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NEW DELHI, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹4

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Cheetahs return to India after 70 years



Prime Minister Narendra Modi clicks photographs of one of cheetahs released inside a special enclosure of the Kuno National Park. (Left) A cheetah inside the enclosure of the park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday

PNS ■ SHEOPUR/BHOPAL

A coalition of eight cheetahs flown in from Namibia were released into a special enclosure at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi also clicked some pictures of the cheetahs on a professional camera after releasing them.

Eight cheetahs were brought to Gwalior from Namibia in a special plane on Saturday morning as part of the

cheetah reintroduction programme. The animals were later flown to the KNP, located in Sheopur district, in two Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters.

The Prime Minister, who is celebrating his birthday, released two of these cheetahs into an enclosure at the KNP. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was also present on the occasion.

The KNP is situated on the northern side of Vidhyachal mountains with an area of 344.686 sqkm. It was named

after a tributary of Chambal River, Kuno, a forest official said. The last cheetah died in the country in 1947 in Korea district in present day Chhattisgarh, which was earlier part of Madhya Pradesh, and the species was declared extinct from India in 1952.

The 'African Cheetah Introduction Project in India' was conceived in 2009. A plan to introduce the big cat in the KNP by November last year had suffered a setback due to the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said.

Cheetahs OK but where are 16 crore jobs: Rahul to Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday called Prime Minister Narendra Modi's releasing of Cheetahs in a Madhya Pradesh national park a "tamasha," orchestrated by him as another diversion from pressing national issues and the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the padyatra, posted a cryptic tweet: "Eight cheetahs are ok but please tell where are 16 crore jobs promised in eight years." Rahul also shared an image of youths participating in the padyatra with placards reading "we need jobs".

Congress general secretary and in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh alleged that the Prime Minister "hardly ever acknowledges continuity in governance" and the Cheetah project was the latest example of that.

"The PM hardly ever acknowledges continuity in governance. The Cheetah project going back to my visit to Capetown on 25.04.2010 is the latest example," Ramesh, who was Forest Minister posted a related picture.

Continued on Page 2

87K donate blood on PM's birthday, set world record



BJP president JP Nadda during inauguration of a 15-day blood donation drive 'Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav' in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

More than 87,000 people voluntarily donated blood on the first day of the 15-day blood donation drive, which is a new world record, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday, on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.

Mandaviya also donated blood at a camp set up at Safdarjung Hospital. In a late evening tweet, he said, "Today, I am happy to share that on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under #RaktdaanAmritMahotsav, more than 87 thousand people have voluntarily donated blood, which is a new world record." To be precise, 87,137 people donated blood. The drive will continue till October 1, National Voluntary Blood

Donation Day.

The Minister urged citizens to register on the Aarogya Setu app or e-Raktkosh portal to donate blood as part of the "Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav", which will be held till October 1 — National Voluntary Blood Donation Day.

So far, 5,857 camps have been approved across the country. "Blood donation - great donation! Donated blood u n d e r #RaktdaanAmritMahotsav starting from today on the birthday of Prime Minister @NarendraModi. It is heartwarming to be involved in #RaktdaanAmritMahotsavumani. Be a part of this great work too," Mandaviya said in a tweet in Hindi.

According to an official source, the drive aims to collect close to one lakh units of blood in a day, besides raising awareness about the need for regular non-remunerated voluntary blood donations.

One unit translates to 350 ml of blood. "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others — Mahatma Gandhi," he said.

Continued on Page 2

China vetoes UN bid to blacklist 26/11 handler LeT terrorist Sajid Mir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

China has thwarted a move by India and the US at the United Nations (UN) to blacklist Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) terrorist Sajid Mir, the main handler of the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. He is one of the most wanted terrorists by India and carries a reward of five million dollars announced by the US for his role in the 26/11 attacks.

The latest block by China late on Thursday is the third such move in the last four months indicating that Beijing will back Islamabad despite international pressure.

As regards Mir, based in Pakistan, the proposal was moved by the US and co-designated by India to blacklist him under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council as a global terrorist and subject him to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

In June this year, he was jailed for over 15 years in a terror-financing case by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan, which is struggling to exit the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Pakistani authorities had in the past claimed Mir had died, but Western countries remained unconvinced and demanded proof of his death. This issue became a major sticking point in FATF's assessment of Pakistan's progress on the action plan late last year.

Mir is a senior member of the Pakistan-based LeT and is wanted for his involvement in the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

"Mir was LeT's operations manager for the attacks, playing a leading role in their planning, preparation and execution," the US State Department

has said. For his role in the Mumbai attacks, Mir was indicted in the United States in April 2011.

From 2006 to 2011, Mir was in charge of LeT's external operations and planned and directed various terrorist attacks on behalf of the group. Additionally, Mir allegedly conspired to commit a terrorist attack against a newspaper and its employees in Denmark between 2008 and 2009.

In August 2012, the US Department of the Treasury designated Mir as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist. As a result of this designation, among other consequences, all property and interests in the property of Mir that are subject to US jurisdiction are blocked, and US persons are generally prohibited from engaging in any transactions with Mir.

Last month, China had put a hold on a proposal by the US and India at the UN to blacklist Abdul Rauf Azhar, the brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and a senior leader of the Pakistan-based terror organisation. Abdul Rauf Azhar, born in 1974 in Pakistan, was sanctioned by the US in December 2010.

In June this year, China had put a hold, at the last moment, on a joint proposal by India and the US to list Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

Makki is a US-designated terrorist and brother-in-law of LeT head and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed. New Delhi and Washington had put a joint proposal to designate Makki as a global terrorist under the 1267 ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council but Beijing placed a hold on this proposal at the last minute.

CAPSULE

AP MOVES SC AGAINST HC ORDER ON AMARAVATI

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Government has filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court on the contentious Amaravati issue, more than six months after the High Court ruled that the State legislature "lacked competence" to make any legislation for shifting the capital. The regime under Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy approached the apex court on Friday night for relief against the High Court's March 3 verdict.

JMI BANS SAFOORA'S ENTRY ON CAMPUS

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has banned research scholar and activist Safoora Zargar from entering the university campus days after the administration cancelled her MPhil admission. Zargar made headlines due to her alleged involvement in the anti-CAA protests after the Citizenship Amendment Act was passed by the Parliament in December 2019.

Shah, KCR cross swords on Hyderabad Liberation Day

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and TRS took digs at each other on Saturday over the celebrations marking the annexing of the erstwhile Nizam-ruled Hyderabad State to the Union of India, with the former slamming votebank politics behind the lack of official commemoration so far while the ruling party warned against communal forces trying to divide society.

Union Minister Amit Shah took a veiled dig at TRS and its supremo, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, saying it is unfortunate the "Hyderabad Liberation Day" has not been celebrated officially all these years in Telangana due to "vote bank politics" despite some leaders promising to do so.

Continued on Page 2

Tejashwi influencing IRCTC scam probe, cancel bail: CBI to court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Saturday moved a Delhi court seeking cancellation of bail granted to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav in the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) scam case.

Yadav was issued a notice by special judge Geetanjali Goel on the CBI's plea and his response was sought on the matter.

The CBI said the senior RJD leader had spoken about its officers during a recent press conference in a manner that amounted to intimidating them. It further said that the presser was an attempt by Tejashwi to influence the case.

Yadav and his mother Rabri Devi were granted bail in the case in August 2018.



The scam relates to the IRCTC hotels maintenance contract case in which the CBI had charged 12 people and two companies. There were alleged irregularities in the allotment of contracts of two IRCTC hotels in Ranchi and Odisha's Puri in 2006 to a private firm involving a bribe in the form of a three-acre commercial plot at a prime location in Bihar Capital Patna.

The Enforcement Directorate had also filed a chargesheet in the case and accused them of money laundering.

Mansukh adopts 40 TB patients, asks others to follow suit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 72nd birthday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday adopted 40 Tuberculosis (TB) patients from his birthplace Gujarat's Palitana.

Taking to Twitter, Mandaviya urged people to adopt TB patients. "Today on the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I have adopted 40 TB patients from my birthplace Palitana.

Let us all join this service work of humanity of Modi ji and build TB-free India with public participation. All of you should also adopt TB patients: <https://communitysupport.niks.hay.in>," he said in a tweet.

Continued on Page 2

E-auction of 1,200 items gifted to Modi goes live

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 72nd birthday, an online auction of over 1,200 items, including a trident, a model statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and sporting memorabilia of Commonwealth Games medalists gifted to him went live on Saturday.

"The time has arrived! It's 10 am and the #PMMementosAuction2022 is now open & live! Head to HYPERLINK "http://pmmementos.Gov.In" pmmementos.Gov.In to register & participate in the auction in which exclusive gifts received by Prime Minister @NarendraModi have been listed," Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy tweeted.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during celebrations of 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' at Parade Ground in Hyderabad on Saturday; (R) Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao pays tributes at the Telangana Martyrs Memorial on the occasion of 'Telangana National Integration Day' in Hyderabad on Saturday



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AP files SLP in SC against HC verdict on Amaravati

PTI ■ AMRAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh Government has filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court on the contentious Amaravati issue, more than six months after the High Court ruled that the State legislature “lacked competence” to make any legislation for shifting the Capital.

The regime under Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy approached the apex court on Friday night for relief against the High Court’s March 3 verdict.

Through the SLP, the State Government sought to challenge the High Court judgment on six grounds, including the power to legislate. Official sources, however, said some “corrections” were required to be made in the SLP and a modified version would be filed in Supreme Court on Monday.

In the common unanimous order, a three-member bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justices M Satyanarayana Murthy and Somayajulu on March 3 noted that the establishment of three organs of the state — legislature, executive, and judiciary — is part and parcel of the “supplemental, incidental or consequential provisions” employed in Article 4 of the Constitution. “Parliament alone is competent to undertake such exercise, but not the state legislature.



The facts on record like approval of passing of legislation (APCRDA Act, 2014) and taking up land under the Land Pooling Scheme under the APCRDA Act, 2014, payment of ₹15,000 crore for capital city and region development is sufficient to conclude that Parliament delegated power to the state under Article 258 (2) of the Constitution of India, which is a one time delegation,” the bench had observed.

The bench delivered a 300-page verdict on a batch of 63 writ petitions filed by aggrieved farmers of Amaravati region against the state government’s decision to make Visakhapatnam the executive capital, Kurnool the judicial capital and confining Amaravati as the legislative capital of Andhra Pradesh.

The High Court had held that the state (government) and the AP Capital Region Development Authority violated the fundamental rights of the petitioners (farmers who parted with their land) and directed that the state construct and develop Amaravati capital city and capital region within six months time.

Significantly, the state government filed an affidavit in the High Court on April 1 this year stating that trunk infrastructure in the capital would be developed in 60 months. It also said the state requested the Centre to grant ₹1.09 lakh crore for infrastructure development. In the SLP, the state contended that “it would be destructive of the federal structure of the Constitution” if the state did not have the power to re-organise its capital.

“Whether adjudication of an academic issue, that too, about the competence of legislature, a coordinate organ of governance of the State, after the withdrawal of the three capitals legislation, constitutes a breakdown of the principle of separation of powers between various organs of governance, which is a basic structure of the constitution,” is the other contention raised by the AP government.

It also noted that “the settled position in law in the country is that the power under Article 258 is only relatable to delegation of executive and administrative powers and not the legislative power of the Union.”

“Our Government’s stated commitment to the people is decentralisation of governance. Trifurcation of capitals is one of the milestones in pursuit of that commitment. Filing of the SLP is another remedy in law being sought to enable further progress in the resolve of the state,” official sources added.

CBI team visits Goa hotel where Sonali last stayed

PTI ■ PANAJI

A team of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday visited the hotel at Anjuna in North Goa district where BJP leader Sonali Phogat was staying at the time of her death last month.

A senior Goa police officer said the process of transfer of the investigation into the Phogat death case to the CBI was almost over.

The CBI team which arrived in Goa on Friday has been visiting all the places related to Phogat’s death, he said.

On Saturday, the team inspected the rooms at the hotel in Anjuna where both Phogat and her associates — now arrested for alleged role in her death — were staying, the



official said.

“The team was at the hotel for the entire day and they also questioned several staff members,” he said.

Police have arrested five people including Sudhir Sagwan and Sukhwinder Singh in connection with the case. Both had travelled to Goa with Phogat, a former TikTok star.

7 killed, many hurt as bus falls off bridge in J’khand

PTI ■ RANCHI

At least seven people were killed and many others injured after a bus carrying around 50 passengers fell off a bridge in Jharkhand’s Hazaribag district on Saturday, police said.

The accident took place when the Ranchi-bound bus coming from Giridih district broke the railing of the bridge and fell into a dry spot in Siwanee River in Tatijharia Police Station area, Superintendent of Police Manoj Ratan Chothe said.

“Two passengers died on the spot and five others succumbed to their injuries. The fatality figures may go up as several are seriously injured,” he said.

Several passengers were

trapped inside the bus and they were rescued.

The damage could have been more had the bus fallen into water in the middle of the river, the officer said, adding an investigation is underway to ascertain the cause of the accident. A DSP-rank officer and three police station in-charge were deputed to the spot to monitor the rescue operation, the SP added.

Mamta Saluja, a passenger who received minor injuries in the accident, said, “There were Sikh pilgrims in the bus going to a gurudwara in Ranchi’s Ratu area to participate in a religious function.”

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

Veteran Cong leader Manikrao passes away

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Manikrao Gavit died of old age-related illness at a Nashik hospital.

Gavit was 87 and is survived by his daughter former MLA Nirmala Gavit and son Bharat.

A record nine-time MP from tribal dominated Nandurbar district in north Maharashtra, the tribal Congress leader was elected to Lok Sabha from 1980 to 2009, but lost the election in 2014.

Gavit served as Minister of State for Home and later as Social Justice in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

In 2019, his son Bharat joined the BJP after he was denied a ticket by the Congress, while two-time MLA from Igatpuri (Nashik) Nirmala joined the Shiv Sena and was defeated.

UP teen girl shot in honour killing

PNS ■ ALIGARH

In yet another suspected honour killing, a 16-year-old girl was shot dead by her angry father in a village under Barla police station area of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. After the murder, the accused himself reached the police station and confessed about the crime and told that his daughter was adamant on marrying a non-community youth, due to

which he had to take this step. According to the police, the youngest daughter of the accused had a love affair with a youth of another community from the neighbouring village. She had gone with the young man even one and a half months ago also.

The girl was later recovered by the family. At that time, it was decided in the panchayat held in the police station of the people of both the villages that

the daughter would go with her family and the boy would go with his family. Both will not have any relation with each other anymore.

However, later the girl again insisted on marrying her lover.

On Thursday night, there was a dispute between father and daughter regarding this matter. After this the father shot his 16-year-old daughter straight in the head with a gun.

Maha FDA cancels licence of Johnson & Johnson baby powder

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After finding that the Asamples of Baby Powder drawn from Pune and Nashik are “not of standard quality,” the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cancelled the manufacturing licence of baby powder manufactured by M/s Johnson & Johnson Pvt Limited at its main Mulund plant in north-east Mumbai.

Having analysed the samples of popular brand Johnson Baby Powder collected from Pune and Nashik and found that they were “not of standard quality,” the FDA said: “the sample does not comply with IS5339:2009 (Second Revision Amendment No. 3) specification for Skin Powder for infants in the test pH”.

To begin with, the FDA issued show cause notice to the firm under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940 and Rules there under, as to why action like suspension or cancellation of manufacturing licence or product manufacturing licence should not be taken. It also issued instructions for recall of the said produce from the market.

After refusing to accept the reports of Government analyst, Johnson & Johnson moved the court against the FDA’s move to send the samples to the referral laboratory --Central Drugs Laboratory, Kolkata.

“The Director CDK, Kolkata confirmed the report of the Government Analyst, FDA, Maharashtra and issued a final conclusive report stating that the sample does not conform to IS 5339: 2004 with respect to the test for pH,” a statement issued by the FDA

said. “The product Johnsons Baby Powder is popularly used in new born babies. The sample declared Not of Standard in pH and the use of the product may affect the health of the skin of the new born babies,” the statement said.

Hence in the interest of the public health at large, the Maharashtra FDA cancelled the manufacturing licence of Johnson Baby Powder manufactured by M/s Johnson & Johnson Pvt Limited at its main Mulund plant vide its order dated September 15.

Indian Swachhata League event to clean beaches, hills launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Swachhata League, an inter-city competition with the spirit of cleanliness and resolve towards ensuring garbage-free beaches, hills and tourist places in the country, started on Saturday.

