past generations while caring for the future generation.

(The author is a former professor of IIT, Dhanbad)

Modi is Captain Cool of Team New India



SUMEET BHASIN

With his equanimity and poise in the face of adversity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a role model for the nation’s youth

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the Captain Cool of Team New India, who sticks to his plan for the country without being distracted by whatever is hurled at him by the opposition parties and the ideological baiters. There is much to learn from the personality of PM Modi, for his image remains that of a well-composed person even in the face of crises of unprecedented scales. The youth in the country will find many virtues studying PM Modi’s personality and they would find that staying calm and composed even in the eyes of adversities is the true hallmark of leadership.

Modi has been in public life for decades. His social life as the ‘Pracharak’ of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the political works thereafter in the Bharatiya Janata Party spanned several decades before he assumed the office of the chief minister of Gujarat over two decades ago. His socio-political life made him steady in his life that he brought in the office, while heading Gujarat and thereafter the country as Prime Minister.

Modi has been hurled the most vitriolic personal attacks during election campaigns by the top leadership of the opposition parties, principally Congress. ‘Maut ka Saudagar’, ‘Zeher ki kheti’ are some of the well-documented abuses that were aimed at PM Modi from none other than the working president of Congress Sonia Gandhi.

A section of the civil society ran a campaign against PM Modi, while a few media persons became willing partners. He has been the biggest victim of the media trials. While the media and a section of the civil society sought to look at PM Modi solely from the Godhra lens, he as the chief minister of Gujarat steadily busied himself in qualitative turnaround in the socio-economic fortunes of the state.

Away from the spotlight, he was busy laying the tunnel-size water pipelines that soon flowed into the parched Kutch and other parts of Gujarat, which were perennially water deficient. Farmers in such regions struggled to raise one crop. But soon, Modi as the chief minister of the state had laid a grid of water pipelines, network of dams, facilities to lift waters by several meters to take them to places where people reacted with disbelief after seeing water in that form. Not only had the people of Gujarat, but even in the neighbouring Rajasthan gained from the works done by Modi in addressing the scarcity of waters.

In fact, Modi faced many hurdles as an adversarial government in New Delhi led by Manmohan Singh, which always created hurdles. Now the world is becoming alive to the crisis of water scarcity, but Modi had been farsighted to accept the challenge and stayed focused to work on the solutions.

This gives a lot of lessons in leadership. Modi was responding to the low-level of personal attacks only during the election campaigns, while he stayed focused on the development works, and never let any emotions betray in public. This is remarkable since the youth or we may dare say the people in Delhi are on short fuse if someone scratches their vehicles on the roads. The depth of patience in PM Modi is remarkable, and truly a sign of a great leader.

It will not be out of place to say that virtues such as patience, tolerance and focus, as if one has blinkers on, are now too rare when the people are mostly reactive, combative and quarrelsome.

PM Modi was again the sub-junct of the vilest and vitriolic personal attacks in the wake of the decision of demonetization. That was a bold decision, which required courage to do, and PM Modi stayed firm and steadfast on the objectives of the move despite the opposition parties running canard against him on a daily basis. Only a few years have gone by, and India is now the world leader in the digital financial transaction. The scale of the digital financial operations in the country is astounding.

Now, the RuPay card is also internationally accepted. The JAM trinity has scripted the highest ever inclusion of the people in the banking operations, with most of the beneficiaries being people eking out their livelihoods in the informal sector. With the one click of the mouse, crores of farmers receive their Pradhan Mantri Kisan Nidhi installment after every four months. They don’t have to pay bribes to the middlemen or spend their precious time sitting with the Gram Pradhan. Digital architecture has done wonders.

The Covid-19 pandemic was once a century crisis for the country and the world. There was no know-how on ways to deal with the pandemic of such a scale. The developed countries shut themselves out. They were not forthcoming to share their knowledge and expertise. The crisis was overwhelming. India being the second largest population in the world had a huge challenge on its hands.

But PM Modi stayed steadfast. He was calm and composed. He exhibited rare patience as he sat out for marathon meetings with the scientists. He was listening to them. He trusted the best brains in the country. With the leadership at the top exhibiting unfathomable tolerance and patience, the scientific community had the maximum confidence to put forth their views and thus lay the roadmap to deal with the pandemic.

The principal job of a leader is to communicate. PM Modi held a number of meetings with the chief ministers, listening to their views and concerns, and enlisting them in the national response against the pandemic.

Team India was out in the middle against the ferocious foe in the Covid-19 that was disguising more often, changing shape and patterns. Yet, PM Modi led India with poise and equanimity to deal with the crisis, and not only carried India out of the deep challenge but the country became the call away to respond to the SOS of several countries.

The vaccine and medicine inequity are the sad realities of the pandemic affected world, as the developed countries resorted to stock-piling. They were least bothered about the fate of the people in the poor countries in Africa and Asia. But PM Modi thought for them, and even the Caribbean countries with a population of a few lakh received the medicines and vaccines on the lines of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and others.

The Indian made medicines and vaccines saved the lives of millions of people across the world. That was possible because India was being led in such a crisis time of grave proportion by Captain Cool whose eyes were set only on the aim that India’s national interests must be guarded by all means.

If PM Modi is seen in angrier frames, people would recall him wearing black clothes in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack, and that was also to send the loud message that his patience and tolerance cannot be tested when India is attacked.

“THE RUPAY CARD IS ACCEPTED GLOBALLY. THE JAM TRINITY HAS SCRIPTED THE HIGHEST EVER INCLUSION OF PEOPLE IN BANKING OPERATIONS, WITH MOST OF THE BENEFICIARIES BEING PEOPLE EKEING OUT THEIR LIVELIHOOD IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR”

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

SOME PEOPLE DON’T WANT FREE POWER. NOW ONLY THOSE CITIZENS WILL GET SUBSIDY WHO APPLY FOR IT. —DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

ARVIND KEJRIWAL



ARVIND KEJRIWAL HAS MADE THE CAPITAL BANKRUPT. HE HAS NO MONEY TO CONTINUE THE POWER SUBSIDY FOR ALL CITIZENS. —OPPOSITION LEADER IN DELHI ASSEMBLY

RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI



India’s low HDI rank reflects poverty, inequality

The United Nations HDI Report must warn the policy makers in India of growing inequality and stress among people



SHIVAJI SARKAR

Arank loss on the UN Human Development Index is a grave indicator of India’s overall social and economic performance that invites investment and global participation. India slipped to 132 from 131 last year, which was 130 in 2015.

The UN Human Development Report (HDR) noted slippage on quality of life, attainments to basic schooling, healthcare, job losses, penury, and overall lack of opportunities during the Covid-19 pandemic in many countries.

India needs course corrections for holistic happiness and not mere cosmetic achievements. The growth as per HDI is not merely the GDP but beyond it. It was created to emphasise that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not the economic growth alone.

It is a complex composite index that reveals more than the GDP, a gauge of incomes or output. The HDI is computed on the basis of three parameters – life expectancy, mean years of schooling and average per capita national gross incomes. The per capita income of an Indian has fallen from Rs 94,270 in 2019 to Rs 85,110 in 2021 and per capita GDP as per World Bank at is \$1961.42, 16 per cent of world average.

India’s HDI values of 0.633, down from 0.642 in 2020, correlating to a “medium human development category country” denote miserable conditions, including falling life expectancy from 69.7 to 67.2. It is behind Bangladesh (129th), Bhutan (127th), Sri Lanka (73rd) and China (79th). Switzerland with 0.962 got the top global ranking, meaning less than the best UN parameters.

Income inequalities amplify failings on other HDI indices of human development. While most reports suggest inequality has increased in India because of a rise in poverty and shrinkage of the middle class, the report by National Bureau of Economic Research shows a decline in inequality. This is because Indians in higher percentiles of the income distribution saw larger relative income declines during the pandemic. However, it fails to reflect the deprivations of poor households.

An Oxfam report, considered biased by the official agencies, says inequality has been rising sharply in the last three decades. For these three decades, since the 1990 neo-liberalism, rhetoric of open and free markets, less government and less regulation, more private players and entrepreneurs, has been concomitant with the slow death of key public institutions.

The HDR appreciates India’s support to the vulnerable sections, South-South cooperation, International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure and net zero carbon emission targets. The State of Inequality in India Report released by Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) in May, 2022, that inequities across sectors of health, education, household characteristics and the labour market make the population more vulnerable and triggers a descent into multidimensional poverty.

The World Inequality Report 2022 says the world’s most extreme inequality has been observed in India. It notes India is a “poor country and very unequal, with an affluent elite”. The WIR says the top 10 per cent of the country’s population account for 57 per cent of the national income, of which 22 per cent is held by the top 1 per cent. While a small section of India’s populace enjoys 5-star privileges, for the bottom 50 per cent sustainability of life is still a challenge. This is due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to, loss of job opportunities, an erratic unorganised sector, and rising poverty and inflation. The bottom 50 per cent are earning Rs 53160 and the top ten percent Rs 1166520, 20 times more.

The Gini (inequality in income distribution) coefficient points to an increasing inequality in India. The coefficient in 2014 was 34.4 per cent (100 per cent indicates full inequality and 0 per cent full equality). The coefficient increased to 47.9 per cent in 2018. India is said to be next to Russia in the world in terms of inequality.

The report also suggests that stress, sadness, anger, and worry have been increasing over the last decade, now reaching record levels. The HDR cautions that “uncertainty, inequality and insecurity go hand in hand with polarization and lack of trust”. It finds political volatility becoming reality.

Developing countries are entering a divergent social, political and economic period with sharp downside risks for the most vulnerable and regression in gender equality. India’s per capita gross domestic product (GDP) increased five times between \$443 in 2000 and \$2014 in 2019. This doesn’t mean a uniform rise in income. The top one per cent in India earned 21 per cent of total country’s income in 2019. This was 11 per cent in 1990.

(The author is a policy analyst)

Ukraine finds mass burials, says Russia ‘leaves dead’

AP ■ IZIU (UKRAINE)

Ukrainian authorities were expected to begin recovering bodies on Friday from a newly found mass burial site in a forest recaptured from Russian forces, a delicate task that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said would help show the world "what the Russian occupation has led to".

The burial site, containing hundreds of graves, was discovered close to Izium after a rapid counteroffensive by Ukrainian forces liberated the northeastern city and other swaths of the Kharkiv region, breaking what was largely becoming a military stalemate in the nearly seven-month war.

To keep the offensive going, the Biden administration announced another USD 600 million package of military aid on Thursday for Ukraine, including more of the weaponry that has helped its troops seize momentum.

Associated Press journalists who visited the burial site Thursday counted hundreds of graves amid the trees, marked with simple wooden crosses - most of them numbered, up to 400 and beyond.

There was also at least one mass grave, with a marker saying it contained the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers.

In his nightly televised address on Thursday, Zelenskyy said "more information - clear, verifiable information" about the burial site is expected on Friday.

"The necessary procedural



actions have already begun there," he said. "We want the world to know what is really happening and what the Russian occupation has led to."