In a statement, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said that ‘India Swachhata League’ started with ‘Swachh Amrit Mahotsav’, a fortnight of activities from September 17 to October 2 to galvanise action around ‘swachhata’ (cleanliness).

“Teams of Puri Savours, Aizwal Clean Avengers, Gazab Ghaziabad, Swachhata Warriors, Swachh Vishakha Warriors, Bemisal Bhopal, Swachhata Warriors Jhansi represented their cities in cleanliness and displayed the passion to achieve the vision of garbage-free cities,” it said.

According to the ministry, cricketer Kuldeep Sen, veteran actor Jeetendra and film stars Rahul Dev, Mugdha Godse, plogger Ripu Daman Bevi joined the movement supporting their city teams.

Trap shooter R Prithviraj Tondaiman, the ambassador of Trichy Rockers, led from the front to keep his city clean, it said.

Automobile firm duped of ₹1 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A popular automobile company was allegedly duped of over ₹1 crore by a fraudster who sent fake messages to the firm’s chief financial officer in the name of its vice chairman and got the money transferred in seven bank accounts, police said on Saturday.

An FIR has been registered in the matter at the cyber crime police station, they said.

DRDO’s Covid hospital closed in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU



optimally utilise the modern medical equipment to further strengthen the health care infrastructure across Jammu region. More than 200 health care workers, senior consultants and support staff worked round the clock to cater to the Covid-19 patients during the period.

Principal Government Medical college Jammu Dr Shashi Sudan Sharma told reporters in Jammu, “the Covid-19 hospital set up by the DRDO last year has served its purpose. With the declining number of patients a well thought out decision has been taken to close down the facility”. Dr Shashi Sudan further clarified the modern medical equipment ventilators, monitors, oxygen generation plant, CT scan plant, suction unit, 500 beds, CCTV cameras, Wifi gadgets and other material will be utilised optimally.

Shah, KCR cross...

From Page 1

Rao charged “disruptive forces” with distorting the occasion of September 17 to fulfill their narrow and selfish political interests. The TRS hit back, slamming Shah for trying to “divide and bully.” While the Centre celebrated the ‘Hyderabad Liberation Day,’ the State Government had opted for the nomenclature “Telangana Jateeya Samaikyata Dinotsavam” (Telangana National Integration Day).

“...When there was a demand in the region that Hyderabad Liberation Day be celebrated with Government endorsement, it is unfortunate that, 75 years are over, but those who were in Government here could not dare celebrate Hyderabad Liberation Day due to vote bank politics,” Shah charged. He was speaking at the Union Government’s official celebration of ‘Hyderabad Liberation Day’ to mark the occasion of erstwhile princely State under Nizam rule merging with the Indian Union on September 17, 1948, following a police action codenamed “Operation Polo.” In an apparent reference to Chief Minister Rao, Shah said many people had promised during elections and agitations

to commemorate the day but went back on them after coming to power. “Many people had made promises, during elections and during agitations. But, after coming to power, they turned back due to the fear of ‘Razakars’ (armed supporters of Nizam rule),” he said. He congratulated Prime Minister Modi for his decision to officially celebrate the day. Shah said he is not surprised but happy that everybody now celebrates the day after Modi took the decision.

“They celebrate the day. But, it is not called ‘Hyderabad Liberation Day’. There is still fear in the mind. I would like to tell them that remove that fear. ‘Razakars’ cannot make decisions in this country. It has been 75 years since this country got Independence,” he said.

Shah credited the country’s first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for the liberation of Hyderabad and said the erstwhile princely state might not have joined India by 1948, but for the former’s efforts.

He told the people of Telangana and also those who cannot call the day as ‘Hyderabad Liberation Day’ that not paying tributes to the thousands of martyrs amounts to their betrayal. Chief Minister KCR, as Rao is known, hit out at communal forces trying to foment trouble.

Addressing a gathering

after unfurling the national flag to mark the Telangana National Integration Day, Rao said if religious fanaticism grows, it will destroy the very life of the nation and result in deterioration of human relationships. Rao, a strident critic of the BJP, noted that religious fanaticism was on the upsurge. “They plant thorns in societal relations for their narrow interests. They are spreading hatred among people with their venomous comments. This kind of division between people is in no way justified.” His remarks came minutes after Shah hoisted the national flag at parade grounds. The Telangana government had on September 3 announced its decision to observe September 17 as Telangana National Integration Day. Slamming ‘disruptive forces’ for distorting the occasion, he said such forces which have no connection with the historical events of September 17 were trying to distort and pollute the bright history of Telangana with petty politics.

“The Telangana society actively responds in the most intellectual way. The same activeness and intelligence should be shown again.

The insidious efforts of these evil and corrupt forces, which are trying to sever the fabric of the nation, must be thwarted.

Mansukh adopts 40 TB patients, asks others...

From Page 1

In line with the Prime Minister’s vision for the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has decided to adopt over 35,000 tuberculosis (TB) patients by providing nutritional support.

The CII is working closely with the Government’s endeavour to eradicate TB from India by 2025 through the “TB Free Workplaces Campaign” initiative.

Healthcare industry body NATHEALTH too has said that around 50 leaders from the sector have committed to adopting nearly 10 per cent of TB patients enrolled under the government’s Ni-Kshay Mitra 2.0 initiative to eliminate the disease from the country by 2025.

A delegation of NATHEALTH member organisations comprising around 50 industry leaders met the Union Health Minister to discuss ways to mobilise the private healthcare sector for Ni-Kshay 2.0 and work towards the government’s end-TB goal 2025, NATHEALTH said in a statement.

87K donate blood on PM...

From Page 1

With this spirit, join Raktidaan Amrit Mahotsav beginning on September 17. Every blood donor is a life-saver,” Mandaviya said.

The main purpose of the drive is to create a repository of voluntary blood donors so that those in need can get help on time and minimise the need for replacement blood donation. Every blood bank is being encouraged to organise at least one blood donation camp as part of the mega drive.

There are more than 3,900 blood banks in the country with adequate storage and processing capacity. So far, 3,600 blood banks have been linked with the e-Raktkosh portal and efforts are on to rope in the remaining ones. Healthy people have about five to six litres of blood in their body and one can donate blood after

every three months, an official said.

The shelf life of the donated blood is 35 to 42 days. The blood is also processed into components like plasma, red blood cells and platelets. Frozen plasma can be used for up to a year, while red blood cells can be used for up to 35-42 days. Platelets need to be used within five days, the official added.

All Ministries and departments of the Centre, States and Union territories, non-Government and community-based organisations and other stakeholders will be involved in the event.

States have been requested to disseminate information about the drive to all medical colleges, hospitals, healthcare organisations, blood banks, and other stakeholders.

AAP MLA Amanatullah sent to 4-day ACB custody

Khan received Rs 4 crore in ill-gotten money, probe agency informs court



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday sent AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan to four-day custody of the Anti Corruption Branch in a case related to alleged irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board recruitment. Special Judge Vikas Dhull of Rouse Avenue court passed the order on a plea moved by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB), which said it needed to interrogate Khan or a thorough investigation. Appearing on behalf of the ACB, Atul Kumar Srivastava, the public prosecutor had moved a 14-day police custody remand before Special Judge submitting that the agency needs Khan's custody to interrogate him thoroughly and confront him about the money received. The ACB claimed that five of Khan's relatives were appointed in the board, while 22 were from Okhla, which he represents. "A person whose income is Rs 4.32 lakh is receiving cash worth Rs 4 crore..." the prosecution told the court. It also added that an ACB official was manhandled and slapped during the searches conducted on Friday. "The entire team was

manhandled and fire arms were recovered," Srivastava said in his arguments.

Srivastava also produced a diary and gave it to the court stating that the diary contains entries of daily transactions and also an entry which allegedly stated that Khan had received Rs four crore in cash.

The public prosecutor also stated that the transactions were also recorded in Bihar, Gujarat, Telangana and Uttarakhand. The public prosecutor also argued that the team from the ACB was manhandled during a raid in connection with the case, while playing a video in court.

In the video, a group of men are seen heckling and pushing around ACB officials. Opposing the police custody, advocate Rahul Mehra, argued on behalf of Khan, said there is no documentation to link that the funds have been misappropriated.

Mehra also moved a bail application for Khan, saying that he will abide by all conditions imposed on him. "Let this be a test that the MLA is complying with the conditions imposed by the court. A sitting MLA elected democratically thrice cannot run away. He has always co-operated, and would

MLA's aide Hamid held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan's close aide Hamid Ali after several raids by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB). During the raids at various locations in the city, the ACB had recovered Rs 24 lakhs and two illegal weapons along with cartridges.

Police said that Ali, a resident of Jamia Nagar, has been arrested by the southeast district police under the Arms Act.

According to a senior police official, on Friday three FIRs were registered after the ACB raid. "One of them was against Ali (54) after an unlicensed weapon and some cartridges were recovered from him. He has been arrested in this case," he said. "The second case was registered against Kaushar Imam Siddique, a resident of Jogabai Extension, in Arms Act.

A country-made pistol and three live rounds were recovered from his premises, the officer said, adding that he is evading arrest," said the senior police official. In all, the ACB

seized Rs 24 lakh in cash and two unlicensed weapons during the raids. The third case registered by the police against unidentified people for allegedly obstructing an ACB team, which raided AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan's residence, from discharging its duties. A purported video of the incident is circulating on social media. In the video, a group of men are seen heckling and pushing around ACB officials.

One of the men asks an official, "Why have you come here?" As the ACB team reached Khan's residence, it was allegedly attacked by his relatives and other people known to the Aam Aadmi Party MLA, the ACB has said. The ACB had on Friday conducted raids at four premises in connection with alleged irregularities in the recruitment to the Delhi Waqf Board and arrested Khan, also its chairman. Ali's property was also among those locations the ACB had raided.

Earlier, the ACB had summoned Khan in a case pertaining to alleged financial misappropriation and other irregularities in the functioning

of the Delhi Waqf Board.

An FIR in connection with the alleged wrongdoing in the board had previously been registered. According to this FIR, Khan illegally recruited 32 people violating all norms and government guidelines, and engaged in corruption and favouritism.

The previous CEO of the Waqf Board had given a statement against him and also issued a memorandum against the illegal recruitment, the ACB statement on Friday said.

As the ACB team had reached Khan's residence to arrest him, it was allegedly attacked by his relatives and other people known to the MLA, the ACB said.

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.

Probe agencies battling for BJP: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after MLA Amanatullah Khan was arrested by the Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB), the AAP has come out in support of him while alleging that the investigative agencies are "battling for the BJP" to create a negative perception about the AAP in wake of its "rising popularity" in Gujarat. The party accused the BJP of continuing with its "Operation Lotus" to "break" the AAP leaders.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the arrest by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, which reports to the Delhi lieutenant governor, was part of a series of attacks on party MLAs. "They first arrested Satyendar Jain. They are not able to provide any proof despite the court asking repeatedly. Then they raided Manish's (Deputy CM Manish Sisodia) house.

They did not find anything. Now they have arrested Amanatullah. Many others will be arrested. It seems they are facing a lot of problems in Gujarat," Kejriwal tweeted.



Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said the arrest was part of the alleged "Operation Lotus" to break AAP. "First they arrested Satyendra Jain but no evidences have been presented in the court.

They raided my home and found nothing. They started a fake investigation against Kailash Gahlot and now they have arrested Amanatullah Khan. The operation Lotus to break every leader of AAP continues," Sisodia tweeted.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said the ACB searches at Khan's houses in Joga Bai and Zakir Nagar had not yielded anything. He added that the case in which ACB raided Khan's house is a 2.5 year old case in which FIR was filed in January 2020 and nothing has been proved over

these years. "Khan was called for questioning and at the same time raids were carried out at several places after which this propaganda was unleashed to create an image as if illegal items were found with Khan's associates.

He also showed a video, shot by Khan's wife, in which a police officer is being told that the house they were in was where Khan and his family lived. In the video, Bhardwaj said, police officers can be heard saying "ghar pe kuch nahi hai" (there is nothing at home).

Bhardwaj said that ACB planted fake news in the media that they've found cash and arms at the MLA's house. "An organised campaign is being run to slander AAP; earlier they fraudulently associated Minister Satyendar Jain's photo with gold and cash found at a jeweller's house.

In their desperation of framing Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, CBI has raided 100 sites till date. Investigative agencies being coerced by BJP's Central Government for political gains," Bhardwaj added.

Sack Okhla MLA, demands BJP

■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Saturday demanded sacking of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in the irregularities in the Delhi Waqf Board, after he was granted four day police custody by a special court. Gupta said that if there is still any morality left in Kejriwal, then he should relieve Khan. The BJP leader said that the party has been saying from the very beginning that AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal is only giving



protection to thieves and goons. He said that after assuming power in Delhi, Kejriwal left no stone unturned to make Delhi the "riot capital" and whose biggest culprits are



Amanatullah and Tahir Hussain. "Amanatullah is one such lamp of Kejriwal, who is accused of several cases of 'corruption' including misappropriation of Waqf Board

properties, purchase of vehicles, illegal appointments," said Gupta adding that all the MLAs and ministers of Kejriwal never shied away from flouting the Constitution and the law.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that Satyendra Jain, Manish Sisodia and now Amanatullah, all of them are closed to Kejriwal, facing corruption charges. "Kejriwal is giving protection for them. Thats why adopted all methods to make money," Bidhuri said.

Sisodia approves ₹29.7-cr projects for beautification of roads in West Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday approved the projects worth Rs 29.77 crore for strengthening and beautification of nine important roads of West Delhi.

According to officials, these roads in West Delhi include Najafgarh Road, Punjab Garden Road, Ginni Devi Road, Hemwati Nanda Bahuguna Marg, Pankaj Batra Marg, Lal Sai Mandir Marg, and HIL to 234 Bus Terminal Road. "In the process to make the roads across the Capital stronger, along with strengthening roads the Public Works Department (PWD) will also ensure maintenance and upkeep of pavements, central verges, and service lanes of the entire road stretch, including



other allied works such as lane marking, white washing of parapet walls/railing, etc," said the officials. Meanwhile, Sisodia also directed the officials to strictly follow the norms for safety and security while the construction work is in progress to avoid any inconvenience to the commuters.

"We are working in a phased manner to make the roads under the jurisdiction of PWD better by using various

advanced technologies. As the roads in these areas were developed a long time back, they have now developed cracks on their upper surface, due to which the movement of vehicles has been blocked in many places," said Sisodia.

"In view of this, the work of strengthening all these nine roads is being started by the government so that the common people do not have to face problems while commuting. Simultaneously, with the strengthening of these roads, the traffic will be smooth and the travel time of the people will be saved.

Lakhs of people will be benefited after the compilation of these projects," said Sisodia. Sisodia said that Rohtak Road passing through Mundka Industrial Area is one of the busiest roads in Delhi.

Follow UGC rules in appointing principal: DU to Stephen's college

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi University has directed the governing body of St. Stephen's College to follow University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations for the appointment of principals "in true spirit", days after it termed Professor John Varghese's reappointment to the post "illegal".

In a second letter to the governing body's chairman Bishop Prem Chand Singh in the last 30 days, the university on Friday stated it is constrained not to recognise Professor John Varghese as principal of the college ever since his five-year term ended.

Varghese was appointed the principal of St Stephen College on March 1, 2016, for five years. The supreme council of the college approved the extension recently. Delhi

University had on August 22 written to Singh, declaring the reappointment of Varghese as the principal of St Stephen's College "null and void". Responding to it, St Stephen's College informed Delhi University that Varghese has "every legal right" to continue as principal.

The university wrote to Singh on September 16, mentioning several clauses of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to back its argument. "It is obligatory on the part of the college to follow the provisions of said UGC regulations in the matter of reappointment of the principal

in letter and spirit. Not following the said provisions amounts to illegal and non-statutory continuation of Professor John Varghese as Principal of St. Stephen's College," the university said.

L-G inaugurates 41 renovated science labs in 21 MCD schools



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday inaugurated and laid the foundation of several initiatives, including 41 Science Labs of 21 Schools renovated by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) to foster Scientific Temper among students and the foundation stone of the World class sports

infrastructure of the International Cricket cum Football Stadium with a seating capacity of 30000 people in the national Capital.

While inaugurating the science labs of NDMC Schools, Saxena congratulated 6700 students of 21 NDMC schools who will be benefitted from the 41 Science labs and underlined that this is an era of science and without science and scientific

temper, no step forward for socio-economic and human advancement could be envisaged. The science labs are equipped with advanced infrastructure and resources, aim at fostering a scientific temper among the students at an early age. On the occasion, the LG also felicitated all meritorious students with certificates and a prize of ten thousand rupees each to those who scored the

best result in their board examinations.