Zelenskyy invoked the names of other Ukrainian cities where authorities said retreating Russian troops left behind mass graves of civilians and evidence of possible war crimes.

"Bucha, Mariupol, now, unfortunately, Izium," he said. "Russia leaves death everywhere. And it must be held accountable for it."

Before exhumation work could begin, investigators with metal detectors were scanning the site for any hidden explosives.

The mass grave of Ukrainian soldiers could contain more than the 17 bodies mentioned on its marker, said Oleg Kotenko, an official with the Ukrainian ministry tasked with reintegrating occupied territories.

"We haven't counted them yet, but I think there are more than 25 or even 30," he said, basing his estimate on video footage of the site that Russian soldiers posted on social media.

Izium resident Sergei Gorodko said that among the hundreds buried in individual graves were dozens of adults and children killed in a Russian airstrike on an apartment building.

He said he pulled some of them out of the rubble "with my own hands".

Sergei Bolvinov, a senior investigator for Ukrainian police in the eastern Kharkiv region, told British TV broadcaster Sky News that a pit containing more than 440 bodies was discovered near Izium after Kyiv's forces swept in. He described the grave as "one of the largest burial sites in any one liberated city".

Some of the people buried in the pit were shot. Others died from artillery fire, mines or airstrikes. Many of the bodies have not been identified yet, Bolvinov said.

Russian forces left Izium

and other parts of the Kharkiv region last week amid the stunningly rapid Ukrainian counteroffensive.

On Wednesday, Zelenskyy made a rare trip outside the capital to watch the national flag being raised over Izium's city hall.

Ukrainian Deputy Interior Minister Yevhen Enin said on Thursday night that other evidence found after Kyiv's sweeping advance into the Kharkiv region included multiple "torture chambers" where both Ukrainian citizens and foreigners were detained "in completely inhuman conditions".

"We have already come across the exhumation of individual bodies, not only with traces of a violent death, but also of torture - cut off ears, etc. This is just the beginning," Enin said in an interview with Ukraine's Radio NV.

"All these traces of war crimes are now carefully documented by us. And we know from the experience of Bucha that the worst crimes can only be exposed over time," Enin said, in a reference to a Kyiv suburb where the bodies of hundreds of civilians were discovered following the Russian army's withdrawal from the area in March.

The USD 600 million in additional US military aid announced on Thursday will include more of the same types of ammunition and equipment that have helped the Ukrainian counteroffensive beat back Russian forces in large portions of the east and in the south.

US readies new military aid for Ukraine to boost momentum



AP ■ WASHINGTON

south.

The Biden administration is set to announce this week that it will send another roughly \$600 million in military aid to Ukraine, as the U.S. rushes more weapons to fuel Kyiv's counteroffensive that has reclaimed large stretches of the embattled country and forced Russian troops to retreat.

U.S. Officials familiar with the matter said an announcement could come as early as Thursday, or possibly Friday. It would be the 21st time that the Defense Department has pulled weapons and other equipment off the shelves to deliver to Ukraine.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a pending announcement, said the package will include more of the same types of ammunition and equipment that have helped Ukrainian forces beat back the Russian forces in portions of the east and

Moscow's recent rout in northeast Ukraine was its largest military defeat since the withdrawal of Russian troops from areas near Kyiv more than five months ago.

The latest package of weapons systems brings the total amount of U.S. Aid to Ukraine to nearly \$15.9 billion since President Joe Biden took office.

U.S. Officials watching the counteroffensive have been careful not to declare a premature victory, noting that Russia still has substantial troops and resources. And they are wary of what Russian President Vladimir Putin may do to turn the tide.

But U.S. Leaders also have made clear that the precision weapons and rocket systems provided by the U.S. And allies - including the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, and the High-speed Anti-Radiation Missile, or HARM — have been key to the dramatic shift in momentum.

Biden, S African leader to discuss Ukraine, trade, climate

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa are set to meet on Friday at the White House for talks on Russia's war in Ukraine, climate issues, trade and more.

Ramaphosa is among African leaders who have maintained a neutral stance in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with South Africa abstaining from a United Nations vote condemning Russia's actions and calling for a mediated settlement.

South Africa's international relations minister, Naledi Pandor, said Ramaphosa would emphasise the need for dialogue to find an end to the conflict during his meeting with Biden and in separate talks with Vice President Kamala Harris.

Pandor added that the

issue will be South Africa's focus when it participates in the annual meeting of the UN General Assembly next week.

"We would want a process of diplomacy to be initiated between the two parties and we believe the UN must lead, the UN secretary-general in particular," Pandor said.

The White House meeting comes on the heels of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to South Africa last month, in which he said the Biden administration sees Africa's 54 nations as "equal partners" in tackling global problems.

But the administration has been disappointed that South Africa and much of the continent have declined to follow the US in condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

During the Blinken visit, Pandor accused the US and other Western powers of focus-

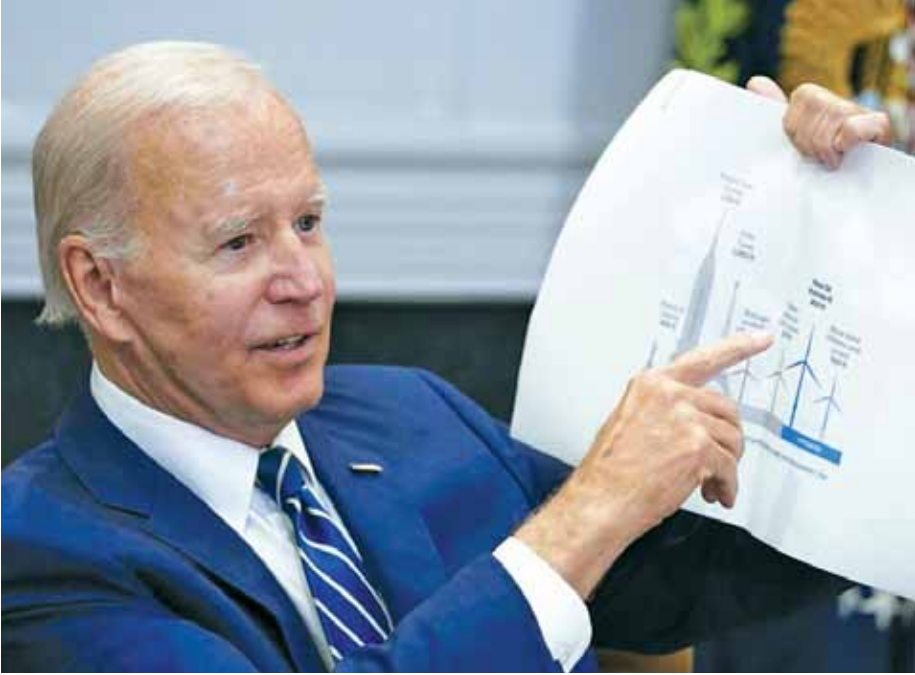
ing on the Ukraine conflict to the detriment of crises around the globe.

"We should be equally concerned at what is happening to the people of Palestine, as we are with what is happening to the people of Ukraine," she said.

The Biden administration, meanwhile, has sought to underscore that Russia's blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports has led to scarcities in grain, cooking oil and fertiliser - resulting in disproportionate impact on Africans.

South Africa's neutral position is largely because of the support the Soviet Union gave during the Cold War era to Ramaphosa's African National Congress in its fight to end apartheid, South Africa's regime of repression against the Black majority that ended in 1994.

South Africa is seen as a



leader of the several African countries that will not side against Russia.

Despite the differences on the war in Ukraine, the Biden administration recognizes the importance of strengthening relations in Africa as China has spent decades entrenching itself in the continent's natural resources markets.

Improving relations with South Africa — one of the continent's biggest economies - is central to the US effort.

John Stremlau, an international relations expert at the University of the Witwatersrand, said the talks underscore that the US sees South Africa as having the "potential to lead Africa in a constructive way" on trade and other issues.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the two leaders would also discuss climate change and opportunities to increase trade and

investment.

Harris and Ramaphosa will discuss global health security, space cooperation and other matters, when they meet over breakfast at the vice president's residence, Jean-Pierre said.

South Africa's ambitious efforts to transition from coal to cleaner energy are expected to be discussed during the leaders' talks. The US, Britain, France and Germany announced a plan last year to provide USD 8.5 billion in loans and grants over five years to help South Africa phase out coal.

Ramaphosa could also raise with Biden the failure of the US and other wealthier nations to make good on a more than decades-old pledge — first made in 2009 and reaffirmed at the 2015 Paris climate talks — to spend USD 100 billion to help developing nations deal with climate change.

ED raids 40 spots across...

From Page 1

Saxena had also suspended 11 excise officials in the matter. The ED case of money laundering in the excise policy stems from a CBI FIR in which Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is the prime accused and some Delhi Government bureaucrats have also been named as accused. The CBI had conducted raids in the case on August 19, covering the Delhi residences of Sisodia (50), IAS officer and former Delhi Excise Commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna, and 19 other locations across seven States and Union Territories.

Sisodia holds multiple portfolios, including Excise and Education, in the Kejriwal-led Delhi Government. Jain was arrested by the ED on May 30 in another criminal case filed under PMLA linked to alleged hawala dealings. On Friday, the ED recorded his statements under the PMLA.

The sources said the agency wants to know and understand from Jain about the Cabinet approvals given by the AAP Government for implementing the new excise policy as he had earlier held the Excise portfolio. The CBI enquiry was recommended on the findings of the Delhi Chief Secretary's report filed in July showing prima facie violations of the GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009, and Delhi Excise Rules-2010, officials said.

The Chief Secretary's report had shown prima facie violations, including "deliberate and gross procedural lapses", to provide post-tender "undue benefits to liquor licencees" through the policy, according to officials. It is alleged that undue financial favours were extended to liquor licensees after the tenders were awarded, causing loss to the exchequer.

The Excise Department

gave a waiver of Rs 144.36 crore to the licensees on the tendered licence fee citing Covid-19, reads the CBI FIR. Responding to the latest action by the ED, Kejriwal claimed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED were "unnecessarily troubling everyone", and that he still did not know what the liquor scam was all about.

Addressing a Press conference, Kejriwal said the Lieutenant Governor, CBI, and BJP have quoted varying amounts of money involved in the alleged liquor scam, but he didn't understand what it was really about. "Earlier, one BJP leader claimed it was fraud worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore.. Delhi's total budget is Rs 70,000 crore. How can the scam be worth that amount? One of their (BJP) leaders says it is a scam of Rs 8,000 crore... some leaders claimed it was worth Rs 1,100, and the Lieutenant Governor says it is a scam of Rs 144 crore. The CBI in its FIR claimed the

fraud was worth Rs one crore. I don't understand what the liquor scam is. Can't keep scaring people like this," Kejriwal said while mocking the Opposition's claims.

The CBI, during its searches at his deputy Sisodia's residence, a search of his locker and inquiries at his village did not find even a penny of irregularities in the policy. "So, what is this scam?" he questioned. "If the Centre does not do any positive work and keeps troubling and scaring everyone with CBI and ED, how will the country progress?" he asked.

Kejriwal said the Centre is free to catch anyone if some wrong is done, but the progress of the country is hampered if it "unnecessarily" uses CBI and ED to "scare and threaten" everyone. Kejriwal also advised the Centre to talk about positive things like schools and claimed 95 per cent Press conferences of his government were about such positive things.

World Bank warns of global recession...

From Page 1

"Global growth is slowing sharply, with further slowing likely as more countries fall into recession," World Bank President David Malpass said in a statement.

"My deep concern is that these trends will persist, with long-lasting consequences that are devastating for people in emerging market and developing economies."

He urged policymakers to "shift their focus from reducing consumption to boosting production."

The World Bank in early June slashed

its forecast for global growth to 2.9 per cent, more than a full point lower than the estimate in January.

Indermit Gill, the newly installed chief economist at the Washington-based development lender, said his biggest concern is that because of the slowdown and pandemic crisis, "poverty reduction has stopped."

But he expressed some optimism as well.

"It's not an all doom and gloom story," he told reporters, noting that because of work done to improve economic policies and management before the

pandemic, countries are better able to protect the poor.

"I have the feeling that we will come out on the right side of this because the world has changed now and you know, there's a lot more capability around," he said. The worst case scenario described in the paper on Thursday would entail a recession in advanced economies and sharp declines in growth in emerging and developing economies.

"The global economy is now in its steepest slowdown following a post-recession recovery since 1970," the World Bank said.

Help Ukraine returnees finish medical courses...

From Page 1

It, however, had said to aid and assist such returnee students who could not complete their MBBS courses in Ukraine, the NMC in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has issued a Public Notice dated September 6, 2022 (academic mobility programme), indicating that NMC would accept completion of their remaining courses in other countries (with the approval of parent university/institution in Ukraine).

Ensure resilient...

From Page 1

Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017. Iran is like-

ly to be given the status of a permanent member of the SCO at the Samarkand summit.

The SCO is holding its first in-person summit in Samarkand in Uzbekistan after two years since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which

prevented such high-level gatherings.

Uzbekistan on Friday handed over the rotating presidency of the eight-member SCO. India will host the next SCO summit as chairman of the organization in 2023.

AAP Okhla MLA held in Waqf...

From Page 1

The ACB had issued a notice to Khan on Thursday for questioning in connection with the two-year-old corruption case. The Okhla MLA was called for questioning on Friday at 12 pm in connection with a 2020 case registered under the

Prevention of Corruption Act.

Earlier, in August, ACB had 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 preventing a fair investigation in a corruption case against the

leader.

The Aam Aadmi Party backed the MLA, calling his arrest "a new conspiracy" of the BJP to implicate him in "a fake case and defame" the Arvind Kejriwal-led party.

"AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan has been arrested in a fake and completely baseless case. Nothing was recovered from either his residence or office," the party said in statement.

8 cheetahs India's only hope

From Page 1

According to the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), an international not-for-profit organisation headquartered in Namibia and dedicated to

saving the cheetah in the wild, the five female cheetahs are aged between two years and five years and the male siblings are aged between four-and-a-half years and five-and-a-half years.

The cheetah is the world's fastest land

animal. Fewer than 7,100 cheetahs remain mainly threatened by human-wildlife conflict, lack of suitable prey, and poaching for the wildlife trade, resulting in the species being listed as vulnerable by the IUCN.

‘Ex-Prez Sirisena ignored Easter attacks warning’

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A Sri Lankan court on Friday named former president Maithripala Sirisena as a suspect in the 2019 Easter bombings in which 270 people, including 11 Indians, were killed.

The Colombo Fort magistrate's court, which pronounced the judgement, accused Sirisena of neglecting intelligence reports on the impending attack leading to the bombings.

The court has now ordered Sirisena, 71, to appear before it on October 14.

Sirisena is accused of ignoring warnings on the attacks and not ordering preventive action due to political differences with his then prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The former president was earlier held as responsible for the attack by a probe panel he was forced to appoint following pressure from the Catholic Church and the relatives of the victims. He had denied the allegation against him.

The special presidential probe had also found a host of other top defence officials,



including former police chief Pujith Jayasundera and former defence secretary Hemasiri Fernando, guilty of ignoring prior intelligence. The panel report had recommended criminal action against Sirisena and the other officials.

Ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who had succeeded Sirisena, also came under pressure to implement the findings of the probe panel where Sirisena was found culpable of committing the crime. However, he had refused to act

as Sirisena had by then became the chair of the ruling SLPP coalition.

Friday's court order came as a result of a plaint filed by a victim alongside the National Catholic Committee for Justice to Easter Sunday Attack Victims.

On April 21, 2019, nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches

and as many luxury hotels in Sri Lanka, killing 270 people and injuring over 500.

The attack stirred a political storm as the then government headed by President Sirisena and Prime Minister Wickremesinghe were blamed for their inability to prevent the attacks despite prior intelligence being made available.

On the third anniversary of the Easter terror attack in April, then Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa had vowed that the Sri Lankan government will not rest until justice has been served to the guilty behind the 2019 attacks. A month later, Mahinda had to step down in May after massive protests against him over attacks by his supporters on the anti-government protesters.

The Easter attacks victims' families led by the head of the local church, Archbishop of Colombo Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, have been critical of the slow pace of the investigations which they claim is a political ploy for cover up.

Cardinal Ranjith has been regularly expressing disappointment over the police investigation and its slow nature.

Queen's death is reminder of disappearing WW II generation

AP ■ LONDON

The long good-bye for Queen Elizabeth II is a reminder of a broader truth playing out with little fanfare across Britain: The nation is bidding farewell to the men and women who fought the country's battles during World War II.

The queen, who served as a mechanic and truck driver in the last months of the war, was a tangible link to the sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines and others who signed up to do their bit in a conflict that killed 384,000 service personnel and



70,000 British civilians.

But like the queen, even the youngest veterans of the war are now nearing their 100th birthdays, and a steady stream of obituaries tells the story of a

Fire engulfs 42-storey building in China; no deaths reported

AP ■ BEIJING

A massive fire sent flames and black smoke pouring Friday from a 42-storey skyscraper in central China belonging to the country's largest telecoms operator, but no casualties were reported, officials said.

Dozens of floors burned in the China Telecom building in the city of Changsha, the capital of central Hunan province. The city's fire department said it sent 280 firefighters who were able to quickly extinguish the blaze on the 218-metre (720-foot) building.

No injuries or deaths have been reported, China Telecom said in a statement. It said there was no disruption to cellphone service, but social media users complained of being unable to use their phones. Videos of the blaze showed one side of the building scorched black, with debris falling to the ground.



PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is Herewith Informed That We, Sh. Jai Singh & Mrs. Saroj R/o H. 16/92E, 3rd Padam Singh Road, Near Water Tank, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110025 Have Disinherited And Disowned Our Son, Daughter-in-law & Their Daughter Mr. Rupesh, His Wife Smt. Ashifa & Their Daughter Mrs. Dilesh from All Our Moveable & Immoveable Properties And We Have Also Severed All Our Relationship With Them Due To Their Adament And Impropru Behavior As They Are Disobeying Us And Further They Are Out Of Our Control & They Also Misbehave With Us & Our Other Family Members, Any Person Dealing With Them In Any Manner Shall Be Doing So At His/her Own Risk And Responsibility.

REENA SHARMA ADVOCATE
CH. NO. C-77, C.L. JOSEPH BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that I, SURENDRA KUMAR S/o Late Sh. Gauri Shanker Agarwal, R/o A-2A/124, Janakpuri, N. Delhi-110058 is the legal owner & allottee of above mentioned DDA flat allotted vide File No.F-16(87)/197/HB. Original DDA Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip, Water & Electricity NOC of above flat has been lost. An FIR/LR to this effect has been lodged vide LR No.790457/2022 dt.13-09-2022 with Delhi Police Crime Branch. Anyone claiming any right or in possession of original documents may please contact at above address or at 9560200886 within 10 days from the date of this notice.



ingly assertive in the Republican primary process during the midterm elections, his actions show that far from distancing himself from the political fringe, he is welcoming it.

He's published dozens of recent Q-related posts, in contrast to 2020, when he claimed that while he didn't know much about QAnon, he couldn't disprove its conspiracy theory.

Cease-fire continues to hold between Armenia, Azerbaijan

AP ■ (ARMENIA)

A cease-fire between Armenia and Azerbaijan was holding for a second day on Friday, halting an outburst of fighting that killed more than 200 troops from both sides. The Armenian Defence Ministry said the situation on the border with Azerbaijan has remained quiet since the truce took effect at 8 pm on Wednesday.

Trump openly embraces, amplifies QAnon conspiracy theories

AP ■ WASHINGTON

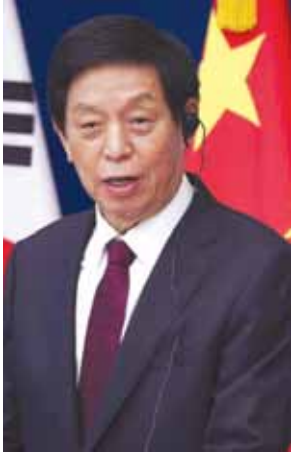
After winking at QAnon for years, Donald Trump is overtly embracing the baseless conspiracy theory, even as the number of frightening real-world events linked to it grows.

On Tuesday, using his Truth Social platform, the Republican former president reposted an image of himself wearing a Q lapel pin overlaid with the words "The Storm is Coming". In QAnon lore, the "storm" refers to Trump's final victory, when supposedly he will regain power and his opponents will be tried, and potentially executed, on live television.

As Trump contemplates another run for the presidency and has become increas-

Top China official wants high-tech cooperation with S Korea

AP ■ SEOUL



The head of China's legislature called for cooperation with South Korea in advanced technology and supply chains, as he met South Korean officials Friday amid concerns that their moves to solidify a military alliance with Washington could hamper Seoul's ties with Beijing.

Li Zhanhu, third in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy and one of President Xi Jinping's closest confidants, is the highest-level Chinese official to visit South Korea since his predecessor did so in 2015. His trip is seen as part of efforts by Beijing to boost ties with neighbouring countries ahead of a Communist Party congress next month that will likely grant Xi a third five-year term as leader.

Li's visit is also crucial for South Korea's government, which wants to assure Beijing that its push to strengthen its alliance with the U.S. And participate in U.S.-led regional initiatives won't target China, its biggest trading partner.

Li, chairman of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress, told a joint news conference with his South Korean counterpart that China supports "realizing cooperation in cutting-edge technology sectors and managing supply and

industrial chains smoothly and stably."

He didn't elaborate. His comments are likely to reflect concerns in Beijing that its intensifying competition with the United States may lead to supply chain disruptions as some U.S. Companies shift that sourcing and production away from China. China also opposes South Korea's possible participation in a U.S.-led semiconductor alliance involving Taiwan and Japan.