The LG has also laid the foundation stone of the World class sports infrastructure of the International Cricket cum Football Stadium with a seating capacity of 30000 people in the national capital. The Project is spread over 51 acres and is the first project of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Public Private Partnership mode. The area of the sports facility is 6.4 Lakh sq.ft, the total estimated project cost is Rs.350 crore. The stadium will also have 3.45 Lakh sq.ft. of commercial facilities. Speaking on the occasion, Saxena said that once the facility will be completed it will provide world class sports infrastructure, with the International Cricket cum Football Stadium having a seating capacity of 30000. "In addition, there will be indoor multi-sports facilities with a seating capacity of 2000, sports club with minimum 3000 membership, other facilities for sports such as swimming, tennis, badminton, squash, table tennis.

Delhi's first Museum of Water Education launched on PM's b'day



New Delhi: A first of its kind, Museum of Water Education was inaugurated in national Capital to mark the birthday of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

The museum, curated by Sulabh International, was inaugurated by the Governor of Sikkim Ganga Prasad in presence of senior officials and other eminent personalities, including Sulabh founder Padma Vibhushan Dr Bindeshwar Pathak. This museum aims to highlight various aspect of

Water Education, research and create awareness among people about its uses. "This initiative has been taken to create awareness among the people regarding diminishing water resources and the need for conservation," said Pathak on the occasion.

The purpose of the museum is to explain the visitors' importance of conserving water resources and also provide a possible solution, traditional and modern water management practices, he added. SR

BJP holds blood donation camp to mark PM's birthday

New Delhi: Delhi BJP Yuva Morcha on Saturday organised blood donation camp at several locations in the national capital, to mark the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Many senior dignitaries including BJP National President J P Nadda, national general secretary Arun Singh, state president Adesh Gupta and union minister of state Meenakshi Lekhi were present at the camp organized at the party national office. Addressing the blood donation camp organized at the National Office, Nadda said that lakhs of our workers in different areas of the country are visiting hospitals, meeting patients, visiting orphanages, and distributing fruits among all of them. Urging all to see the exhibition depicting the works of the PM, Nadda said that the work done by

Modi is only the result of dedicated service. BJP is not only a political organization but the one which serves humanity. This service fortnight will be celebrated till Gandhi Jayanti and birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Addressing the programme organized by the state BJP Scheduled Caste Morcha at Ajmal Khan Park, Nadda said that BJP workers will have to do the work of bridge between the public and the government and wherever public welfare schemes have been implemented, the shortcomings will have to be removed. Campaigns are underway already, he added.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Adesh Gupta said that the birthday of PM is being celebrated as a Seva Pakhwada, which started from Saturday and will continue till October 2. SR

Govt to open 5K skill hubs more for students: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As he virtually addressed the students at the first-ever convocation of students of Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday gave them the mantra of "Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling" and exhorted them to innovate and continuously upgrade their skills in line with the evolving times.

"It is necessary to ensure that the youth excel not only in studies but also in skills," the Prime Minister said addressing the Kaushal Dikshant Samaroh of ITI which was being attended virtually by over 40 lakh students.

"What you have learnt today will surely become the base of your future, but you have to upgrade your capabilities according to the future. So, when it comes to skill, your mantra should be skilling, reskilling and upskilling. Do keep an eye on what new is taking place in whatever field you are in," he said.

Modi also gave an insight into the job opportunities for the youth with the expansion of technology in the country.

"In the last 8 years, the country has started new schemes with the inspiration of Lord Vishwakarma and has tried to revive its tradition of 'Shram Eva Jayate'.

Today, the country is once again giving respect to skills, giving equal emphasis on skill development," he said. "It is



necessary that the Indian youth should be equally efficient in skill besides studies to make this century as the century of India. The first ITI in the country was made in 1950. Nearly 10,000 ITIs were brought up in the next seven decades. 5,000 new ITIs have been made in the last eight years of our government," PM Modi added. The Prime Minister emphasised on the skill development and said that it is "equally important" to have soft skills.

Stressing on the develop-

ment of skills, PM Modi said, "More than 4 lakh new seats have been added in ITIs in the last eight years. The government is going to open more than 5,000 skill hubs to promote skill development at school level.

Experience-based learning is being encouraged in New Education Policy that is implemented in country. Skill courses are being introduced in schools. The Prime Minister laid down steps taken by the Government for students of ITI.

Wishes pour in as Modi turns 72



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wishes poured in from within India and outside for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 72nd birthday on Saturday.

President Droupadi Murmu greeted him saying 'nation building' has continued under his 'incomparable' leadership and Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan while wishing Modi all "health & strength" to achieve "all his goals" also suggested that he takes a day off.

"On the occasion of your birthday, best wishes for good health and long life, Prime Minister @narendramodi. May Shri Pashupatinath always protect you," tweeted Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. Tibetan spiritual leader

Dalai Lama offered his "warmest good wishes and prayers for his continued good health." The BJP celebrated the day as "Seva Diwas" as people from all walks of life sent congratulatory messages and wished Modi 'a many happy returns of the day'.

Making it as a big event his party has commenced a 16-day long celebration, called Seva Pakhwara (service fortnight), that begun on Saturday and will conclude on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation.

This extended birthday of Modi will include party workers planting 10 lakh 'peepal trees', organising blood, vaccination camps, exhibitions on Modi's contribution and sale of book 'Modi@20' across the



country. BJP workers have also been asked to adopt one patient of tuberculosis (TB) for a year to fulfill the call of the Prime Minister to make India 'TB mukt' by 2025. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar greeted him, saying his transformational vision and inspirational leadership have elevated 'Bharat' to newer heights of glory.

His predecessor M Venkaiah Naidu also extended his greetings. Modi's ministerial colleagues Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Hardeep Puri

and S Jaishankar were among those who paid fulsome tributes to his leadership and administrative acumen.

Opposition leaders, including Congress' Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar of the NCP, Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, also wished him well. 'Wishing PM Narendra Modi a happy birthday,' Rahul tweeted. Praying for long and healthy life, Arvind Kejriwal extended birthday wishes to Prime Minister. Telangana Chief Minister K

Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) too conveyed birthday greetings to Modi. BJP president J P Nadda described Modi as "the most popular leader of the world" who he said has given "a new direction to Country's future and destiny".

The Bollywood fraternity wished including Akshay Kumar, Anil Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Ajay Devgn, Abhishek Bachchan, Suniel Shetty, Sunny Deol and music composer Shankar Mahadevan besides Malayalam star Mohanlal also wished Modi.

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)

1st Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

Case No.: OA/901/2022
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993
Exh. No.: 12432
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS.
AMIT GIRISH

To,
(1) AMIT GIRISH
DIW/S/O- C K GIRISH
AMIT GIRISH SON OF SHRI C. K. GIRISH, R/O. F-911, GAUR CITY- I, NEAR GOLMURTI CHOWK, GOUTAM BUDH NAGAR, GREATER NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH - 201301.
PAN NO. AOXP9441E 2ND ADDRESS:- C/O PARTHENON TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED SENIOR MANAGER, FIRST FLOOR, 5A AND 5B, FUSION SQUARE BUILDING NOIDA UTAR PRADESH - 201303. GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH
ALSO AT:
C/O. PARTHENON TECHNOLOGY PVT LTD SENIOR MANAGER, FIRST FLOOR, 5A AND 5B FUSION SQUARE BUILDING NOIDA GAUTAM BUDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH
(2) VANAJA GIRISH
W/O. SH C K GIRISH, F 911 GC4 GAUR CITY I NEAR GOLMURTI CHOWK GOUTAM BUDHA NAGAR GREATER NOIDA GAUTAM BUDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/901/2022 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 20/08/2022. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 10436716.63/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by way of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 23/11/2022 at 10:30 A.M., failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date 07/09/2022.
Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue Summons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday utilised its ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over

PUBLICATION
Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)
Case No.: OA/104/2022
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993
Exh. No.: 12596
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS.
YOG RAJ VERMA

To,
(3) RAMPRASTHA SARE REALITY PVT. LTD.
C 10 C BLOCK MARKET VASANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI NEW DELHI, DELHI
Also At
CRESCENT PARC, SECTOR 92, PATAUDI ROAD, GURGAON, HARYANA
Also At
PLOT NO. 46, UDYOG, VIHAR PHASE IV, GURUGRAM GURGAON, HARYANA
SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/104/2022 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 25.08.2022. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 1,42,96,757/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by way of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 11/10/2022 at 10:30 A.M., failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date 12/09/2022.
Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue Summons

the issue of unemployment even as it observed his birthday as 'National Unemployment Day'. The party also took to social media to using the hashtag 'Rashtriya Berozgar Diwas'. While talking about several issues including price rise, one of the main agenda of the grand old party's 3500 km padyatra is to highlight the failures of the Modi government in providing employment.

While youth workers of Congress demonstrated at various places including the

Form No. 3
[See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)
1st Floor SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)
Case No.: OA/720/2022
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993
Exh. No.: 11663
ICICI BANK LIMITED
VS.
JNANENDRA KUMAR JENA
To,
(1) R 3- Jitender Kumar Jena S/o. Sh. Bishonath Jena, L 92/ 226, Street No. 7, Mahlipur, New Delhi, Delhi
SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/720/2022 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 25.07.2022. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 2,24,94,204.41/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by way of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 22/11/2022 at 10:30 A.M., failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date 05/08/2022.
Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue Summons



national Capital demanding jobs as promised by Modi time and again, enroute the yatra being led by Rahul Gandhi in Kerala currently the youths hit streets holding placards pressing for jobs.

Rahul took a swipe at Modi, saying eight cheetahs have come and now he should tell why 16 crore jobs weren't created in eight years. "Eight cheetahs have come, now tell why 16 crore jobs didn't come in eight years. Yuvaon ki hai lalkar, le kar rahenge rozgar (It is the cry of the youth that they will have employment)," Rahul said using the hashtag 'Rashtriya Berozgar Diwas'. "Our ideological and political battles against him continue. His per-

sonal vendetta against us intensifies. Even so, here is wishing and greeting our Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 72nd birthday," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet.

Congress claimed that in view of the "worrying" job situation in the country, the youth are marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday as "National Unemployment Day", and demanded that he provide employment to them as promised. The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) organised 'Berojgar Mela (unemployment fairs)' across the country to mark Prime Minister Modi's birthday. Holding placards, sev-

'Protected areas rose to 5.03 % in India under Modi Govt'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

On a day eight Cheetahs were released in India's Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, the Government on Saturday said the coverage of protected areas has risen to 5.03 per cent from 4.90 per cent of the country's geographical area since the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led dispensation came to power in 2014.

Highlighting the government's wildlife conservation efforts, officials said there were 740 protected areas covering 1,61,081.62 sqkm in 2014 and their number is now 981 with an area of 1,71,921 sq km. "There has also been an increase in the number of community reserves. From 43 in 2014, their numbers shot up to more than 100 in 2019," they said.

India is home to 52 tiger reserves covering approximately 75,000 sq km area in 18 states, housing approximately 75 per cent of the global population of wild tigers. In fact,

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has been highlighting that the natural resources dependent community is an important aspect of tiger conservation, and the "people agenda" ranks prominently in India's "tiger agenda".

Officials said India achieved the goal of doubling the tiger numbers in 2018 itself, four years in advance from the targeted year 2022. The tiger population in India increased from 2,226 in 2014 to 2,967 in 2018.

The budgetary allocation for tiger conservation has also increased from Rs 185 crore in 2014 to Rs 300 crore in 2022, officials said. The population of Asiatic lions has also shown a steady increase with a population of 674 from 523 in 2015, an increase of 28.87 per cent — one of the highest growth rates so far— they said.

India had 12,852 leopards as compared to the previous estimate of 7,910 in 2014, registering an increase of over 60 per cent in their population, they noted.

Jaishankar to discuss defence, strategic ties with America



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will discuss the ever growing defence and strategic with his US counterpart Antony Blinken and take part in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) during his visit to the US commencing Sunday. He will host a meeting of the G-4 (India, Brazil, Germany and Japan) during his visit to New York. The tour ends on September 28.

The theme of 77th UNGA is "A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges". His address at the High Level Session is on September 24. In keeping with India's strong commitment to reformed multilateralism, Jaishankar will host a Ministerial meeting of the G4 (India, Brazil, Japan, Germany), as well as partici-

pating at the High Level Meeting of the L.69 Group on "Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council".

To commemorate and showcase Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the minister will address a special event 'India@75: Showcasing India UN Partnership in Action' on September 24.

The event is expected to be addressed by the President of the 77th UNGA, along with Foreign Ministers of several member states, and the UNDP Administrator.

The MEA said during the visit, Jaishankar will also be participating in plurilateral meetings of the Quad, IBSA, BRICS, India – Presidency Pro Tempore CELAC, India-CARICOM and other bilateral formats, such as India-France-Australia, India-France-UAE and India-Indonesia-Australia. He will also have bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of the G20 and UNSC member states, amongst others. Jaishankar will also meet UN Secretary General António Guterres and the 77th PGA Csaba Korosi.

1,200 items gifted to Modi auctioned online

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 72nd birthday, an online auction of over 1,200 items, including a trident, a model statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and sporting memorabilia of Commonwealth Games medalists gifted to him went live on Saturday.

"The time has arrived! It's 10AM and the #PM Mementos Auction 2022 is now open & live! Head to HYPERLINK "http://pmmementos.Gov.In" pmmementos.Gov.In to register & participate in the auction in which exclusive gifts received by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh @NarendraModi have been listed," Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy tweeted.

At a press conference here on Friday, Reddy had said a statue of Lord Ganesha, a trident, models of the upcoming Shri Ram Mandir at Ayodhya and the Kashi-Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi will also be part of the e-auction of gifts and mementoes given to PM Modi, proceeds of which will go the Namami Gange



Mission.

The black model statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was gifted to Modi in April by sculptor Arun Yogiraj.

Yogiraj and his team, sculpted the monolithic 28-ft statue of Netaji, made of telephone black granite stone, recently unveiled by the Prime Minister at India Gate.

Twenty-five new sporting memorabilia gifted to the Prime Minister by various sportspersons are part of the auction, a senior official of the Culture Ministry said on Friday.

The auction will conclude on October 2. Some of the gifts are on display at the National Gallery of Modern Art.

India, Egypt to review defence, strategic ties during Rajnath's visit

New Delhi: India and Egypt will review the entire range of their bilateral defence and strategic ties during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh talks with his counterparts there during the two-day visit starting Monday. The visit is aimed to further consolidate defence cooperation and the special friendship between the two countries.

Giving details of his schedule, defence ministry officials said here on Saturday, Rajnath will hold bilateral talks with Minister of Defence and Defence Production, General Mohamed Zaki.

The two Ministers will review the bilateral defence ties, explore new initiatives to intensify military-to-military engagements and focus on deepening cooperation between the defence industries of the two countries.

Pressure on Russian forces mounts after Ukraine’s advances

AP ■ KYIV

Western defence officials and analysts on Saturday said they believed the Russian forces were setting up a new defensive line in Ukraine’s northeast after Kyiv’s troops broke through the previous one and tried to press their advances further into the east.

The British Defence Ministry said in a daily intelligence briefing that the line likely is between the Oskil River and Svatove, some 150 kilometres southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city.

The new line comes after a Ukrainian counteroffensive punched a hole through the previous front line in the war and recaptured large swaths of land in the northeastern Kharkiv region that borders Russia.

Moscow “likely sees maintaining control of this zone as important because it is transit- ed by one of the few main resupply routes Russia still controls from the Belgorod region of Russia”, the British military said, adding that “a stubborn defence of this area” was likely, but that it remained unclear whether the Russians would be able to withstand another concerted Ukrainian assault.

Ukrainian forces, in the meantime, continue to cross



the key Oskil River in the Kharkiv region as they try to press on in a counteroffensive targeting Russian-occupied territory, according to the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War.

The Institute said in its Saturday report that satellite imagery it examined suggest that Ukrainian forces have crossed over to the east bank of the Oskil in Kupiansk, placing artillery there.

The river, which flows south from Russia into Ukraine, had been a natural break in the newly emerged front lines since Ukraine launched its push about a week ago.

“Russian forces are likely too weak to prevent further

Ukrainian advances along the entire Oskil River if Ukrainian forces choose to resume offensive operations,” the institute said.

After the Russian troops retreated from the city of Izium, Ukrainian authorities discovered a mass grave site, one of the largest so far discovered.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday that more than 440 graves have been found at the site but that the number of victims is not yet known.

Zelenskyy said the graves contained the bodies of hundreds of civilian adults and children, as well as soldiers, and some had been tortured, shot or killed by artillery shelling.