Li's closeness to Xi suggests his comments reflect the thinking of Xi and his inner circle. Li, who is leading a 66-member Chinese delegation to South Korea, met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and other top officials later

Friday. Earlier this month, Li visited Russia, where he decried international sanctions against Moscow, underscoring Beijing support for Russia in its war on Ukraine despite claims of neutrality. On Thursday, Xi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a regional gathering in Uzbekistan. Putin thanked Xi for his "balanced" approach to the Ukrainian crisis and blasted Washington's "ugly" policies.

Li's talks with Yoon have drawn keen attention because Yoon last month skipped an in-person meeting with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who visited Seoul after a trip to Taiwan that angered China, which claims the self-ruled island as its territory. Yoon, who was on vacation, spoke by phone with Pelosi but faced domestic criticism that he had intentionally shunned her so as not to provoke China. Yoon was the only head of government who didn't meet Pelosi face-to-face during her Asian trip, which also included Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

Kim Heung-kyu, director of the U.S.-China Policy Institute at Ajou University in South Korea, said Li's visit is different from Pelosi's because she arrived after her contentious Taiwan trip.

Poland, South Korea seal \$3 bn military aircraft deals



AP ■ JANO (POLAND)

Poland is sealing USD 3 billion deals with South Korea for the purchase of 48 Korean FA-50 fighter planes as the central European country takes urgent steps to increase its deterrence and defence capabilities amid Russia's war on neighbouring Ukraine.

The two deals for the purchase of Fighting Falcon planes follow contracts signed last month for the acquisition by Poland of some USD 5.8 billion worth of South Korean tanks and howitzers.

Poland's President Andrzej Duda, who is the armed forces' supreme commander, and South Korea's Minister of Defense Acquisition Program Administration, Eom Donghwan, are to attend the signing ceremony Friday at a military base and airport in Janow, in central Poland.

The documents are to be signed by Poland's deputy prime minister who is also the

defence minister, Mariusz Blaszczak, and by South Korean officials.

Under one of the agreements, the first 12 planes are to be delivered early in the second half of next year.

The second deal is for 36 planes with technical and combat features specified by Poland, to be delivered between 2025 and 2028. The planes are compatible with the US-made F-16 fighters that Poland's air force is equipped with and with the contracted F-35A fighters, according to Poland's Defense Ministry.

The deals include training, logistics and transfer of some technologies that will allow for the servicing of the planes in Poland. Warsaw says this is one of Poland's biggest and most important defense deals in recent years.

Poland's conservative government is taking steps to enhance the NATO member nation's armed forces in response to neighboring Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Chinese Govt delegation banned from Queen's Lying-in-State in UK Parliament complex

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK has refused permission for a high-level Chinese government delegation to attend Queen Elizabeth's Lying-in-State at Westminster Hall within the Parliament complex before the funeral at Westminster Abbey here on September 19, according to UK media reports on Friday.

House of Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle is said to have refused a request for access to Westminster Hall due to Chinese sanctions against five British members of Parliament and two peers for accusing Beijing of mistreating its Uighur Muslim minority in Xinjiang. "Politico" and the BBC have reported.

While the House of Commons said it did not comment on security matters, the media reports claimed that China would have a presence at the funeral but not be allowed into the Parliament building. As Westminster Hall forms part of the parliamentary estate, it is under the control of the Commons and the Lords Speakers. The move is likely to further strain UK-China relations, which have



been under some pressure in recent times.

According to reports, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has invited Chinese President Xi Jinping as Head of State of a country with which the UK has diplomatic relations. It is thought that the vice-president, Wang Qishan, will be sent in his place along with a Chinese delegation.

The latest development comes after the sanctioned MPs had raised objections about the Chinese President being invited to the funeral at all.

In March last year, China had sanctioned nine individuals and four organisations in the UK in retaliation after Britain imposed sanctions on

Chinese officials for alleged human rights abuses in its Xinjiang province.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the former leader of the Conservative Party, as well as Tory MPs Tom Tugendhat, Neil O'Brien, Tim Loughton and Nusrat Ghani are among those sanctioned as they and their families were banned from entering Chinese territory.

"You cannot have a Golden Age, normal relations, with a country that has now been exposed as committing the sorts of atrocities it has, not least the genocide against the Uighurs, the oppression going on in Tibet for the last 60/70 years, and now what we see going on in Hong Kong as well," Loughton told the BBC.

disappearing generation.

It's extraordinary how that sense of the passing of time is felt very keenly at the moment, said Charles Byrne, director general of the Royal British Legion, the nation's largest armed services charity.

"The queen was a personification of that generation ... and with her passing, it just drives home the sense that time is moving relentlessly, as it does."

That loss is, perhaps, felt more widely in the United Kingdom than a country like the United States, because the U.K.'s very existence was

threatened during the war. Bombs fell on cities from London to Belfast, women were conscripted into war work and wartime rationing didn't end until 1954.

Elizabeth, who famously saved ration coupons to make her wedding dress in 1947, led a ceremony of remembrance for all the nation's fallen service personnel each year on the anniversary of the end of World War I. "She is the epitome of that sense of service and stoic contribution," Byrne said. "And that is treasured more than ever."

Queue for queen's coffin 'paused' as wait hits 14 hours

AP ■ LONDON

The flood of grief from the death of Queen Elizabeth II forced the British government to call a temporarily halt to people joining a miles-long line to file past her coffin as it lay in state on Friday, hours before King Charles III and his siblings were to stand vigil in the historic Westminster Hall.

A live tracker of the queue said it was "at capacity" and entry was being "paused" for six hours as waiting times reached 14 hours and the line stretched 5 miles (8 kilometres) from Parliament to Southwark Park in south London and then around the park.

MISSING
Name- Gulshan Kumar, Age- 57+, Height - 5'3", Add.-A-1921,DDA,Flats, Ashok Vihar, Phase -1, New Delhi -52 मासिक रूप से कमजोर है और Feb 2003 से साफता है। अगर किसी को पता चले तो इस नंबर पर सूचित करें।
Contact - 9210315003

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that the Original Allottee of a Residential Property No. B-298, Sector- 92 Noida, Raj Kumar Garg S/o. Prem Chand Garg R/o. Flat No. 303, New Delhi House, 27, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi,, had executed a General Power of Attorney in favour of Gulshan Sethi S/o. G.C. Sethi R/o. G-116 Preet Vihar Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 vide GPA Dated 23/03/2005,, and the same was duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Delhi and an Agreement to Sell is also been executed in favour of M/s. Hi-tech Residency Private Limited which is not registered. On the basis of the abovesaid General Power of Attorney Gulshan Sethi wants to transfer the said Residential Property in favour of Aniket Sethi S/o. Gulshan Sethi R/o. G-116 Preet Vihar Shakarpur, Delhi 110092. Because the abovesaid Agreement to Sell is not registered. So with the help of this notice it is informed that on the transfer of the abovesaid Residential plot if any one has/have any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Office of O.S.D. (Residential Plot) Noida Authority along with the proofs within 30 days of the notice of this notice. Gulshan Sethi

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public on behalf of MRC Bank Ltd. that Mr. Rakesh Narain Khanna is owner of Commercial unit No. G-24, Ground Floor, by virtue of conveyance deed dated 13.05.2002, Registration No. 726, Mr. Vikas Narain Khanna is owner of Commercial unit No. G-25, Ground Floor, by virtue of conveyance deed dated 18.02.2002, Registration No. 6490, all units/Shops in Block B, Situated in Project known as Shop in Park (North), Plot No. 2, Community Centre Shalimar Bagh Delhi, "the said property", the above owners have let/leased the previous Buyers Agreements all dated 14.03.2007 (with respect of their shops/unit referred above, executed by M/s. Pragma Products Pvt. Ltd. All persons are hereby informed not to carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the notice.
Kumar & Associates (Advocate & Consultants)
200, Third Floor, 23, Smt. Nehru Road, New Delhi-110028
Ph: 011-4112572-73, kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Amit Singh Chauhan claim to be owner and in possession of Property Bearing No. 419, Sector 5, Vasthali, Ghaziabad U.P. (hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Reg Will Dated 22.03.2021 r/w Mutation Letter Dated 03.03.2022 issued by GDA, Initially Mr. S.R. Singh (Mr. Shyoraj Singh) was the Owner of said property by Virtue of Sale Deed Executed by GDA reg. vide doc. no. 3249 and after the death of Mr. S.R. Singh (Mr. Shyoraj Singh), the entire property was transferred to Amit Singh Chauhan as aforesaid and now said Amit Singh Chauhan has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of their clients, IDFC FIRST BANK LTD., Pusa Road, Rajendra Place Branch, New Delhi. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise, howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company LLP
Advocates and Solicitors
House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi - 19
Mobile No. 9818399999

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-32-T-2022-23-E3
Round the clock emergency rescue and upkeep of escalators and lifts at NDLS, HNZM & DLI Main Railways Stations.
Approx cost of the works : Rs. 138.42 lacs
Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security : Rs. 2,19,200.00
Date & time of submission of tender : 10.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender : 10.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
2429/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile
UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001ISGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं: 661 दिनांक: 16.09.2022
Extension Tender Notice
Due to unavoidable reasons the schedule date of Tender. no.:10/EE(Gen)/Khodri/2022-23 "Overhauling work of 33 kV isolator/ control panel" invited by office of Executive Engineer (Generation), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar is extended as given below:-
Last date for submission of tender : 22.09.2022 up to 16:00 hrs
Date of opening of tender : 23.09.2022 at 12:30
All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered.
Executive Engineer (Generation)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

UJVN Limited
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001ISGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं: 657 दिनांक : 16 / 09 / 2022

E- Tender Notice
Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G) Kulhal Power Station, Kulhal, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :-
Tender No. E- 12/UJVN/EE (M&G)/KPS/2022-23 "S.I.T.C of Nitrogen Injection Fire Protection System for 6.6/132 kV, 12.5MVA Generator Transformer of UnitA & C installed at Kulhal Power Station "
Estimated cost: Rs. 49.48,200/- GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website : 17/09/2022 11:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of tender on website : 10/10/2022 15:00 Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".
Executive Engineer (M&G) Kulhal