He cited evidence of atrocities, such as a body with a rope around its neck and broken arms.

Videos circulating online on Saturday indicated that Ukrainian forces are also continuing to take land in the country’s embattled east.

One video showed a Ukrainian soldier walking past a building, its roof destroyed, then pointing up over his shoulder at a colleague hanging the blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag over a mobile phone tower.

The soldier in the video identified the seized village as Dibrova, just northeast of the city of Sloviansk and southeast of the embattled city of Lyman in Ukraine’s Donetsk region.

Another online video showed two Ukrainian soldiers in what appeared to be a bell tower. A Ukrainian flag hung as a soldier said they had taken the village of Shchurove, just northeast of Sloviansk.

The Ukrainian military and the Russians did not immediately acknowledge the change of hands of the two villages.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russian forces continued to pound cities and villages with missile strikes and shelling.

A Russian missile attack early Saturday started a fire in Kharkiv’s industrial area, said Oleh Syniehubov, the regional governor. Firefighters extinguished the blaze.

Syniehubov said remnants of the missiles suggest the Russians fired S-300 surface-to-air missiles at the city. The S-300 is designed for striking missiles or aircraft in the sky, not targets on the ground.

Analysts say Russia’s use of the missiles for ground attacks suggest they may be running out of some precision munitions as the months-long war continues.

In the southern Zaporizhzhia region, a large part of which is occupied by the Russians, one person was wounded after the Russian forces shelled the city of Orikhiv, Zaporizhzhia’s Ukrainian governor Oleksandr Starukh reported on Telegram.

China biggest threat to global peace order: IPAC

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Asserting that China is the biggest threat to the global peace order, the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China in its latest annual meeting here has agreed to create a counter-narrative against the Chinese propaganda and also send a global delegation of lawmakers to Taiwan to show their solidarity with the Taiwanese people.

The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, which included members of parliament from India as well, during their annual summit here was attended by 60 lawmakers from 30 countries, including Sujet Kumar from the Biju Janata Dal.

“We are intending to go to Taiwan sometime in the future...MPs from different countries to show solidarity with Taiwan. Because Taiwan is a proud, vibrant, peaceful democracy. And it’s really important to support Taiwan against Chinese aggression,” Kumar told PTI in an interview.

In its communique, IPAC calls for greater support for Taiwan and moving critical supply chains away from China.

Observing that China is very good at creating a false narrative of its peaceful rise, Kumar said, “We know that China has sold this narrative of peaceful lives for a long time and fooled the world. Now we



all know that was a mistake. The idea is to create a counter narrative to China’s aggressiveness, to sensitise the world community.”

“China is going to be the biggest threat to the peaceful world order, to international order. And also to ensure that China doesn’t make spurious claims on the South China Sea for instance, on Indian Territory, Taiwan and also to raise awareness about what’s going on in Xinjiang and Tibet,” Kumar said at the end of the two-day conference that concluded here early this week.

Kumar is national convenor of all-party parliamentary forum on Tibet. It is a bipartisan Indian parliamentary forum to raise the Tibetan issue, to help the Tibetan community living in India and also to support the peaceful struggle of the Dalai Lama.

“We all know what China has been doing in Tibet. It has

literally embarked on a journey of destroying the language, the culture, religion, heritage, religion, of the Tibetan people, and also the ecosystem of the environment and ecosystem of Tibet, which will have serious consequences for India if it’s not strong.

“Because most of the many of the larger rivers of India originate in the Tibetan Plateau. And China is trying to use that as a geopolitical tool by building large dams, by changing the course of the rivers,” he said.

Kumar said he raised these issues at the conference and also raised the issue of the successor of the Dalai Lama. “Now, we all know that, as per the Tibetan tradition, it is the Dalai Lama, which has been indicted the overlords ready to anoint his successor, but China wants to have its own Dalai Lama in and to hijack the Tibetan struggle for independence,” he said.



Shia pilgrims participate in the Arb'een pilgrimage in Iraq

In Hong Kong, public grief over Queen doubles as dissent

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hundreds of Hong Kong residents are lining up in front of the British Consulate General for hours each day to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth II, leaving piles of flowers and handwritten notes.

The collective outpouring of grief after her death last week is perhaps the most ardent among the former British colonies, where mourning has been generally subdued. It’s seen by some experts as a form of dissent against increasingly intrusive controls by communist-ruled Beijing, which took over the territory in 1997.

Some Hong Kongers are nostalgic for what they view as a past “golden age” under Britain’s not entirely democratic colonial rule, when the city of about 7 million people gained stature as a world financial center and tourism destination.

The queen’s death has sparked a flurry of interest in British memorabilia, among other things.

The Queen is nicknamed “si tau por” in Hong Kong. Pronounced “see-tao-POHR” in the local Cantonese dialect, that translates to “boss lady.” “We used to call her si tau por” when we were under her



rule. It’s simply a way of showing respect to her. There was a feeling of kindness from her, she’s not the kind of boss who is up above you,” said CK Li, a resident who queued for over two hours to pay his respects.

Another resident, 80-year-old Eddie Wong, said she was there “out of true feelings” from her heart.

“People in Hong Kong love her,” said Wong. “Because when we were under her rule, we enjoyed democracy and freedom and we were very grateful. I want to bid farewell to si tau por” who is in heaven.”

Poland opens new sea waterway to cut dependence from Russia

AP ■ WARSAW

Poland’s top leaders are taking part in the opening on Saturday of a new - albeit unfinished - canal that they say will mean ships no longer must secure Russia’s permission to sail from the Baltic Sea to the ports of the Vistula Lagoon.

The event was timed to mark 83 years since the Soviet invasion of Poland during World War II and to demonstrate symbolically the end of Moscow’s say on the economy and development of a region that borders Russia’s Kaliningrad exclave.

The government says the waterway gives Poland full sovereignty in the northeastern region, which needs investment and economic development.

The canal, built at a cost of almost 2 billion zlotys (USD 420 million), cuts across the Vistula Spit, east of Gdansk, and was designed to allow ships to sail from the Baltic Sea and the Bay of Gdansk to Elblag and smaller ports of the lagoon without obtaining authorisation to travel through Russia’s Strait of Pilawa.

It also shortens the Baltic-to-Elblag route by some 100 kilometers (54 nautical miles).

US asks Federal appeals court to lift judge’s Mar-a-Lago probe hold

AP ■ WASHINGTON



Cannon’s appointment of a so-called special master to review the documents, and the resulting legal tussle it has caused, appear certain to slow by weeks the department’s investigation into the holding of classified documents at the Florida property after Trump left office.

The Justice Department has been investigating possible violations of multiple statutes, including under the Espionage Act, but it remains unclear whether Trump — who has been laying the groundwork for a potential presidential run — or anyone else might be charged.

The FBI says it took about 11,000 documents, including

roughly 100 with classification markings found in a storage room and an office, while serving a court-authorized search warrant at the home on August 8.

Weeks after the search, Trump lawyers asked a judge to appoint a special master to conduct an independent review of the records.

Cannon granted the request last week, assigning a special master to review the records and weed out any that may be covered by claims of attorney-client or executive privilege.

She directed the department to halt its use of the classified documents for investigative purposes until further court

order, or until the completion of the special master’s work.

On Thursday night, she assigned Raymond Dearie, the former chief judge of the federal court based in Brooklyn, to serve in the role. She also declined to lift her earlier order, citing ongoing disputes about the nature of the documents that she said merited a neutral review by an outside arbiter.

“The Court does not find it appropriate to accept the Government’s conclusions on these important and disputed issues without further review by a neutral third party in an expedited and orderly fashion,” she wrote.

The Justice Department on Friday night told the appeals court that Cannon’s injunction “unduly interferes with the criminal investigation”, prohibiting investigators from “accessing the seized records to evaluate whether charges are appropriate”.

It also prevents the FBI from using the seized records in its criminal investigation to determine which documents, if any, were disclosed and to whom, the department said.

King Charles greets crowds waiting to visit late Queen

AP ■ LONDON

King Charles III is making an announced visit to greet people waiting to file past the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II.

Charles and his son, Prince William, shook hands and thanked mourners in the miles-long queue near Lambeth Bridge on Saturday.

Charles has made several impromptu walkabouts since he became king on September 8, in an attempt to meet as many of his subjects as possible.

Thousands of people are lining up to see the queen’s coffin in Westminster Hall, despite waiting times of 16 hours or more.

Key developments:

■ Crowds paying respects to queen boost London tourism amid slump

■ In Yemen, queen’s death recalls oppression under British colonial rule

■ Queen’s death a reminder of UK’s disappearing World War II generation

■ What to know about the queen’s lying in state

■ Reflections from the queue to mourn the queen

■ Palace reveals details of queen’s state funeral on Monday

Other developments:

London: King Charles III is spending much of the day meeting dignitaries who have



arrived in London for his mother’s funeral on Monday.

On Saturday morning, he held an audience at Buckingham Palace with the country’s military chiefs, who have provided thousands of armed forces personnel to take part in the pageantry surrounding Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral as well as helping line crowd-packed roads and performing other ceremonial duties.

In the early afternoon, the king was holding a reception for Governors General of the Realm — the monarch’s representatives in the UK’s former colonies ranging from Antigua and Barbuda to Tuvalu.

And later in the day, Charles was meeting prime ministers including Justin

Trudeau of Canada, Anthony Albanese of Australia, Philip Davis of the Bahamas, Andrew Holness of Jamaica and New Zealand’s Jacinda Ardern.

Windsor: Hundreds of troops from the British army, air force and navy have taken part in the first full rehearsal of the procession that will bring the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II to its final resting place.

With troops lining The Long Walk, a picturesque path leading to Windsor Castle, the thumping of drums echoed as marching bands walked ahead of a hearse early Saturday.

On Monday, they will do the same, only surrounded by thousands of people expected to travel to Windsor for a final farewell to the queen, who died last week at age 96.



Alaska braces for floods, power outages as huge storm nears

AP ■ JUNEAU (US)

Residents on Alaska’s vast and sparsely populated western coast braced on Friday for a powerful storm that forecasters said could be one of the worst in recent history, threatening hurricane-force winds and high surf that could knock out power and cause flooding.

The storm is the remnants of what was Typhoon Merbok, which University of Alaska Fairbanks climate specialist Rick Thoman said is also influencing weather patterns far from Alaska — a rare late-summer storm now is expected to bring rain this weekend to drought-stricken parts of California.

“All this warm air that’s been brought north by this ex-trophyoon is basically inducing a chain reaction in the jet stream downstream from Alaska,” he said. “It’s a historic-level storm,” Thoman said of the system steaming toward Alaska. “In 10 years, people will be referring to the September 2022 storm as a benchmark storm.”

Hurricane-force winds were forecast in parts of the Bering Sea, while in the small communities of Elim and Koyuk, around 90 miles (145 kilometres) from the hub community of Nome, water levels could be up to 18 feet (5 metres) above the normal high tide line, according to the National Weather Service.

Flood warnings were in effect until Monday in parts of northwest Alaska. In Nome, which has about 3,500 residents, Leon Boardway was working as usual Friday at the Nome Visitors Centre, a half-block from the Bering Sea.


“I just want to keep my door open and the coffee pot on,” he said after it had begun to rain and the winds picked up. But few people were coming by. Residents, visitors and businesses in the town, famous for being at the end of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and the setting for the dredging-for-gold reality show “Bering Sea Gold”, were boarding up windows and otherwise bracing for the storm.



GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.
SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR
BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I. AIR VALVES FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Air Valves (40 to 200mm Dia.) only from **Approved vendors of GWSSB as on last date of online Bid submission.** Interested bidder who wishes to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & download the Tender documents at free of cost from website:[https:// www.nprocure.com](https://www.nprocure.com)

The last date of submission of online tender is **10-10-2022.**
INF/VPN/2022/G/1442



GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.
SECTOR-10/A, GANDHINAGAR
BRIEF SHORT NOTICE INVITING ON LINE TENDER FOR FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF C.I.SLUICE VALVES FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

GWSSB invites online tender through e-tendering for Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of C.I. Sluice Valve (Hand Wheel/Cap operated: 50 to 1200mm Dia. And Gear Operated: 250 to 600 mm) only from **Approved vendors of GWSSB as on last date of online Bid submission.** Interested bidder who wishes to participate in above tender may view the detailed tender notice & down load the Tender documents at free of cost from website:[https .//www.nprocure. com](https://www.nprocure.com)

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INF/VPN/2022/G/1441

‘Need for eternal macroeconomic vigilance to ensure sustained growth’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid heightened global uncertainties, there is a need for eternal macroeconomic vigilance to ensure sustained growth and stability, the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review said on Saturday.

The review cautioned that increased focus of advanced economies on energy security in view of upcoming winter months could elevate geopolitical tensions, testing India's astute handling of its energy needs so far.

India imports 85.5 per cent of its crude oil requirements and hence higher prices in the global market have a major bearing on domestic inflation.

"In these uncertain times, it may not be possible to remain satisfied and sit back for long periods. Eternal macroeconomic vigilance is the price for stability and sustained growth," it said.

In times when slowing growth and high inflation are afflicting most of the major economies of the world, it said, India's growth has been robust and inflation has been in control.

Watchful and prudent fiscal management and credible mon-



etary policy will remain essential for India to fulfil its growth aspirations, it said, adding, both these pillars of public policy will enable benchmark borrowing costs for the government and the private sector to decline, facilitating public and private sector capital formation.

Vigorous pursuit of asset monetisation at all levels of government will help lower debt stock and hence debt ser-

ving costs, it said.

That would cause risk premiums to drop and credit rating of India to improve and a virtuous circle would set in as the quality of public expenditure increases in its wake and the private sector enjoys a lower cost of capital, it said.

"The current financial year thus has the potential to lay a strong foundation for sustained economic growth, improved

resilience and enhanced competitiveness of 'Made in India' during the Amrit Kaal," it said.

'Amrit Kaal' is a term the government often uses to refer to the period between now and 2047 when India will be celebrating 100 years of Independence.

On the first quarter growth numbers, the report said, the real GDP in first quarter of 2022-23, is now nearly 4 per

cent ahead of its corresponding level of 2019-20, marking a strong beginning to India's growth revival in the post-pandemic phase.

The contact-intensive services sector is likely to drive growth in 2022-23, building on the release of pent-up demand and near universalization of vaccination, it said, adding, a sharply rebounding private consumption backed by soaring consumer sentiments and rising employment will sustain growth in the months ahead.

Increase in private consumption and higher capacity utilization in the current year has further reinvigorated the capex cycle to take the investment rate in first quarter of 2022-23, to one of its highest levels in the last decade, it said.

The crowding-in of private investment has also been assisted by rising capital expenditure of the government that until August 2022-23 has been 35 per cent higher than the corresponding level of last year, it said.

The government raised capital expenditure (capex) by 35.4 per cent for the financial year 2022-23 to Rs 7.5 lakh crore to continue the public investment-led recovery for the economy. The capex last financial year was Rs 5.5 lakh crore.

Need to reduce logistics cost to boost growth: Gadkari



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said there is need to reduce logistics costs in the country, which is higher than that of China, the US and European countries.

The idea is to make waterways as a popular mode of transport for passengers and goods as this will help in bringing down the import cost of petrol and diesel, which is around Rs 16 lakh crore for the country annually, he said.

"Our first priority is waterways, second railways, third road and lastly aviation. Bringing down logistics costs

will help in generating employment in the country," he said at a programme organised by Young Indians and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India on Friday evening here.

Logistics cost in India as a percentage of GDP is 16 per cent, which is very high, he said, adding that it is ten per cent in China, and nearly eight per cent in the US and Europe.

Gadkari, the minister of road transport and highways, said the Prime Minister Gati Shakti programme will help in coordination among various departments, and a common right of way will be developed.

"There is a need to connect rail and road transport with the waterways," Gadkari said.

More use of sustainable fuel, such as bio-diesel, bio-CNG, will help substitute imports of petrol and diesel, he said.

He also stressed on the need for more cultivation of sugarcane and bamboo for production of cost-effective fuels like ethanol and bio-ethanol, Gadkari said, adding that the move will curb pollution.

The minister said the government wants a corruption-free system, which helps in fast-track decision making.

Distortions in digital market needs to be corrected promptly, says CCI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With India emerging as one of the biggest and fastest digital economies, distortions in digital market need to be corrected promptly, Competition Commission of India chairperson Ashok Kumar Gupta said on Saturday.

"With control over used data and online real estate, the digital platforms are in a unique position to shape and influence consumer choices on one hand and steer consumer traffic to their businesses to the other," Gupta said while addressing the Annual Conference on Competition Law and Practice organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) along with Competition Commission of India (CCI).

The gatekeeper position of these platforms is giving rise to concerns over their competition and contestability, he noted. The impact of these 'so-called ecosystems' is compounded by the opacity in policies and the data advantage they have over both business users and potential competitors, Gupta said.

"While India emerges as one of the biggest and fastest growing digital consumer bases, market distortions need to be corrected promptly.

India may soon get first REIT of retail assets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to get its first Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) of retail assets soon as institutional investors and developers look to monetise their rent-yielding space in shopping malls, according to JLL India.

REIT, a popular instrument globally, was introduced in India a few years ago to attract investment in the real estate sector by monetising rent-yielding assets. It helps unlock the massive value of real estate assets and enable retail participation.

At present, there are three listed REITs - Embassy Office Parks REIT, Mindspace Business Parks REIT and Brookfield India Real Estate Trust - on Indian stock exchanges but all these are of leased office assets.

Property consultant JLL in its latest report on retail real estate segment highlighted that institutional investment in the retail sector has been picking up since 2021. More than USD 862 million investments have come from 2021 (excluding portfolio deals).

Many global investors are investing in the retail sector either by buying a stake in existing assets or through greenfield development platforms.

"The retail market seems to benefit from favourable demographics, rapid urbanisation, and rising consumption," the consultant said.

The report noted that investors are expecting healthy returns in the long run, considering the growth potential.

"Investors are looking for quality Grade A assets by established developers having less vacancy. Investors prefer leased-based assets over strata-sold assets to ensure fair market rentals and timely returns," it said.

The consultant also mentioned that investment in retail assets is not just limited to metros, as significant activities have been recorded in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as well.

"Additionally, investments by these big institutional players help developers to exit the project partially or fully, reduce their debt, and focus on other developments. A lot of foreign funds are willing to



acquire quality retail assets yielding good rental income," the report said.

Investors are either buying or creating portfolios considering future public exit via REITs.

"REITs are still relatively new in India and are prevalent in the office sector. India is expected to get its first retail REIT soon. With quality supply in the pipeline and new malls announced by established developers, the Indian retail sector is expected to attract more institutional investment," JLL India said.

REITs in retail will be the next big move in the sector as institutional investors are building portfolios of superior-grade retail assets, it added.

JLL India cited few examples of institutional investors creating large retail real estate portfolio.

Nexus Malls acquired Forum Malls as part of a USD 1.2 billion deal between Blackstone and the Prestige Group to take over the income-generating retail assets of the latter. Abu Dhabi Investment Authority-backed Lake Shore India Advisory has acquired Viviana Mall in Thane from GIC and realty developer Ashwin Sheth Group for

over Rs 1,900 crore, the report said.

That apart, Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC and The Phoenix Mills Ltd have entered into a strategic partnership to establish an investment platform for retail-led mixed-use assets in India.

The consultant expects leasing demand in malls to expand and surpass pre-pandemic levels by 2023.

The inherent growth potential of the sector is quite robust, and institutional investment is expected to increase it further. This would bring more transparency and improvement in the operating environment of shopping malls, JLL India said.

On the overall supply situation, JLL said that the stock of Grade A shopping malls in the top seven cities of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad) is at 90.6 million sq ft in H1 2022. More than 50 per cent of the mall stock is in Delhi NCR (29 million sq ft) and Mumbai (19 million sq ft).

More than 70 shopping malls with a total retail space of 31.02 million sq ft are expected to become operational by 2025 across the top seven cities of India.

Lower Kharif sowing calls for deft management of foodgrain stock, prices: FinMin Report



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Ministry report on Saturday underlined the need for deft management of stocks of agriculture commodities in view of lower crop-sowing for the Kharif Season, stressing there should be no room for complacency on the inflation front.

Overall, inflationary pressures in India appear to be on a decline with a pre-emptive set of administrative measures by the government, agile monetary policy and easing of international commodity prices and supply-chain bottlenecks, according to the monthly Economic Review released by the Finance Ministry.

However, it said, there is no "room for complacency on the inflation front as lower crop-sowing for the Kharif season calls for deft management of stocks of agricultural commodities and market prices without unduly jeopardising farm exports."

Sowing of paddy, the main Kharif crop, has declined by nearly 19 lakh hectares as on September 16, to 399.03 lakh hectare area, as compared to 417.93 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. Sowing in the Kharif

season begins with the onset of the southwest monsoon from June and harvesting from October onwards.

The paddy acreage has declined mainly in Jharkhand by 9.37 lakh hectares, followed by Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh hectare), West Bengal (3.65 lakh hectare), Uttar Pradesh (2.48 lakh hectare) and Bihar (1.97 lakh hectare).

The Kharif season contributes about 80 per cent of India's total rice production.

In September, the Food Ministry had said India's kharif rice production could fall by 6-7 million tonnes due to lower sowing.

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

India's growth has been robust and inflation is in control at a time when slowing growth and high inflation are afflicting most of the major economies of the world, the report said.

The report further said inflation in India, a net commodity-importing country, has been a by-product of externally situated exogenous pressures.

"Increase in international prices was reflected in an uptick in domestic prices, though the increase in domestic prices was relatively modest on account of the timely interventions taken by the government. Further, as these external pressures ease, inflationary pressures in India are also likely to subside," it said.

Ambuja Cements seeks shareholders' nod for ₹20k-cr warrants, Adani's appointment on board

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ambuja Cements, which has been acquired by the Adani family, has called for an extraordinary general meeting with its shareholders on October 8.

In the EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting), Ambuja Cements will seek shareholders' approval for the appointment of Gautam Adani and others on the board and a Rs 20,000 cash infusion in the company through preferential allotment of warrants.

Ambuja Cements has sought approval for allotment of preferential allotment of 47.74 crore warrants at a price band of

Rs 418.87 to Harmonia Trade and Investment Ltd, a promoter group entity, totalling Rs 20,001 crore in one or more tranches.

The warrant holder would pay a minimum amount of Rs 104.72, around 25 per cent of the issue price at the time of subscription, and a further payment of Rs 314.15 at the time of exercise of the rights to convert in equity shares.

Ambuja Cements, which also owns 50.05 per cent in ACC Ltd, has called for an EGM of the shareholders "scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 8, 2022" with 12 resolutions seeking various approvals as the



appointment of Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, his son Karan Adani, two directors and four independent directors on the board.

On Friday, Adani Group announced the completion of the acquisition of Ambuja Cements and ACC for a total consideration of USD 6.5 billion

which includes the buyout of Swiss major Holcim's stake in the two firms and subsequent open offers to minority shareholders.

The conglomerate named its founder chairman Gautam Adani as the head of Ambuja Cements. It has also appointed his son Karan Adani and M R Kumar representing Life Insurance Corporation on the board of the company.

Besides four independent directors, Maheswar Sahu, Rajnish Kumar, Ameet Desai and Purvi Sheth, Ambuja has also appointed independent directors and sought shareholders' approval through a spe-

cial resolution.

On Friday, after Adani's takeover, the two cement firms ACC and Ambuja Cements had announced the resignation of their board of directors, including the CEOs and CFOs.

It named Ajay Kumar as the new CEO of Ambuja Cements in place of Neeraj Akhoury, and Sridhar Balakrishnan for ACC.

N S Sekhsaria, the person who founded Ambuja Cements and was on the board for more than 20 years, has now been designated as chairman emeritus. He had remained as its non-executive chairman even after the sale of the company to Holcim.

MoRTH makes 58 RTO services online based on Aadhaar authentication

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 58 citizen-centric services related to driving license, vehicle registration, and transfer of ownership can now be availed online with the help of Aadhaar authentication on voluntary basis.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on Saturday said that providing such services in a contactless and faceless manner would go a long way in saving critical time of citizens while easing their compliance burden.

Consequently, the foothall at the regional transport offices (RTOs) is likely to significantly reduce, which would lead to

greater efficiency in their functioning. The online services for which a citizen is required to undergo Aadhaar authentication on voluntary basis includes — application for Learner License, issue of duplicate Driving License and renewal of Driving License for which test of competence to drive is not required.

Further, the issue of International Driving Permit, change of address in Conductor License, application for Transfer of ownership of motor vehicle among others are also included among online services for which a citizen is required to undergo Aadhaar authentication on voluntary basis.

Vehicle scrapping facility not required to verify vehicle record with police

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) on Saturday said that the requirement of necessary cyber security certifications for the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) has been removed.

The ministry in a series of tweets said RVSF will not be required to verify the record of the vehicles with local police before the scrapping of vehicles.

The deregistration process has been more simplified and made IT-friendly, it added.

The ministry also said that it notified new rules to simplify and streamline the Trade Certificate regime in a bid to promote ease of doing business. There were some anomalies in the existing regulations, which were causing harassment in



business establishments.

"Accordingly, Trade Certificate will be required only in case of vehicles which are neither registered nor temporarily registered.

"Application for Trade Certificate can be made electronically on Vahan portal, without visiting the RTO, it

said.

The vehicle scrapping policy has come into effect from April 1, 2022.

Announced in the Union Budget 2021-22, the policy provides for fitness tests after 20 years for personal vehicles, while commercial vehicles will require it after 15 years.

Electric car designed by engineering students to compete in global contest

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An electric car, designed by engineering students of the Barton Hill Government Engineering College here has reached the final stage of the International Energy Efficiency Competition, Shell Eco Marathon (SEM) 2022.

'Vandy', an electric car designed by Pravega, a team of 19 students from the mechanical stream of the college is one among the five teams that have qualified for the international event to be held at Pertamina Mandalika circuit in Indonesia from October 11 to 16. The project is mentored by Acsia Technologies.

TOP-RANKED ALCARAZ LOSES TO AUGER-ALIASSIME AT DAVIS CUP

AP ■ BARCELONA

Carlos Alcaraz's biggest fans had flocked to see the world's new top-ranked player in his homecoming to Spain.

Instead, they witnessed Felix Auger-Aliassime beat their new idol before staying on the hard court to secure a second victory in doubles and help Canada score a 2-1 upset win over Spain in the Davis Cup group phase on Friday.

Alcaraz lost 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2 to a superb Auger-Aliassime, who endured the partisan crowd and tilted the match at Valencia his way after the 19-year-old Spaniard dug deep to claim the first-set tiebreaker.

"Felix is a beast. Physically and mentally, Felix is one of the best in the world," Alcaraz said after his first match since winning the U.S. Open last weekend to become the youngest man to rise to the top of the ATP rankings.

"I didn't come in very good physical condition," he added.

"It was a very tough day, but I have to say congratulations to him because he played an unbelievable game."

As the pavilion roared for Alcaraz, Auger-Aliassime coolly responded by surgically placing shot after shot exactly where he wanted. He dominated on his serve with 16 aces and eventually broke Alcaraz late in the second set and twice in the third.

"He is the world No. 1 and big credit to him for that, but today I think I was a little bit better in the third set," the 13th-ranked Auger-Aliassime said. "I wasn't going to let my team down with my fighting spirit."

Roberto Bautista gave Spain the first point after he fought back for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 win against Vasek Pospisil.

With no time to recover, Auger-Aliassime and Pospisil showed no sign of being worn down when they came from behind to beat Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the decider.



Canada next plays Serbia on Saturday while Spain faces South Korea on Sunday to determine which two advance to the quarterfinals in November in the southern Spanish city of Málaga.

Spain beat Serbia 3-0 on Wednesday while Alcaraz was resting after jettisoning home from New York where he won his first Grand Slam singles title on Sunday after a grueling run that included three consecutive five-

set victories. Before the Davis Cup tie, Alcaraz was busy signing autographs and posing for photos after practice. He received the biggest applause when the Spain team was presented and he was introduced as

the "new world No. 1." After the match, he didn't focus on the loss, but rather the joy he got from being back home.

"I wanted to come back to Spain, I mean to share this moment to be No. 1 and to be U.S. Open champion with all my people," Alcaraz said.

After Spanish fans had to stay up practically all night to watch his matches at the U.S. Open due to the time difference, this was the first chance many of his supporters had to watch him play at home since May when he won the Madrid Open. Alcaraz beat Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Alexander Zverev in the capital in what many saw as Nadal passing the torch to his Spanish successor.

Red and yellow flags were draped over railings at the pavilion, including one with the name of Alcaraz's home region, Murcia, painted in big black letters. Valencia, on the Mediterranean coast, is about 21/2 hours north of Alcaraz's hometown of El Palmar, population 24,000.



Saketh-Yuki pair loses doubles as Norway clinch Davis Cup tie 3-0

PTI ■ LILLEHAMMER (NORWAY)

India were thrashed 0-3 by a far-superior Norway team as world No.2 Casper Ruud combined with Viktor Durasovic to win the doubles match and complete the rout in the World Group-I tie of the Davis Cup here on Saturday.

The Indian pair of Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni went down 3-6 6-3 3-6.

Having lost both the singles on the opening day, the Yuki-Saketh pair did put up a fight before losing to the fancied Norwegian duo in an hour and 50 minutes.

On day one, both Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran had lost their respective singles matches by identical margins of 1-6 4-6 to Durasovic and Ruud, respectively.

While Ruud, a finalists at French Open and the US Open is a cut above the rest, the Indians couldn't tame even Durasovic, whose singles ranking is a lowly 325 and stands at 224 in the doubles list.

Ruud, on the other hand, doesn't even play doubles on the circuit. However, as had been the case often, the potent singles player had an advantage over the specialist doubles players.

The Norwegian pair needed one break point each in the first and third set to clinch the rubber.

The Yuki-Saketh pairing had had some success at the Challenger level where it reached a few finals, but at a level which is a few notches higher,

the duo failed to keep India afloat despite having a better understanding on paper, compared to the pair of Ruud and Durasovic.

With Norway taking an unassailable 3-0 lead, the two reverse singles won't be played. The Indian team was staring at a heavy defeat after conceding a 0-2 lead to the hosts following Ramkumar's loss to Durasovic in the second singles on Friday evening.

Ramkumar, the number one singles player for India, failed to live up to expectations as he suffered a 1-6, 4-6 loss to his lower-ranked opponent Durasovic in one hour and 16 minutes.

After Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost to world No. 2 and US Open runner-up Ruud in an expected result in the first singles, the onus was on Ramkumar to keep India in the tie by winning the second match.

But it was not to be as Ramkumar, ranked 276 in the world, proved to be no match for the 325th-ranked Durasovic who broke the Indian's serve thrice and sent down 12 aces as compared to three by his opponent at the Hakons Hall Hard Court indoor facility.

Durasovic sent down five aces in the first set while breaking Ramkumar's serve twice. In the first set, Ramkumar was able to hold only his first service to make it 1-1 but after that it was Durasovic all the way. Ramkumar also had two double faults which made things worse for him as Durasovic took the first set easily.

World C'ships: Bajrang Punia suffers defeat in QFs, Sagar Jaglan to fight for bronze

PTI ■ BELGRADE

Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia (65kg) on Saturday suffered a shock quarterfinals defeat and was out of gold medal contention while Sagar Jaglan will grapple for bronze in the 74kg event at the Wrestling World Championships here.

Bajrang, a two-time Commonwealth Games champion, succumbed to a technical superiority (10-0) defeat at the hands of 23-year-old Yianni Diakomihalis of the USA in the 65kg quarterfinal bout.

The 28-year-old Indian, who has three World Championship medals to his name, will now hope the two-time cadet world champion Diakomihalis reaches the final so that he gets a shot at a bronze



medal via the repechage.

Earlier, Bajrang had defeated Cuba's Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier on points (5-4) in the pre quarterfinals.

The 18-year-old Jaglan, on the other hand, continued his quest for a bronze medal in 74kg as he defeated Suldkhuu Olonbayar of Mongolia 7-3.

The World under-20 bronze medallist will take on

Yones Aliakbar Emamichoghaei of Iran in the bronze medal match later in the day.

In the 97kg event, Vicky lost his qualification round bout to Samuel Scherrer of Switzerland 2-2. He was out of medal contention along with Pankaj (61kg), who also made an opening round exit after going down to Assyl Aitakyn of Kazakhstan.

Haaland scores again, Man City beats 10-man Wolves 3-0

AP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON, ENGLAND

Erling Haaland added a strike from outside the area to his repertoire of goals since joining Manchester City in a 3-0 win at 10-man Wolverhampton in the Premier League on Saturday.

City had already taken the lead through Jack Grealish after 55 seconds at Molineux when Haaland picked up the ball 40 meters out, drove toward the penalty box and shot right-footed into the bottom corner from the edge of the area in the 16th minute.

It was Haaland's 11th goal in seven league games since his offseason arrival from Borussia Dortmund — with the majority coming from right in front of goal.