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Dy.CSTE/C/PS/NDLS, Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e- tender (Single Packet System) for the following work:-
1. Name of work & Place S&T work in c/w addition & alteration in Electronic Interlocking of Chiptyana Bujurg for the provision of 4th line work between Chiptyana Bujurg- Dadri of North Central Railway
2. Completion period 06 months from the date of issue of LOA
3. Approx. Cost Rs. 1.90 Cr
4. Earnest Money amount Rs. 2,44,800/- (Rs. Two Lakh Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
5. Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 17.09.2022 to 10.10.2022 upto 11.30 hrs.
6. Last date/Time of upload of tenders Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 26.09.2022 to 10.10.2022 upto 11.30 hours.
7. Date of opening of tender Tender will be opened on 10.10.2022 at 11.30 hours
No. 570-Sig-PS-Tender-120R Dated: 16.09.2022 2427/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my client Gajender Singh is in process to avail the loan against his Plot No. 2 and 3 Area Measuring 500 Sq. Yds and Plot of land area Measuring 33 Sq. Yds. Khewat No. 19, Khatoni No. 1 Min, Kharsa No. 189(17-5), Khewat No. 71, Khatoni No. 81, Kharsa No. 190(0-6). Situated at Ladekpur, Lal Dora, Tehsil & Distt. Faridabad with the ICICI HFC, having acquired the same vide sale deed duly registered in the office of SR Faridabad, as Doc.No. 16049, book No. 1, dated 07/12/2009 executed by Kuldeep Singh Ghaley through Gurkpal
And whereas he has lost the following documents pertaining to the said property a FIR has already been lodged in lieu of that dated 16/09/2022:-
1.Copy of Khatoni/ lai dora certificate in favour of Ram Chand
2.Copy of GPA, ATS and Will dated 23.03.1990 executed by Ram Chand in favour of Bansi Raj
3.Copy of Sale Deed dated 23.10.1990 executed by Ram Chand through Bansi Raj in favour of Devraj Goyal with Intkal
4.Copy of Sale Deed dated 26.11.1995 executed by Devraj Goyal in favour K.L Ghaley with Intkal
5.Copy of Sale Deed dated 12.06.1996 executed by Sunita Garg in favour of K.L Ghaley with Intkal
7.Copy of Intkal No. 1016 in favour of Vinod Kumar
8.Copy of Sale Deed dated 11.06.1996 executed by Vinod Kumar in favour of K.L Ghaley
9.Copy of Intkal in favour of K.L Ghaley
10.Copy of GPA dated 30.08.2006 executed by Kuldeep Singh Ghaley in favour of Gurkpal Singh
All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, P.K.E. CSC, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-91, Mob. 9810063351

Sensex dives 1,093 pts as global risks weigh

Equity investors poorer by ₹6.18L cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors have become poorer by over Rs 6.18 lakh crore as markets took a heavy beating on Friday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,093.22 points or 1.82 per cent to settle at 58,840.79. During the day, it tumbled 1,246.84 points or 2 per cent to 58,687.17.

The market capitalisation of the BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 6,18,536.3 crore to Rs 2,79,68,822.06 crore on Friday.

The BSE benchmark has fallen for the third day in a row on Friday, down 1,730.29 points or 2.85 per cent.

In three days, investors wealth has tumbled Rs 7,02,371.88 crore.

"Indian markets were the worst performers in the Asian pack, as higher inflation and likely aggressive rate hikes by the US Fed sent stocks tumbling across the board. We are likely to see strong bouts of volatility in the coming sessions as global slowdown looms large," said Amol Athawale, Deputy Vice President - Technical Research, Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE mid-cap gauge tanked 2.85 per cent and small-cap index declined 2.38 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in



the negative zone, with realty tumbling 3.53 per cent, followed by IT (3.37 per cent), basic materials (3.05 per cent), teck (3.03 per cent) and auto (2.67 per cent).

"With persistent bearish pressure from global stocks amid rising yields and dollar index, the domestic market surrendered

to the global trend despite its strong decoupling scenario and encouraging macro-economic data," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

As many as 2,532 stocks declined, while 972 advanced and 106 remained unchanged.

Indian economy expected to grow by 7.5 % this year: Modi

PTI ■ SAMARKAND

Indian economy is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent this year and it will be the highest among the world's largest economies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Friday.

In his address at the summit in this historical Uzbek city, the prime minister also said India is making progress to become a manufacturing hub while highlighting various aspects of the country's economy.

"We are making progress on making India a manufacturing hub. India's young and talented workforce makes us naturally competitive," he said.

"India's economy is expected to grow by 7.5 per cent this year, which will be the highest among the world's largest economies," Modi said.

The prime minister made the remarks in presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other leaders of the influential bloc.

"We are supporting innovation in every sector. Today,



there are more than 70,000 Start-ups in India, of which more than 100 are unicorns. Our experience can also be useful for many other SCO members," he said.

"For this purpose, we are ready to share our experience with SCO member countries by establishing a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation," he said.

Modi said India is putting a lot of focus on the proper use of technology in the people-centric development model.

India still remains among the fastest growing economies.

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expected the economy to grow 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Fitch Ratings on Thursday slashed its projection of India's economic growth to 7 per cent for current fiscal year, citing elevated inflation levels and higher interest rates.

Fitch, which had in June projected India's GDP to grow by 7.8 per cent in 2022-23, also forecast a slowdown in growth to 6.7 per cent in FY24 from its earlier estimate of 7.4 per cent.

The summit of the eight-nation influential grouping took 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.

In his address, Modi also talked about the need for the SCO to develop reliable and resilient supply chains to offset disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis.

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Over the years, it has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.



Eldeco, HDFC ₹350 cr fund for housing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm Eldeco group on Friday said it has partnered with HDFC Capital to set up Rs 350 crore fund to develop residential projects across many cities.

Eldeco Infrastructure and Properties Ltd (EIPL), a privately held company of the Eldeco Group has 'partnered with HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund 3 (H-CARE 3) for an investment of Rs 350 crore to create a platform to develop multiple residential projects across multiple cities."

Currently, Eldeco has identified four residential developments in Delhi-NCR, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand for an initial investment of Rs 175 crore.

Earlier, Eldeco Group had partnered with HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund 1 (H-CARE 1) to set up a Rs 150 crore platform for the development of low-rise and plotted development projects.

The first project under this platform 'Eldeco Paradiso', a 35-acre plotted project in Panipat was launched in late March this year.

Pankaj Bajaj, Chairman of Eldeco Group, said, "Eldeco is now present in more than 15 cities in North India, including in Lucknow through our listed entity - Eldeco Housing and Industries Ltd (EHIL). We believe that the entire North India belt is starved of quality real estate, especially housing. This new platform will help us serve this unmet demand in multiple cities in North India."

Vipul Roongta, MD & CEO of HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd, said: "We are committed to strengthening our partnerships with trusted real estate developers with an established track record in development and delivery of real estate projects."

India Inc's overseas direct investment drops 59% at USD 1.03 bn in Aug: RBI data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India Inc's investment in their overseas ventures dropped by 59 per cent on an annual basis to USD 1.03 billion in August this year, data from Reserve Bank showed on Friday.

The RBI data on Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) for August 2022 showed that the total financial commitment by the domestic firms was worth USD 1,027.67 million in August, 2022-23.

In the same month of 2021-22, it stood at USD 2,500.97 million (USD 2.5 billion).

In the preceding month of

July 2022, Indian businesses' overseas financial investment was USD 1,116.69 million (USD 1.12 billion).

Of the total investment during August this fiscal, the highest was in the form of equity infusion at USD 585.65 million. While USD 266.63 million was infused by way of issuance of guarantees, the rest USD 175.39 million was through loans.

RBI said the data is provisional and subject to change based on online reporting by authorised dealer (AD) banks.

Among the major investors, Lenskart Solutions infused equity worth USD 319.99 million in



its wholly-owned subsidiary in Singapore, while Glenmark Pharmaceuticals invested USD 100 million in a fully-owned subsidiary in Switzerland through guarantee issuance.

Hasham Traders Data Stax Inc loaned USD 54.69 million to a joint venture in the US and CitiusTech Healthcare invested USD 30 million in a fully-owned unit in the US through guarantees. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone invested USD 25.58 million through a mix of loan and guarantee issuance in a wholly-owned unit in Singapore, the RBI data showed.

FM asks women entrepreneurs to take up leadership roles

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday urged women entrepreneurs and corporate leaders to take up leadership roles in large numbers.

Addressing a women directors' conclave at the BSE headquarters here, she said there is not enough number of women leaders in the corporate world because they are saddled by an inherent feeling that they need to prove themselves time and again to be in the leadership role. And the only way out is mentoring, and more women to become board members.

According to data, the average number of women on boards of domestic companies was 1.03, and 58 per cent of them are independent directors, while 42 per cent are non-independent, she said.

Urging corporates to have more females on their boards, she said globally it has been proved that companies with more women leaders on their boards are more profitable and more inclusive.

Data show that companies with women on their boards turn in more profit, the finance minister said, adding, "If you want profit, get us in. You cannot ignore us anymore."

Underlining the existing regulatory framework on the presence of women director on the boards of large listed com-



panies, the minister said, while the overall number of women directors has increased gradually, there are still several companies, including public sector banks and undertakings, which don't have a single women director, and are still paying penalty.

So now it's up to the companies concerned to walk the talk. The government cannot put pressure on companies any more to get more women on boards. It has to come from the corporate world and from within the society itself, Sitharaman said.

She also admitted that there is a need to widen the pool of female corporate leaders as

today many of them are on the board of multiple companies.

The minister also said the Nifty 50 companies often hire the same women to their boards. "Fourteen women hold five-to-six directorships across NSE-listed companies, while seven hold seven directorships each -- that is a very revealing number. It doesn't have to be so concentrated," she said.

She said, the ministry of corporate affairs is keeping a watch over companies attempts to evade the provisions of the companies law with respect to the appointment of women directors.

23 Strategic projects under National Technical Textiles Mission OK'd

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has cleared 23 strategic research projects of around Rs 60 crore in the areas of specialty fibres, sustainable textiles, geotextiles, mobiltech and sports textiles under its flagship programme National Technical Textiles Mission.

The projects were approved under the chairmanship of Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal on September 14, an official statement said on Friday.

"Among these 23 research projects, 12 projects of Specialty Fibres having application areas in agriculture, smart textiles, healthcare, strategic application and protective gears were cleared.

"Four projects from sustainable textiles having application area in agriculture and healthcare sector were cleared. Also, five projects from geotextile, 1 from mobiltech and 1 from sportech were cleared," the Textile Ministry stated.

While addressing the esteemed group of Scientists and Technical Technologists, Goyal said, "Industry and Academia connect is essential for the growth of research and development in the application areas of Technical Textiles in



India. Building convergence with Academicians, Scientists and Researchers is the need of the hour."

The minister emphasised on the importance of contributions of technology and segment experts, scientists and academicians to India's technical textiles future growth.

Goyal highlighted that the technological gap in the country needs to be addressed in the field of technical textiles.

Identification of the area of research in technical textiles with industry interaction and promotional activities like conferences, exhibition, and buyer-seller meet to promote the use of Technical Textile in the country and to increase the exports to be the key focus areas, he shared.

Matix Fertilisers & Chemicals sees eastern India as growth engine of fertiliser demand

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Matix Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd has identified eastern India to be the growth engine of the country's demand for fertilisers in the coming years, a top company official said.

"Eastern India's low consumption of fertilisers, at nearly 158.4 kg per hectare, is much lower than the 212.4 kg per hectare consumed in northern India," said company Chairman Nishant Kanodia.

"As demand for crop nutrients can only rise in the region, Eastern India provides Matix the opportunity to grow in this under-served market," he said.