Wolverhampton's already-slim chances virtually ended when center back Nathan Collins was shown a straight red card for a chest-high lunge on Grealish in the 33rd.

Phil Foden swept in a right-wing cross from Kevin De Bruyne, who provided a similar assist for Grealish's goal, in the 69th minute to round



off a win that took City above Arsenal into first place — at least overnight.

City has scored 23 goals in the first seven games of its title defense — comfortably more than any other team — and Haaland has almost half of them

Chile loses FIFA appeal in World Cup case with Ecuador



AP ■ GENEVA

Chile has lost its appeal to replace Ecuador at the World Cup in Qatar, but the verdict by FIFA will lead the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

FIFA on Friday dismissed Chile's argument that Ecuador player Byron Castillo was actually Colombian and ineligible to play in World Cup qualifying games. Castillo played in eight of them for Ecuador.

FIFA said its appeal judges "deemed that on the basis of the documents presented, the player was to be considered as holding permanent Ecuadorian nationality in accordance" with soccer's legal statutes.

The verdict, which upholds a FIFA disciplinary ruling from June, keeps Ecuador on track to play Qatar in the opening game of the World Cup in Doha on Nov. 20. The Netherlands and Senegal are also in Group A.

"In silence, we continue to defend what we achieved on the pitch," Ecuadorian soccer federation president Francisco Egas wrote on Twitter.

However, Chile's legal challenge can continue. The Chilean soccer federation will appeal against FIFA's verdict to CAS in Lausanne, Switzerland. Sport's highest court can organize an urgent hearing and ruling in the nine weeks left until the World Cup starts.

"It is a sad day for soccer and for fair play. The message is clear — tricks are allowed," Chilean federation lawyer Eduardo Carlezzo said, adding "there is an enormous amount of documents which prove that the player undoubtedly was born in Colombia."

Chile prepared its case after the World Cup draw was made on April 1, and after FIFA and Qatari organizers sold thousands of tickets and accommodation rooms to Ecuador fans.

Had Ecuador forfeited all eight games Castillo played, Chile would have risen to the fourth automatic qualification place in the South American qualifying group. Ecuador would have dropped out of contention.

The appeal to FIFA also involved the soccer federation of Peru, which placed fifth in the group and advanced to an inter-continental playoff in June, which was won by Australia.

FIFA's legal statutes include a section on national team eligibility when a state government has granted citizenship to players.

"Any person holding a permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence in a certain country is eligible to play for the representative teams of the association of that country," according to the statutes.

Castillo's lawyer, Andrés Holguín, said his player had no doubt about the result.



Fulham's 3 goals in 6 minutes trump Forest 3-2 in EPL

AP ■ NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND

Fulham scored three goals in a six-minute passage of play to beat Nottingham Forest 3-2 on Friday in an entertaining match between teams having contrasting fortunes since promotion to the English Premier League. Tosin Adarabioyo, Joao Palhinha and Harrison Reed scored in a whirlwind spell from the 54th minute at City Ground, helping Fulham move

up to sixth place.

Nigeria forward Taiwo Awoniyi marked his return to the Forest starting lineup with an 11th-minute opener and Lewis O'Brien set up a grandstand finish in the 77th.

Fulham held on, though, to condemn Forest to a fourth consecutive defeat, keeping the team in next-to-last place.

The top-flight resumed on Friday after last week's fixtures were called off as a mark of

respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and there were some heartfelt tributes to mark the monarch's passing.

A minute's silence was impeccably observed by the overwhelming majority in City Ground, with the odd outburst drowned out by an ovation before fans sang "God Save the King." There was a round of applause in the 70th minute to commemorate the length of the queen's reign.

Chhetri and Bengaluru FC eye Durand milestone



PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian talisman Sunil Chhetri will be desperate to add the coveted Durand Cup title to his illustrious career when he leads Bengaluru FC against Mumbai City FC in the summit clash here on Sunday.

For 38-year-old Chhetri, who is in the twilight of his career, the Durand Cup is missing from his trophy cabi-

net. It's also the same for Bengaluru FC, who have won all major Indian competitions since coming into existence in 2013, but not the Durand Cup. BFC were the ISL 2018-19 champions, and also have six other top domestic titles to their name, and will be vying for their seventh.

"It's very, very special. It is one of the oldest tournaments which in itself is very big. As a club we have not won it," Chhetri said of Bengaluru FC who have won the I-League twice, Indian Super League once and the Federation Cup/Super Cup thrice.

"More so for me... Individually too, I've not won the Durand Cup at all. I've been fortunate to win a lot of tournaments, almost all the tournaments that one can in India and the Durand Cup is missing," Chhetri said in the build-up to the tournament.

Diksha shoots 66 with 5 straight birdies, lies T-12 in France; all 4 Indians make cut

PTI ■ DEAUVILLE (FRANCE)

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar was on fire as she drilled in five straight birdies in a card of 5-under 66 in the second round at the Lacoste Ladies Open de France here. Diksha was at her best, especially in the second half of her front nine. She made the turn in 6-under 29 and then had one bogey and no birdies on the back nine, as she moved to T-12 after the second round.

Diksha is seven shots behind the LET rookie professional Ines Laklalech, who took a one-shot lead into the final round as she attempts to become the first Moroccan and first North African woman to win a title on the Ladies European Tour. Diksha, who is slowly showing signs of the form that won her a Ladies European title in South Africa in 2019, birdied the second and then had five birdies from fifth to ninth. Her only blemish



of the day was a bogey on Par-3 15th. All four Indians in the field made the 36-hole cut. Among them was Tvesa Malik, who showed a lot of patience as she negotiated the Golf Barrière course in Deauville.

She started from the 10th and had eight straight pars to start with before dropping a shot on 18th. A birdie on first brought her back to par for the day but a bogey on par-4 fourth

meant she finished at 1-over 72 and was 2-under 140 for 36 holes in Tied-20th place.

Amandeep Drall, coming off a Top-10 finish last week, had two birdies against five bogeys, three of them in a row from 10th to 12th for a 3-over 74. She is now 1-over 143 for two rounds and T-36, while Vani Kapoor (73) is now 3-over 145 for two days and T-52nd. The cut fell at 3-over.

Real Madrid denounces racist insult against Vinícius Júnior

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid has denounced the use of racist language to denigrate forward Vinícius Júnior. The Brazilian has been the focus of a debate in Spanish sports talk shows and sports news programs about the appropriateness of him dancing when he scores goals.

But Madrid was moved to issue a statement in defense of its player after a guest on a televised sports talk show reportedly said Vinícius, who is Black, should stop "doing the monkey."

The club said in the statement on Friday that it "rejects all types of racist and xenophobic expression and behavior in soccer, sports and life in general, such as the regrettable and unfortunate comments in recent hours directed toward our player Vinícius Júnior."

The club added it would take legal action against anyone



who used racist language against its player.

The debate regarding Vinícius' goal celebrations was sparked after Atlético Madrid's Koke Resurrección said "there could be trouble" if the Madrid forward dances after a goal on

Sunday in the Madrid derby to be played at Atlético's stadium.

Koke appeared to make the comment in jest, but it has been widely commented on. Even Brazil star Neymar chimed in on social media by tweeting, "Dance Vini Jr.

OM PRAKASH CHOUHAN PREVAILS IN CLOSE FINISH AT JAIPUR OPEN

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Om Prakash Chouhan lifted his seventh title after he prevailed with a narrow one-shot margin at the Jaipur Open golf here on Saturday.

The 36-year-old from Madhya Pradesh (67-66-65-64), lying second and two off the lead after round three, made the most of his excellent chipping and putting form this week as he signed the best card in the last round, a six-under 64, to finish on top at 18-under 262. Chouhan bagged the winning cheque of Rs. 6,00,000 and moved up from 18th to eighth position in the PGTI Order of Merit. Chandigarh's Abhijit Singh Chadha (62-69-65-67), the overnight leader, struck a flawless 67 despite the putts not rolling in for him. He claimed the runner-up spot at 17-under 263 at the Rs. 40 lakh event.

JADEJA'S ABSENCE MASSIVE LOSS BUT KOHLI'S RETURN TO FORM AUGURS WELL FOR INDIA IN T20 WC: MAHELA

PTI ■ DUBAI

Ravindra Jadeja's absence due to injury is a "massive loss" but Virat Kohli's return to form and Jasprit Bumrah's comeback would still make India a force to reckon with in the upcoming T20 World Cup, feels Sri Lanka legend Mahela Jayawardene.

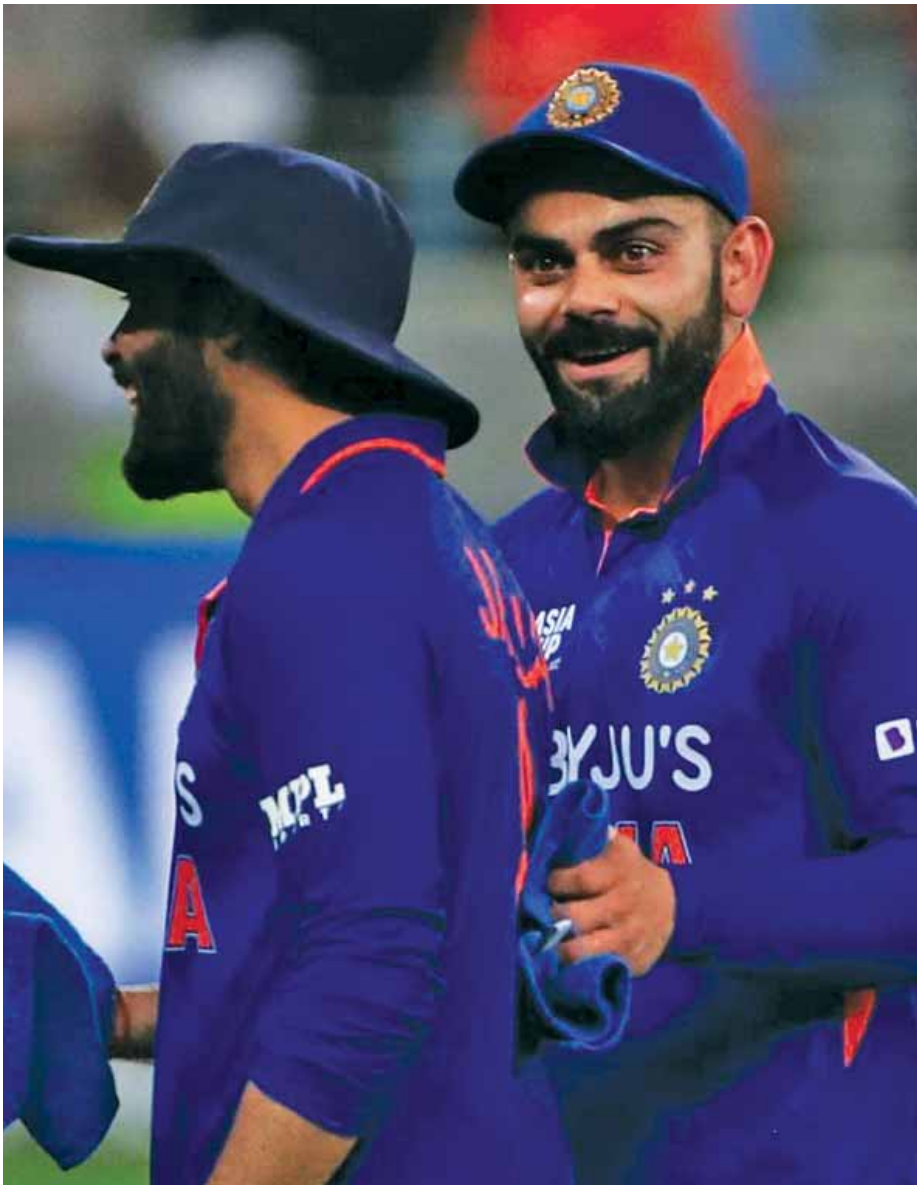
Jadeja was left out of the 15-member Indian team for the T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November after the all-rounder suffered an injury during the Asia Cup.

"It is a challenge. They had fitted him (Jadeja) nicely in that No.5 role. He has been batting really well and him and Hardik (Pandya) being in that top six - two guys who can give that all-round options - gave India much more flexibility in that batting order," Jayawardena was quoted as saying in The ICC Review.

"It is a tough one for them, and probably a concern not having that left-hander. They've switched to leaving out DK (Dinesh Karthik) and bringing in Rishabh (Pant) in that role, batting at 5 or 4. Those are things they have to settle going into the World Cup.

"But not having Jadeja, the form that he was in... It will be a massive loss for them," the batting legend said of Jadeja.

Jayawardene said India can take solace in the return to form of star batter Kohli who broke his century drought that spanned 1,020 days, scoring his 71st international hundred when he smashed an unbeaten 122 against Afghanistan in the



Asia Cup, though it was an inconsequential match.

"He (Kohli) was there and thereabouts pretty much. He just didn't have that big score under his belt to get that confidence, especially in white-ball cricket, which is always going to happen," said Jayawardene, who has been IPL side Mumbai Indians' head coach.

"There were a few injury concerns in the last 12 months. He had little niggles and they rested him and India kept on giving people rest, with the workload that they had. So not having that consistent run also makes it tough."

"It's good to see him (Kohli) batting like that. We need all these brilliant players to be at their best form in a World Cup, and that's what the World Cup deserves as well. Everyone going at each other at that level. It will be a fascinating World Cup in Australia.

"For me the way they played, the skills, the talent, everything is there. They just need a little bit of confidence with the bat, with the ball and in the field. These are little things that India will want to improve. It's just the confidence of bowlers being able to get wickets and then executing skills."

Jayawardene said India would be further bolstered by the return of pace ace Bumrah.

"Obviously, not having Jasprit (in Asia Cup) was also a factor. He fills a big gap for them with the new ball and at the back end. That will settle them as well when he is back in Australia."

Struggling Indian team aims to give fitting farewell to Jhulan



PTI ■ HOVE

After an ordinary showing in the shortest format, the Indian women's cricket team will have to drastically lift its game in all departments and give a fitting farewell to veteran Jhulan Goswami in the ODI series against England beginning here on Sunday.

India got most things wrong in the T20 Internationals series which they lost 1-2, especially their batting and fielding. With England missing their three senior players, including injured skipper Heather Knight, it was a good chance for India to register a rare series win over England.

Their middle order issues have gone on for far too long and after three games in England, it remains far from

being resolved. D Hemalatha was tried but she could not make much of an impact.

Though Jemimah Rodrigues has been named in the squad, questions remain over her fitness after she was ruled out of The Hundred due to injury.

After being dropped from the T20 squad, pressure will be on Yastika Bhatia to perform. While Smriti Mandhana and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur continue to hold the batting together, Shafali Verma needs to find consistency after three years in international cricket.

With Goswami retiring at the end of the three-match ODI series, the pace department also doesn't inspire a lot of confidence. Renuka Singh has done well of late but the team still relies heavily on spinners to do the job even in overseas

conditions.

Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana and Deepti Sharma merit a place in the side. But, is going with three all-rounders and no specialist in a playing eleven the right option?

The series is part of the ICC ODI Women's Championship which will eventually decide the qualifiers for the 2025 World Cup.

In Knight's absence, Amy Jones will continue to lead the England squad. Alice Capsey and Freya Kemp, who impressed in the T20Is, have been handed their maiden call ups for the ODI series.

"It's another big series, especially with points counting towards ICC Women's World Cup qualification, and with the summer ending at Lord's there's a lot to be excited about," head coach Lisa Keightley said in an ECB statement ahead of the series opener.

THE TEAMS (FROM):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Captain), Shafali Verma, Sabbineni Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Taniyaa Bhatia (WK), Yastika Bhatia (WK), Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana, Renuka Thakur, Meghna Singh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Harleen Deol, Dayalan Hemalatha, Simran Dil Bahadur, Jhulan Goswami, Jemimah Rodrigues.

England: Amy Jones, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Kate Cross, Freya Davies, Alice Davidson-Richards, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Freya Kemp, Issy Wong, Danni Wyatt.

Match starts: 3.30 IST.

Third 'Test': Patidar scores 2nd ton, Gaikwad misses by 6 runs as India A close in on win

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Rajat Patidar's dream season just got better with a second hundred of the rubber while teammate Ruturaj Gaikwad missed out on a ton by a whisker as India A closed in on a series win against New Zealand A in the third 'Test' here.

With the previous two unofficial 'Tests' of the three-match series ending in tame draws, largely due to inclement weather, Priyank Panchal's team has opened up an opportunity as New Zealand A ended the third and penultimate day on 20 for one, chasing a mammoth 416.

After left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar was brought into the attack early, he dismissed Rachin Ravindra to set the ball rolling.