Matix Fertilisers and Chemicals operates a fully integrated, gas-based urea plant in Panagarh in West Bengal. The facility has a capacity to produce 1.27 million tonnes of urea per year.

"Matix's nearly 700 dealers across six agriculture-intensive states are serviced by the urea plant. India's eastern region being the focus of Matix's strong distribution network, we are best positioned to serve farmers in these states," MD Manoj Mishra said.

The company also has a long-term gas supply agreement with GAIL.

Angel funding for telemedicine

New Delhi: Medyseva, MP-based telemedicine health care startup has raised Rs 1.5 crore in pre-series funding under Startup India Seed Fund Scheme from AIC RNTU Bhopal.

The health-tech start-up focuses on telemedicine in rural India.

At Medyseva, we plan to use Predictive Analysis to identify risk factors and recommend the right treatment by comparing patient data with data from thousands of other patients, said Dr Vishesh Kashiwal, Founder & CEO, Medyseva.

Adani completes acquisition of Ambuja Cements and ACC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Adani family on Friday said it has completed the acquisition of Ambuja Cements & ACC Ltd and has become country's second largest cement player.

Adani family, through their special purpose vehicle Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd, completed the acquisition after completing the transaction with Swiss firm Holcim and an open offer, said a statement.

"The transaction involved the acquisition of Holcim's stake in Ambuja and ACC along with an open offer in

both entities as per SEBI Regulations," it said.

The value of the Holcim stake and open offer consideration for Ambuja Cements and ACC is USD 6.50 billion, which makes this the largest ever acquisition by Adani, and also India's largest ever M&A transaction in the infrastructure and materials space, it added.

Post the transaction, Adani will hold 63.15 per cent stake in Ambuja Cements and 56.69 per cent in ACC (of which 50.05 per cent is held through Ambuja Cements).

Gautam Adani said: "What makes cement an exciting business is the headroom for



growth in India, which exceeds that of every other country well beyond 2050."

In May this year, the Adani Group announced that it has clinched a deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim

Ltd's businesses in India.

Currently, Ambuja Cements and ACC have a combined installed production capacity of 67.5 MTPA.

The two companies are among the strongest brands in

India with immense depth of manufacturing and supply chain infrastructure, represented by their 14 integrated units, 16 grinding units, 79 ready-mix concrete plants and over 78,000 channel partners across India.

"The Board of Ambuja Cements approved an infusion of INR 20,000 cr into Ambuja by way of preferential allotment of warrants. This will equip Ambuja to capture the growth in the market," it said.

Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech leads the cement sector with an installed capacity over 100 MTPA.



Deficit in paddy sowing narrows to 4.52%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The deficit in paddy sowing has reduced to 4.52 per cent at 399.03 lakh hectares so far in the ongoing kharif season on revival of rains in some states, but it is badly affected in Jharkhand, according to agriculture ministry data released on Friday.

Paddy sowing in Jharkhand has halved to 8.25 lakh hectares so far this kharif season, compared to 17.62 lakh hectares in the year-ago period, the data showed.

Paddy is the main kharif crop, sowing of which begins with the onset of southwest monsoon from June. Paddy sowing is now almost over as the crop will be harvested from October.

About 80 per cent of India's total production comes from this season. The government expects 6-7 million fall in kharif rice production based on the crop condition till last week.

According to the ministry data, there was 12.39 per cent lag in paddy sowing till August 12 of this kharif season.

However, the deficit in paddy coverage has reduced to 4.52 per cent at 399.03 lakh hectares now when compared to 417.93 lakh hectares in the year-ago period.

The deficit in paddy sowing in West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar has narrowed compared to the same period last year.

In West Bengal, paddy was

sown in 38.52 lakh hectares so far this kharif season as against 42.17 lakh hectares earlier, while in Odisha the crop was sown in 34.99 lakh hectares compared to 35.13 lakh hectares.

Paddy coverage in Bihar was slightly lower at 30.67 lakh hectares so far this kharif season as against 32.64 lakh hectares in the year-ago period.

In Uttar Pradesh too, the area sown to paddy remained lower at 57.78 lakh hectares, compared to 60.26 lakh hectares.

According to the data, area sown to pulses remained marginally lower at 131.92 lakh hectares so far this kharif season when compared with 137.50 lakh hectares in the year-ago period.

There was a slight lag in oilseeds sowing as coverage was down at 190.91 lakh hectares as against 192.23 lakh hectares.

However, area sown to coarse cereals remained higher at 181.31 lakh hectares so far this kharif season as against 174.05 lakh hectares earlier.

Among cash crops, sugarcane area was marginally up at 55.65 lakh hectares from 54.97 lakh hectares, while that of cotton rose to 127.15 lakh hectares from 118.24 lakh hectares. Jute/mesta was sown in 6.95 lakh hectares in the said period, the data showed.

Total area sown to kharif crops remained lower at 1,092.92 lakh hectares so far this kharif season as against 1,101.87 lakh hectares in the year-ago period.

CR7 opens Europa account

AP ■ LONDON

Cristiano Ronaldo scored for the first time this season as Manchester United got their Europa League campaign back on track with a 2-0 win at Sheriff Tiraspol on Thursday.

Ronaldo had gone seven games without a goal this term before the United striker converted a first half penalty against the Moldovan champions.

It was the 37-year-old's 699th club goal, but Ronaldo's low-key celebration was in keeping with the comfortable nature of United's third successive away victory.

This was the kind of unglamorous fixture Ronaldo seemed desperate to avoid when he launched his unsuccessful bid to quit Old Trafford for a Champions League club in the summer.

But the Portugal star will be relieved to have got on the score-sheet, after Jadon Sancho put United ahead with a well-timed response on the day he was left out of the England squad.

United lost their opening Group E match 1-0 against Real Sociedad last Thursday in a match overshadowed by the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

That gave Erik ten Hag's side no margin for error in Chisinau and they were up to the task against a Sheriff side who enjoyed a stunning 2-1 victory at Real Madrid in the Champions League group stage last season.

United's first trip to the far-flung outpost of Moldova served as a painful reminder of their diminished status following last season's failure to qualify for the Champions League.

Sheriff's home ground in Transnistria was deemed too dangerous by UEFA due to the war in neighbouring Ukraine, forcing the match to be moved 40 miles to the drab surroundings of the tiny



Zimbru Stadium in Chisinau.

David De Gea's complaint before the match that United "should be playing Champions League" contained a hint of arrogance, but Ten Hag acknowledged Sheriff were "a serious and decent opponent".

Ten Hag named a strong side and Sancho, one of five changes, struck with United's first meaningful attack in the 17th minute.

SANCHO STRIKES

Just hours after learning he was not in the England squad for their Nations League games, Sancho reminded Three Lions boss Gareth Southgate of his quality.

Taking Christian Eriksen's pass in his stride, Sancho cleverly switched direction inside the Sheriff area, giving himself room to plant a cool finish into the bottom corner from 12 yards.

After a disappointing first campaign following his move from Borussia Dortmund, Sancho is starting to flourish and he celebrated his third goal this season by holding up a shin pad -- one of a personalised pair given to the 22-year-old by a young fan recently.

Sancho was denied a second goal when Stjepan Radeljic cleared his shot off the line, but United still doubled their lead in the 39th minute.

Diogo Dalot was brought down by Patrick Kpozozo and Ronaldo stepped up to stroke home the spot-kick with ease.

United remain three points behind group leaders Real Sociedad, who won 2-1 against Omonia Nicosia.

Sociedad took the lead through Ander Guevara in the 30th minute and former Crystal Palace striker Alexander Sorloth bagged the 80th minute winner after Bruno equalised eight minutes earlier.

Ferencváros won 1-0 at Monaco thanks to Balint Vecsei's 79th minute goal as the Hungarians moved to the top of Group H, with Trabzonspor

beating Red Star Belgrade 2-1.

Freiburg made it two successive Group G wins as Michael Gregoritsch scored twice in a 3-0 stroll at Olympiacos, while Qarabag beat Nantes 3-0.

In Group F, Midtjylland powered to a stunning 5-1 rout of Lazio. Paulinho, Sory Kaba, Evander, Gustav Isaksen and Erik Sviatchenko all scored for the Danish club, with Sergej Milinkovic-Savic's reply no consolation for the embarrassed Serie A side.

Feyenoord top the group after Iran winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh hit a hat-trick in their 6-0 demolition of Sturm Graz.



West Ham survive scare, Villarreal stay perfect in Conference League

AP ■ LONDON

West Ham survived an early scare to win 3-2 at Danes Silkeborg and Villarreal edged Hapoel Beer Sheva in the group stage of the Europa Conference League on Thursday.

Silkeborg, making their first group stage appearance in Europe since the 1997 Intertoto Cup, broke the deadlock after less than five minutes thanks to Kasper Kusk's effort.

The Hammers responded just before the quarter of an hour mark as Manuel Lanzini converted a spot-kick.

The visitors took the lead on 25 minutes as Gianluca Scamacca claimed his third goal for the club before veteran centre-back Craig Dawson added a third for the English side before the break.

Soren Tengstedt cut David Moyes' side's lead with 15 minutes left but they held on for a second straight win in the competition.

Last season's Champions League semi-finalists Villarreal continued their perfect start in the

third-tier tournament as 35-year-old striker Jose Luis Morales scored his fourth goal of the campaign in a 2-1 win in Israel.

The home side drew level after the hour with Rotem Hatuel's effort before 21-year-old Alex Baena grabbed the winner for the Spaniards.

After last week's fan trouble on the Mediterranean coast between Nice and Cologne, the French side drew 1-1 with Serbians Partizan Belgrade as English left-back Joe Bryan opened his account for the Ligue 1 club.

Cologne overcame Slovac 4-2 thanks to Austria midfielder Dejan Ljubicic's double.

Earlier, Dutch outfit AZ Alkmaar remained unbeaten atop Group E after hammering Vaduz from Liechtenstein 4-1 as Japan right-back Yukinari Sugawara and midfielder Dani de Wit scored in injury time.

Ivory Coast winger Max Gradel netted his third goal of the season in all competitions as Turks Sivasspor edged Romanians Cluj 1-0.



Argentina call up Di Maria, Messi for pre-WC friendlies

AP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Star forwards Lionel Messi and Angel Di Maria were called up by Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni on Thursday for two friendlies later this month as the Copa America holders prepare for the World Cup in Qatar.

Argentina play Honduras in Miami on September 23 and Jamaica in New York four days later.

After that they will have one more friendly, against the United Arab Emirates in Dubai on November 16, just days before the World Cup begins.

Roma's Paulo Dybala, Julian Alvarez of Manchester City and Inter Milan forward Lautaro Martinez have also been called up to the 28-player squad.

The Albiceleste, who are on a historic unbeaten run of 33 matches, begin their World Cup campaign on November 22 against Saudi Arabia in Group

C, which also includes Mexico and Poland.