This was after an impressive second innings show by the India A batters, with only Abhimanyu Easwaran (8) failing to cross the 50-run mark, as the hosts declared their second innings at 359 for seven.

Patidar continued his love affair with the Chinnaswamy Stadium, smashing 109 off 135 balls, his third first-class hundred at the same venue in three months. Earlier, he had scored a hundred here in the Ranji Trophy final, followed by 176 on his India 'A' debut a fortnight ago.



For Gaikwad, it was a match to remember as he topped up his first innings 108 with a delectable 94, which had 11 boundaries in it.

It was off-spinner Joe Walker, who had him caught by Mark Chapman but by then, the CSK batter was involved in two century plus partnerships -- 122 with his skipper Priyank Panchal (62) for the second wicket and 102 with Patidar for the third wicket.

Patidar, who hit 13 fours and two sixes, then found an able ally in Sarfaraz Khan (63 off 74 balls) and they added 108 runs in just 20 overs, as India A looked for a 400 plus total before letting New Zealand A bat for the day's last 90 minutes.

Sarfaraz used his feet to good effect against Ravindra and Walker, hitting seven fours and two sixes in the process.

It was a fine knock, but his failure in the preceding matches could come back to haunt him, as the fifty came when the pressure was literally off.

Brief scores:

India A 293 and 359/7 decl (Rajat Patidar 109, Ruturaj Gaikwad 94, Priyank Panchal 62, Sarfaraz Khan 63, Rachin Ravindra 3/65)

New Zealand 237 and (Target 416) 20/1 (Saurabh Kumar 1/13).



Received unanimous response from team-mates on inclusion of Alex Hales: Captain Buttler

IAN S ■ LONDON

England white-ball skipper Jos Buttler has said he received unanimous response from team-mates on bringing 33-year-old opening batter Alex Hales into the T20I squad, following the player failing a drugs test in 2019 and being left in cricket wilderness for three years owing to the misdemeanour.

Buttler, who is currently in Pakistan with the England T20I side, though he is unlikely to play in the first five matches of the seven-game series due to a calf injury, said he had spoken to several players in the side to ensure no one would have an issue with Hales's presence in the side.

Hales has got a second opportunity after he failed a recreational drug tests just before the 2019 World Cup at home under then-skipper Eoin Morgan, and he is keen to make up for lost time under the new set-up of skipper Buttler and coach Matthew Mott.

Morgan had claimed in 2019 following Hales's misdemeanour with recreational drugs that the opener had "shown a complete disregard" for team values, effectively closing the door for the batter till such time he was at the helm.

After Morgan retired from international cricket recently, and Jonny Bairstow suffered a freak injury, Hales made a return to the white-ball side under the new setup and is hoping to stake a strong claim for a permanent berth with good performance in Pakistan.

Buttler said he had consulted the squad before Hales came into the side.

"I spoke to lots of the senior players to make sure that no one would have any issues with

Alex being back in the team if we wanted to select him," Buttler was quoted as saying by The Cricketer in Karachi. "No one had any issues.

"He's (Hales) obviously been in excellent form. We know what a talented player he is and he's gained a lot of experience as well since the last time he played for England," added Buttler.

"It's no secret that when Alex got left out of the 2019 World Cup squad, Eoin did a similar kind of thing (speak to all his team-mates to get their opinion). He spoke to many of the senior players, all of the coaching staff and as a team, I think it's important that you give ownership to other guys and gather opinions.

"I just wanted to double-check. I had my own view, but I wanted to just make sure that everyone was on the same page. Everyone was, so that's great. I'm just looking forward to having him back in and around the group. It won't be long until (stand-in skipper for Pakistan tour) Moeen Ali is taking the mick out of him again and all will be well."

Hales has played extensively in Pakistan and Australia, with the 33-year-old giving impressive performances for his franchise in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) and the Big Bash League (BBL). In 28 PSL matches, he has notched up 895 runs while he is the BBL's highest overseas scorer, with 1,857 runs in 60 innings, according to the report.

"He's (Hales) played for a lot of franchises and had great success out here at the PSL," added Buttler. "Looking ahead to the (T20) World Cup, his Big Bash record is fantastic. Australia is a place that he's done well, and so he seemed the obvious pick."

Duleep Trophy: Sai Kishore's 7-wicket haul gives South big lead vs North; West sets Central huge target

PTI ■ SALEM (TN)

Left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore stole the show with a seven-wicket haul as South Zone seized the all-important lead against North Zone on the third day of the Duleep Trophy semifinal here on Saturday.

Meanwhile in Coimbatore, Prithvi Shaw's blistering 142 (140 balls, 15 fours, 4 sixes) helped West Zone set Central Zone a massive target of 501 in the other semifinal.

Tamil Nadu spinner Sai Kishore, who has been impressive in the white ball formats, came up with a superb showing, snaring seven wickets including that of the talented Yash Dhull (39, 70 balls, 4 fours, 1 six) to help dismiss North Zone for 207 in 67 overs.

Resuming at 24 for no loss, Dhull and Manan Vohra (27) pushed North Zone's first innings score to 67 before off-spinner K Gowtham (2 for 68) struck the first blow, removing the latter, caught by Rohan Kunnummal.

Dhull, who had slammed a ton in the quarterfinal against East Zone, could not carry on his good form, following Vohra into the pavilion four runs later. He nicked one to keeper



Ricky Bhui to give Sai Kishore his first scalp.

North slipped to 116 for 4 as captain Mandeep Singh (14) and Dhruv Shorey (28) were dismissed in quick succession.

Himanshu Rana (17) and Nishant Sindhu (40, 64 balls, 4 fours, 2 sixes) put on 48 runs for the fifth wicket.

However, the exit of Rana, who was trapped leg before by Sai Kishore, saw North lose another wicket quickly.

Sindhu kept fighting but he did not get much support from

the other end and Sai Kishore ran through the lower order.

North were dismissed for 207, giving South a mammoth first innings lead. The lanky spinner finished with 7 for 70 and played a huge role in the team securing the first innings advantage.

South did not enforce the follow-on and chose to bat a second time. Rohan Kunnummal, who scored a ton in the first essay, came with a quickfire 77 (72 balls) as the batters enjoyed the time out in the middle.

At stumps, South were 157 for 1.

Brief scores: South Zone 630 for 8 declared in 172.Overs (Rohan Kunnummal 143, Hanuma Vihari 134, Ricky Bhui 103 not out) and 157 for 1 in 28 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 77, Mayank Agarwal 53 batting) vs North Zone 207 all out in 67 overs (Nishant Sindhu 40, Yash Dhull 39, Dhruv Shorey 28, R Sai Kishore 7 for 70). (Toss: South).

Central 33 for 2 in pursuit of 501 for win.

PSG player Hamraoui opens up about suffering horrible attack

AP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain player Kheira Hamraoui published photos of her injuries from the brutal attack that left her fearing for her career, saying Saturday she is still haunted by it "night and day" and that she endured horrid abuse online afterward.

Hamraoui was attacked last November following an evening out with her former PSG teammate Aminata Diallo and other teammates. Hamraoui was hit several times with a metal bar and needed stitches to her hands and legs.

"I will never forget that night of Nov. 4, 2021. It haunts me night and day. That dark night changed my personal and professional life, my life as a woman and as a footballer player," Hamraoui wrote on Twitter.

"That sad night when I thought I was going to die when two hooded men forced me to get out of the car. They pummeled me with iron bars, essentially aiming for my lower body."

The 32-year-old midfielder, who has played 39 times for France, posted photos of the injuries: a gruesome gash to the



back of her right thigh and deep bruising around her left thigh and knee.

"Their objective was simple that night: to violently take my work tool by breaking my legs and ending my career," Hamraoui continued, adding that terrible verbal abuse then began and left her in a state of perpetual anxiety.

"For long months after the assault, I was unfairly insulted on the (soccer) pitches, harassed on social networks and had my life threatened. Nevertheless, I held on with all my strength to my passion (of soccer) and to stay professional," she said.

“What is cool today
is not going to be
cool tomorrow, and
what wasn’t cool
yesterday is going to
be cool tomorrow.”
—Zendaya



Yamkala Tiwari with her son Navin

Picture courtesy Janakraj Sapkota

TREACHEROUS ESCAPE TO DEATH

Youths from Nepal, who are looking for greener pastures abroad, are being trafficked on a regular basis. They are taking the death route to Europe to save themselves from poverty and the drudgery of daily life. The girls travel to India and end up mostly in brothels in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Delhi, writes BISWAJEET BANERJEE after a recent visit to Kathmandu.

Yamkala Tiwari’s younger son Navin has been missing since December 2017 when he left Nepal in search of greener pastures in Europe via Turkey. The friends with whom Navin escaped from Nepal have also lost track of him. Some of them have reached Turkey, others Greece, but there is no trace of Navin.

This is not a solitary incident. Youths from Nepal, who are looking for greener pastures abroad, are being trafficked on a regular basis. They are taking the death route to Europe to save themselves from poverty and the drudgery of daily life. There is a set route chalked out by the agents who claim to be experts in human trafficking. There are two routes to reach Greece via Turkey. First, crossing the river Evros and the Mediterranean Sea in overcrowded boats. The second, trudging a 203-km-long route through the hostile jungle.

Yamkala Tiwari believes that her son probably took the second route. Navin’s friend Moti Gurung told her that her son had fallen sick en route to Greece while trudging through a forest area for seven days. Moti said in a Facebook conversation that he had left for Greece from Istanbul at midnight with four Nepalis, three Pakistanis, an agent, and a guide who showed the way through the jungle. The agent had left Navin with an unknown person, who probably got him admitted to a hospital after he developed a fever and had a swollen leg.

Janakraj Sapkota, a local journalist says that the family has not heard about Navin since then. Moti had reached Greece in July 2018, almost seven months after his odyssey began with Navin. Moti was arrested in Greece and spent 25 days in jail for illegally entering the country. But after that, there has been no communication with Moti as he has deactivated his Facebook account.

UN Traffic and Persons Protocol says human trafficking is a global crime that trades in people and exploits them for profit. People of all genders, ages, and backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. Traffickers use violence, fraudulent employment agencies, and fake promises of

education and job opportunities to trick, coerce and deceive their victims. The organised networks of human traffickers or individuals behind this lucrative crime target people who are vulnerable, desperate or simply seeking a better life.

Article 9, paragraph 4 of the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol asserts “States Parties shall take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to alleviate the factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to traffickings, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity.”

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a significant global economic downturn. Current projections indicate that the COVID-19 Pandemic Recession (hereinafter “Pandemic Recession”) will involve a 6.2 percent decline in global per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP per capita), making it the most severe recession since the end of World War II.¹⁰² While both advanced economies and developing countries are experiencing a recession, experts warn that there is a risk that the Pandemic Recession may increase inequality both at global levels and within countries.¹⁰³

Sapkota has a list of Nepalese youth who have gone missing or whose family has lost touch with them. He says every death at the Turkey-Greece border sends shivers down the spine of parents in Nepal.

Anshumali, an activist who works against human trafficking at the Indo-Nepal border, said the human traffickers target people who are marginalised or in difficult circumstances. Undocumented migrants and people who are in desperate need of employment are vulnerable, particularly to trafficking for forced labour. Victims may be forced or tricked into an exploitative situation which constitutes trafficking after the traffickers use violence, deception or blackmail. Criminals trafficking children target victims from extremely poor households, dysfunctional families or those who are abandoned and have no parental care.

The agents are the key to this human trafficking racket. They lure youth with the promise of a greener pasture in Europe. They charge a fee and assure a safe passage

“IN 2020, THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC LED TO A SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN. CURRENT PROJECTIONS INDICATE THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RECESSION (HEREINAFTER “PANDEMIC RECESSION”) WILL INVOLVE A 6.2 PERCENT DECLINE IN GLOBAL PER CAPITA GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP PER CAPITA), MAKING IT THE MOST SEVERE RECESSION SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II.¹⁰² WHILE BOTH ADVANCED ECONOMIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE EXPERIENCING A RECESSION, EXPERTS WARN THAT THERE IS A RISK THAT THE PANDEMIC RECESSION MAY INCREASE INEQUALITY BOTH AT GLOBAL LEVELS AND WITHIN COUNTRIES.¹⁰³”

through forests. These agents do not allow illegal migrants to keep any identification document or cell phone with them. This is why the authorities are unable to ascertain the nationality of those found dead or deranged migrants.

With an average of 1,500 Nepalese migrant workers leaving Nepal every day for foreign countries, international labour migration forms an important part of the lives of Nepalese citizens. Estimates, however, suggest that approximately 3.2 million migrants from Nepal are working with irregular status in countries other than India. It thus helps to surmise that the number of Nepalese migrants in foreign countries, who may have taken the irregular channels, is more than the official data made available by the Government of Nepal.

“While most migration from Nepal occurs legally, some of the greatest insecurities for migrants, and public concern about migration, are associated with irregular migration or smuggling of migrants,” says Tek Prasad Rai, a senior police official who once headed the Nepal Police’s Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau.

Nepal’s government and other agencies do not have the exact number of Nepalis who reach Turkey on work visas and then illegally head for Greece by paying hefty sums to organised traffickers. Officials vouch that for the majority of the Nepalese youth traveling to Greece is not the culmination of their journey. They illegally enter Germany, Spain, Italy and Portugal. They work in hotels and earn anything between US \$ 10-12 per day, which they claim is not enough.

Rai, the police officer, points out that stories about youth – male and female – being trafficked to other countries can be heard in almost all the villages across Nepal. Many of these people, particularly young girls, are trafficked to India where the girls end up in brothels of Mumbai, Kolkata, and Delhi.

As India and Nepal share a porous border, the young boys go to India to work as Gurkha (guards) or work in roadside eateries selling momos and Chinese food. These young boys remain in touch with their parents and sometimes send money to their

families, but the new trend of youths illegally going to Europe is dangerous.

According to the Missing Migrants Project of the International Organisation for Migration, within the first five months of 2022, as many as 21 migrants have died in the Turkey-Greece border area. In January and February of 2021, 10 migrants were found dead in the same area.

Ujjwal Kumar Ghising, the chairperson of the Immigrant Nepalis Association in Turkey, said that on February 3, officials nabbed 50 migrants from Nepal, Pakistan, and some other African countries at the Greece-Turkey border while trying to cross to the other side. They were arrested and later asked to undress and were then ordered to return to the Turkish territory on foot. Nineteen of these people, including some Nepalese succumbed to the freezing cold.

Officials say it is difficult to track the youth travelling to Europe illegally as family members rarely file complaints about their missing relatives because their own family members are involved in the illegal trafficking racket. In the case of Navin, his brother-in-law Tulsi Prasad Neupane was instrumental in sending him to Turkey and from there to Greece. Since Neupane had worked in Saudi Arabia, Navin’s family members were confident that the route he suggested was safe. The family had even paid 15 lakh Nepalese rupees as fees to the agent. This was done with the hope that once Navin landed in Greece, he would get a good job and repay the money they were spending on his migration.

“I never knew that travel is so fraught with danger. I was given the impression that it is an easy journey and the agent will ensure the entry of Navin in Greece and by early 2018 he will start sending money to us,” said Yamkala Tiwari.

As a mother, she had consulted a local priest before Navin took up the journey. The priest suggested a date after consulting the astronomical calendar, saying it was the most auspicious time for the journey.

“I never knew that it would be the journey to death,” Yamkala said, sobbing.

(The writer is Political Editor, The Pioneer, Lucknow)

HAY FEVER & ASTHMA: DEADLY COMBO

A study of school children conducted by University of Rochester Medical Center researchers has found that a majority of children with asthma also reported having allergic rhinitis, or hay fever. Symptoms of hay fever include runny nose, sneezing, congestion and sinus pressure, and can contribute to asthma. The HEALTH PIONEER shares details of the study.

The study, led by Jessica Stern, an assistant professor in the department of Pediatrics and division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, found that children with both asthma and hay fever had worse asthma outcomes. Not only this, half of children diagnosed with both asthma and hay fever were not receiving proper care and medication for their condition

This study reviewed data from three NIH-funded trials (led by Jill Halterman, professor in the department of Pediatrics) of 1,029 Rochester school children with asthma. The primary goal of the trials was to evaluate whether providing children with preventive asthma medications in school would improve their asthma symptoms. While most children participating in these trials had improved asthma symptoms when they received their medications, a subgroup of children did not improve. This prompted the researchers to look at other health concerns that might have prevented the children from having a full treatment response.

“Through our study, we found that many of the children who did not report improved symptoms had allergic rhinitis in addition to asthma, and these children had more asthma symptoms, used their rescue medication more, and missed more school days compared to those without allergic rhinitis,” said Stern.