Argentina last won the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, led by the late Diego Maradona, one of the most iconic players in the sport's history.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Franco Armani, Emiliano Martinez, Geronimo Rulli.

Defenders: Gonzalo Montiel, Nahuel Molina, German Pezzella, Facundo Medina, Cristian Romero, Nehuen Perez, Nicolas Otamendi, Lisandro Martinez, Nicolas Tagliafico, Marcos Acuna.

Midfielders: Leandro Paredes, Guido Rodriguez, Enzo Fernandez, Rodrigo De Paul, Alejandro Gomez, Giovanni Lo Celso, Alexis Mac Allister.

Forwards: Paulo Dybala, Angel Correa, Lionel Messi, Thiago Almada, Angel Di Maria, Joaquin Correa, Lautaro Martinez, Julian Alvarez.

Novak Djokovic hails 'incredible moments and battles' with Federer

Novak & Federer played each other 50 times, with the Serb holding a 27-23 winning record

AP ■ BELGRADE

Novak Djokovic paid tribute to his long-time rival Roger Federer on Friday, hailing the "incredible moments and battles" the pair shared on court.

Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam champion, announced on Thursday that he would retire after next week's Laver Cup.

"Roger, it's hard to see this day and put into words all that we've shared in this sport together," Djokovic wrote on Instagram, saying they had "over a decade of incredible moments and battles to think back on".

Djokovic and Federer played each other 50 times, with the Serb holding a 27-23 winning record.

The duo played 17 matches at Grand Slam tournaments, including five finals, with Djokovic leading that head-to-head 11-6.

"Your career has set the tone for what it means to achieve excellence and lead with integrity and poise," added the 35-year-old.

"It's an honour to know you on and off court, and for many more years to come."

Federer's last major final was the epic Wimbledon show-



Serena welcomes Federer to retirement

AP ■ NEW YORK

Serena Williams welcomed Roger Federer to the tennis "retirement club" on Thursday, saying she has always admired and looked up to the Swiss legend. Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam champion, said Thursday he would retire after playing next week in London at the Laver Cup.

Among those sending congratulations to the 41-year-old icon for his tremendous career was 23-time Grand Slam winner Williams, who said she was "evolving" away from tennis, with last week's US Open expected to be her final tournament.

"I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so



eloquently put this game to rest -- perfectly done, just like your career," Williams said in an Instagram post.

"I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people -- including me -- and we will never forget."

piece in 2019 which Djokovic won in a final-set tie-break after the Swiss had earlier missed two championship points.

The 41-year-old Federer trails only his 'Big Three' rivals Djokovic (21) and Rafael Nadal (22) on the all-time list of most men's Slam titles.

The trio will play together in London next week at the Laver Cup as part of Team Europe in the last event of Federer's career.

"Looking forward to celebrating your achievements and seeing you in London," said Djokovic.

Iglesias & Nico in Spain's Nations League squad

AP ■ MADRID

Luis Enrique named potential debutants Borja Iglesias and Nico Williams in his Spain squad on Friday for the Nations League games against Switzerland and Portugal next week, while leaving out Ansu Fati.

Striker Iglesias, 29, has been in good form for Real Betis with four goals in La Liga this season, while Athletic Bilbao's Williams, 20, has also been called up for the first time.

His brother Inaki Williams was given one Spain cap but opted to declare for World Cup qualifiers Ghana in July.

"Pure wingers need to learn how to play inside, and Nico is learning that," said Luis Enrique.

"He has great pace to overload defences. We're taking advantage to get to watch him first hand."

"I know Borja well from when I was at Celta Vigo (as coach) and

he was in the B team. He's been playing well for a while, he has the level to play as Spain's striker, he can link the play, score goals, he's very powerful."

Barcelona forward Fati was a regular for Luis Enrique previously but is still finding fitness and form after a long spell out injured with a knee problem.

Marco Asensio has barely featured for Real Madrid this season, but was included after scoring as a substitute in the 2-0 Champions League win over RB Leipzig on Wednesday.

Veteran defender Sergio Ramos was on the pre-list according to reports in Spain, after returning from injury at Paris Saint-Germain, but was not included and so will not be able to add to his record 180 caps.

"It's great news to see Ramos back after over a year out," added Luis Enrique. "Now he is competing and doing it consistently...but I think the best options to play in



the centre of defence are the central defenders I've picked, and the rest is just smoke."

This is the last international window ahead of the Qatar 2022 World Cup, meaning it is a final chance for fringe players like Valencia defender Hugo Guillamon and new faces like Williams and Iglesias to convince Luis Enrique to take them to the tournament.

Spain are top of League A Group 2 with two wins and two draws from four games, leading Portugal by a point.

First they host Switzerland in Zaragoza on September 24, before heading to Braga for the second game against Fernando Santos' Portugal on September 27, with whom they shared a 1-1 draw in June.

Spain reached the previous Nations League final but lost 2-1 to France in Milan in October 2021. This edition's final four will take place in June 2023.

AJAX PAIR EARN FIRST CALL-UPS

AP ■ THE HAGUE

Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal included Ajax midfielder Kenneth Taylor in his Nations League squad Friday, saying it was the "last chance" for players to impress before the World Cup.

The Netherlands play Poland in Warsaw on September 22 and then Belgium in Amsterdam three days later.

The 20-year-old Taylor has been at the heart of the Ajax midfield this season and has three goals and an assist. Also called up was the 38-year-old Ajax goalkeeper Remko Pasveer, who made a strong showing in the Champions League against Liverpool midweek.

"I wanted to see these players and this is the last chance before the World Cup," Van Gaal said. "After these Nations League games we get together again November 14 just a week before the World Cup starts."

The Netherlands start their World Cup campaign with a mouthwatering clash against African champions Senegal on November 21.

The Dutch team lead Nations League Group A4 with 10 points ahead of Belgium on seven.



That day, it could have been me instead of Arshdeep: Bishnoi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He is all of 22 but Ravi Bishnoi fully understands that cricket indeed is a cruel game and instead of Arshdeep Singh, it could have been him dropping an important sitter against Pakistan during the recently held Asia Cup.

Arshdeep faced an unbelievable backlash on social media after he dropped Asif Ali's catch off Bishnoi's bowling in the Super 4s game that India lost.

Bishnoi, however, had impressive figures of 1/28 in 4 overs and was easily the best bowler in his only chance at the continental event.

"Paaji mere sabse acche dost hai (Paaji is a dear friend). We all know that dropped catches are part and parcel of game. It can happen with the best. I could well have been the other way round where he was bowling and I happened to drop the catch," Bishnoi, who has played 10 T20Is for India in 2022, said.

"Arshdeep is one of the bravest boys that I know. After that catch, you saw how he came and bowled at the death. It never looked as if he was perturbed. That's his mental strength," said the Rajasthan man, who is in the stand-by for the ICC T20 World Cup.

DEVELOPING LEG BREAK

With 16 wickets and an economy rate of 7.08, Bishnoi has been impressive in the chances that he has got for India in the shortest version.

But having missed the T20 World Cup bus to a much senior and accomplished Yuzvendra Chahal, the common question is that if he is becoming a one-dimensional option with googly as his only potent weapon.

"No one from the team management has pressed it upon

me that I have to develop a leg-break," the Jodhpur lad said.

In fact, former leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule, who also happens to be one of the bowling coaches who travels with the team, told him not to worry.

"I had spoken to Sairaj sir and he said that it's fine as long as I am working on that variation. He told me 'Yes, you are trying to develop a potent leg-break and someday, you will certainly execute it to perfection. I am working on it and hope it happens sooner than later,' Bishnoi said.

In fact, wrist spin is one of the toughest art in cricket and Bishnoi knows that he can't be afraid of batters giving him the charge.

"You shouldn't be scared of getting hit or when the batter is attacking. As per situation, I bowl a lot of flippers and top spinners. You need to analyse the match situation and bowl accordingly."

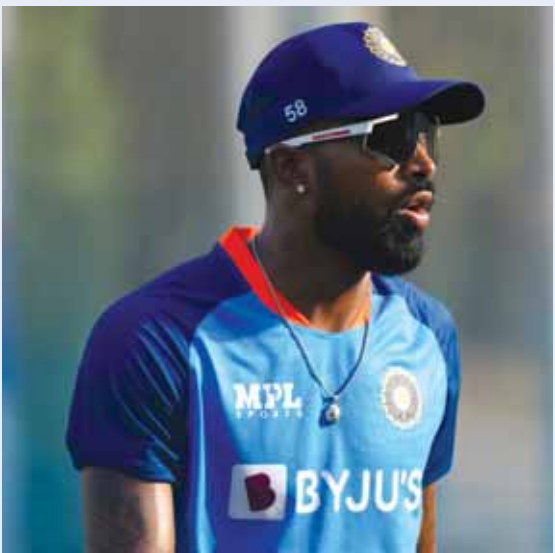
'ENJOY' & 'BE FEARLESS'

It is not always easy if your competition is as skilful a bowler as Chahal but Bishnoi is enjoying every moment of working with the senior wrist spinner.

"Yuzi bhai hasn't told me anything specific (on leg break bowling). He always tells me that every moment that you are on the ground, you should enjoy and as a pair, we should try and bowl well in tandem which is beneficial for the team."

Bishnoi feels comfortable in both kinds of roles, attacking as well as a restrictive one.

"One has to perform a specific role that is being assigned. At times, it could be a wicket-taking role and at times, a restrictive one. For me, the most important aspect is that I have not wasted opportunities, whatever chances I have got, I have tried my best to utilise it."



‘Hardik has got to mature a bit more’

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Hardik Pandya needs to mature a bit more, feels former English cricketer Tim Bresnan, who expects the India all-rounder to play a significant role in the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Besides his exploits with the bat and ball, Pandya has also displayed his leadership skills since coming back from an injury layoff, leading Gujarat Titans to the IPL 2022 title on debut.

At the recently-concluded Asia Cup too, Pandya showed how crucial he is to the Indian team, when he fashioned a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the tournament opener.

"Definitely, a pace bowling all-rounder is quite crucial, it balances your team, it gives you two cricketers in one," the 37-year-old said.

Pandya has battled injury in the past and the team think-tank is mindful of his workload management, giving him rest for the upcoming T20I series South Africa.

Bresnan remarked that it's because of the demanding nature of his position.

"It's a tough position to play because you are always involved in the game, so it's quite demanding physically. Fast bowling all-rounders are worth the weight in gold.

"Hardik is really good on the field as well, he's a very good athlete. He's got to mature a bit more, then he is going to be a top, top player," Bresnan, who called it quits after playing for 20 years, added.

Bresnan has not followed the Asia Cup and India's early exit but picked the Rohit Sharma-led side as one of the semifinal contenders alongside Australia, New Zealand,

England for the T20 world Cup.

"You can't discount India ever... But I think England, Australia and New Zealand probably are the three favourites. But India and Pakistan have the same chance and Sri Lanka have done really well in the Asia Cup, so you never know, whoever brings on the day."

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is also back after missing the Asia Cup because of injury-related issues and Bresnan thinks he will hit his straps straightaway.

"He's got genuine pace, he's got too much quality to be rusty. He is too professional, I think he would be fine for the World Cup," he said.

As for England, the Jos Buttler-led side will not have opener Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow, but Bresnan believed they are a well-balanced side. "We have got a really good batting lineup. If we can keep the seamers fit that will be key for the English team. We've got all departments covered."

Talking about Test cricket, Bresnan rated James Anderson and Stuart Broad as the best pace attack in world cricket at the moment, and said their domination in the recent win against South Africa is a testament to that.

Anderson and Broad bagged 24 wickets between them as England sealed a come-from-behind 2-1 home series win over South Africa last month.

"I think they are the best attack at the moment, probably in all conditions as well... They are coming on the back of a really good series against New Zealand, the one-off Test against India, and a really good series against South Africa.

India 'a pacer short' for T20 WC: Johnson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's squad composition for the T20 World Cup seems a "bit risky" as they are probably "a pacer short" for the bouncy pitches Down Under, feels former Australia speedster Mitchell Johnson.

The skillful Mohammad Shami has been kept on standby which has surprised a few experts of the game as Indian selectors kept faith on the quartet led by Jasprit Bumrah with Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel and Arshdeep Singh in its ranks.

"If you got an all-rounder (fast bowling) and couple of spinners, four fast bowlers it is a bit of a risk. But India are probably looking at playing two pacers and an all rounder (Hardik Pandya) and two spinners," Johnson, who is in India to take part in Legends League Cricket, said.

"In Australia you surely need to play three fast bowlers, possibly four in certain conditions, for example Perth. I guess they have a plan going in but it is a bit of a risk if you only take four (pacers)," the former left-arm tearaway quick.

In Indian set-up, only Bumrah is the man, who can consistently clock 140 clicks upwards but pace can't be the only criteria to form a potent bowling unit, Johnson opined.

In the recently held Asia Cup in the UAE, India were criticised for their bowling depth (or lack of it) in the absence of Bumrah while Pakistan boasted of bowlers who rattled the batters with their express pace.

However, Johnson finds the emphasis on pace funny.

"Those kind of things are funny (That all should bowl at 145 plus). If



someone can bowl 145 plus, you don't need another guy bowling at the same pace. You need guys that back each other up, work together."

He then cited how Ryan Harris and Peter Siddle, two fast medium seam bowlers complemented him during the 2013-14 Ashes where England were literally drubbed.

"During the 2013-14 Ashes, there was a lot of talk about me bowling fast and that was great but at the other end I had Peter Siddle and Ryan Harris who had their own strengths and could also hit 140s. So it is all about the balance in the team."

"The main thing in Australia is the extra bounce and pace and

adjusting your length, you can get carried away and bowl a bit too short."

Aaron Finch's retirement from ODIs has ignited an intense debate over his successor.

David Warner, who had copped a lifelong leadership for his role in the ball tampering scandal in 2018,

has expressed a strong desire to lead Australia while Steve Smith, who had a received a two-year captaincy ban after the incident in South Africa, is another option.

Johnson however feels both players are at the fag end of their careers and therefore, the team should have a younger leader.

Eng crush India in 3rd T20I, win series



PTI ■ BRISTOL

Indian bowlers put up a valiant effort with a below par total to defend before rookie Alice Caspey held her nerves to guide England to a seven-

wicket win in the third women's T20I and also clinch the series 2-1.

India put up an inept batting performance, scoring only 122 for eight, courtesy wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh's 22-ball 33 and all rounder Pooja

Vastrakar's unbeaten 19 off 11 deliveries.

Indian batter were unable to navigate through the England spin bowling as the trio of Sophie Ecclestone (3/25), Sarah Glenn (2/11) and Bryony Smith accounted for six wickets.

England scored the runs in 18.2 overs, courtesy opener Sophia Dunkley's 49 off 44 and 18-year-old Caspey's unbeaten 38-run knock that took the hosts over the line and seal the three-match series 2-1.

"I think we were 20 runs short. Credit to our bowlers for keeping us in the game," India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said after the game. "We just need to stick to our strengths. One needs to have a decent total in any format of the game. We need partnerships with the bat," she added.

BRIEF SCORES

India Women: 122 for 8 in 20 overs (Richa Ghosh 33*, Deepti Sharma 24; Sophie Ecclestone 3/25)

England Women: 126 for 3 in 18.2 overs (Sophia Dunkley 49, Alice Caspey 38*; Radha Yadav 1/14)

Boucher named head coach of Mumbai Indians

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former South Africa wicketkeeper batter Mark Boucher has been appointed Mumbai Indians' head coach for the upcoming IPL season, the franchise announced on Friday.

The 45-year-old replaces former Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene, who has been elevated to the role of global head of performance by the franchise.

Boucher, who is currently the head coach of the South Africa men's national team, had earlier this week announced he will be stepping down from the role after the upcoming T20 World Cup.

"It is an honor and privilege to be appointed as Head Coach of MI. Their history and achievements as a franchise clearly put them up there as one of the most successful sporting franchises in all of world sport," Boucher said in a media release.

"I look forward to the challenge and respect the need for results. It's a strong unit with great leadership and players. I look forward to adding value to this dynamic unit," he added.

Boucher has had a long and illustrious career and holds the record for the most Test dismissals by a wicketkeeper.

Post-retirement he took over as coach for Titans, a

top-level cricket franchise in South Africa, and led them to five domestic titles.

In 2019, he was appointed as the head coach of South Africa where he crafted 11 Test wins, 12 in ODIs and 23 T20I victories.

PPUNJAB KINGS APPOINT BAYLISS

IPL side Punjab Kings on Friday appointed Trevor Bayliss as the team's new head coach ahead of the next season of the franchise-based T20 tournament.

Bayliss will replace Anil Kumble after the former India cricketer's contract was not renewed by Punjab Kings following a poor string of performances by

the side under his guidance.

"I'm honoured to be given the head coach's role with the Punjab Kings. A foundation franchise with an appetite for success. I look forward to working with a talented squad of players determined to compete for silverware," Bayliss said in a statement issued by the franchise.

Bayliss will bring in his experience of winning the 2019 50 over World Cup with England, two IPL titles with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2012 and 2014 besides a BBL title with the Sydney Sixers.

Bayliss was also the head coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the 2020 and 2021 IPL seasons.



Duleep Trophy: Bhui slams ton, South Zone pile up 630

PTI ■ SALEM

Ricky Bhui made an unbeaten 103 while Baba Indrajith hit a half-century as South Zone posted a massive first innings total of 630 for eight before declaring on the second day of their Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone here on Friday.

In reply, North reached 24 for no loss at stumps with the talented Yash Dhull on 8 (18 balls, 1 four) and Manan Vohra batting on 11 (12 balls, 1 four), still 606 runs adrift of South's huge first innings score.

In Coimbatore, diminutive opener Prithvi Shaw was in roaring form, hammering an unbeaten 96-ball 104 (11 fours, 3 sixes) as West Zone ended at 130 for three in the second

innings to extend their lead against Central Zone to 259 runs.

Resuming at overnight 324 for two, the South batters continued to pile on the runs. Captain Hanuma Vihari, who was batting on 107 overnight, extended his partnership with Indrajith (65, 104 balls, 4 fours) to 105 runs before being trapped LBW by left-arm spinner Mayank Dagar (3 for 184).

Indrajith and Manish Pandey (35) added 57 runs for the fourth wicket before the former became Dagar's second scalp.

Pandey fell to Dagar at 440 but North's ordeal was not over as Bhui went on the attack, and with support from K Gowtham (48, 72 balls, 4 fours, 2 sixes) and T Ravi Teja (42, 66 balls, 4 fours,

1 six), swelled the South Zone total.

From 440 for five, Bhui and the others added 190 runs before skipper Vihari declared the innings.

On day one, opener Rohan S Kunnammal smashed a ton on Duleep Trophy debut to put South Zone in control.

WEST HITS BACK

In the other semifinal, West Zone bowlers came to the fore and dismissed Central Zone for 128 in the first innings, a lead of 129 runs after being restricted to 257.

The attacking Shaw then made sure that West took control of proceedings by coming up with a blistering knock. His spectacular assault on the opposition bowlers meant West



had seized the initiative, reaching 130 for three at the close.

After a ton in the quarter-final against a weak North East team, Shaw demonstrated

his batting skills by tearing into the Central zone attack. There was virtually no stopping Shaw as he appeared to strike boundaries at will to take the game by

the scruff of the neck.

Even as Shaw went about smashing the bowlers around the park, West lost three wickets, including that of Yashasvi

Jaiswal and captain Ajinkya Rahane.

Before the Shaw show, the experienced Jaydev Unadkat (3 for 24) did the early damage

while spinner Tanush Kotian picked up three wickets,

including that of Karan Sharma, to stifle the Central line-up.

Ambulance inside ground after Gaja's wild throw injures Venkatesh

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

An ambulance made its way into the ground after a wild throw, on follow-through, by West Zone medium pacer Chintan Gaja injured Central Zone's Venkatesh Iyer during their Duleep Trophy match here on Friday.

The all-rounder was forced to walk back after he was hit on the head by the West Zone seamer.

Iyer, who has also been a part of India's squad for a brief period, opened his account with a six off Gaja. Next ball, he hit it back to Gaja, who threw it back at Iyer, and the batter was down

on the ground in pain.

The ambulance arrived in the middle of the ground, and the stretcher was out too, but the 27-year-old decided to walk out off the field.

Iyer came back to bat but was dismissed after reaching 14. However, Ashok Menaria was fielding in Iyer's place.

Selectors include Raj Angad Bawa in India A squad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young all-rounder Raj Angad Bawa has earned his maiden India A call-up in the Sanju Samson-led team for the three-match One-day series against New Zealand A, starting September 22 in Chennai.

The second and third matches are scheduled for September 25 and 27 respectively.

Prithvi Shaw, who has been in fine form in the Duleep Trophy, is back in the mix along with most players, who were part of the ODI series in Zimbabwe.

Bawa, hero of India's U-19 World Cup winning campaign, is a fast medium bowler and left-handed hard-hitting middle-order batter.

While he has only played two Ranji Trophy games for Chandigarh, it is understood that the Chetan Sharma-led selection committee's concern is to create back-up for Hardik Pandya, who would time and again need to focus on workload management.

With the likes of Shivam Dube and Vijay Shankar not stepping up at the international level, the selectors are keen on creating a pool of back-up seam bowling all-rounders. **India A squad:** Prithvi Shaw, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Rahul Tripathi, Rajat Patidar, Sanju Samson (C), KS Bharat (wk), Kuldeep Yadav, Shabbaz Ahmed, Rahul Chahar, Tilak Varma, Kuldeep Sen, Shardul Thakur, Umran Malik, Navdeep Saini, Raj Angad Bawa.

out in 71.2 overs (Mark Chapman 92, Sean Solia 54; Saurabh Kumar 4/48, Rahul Chahar 3/53).