Importantly, less than half of the children with hay fever were receiving proper treatment for their symptoms, including nasal sprays and recommended anti-histamines; nor had they been seen by asthma or allergy specialists.

“This is critical because it highlights gaps in care and needed treatments, which may contribute to the disparities in asthma outcomes that we see in children who primarily identify as Black or Latino, or are from low resourced communities,” said Stern. “These findings also encourage a focus on contributing environmental factors and the social determinants of health for these children. The burden of allergic disease is often under-recognized and undertreated in historically marginalized populations, and we have an opportunity and obligation to address this to improve outcomes.”

Dr. Stern will be continuing this work to understand the multiple influences in a child’s life that impact their asthma. She has grant funding from the Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Award, NHLBI, and the URM Quality Institute.



“We are working to create a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to overcome structural obstacles to equitable care for children with asthma. This will involve collaboration with caregivers and patients to plan systems of care that work for them. We understand that families are the experts, and we have to listen to what they think,” said Stern.

OVERVIEW OF HAY FEVER

Hay fever, also called allergic rhinitis, causes cold-like symptoms. These may include a runny nose, itchy eyes, congestion, sneezing and sinus pressure. But unlike a cold, hay fever isn’t caused by a virus. Hay fever is caused by an allergic response to a harmless outdoor or indoor substance the body identifies as harmful (allergen).

Common allergens that can trigger hay fever symptoms include



pollen and dust mites. Tiny flecks of skin shed by cats, dogs, and other animals with fur or feathers (pet dander) also can be allergens.

Besides making you miserable, hay fever can affect how well you perform at work or school and can generally interfere with your life. But you don’t have to put up with annoying symptoms. You can learn to avoid triggers and find the right treatment.

SYMPTOMS

Hay fever symptoms can include:

- Runny nose and nasal stuffiness (congestion)
- Watery, itchy, red eyes (allergic conjunctivitis)
- Sneezing
- Cough
- Itchy nose, roof of mouth or throat
- Mucus that runs down the back of your throat (postnasal drip)
- Swollen, bruised-appearing skin under the eyes (allergic shiners)
- Extreme tiredness (fatigue), often due to poor sleep

HAY FEVER TRIGGERS

Your hay fever signs and symptoms may occur year-round or may start or worsen at a particular time of year (seasonal).

Hay fever triggers include:

- Tree pollen, which is common in early spring
- Grass pollen, which is common in late spring and summer
- Ragweed pollen, which is common in fall
- Dust mites and cockroach droppings, which are present year-round
- Dander from pets, which can be bothersome year-round but might cause worse symptoms in winter, when houses are closed up
- Spores from indoor and outdoor fungi and molds, which can be both seasonal and year-round

WHEN TO SEE A DOCTOR

See your health care provider if:

*You can’t find relief from your hay fever symptoms

- Allergy medications don’t provide relief or cause annoying side effects
- You have another condition that can worsen hay fever symptoms, such as nasal polyps, asthma or frequent sinus infections
- Many people — especially children — get used to hay fever symptoms, so they might not seek treatment until the symptoms become severe. But getting the right treatment might offer relief.



Nepal infant gets rid of liver tumour in three months

An infant from Nepal who was only eight days old when she came here with a rare form of malignant liver tumour is cancer free now after undergoing six cycles of chemotherapy and a surgical resection.

The baby, now three months, was suffering from hepatoblastoma, a rare tumour that originates in cells of the liver, and had been admitted to the Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram, Haryana.

Cancerous liver tumour in early childhood has an approximate incidence of 1.2 per million, while congenital hepatoblastoma is even rarer, said Dr Vikas Dua, Principal Director, paediatric hematology, oncology and BMT, who led the team in treating the girl child.

The doctors managed the case through six cycles of chemotherapy and a surgical resection.

“The baby presented to us on day eight of life with a solid mass in the liver which was picked up incidentally on an antenatal scan. It was a very challenging case considering the baby was a newborn. However, she tolerated chemotherapy well and did not experience any major side effects,” Dr Dua said.

An ultrasonography of the abdomen revealed that two segments of her liver had a tumour (3.7x2.4x3.8



DR VIKAS DUA
Principal Director, Paediatric Hematology, Oncology and BMT
Fortis Memorial Research Institute
Gurugram, Haryana

cm). Chemotherapy was immediately started, followed by surgery and again some more cycles of chemotherapy were given.

According to Dr Dua, the prognosis is excellent for children with standard risk who have a good response to chemotherapy and good resection. “The dose of chemotherapy was quite small so we had to be careful. As it was a malignant tumour, it could result in liver failure which could have been life-threatening. Currently, the patient is three months old and under continuous follow-up of paediatric oncology service.”

He said that these cancers are rare but highly curable provided they are detected early and treated by a correct team of pediatrics and cancer experts.

ALL ABOUT LIVER TUMOUR (HEPATOBLASTOMA)

*What is hepatoblastoma?

It is a very rare liver cancer that typically affects kids aged 1 to 3. Healthcare providers treat hepatoblastoma with chemotherapy and surgery, including liver transplantation. Approximately 75% to 80% of children with hepatoblastoma are alive five years after diagnosis. That survival rate increases to 90% for children whose tumors were diagnosed and treated early on, usually with a combination of surgery and other therapies. Healthcare providers are developing new surgical techniques to help children who have more advanced forms of hepatoblastoma.

*How common is hepatoblastoma?

Hepatoblastoma affects about 1 in 1 million young children living in developed countries. The number of cases has increased over the past few years, as more children who are born prematurely or with very low birth weights survive their challenging start in life.

*How does hepatoblastoma affect my child’s body?

Hepatoblastoma damages your child’s liver, one of the more important organs in our bodies. We rely on our livers to break down, store and absorb nutrients. Our livers also eliminate toxins and keep us from bleeding too much when we’re cut or injured.

*What are hepatoblastoma symptoms?

*Hepatoblastomas devel-

op over time. You may not notice any changes in your child’s body until the tumor in their liver has grown large enough to affect their overall health or behavior. Here are some signs your child may have hepatoblastoma:

They may have a painful lump in the upper right side or the middle of their abdomen.

They may have persistent nausea and diarrhea. They may not be interested in eating and might be losing weight.

*What causes hepatoblastoma?

Researchers haven’t identified hepatoblastoma’s exact cause, but they have identified a few risk factors, including hereditary conditions. Here are some conditions that might increase your child’s risk of developing hepatoblastoma:

Premature birth. Most babies are born 37 weeks after their mothers become pregnant. A baby born before 37 weeks is considered premature.

Low birth weight. Early exposure to Hepatitis B. This is a virus that attacks your child’s liver.

Biliary atresia. This condition affects newborn babies, keeping bile from flowing to their small intestines. The backed-up bile damages babies’ livers.

Hemihyperplasia. This condition affects your child’s body, causing one side of your child’s body to be larger than the other side.

Medication without harm

On the World Patient Safety Day on September 17, DR POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, highlights the urgent need to prevent avoidable injury and harm in health care systems, with a focus on ending unsafe medication practices and medication errors.

In addition to causing significant disability and death, unsafe medication practices and medication errors cost an estimated US\$ 42 million across the world annually. In low- and middle-income countries – including in the WHO South-East Asia Region – patient harm due to unsafe care contributes to an estimated 134 million adverse events annually, resulting in around 2.6 million deaths. Unsafe medication practices and errors can occur at different stages of the medication use process and can result from weak medication systems and/or human factors such as fatigue, poor environmental conditions, or staff shortages.

Since 2015, the WHO South-East Asia Region has made targeted efforts to reduce unsafe medication practices and medication errors, with a focus on addressing counterfeit and substandard products, and enhancing patient safety and reporting systems. This is in line with the Region’s Strategy on Patient Safety 2016–2025, as



well as its Flagship Priority on achieving universal health coverage, with the aim of ensuring access for all to safe, quality and affordable medicine.

Specific Region-wide attention continues to be paid to reducing medication-related harm in elderly patient care, intensive care, highly spe-

cialized or surgical care, and emergency medicine, where the majority of medication harm occurs.

Most countries of the Region now have in place national patient safety and/or quality strategies that are aligned with the Regional Strategy, as well as the new

THIS YEAR, THE THEME IS ‘MEDICATION SAFETY’ ALONG WITH THE SLOGAN ‘MEDICATION WITHOUT HARM’ WITH A CALL TO ACTION TO ‘KNOW, CHECK & ASK’. MEDICATION ERRORS AND UNSAFE MEDICATION PRACTICES CAN LEAD TO SEVERE PATIENT HARM, DISABILITIES, AND DEATHS.

Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030. The Plan aims to advance policies, strategies and actions to eliminate all sources of avoidable risk and harm to patients and health workers.

The WHO continues to support countries of the Region to adopt a system-wide approach to promoting safe medication practices, with a focus on several priorities. First, supporting policy makers to establish patient safety incident reporting and learning systems, including systems to monitor and evaluate impact.

Second, empowering health care leaders and facility managers to develop and implement standard operating procedures for safe medication use, while at the same time increasing health worker training and adherence. Third, supporting health workers to stay up to date on safe medication practices, including by disseminating key resources such as the 5 moments for medication safety tool.

And fourth, encouraging both health professionals and

patients to be aware of and act on WHO’s ‘Know. Check. Ask’ protocol, which aims to increase awareness of, and educate the public about, the importance of using medication safely.

Patient safety is everyone’s business. No one goes to a health facility to get sick; no one takes medication that they know to be substandard, counterfeit, inappropriate or injurious to their health. Improving and ensuring patient safety – including by reducing unsafe medication practices and errors – is a growing Regional and global challenge that together we must not just meet but overcome to achieve the Region’s eight Flagship Priorities, the Triple Billion targets and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

On World Patient Safety Day, WHO reiterates its commitment to achieving a Region and world in which no one is harmed in health care, and where every patient receives safe and respectful care, every time, everywhere.

PERSPECTIVE

China's IP theft: Boon or bane?



MAKHAN SAIKIA

IP theft is just the tip of the iceberg. China has much more in store to surprise the US and the rest of the liberal world. Its long road to break the shackles of the global liberal order has already begun. In that, IP stealing is just one aspect in the race to the top slot

China is accused of stealing Intellectual Property (IP) worth trillions of dollars from multinational corporations. The Communist regime is hounding global corporations operating in different parts of the country. Today Washington is targeting Beijing for continuing this trick. Besides the US, the European Union (EU) is harshly labelling China as top offender for IP breaches.

Many economists think that China's double-digit growth in the past was backed by the proceeds coming from this huge IP theft. It seems it is difficult to track down the violators where the legal machinery is a part of the rigid party structure.

To holistically assess these claims and counterclaims from both the US and China, we need to see what both the giants are doing to simply stop this global menace. Those who argue that China steals IP rights of western companies say each year the hackers take away billions of dollars' worth of property and trade secrets from these enterprises. And this is largely confirmed by the cyber-security experts across the globe.

It is estimated that the damage they face is incalculable. Therefore, the western governments have devised strategies to give priority to safeguarding their commercial interests both within and outside their sovereign territories. Countries such as America, Australia, Canada and the EU are raising the issues of China's massive IP loot in international fora.

The long-term impact of hacking companies is very serious. Interestingly, many of the companies operating in China keep such matters under wraps for years. Because many of them fear huge business losses and, also, they are under legal bindings to continue the contracts for a particular time frame.

Furthermore, these businesses also cannot just pull out of China as they are tied up with global commitments. Moving out bases, particularly manufacturing hubs, overnight or in months are not easy tasks. Moreover, companies look for cheap labour and processing so that their turnover remains high. Hence, many of these trading companies continue to operate in China despite losing billions in IP theft for years. And at the same time, the Chinese companies and local conglomerates are making large profits by running on the piggybacks of such foreign companies. In a way, both the sides are mutually benefitting from operating in China.

But there are many who say that doing business in China is hassle free and highly profitable. But why? They say while deciding for business in China one can rightly consider some of these important attributes: A dynamic economy, full potential for development, a massive market and stable market, global business network, most populous nation, superior infrastructure, wise regulatory frame-

work, and unbelievably cheap labour market. Above all, a stable political system under the supreme aegis of the Communist Party of China (CPC) since October 1949 till date offers an amicable environment for rapid business growth in this country unlike any other Asian nation.

Political volatility is not an issue of concern for global market players here in the great People's Republic of China (PRC). Thus, it is obviously very easy to set up business enterprises and links in China. International trade experts and legal eagles opine that the most popular business type in China is Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprises (WFOE).

Indeed, this kind of an enterprise can fully meet the demands of the founder and the market. Precisely, China offers a host of free trade zones that offer varied opportunities wherein foreign direct investments can sustain for longer time. It has been observed that registering a company in China's free trade zones and subsequent operations come with very lucrative tax exemptions. Again, a highly skilled and qualified workforce helps business to grow immensely.

They all come with efficiency, language skills and wide-ranging experiences in the field. So global businesses find them handy while taking their business to the next level. Most importantly, the local Chinese business partners are highly trustworthy and ready to collaborate with external businesses in any field. China has a population of 1.4 billion. So, companies have enough scope to grow faster in China than in any other place.

But then why foreign business entities particularly western ones are raising the issue of IP theft leading to the loss of billions over the years? There are credible reasons behind such claims. In the summer of 2021, the US Congress tried to introduce a bill called "US Innovation and Competition Act (USICA)" under the current Biden administration. The grand underlying aim of the proposed act is to empower America to compete much better with emerging China on the technological front. While considering this bill in the Senate, the US Upper House, many genuine concerns were raised like the bill must include special "research security" provisions to stop China's clandestine designs of acquiring technological know from the US giants.

And so far, Washington has not done enough to protect the national IP treasures from the Communist China. There used to be long and persistent uproars in many quarters in the country to highlight China's quiet and clever designs to steal IP rights and business secrets from the big US firms, top laboratories, universities, independent research organisations, and finally from apex government agencies.

It has been estimated by the US trade representative that four years back the Chinese theft of American IP

cost the US firms between \$225 and \$600 billion each year. Imagine the loss incurred by the US companies now. Therefore, the Biden Government has truly realised that its time now not only to protect these national assets but also to send a stern warning to Xi Jinping regime in Beijing.

Another aspect is what China does with the stolen IPs. It is learnt that China converts them into its military capabilities. Once it is acquired from foreign entities, they are sent to dozens of top Chinese universities for formally converting into local patents. Once it is done, the Government distributes them into various companies for commercial exploitation.

Now the question arises: Who are the guardians of IP in the 21st century? It is a very complex question. Neither the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) nor the World Trade Organization (WTO) could offer safe guarantees of the IP rights across the globe. It is the national governments and their respective IP governing bodies accompanied by a host of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements that can only prevent the misuse of these rights.

China's business interests are intricately linked to its geopolitical designs. Its only aim is to supersede America and become number one global power sooner or later. Its quiet rise as pronounced by then President Hu Jintao has become the most aggressive and unquiet rise under the Xi regime. The current leadership has surpassed all previous records of expansion.

Xi is trying to build his national rejuvenation ideas around the economic prowess of the country. He is well aware that the western business conglomerates are in need of men, raw material and fast expansion. And China can very well offer a suitable ground for all that these businesses aspire for.

Thus Xi is fully utilising all that China's vast land, manpower and infrastructure could offer to these power hungry and greedy western business tycoons. In the process, despite losing their treasured IPs, the western MNCs are continuing their business in the communist country so far. Frankly, it's America that is solely responsible for making China rich, powerful and aggressive.

IP theft is just the tip of the iceberg. China has much more to surprise the US and the rest of the liberal world. Its long road to break the shackles of the global liberal order has already begun. In that, IP stealing is just one aspect in the race to the top slot.

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Rahul's first serious bid to revive Cong

To the discerning mind, the two concurrent but unrelated spectacles in the annals of India and the UK respectively — Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra and Queen Elizabeth II's magnificent last journey — are pregnant with meanings and possibilities in the realms of public affairs. The torrent of emotions being witnessed at the two events bears testimony to the unpredictability of the people's impulsive gesture, often shaped by unexpected occurrences — in the first case, the much vaunted 50-day long nationwide marathon by the grand old party infamous for its political slumber after poll drubbings since 2014, and in the second one, the sudden demise of the "revered" British monarch. But what the eyes see is not always the gospel truth.

For if we assume the massive outpouring of grief for the Queen resting in her eternal sleep as a steadfast deference to Britain's longest-reigning monarch, it would be inconceivable for the uninitiated to even fathom the fact that the venerable monarch had been hated in equal measure by a large section of her populace and those abroad, many of whom have refused to mourn her departure. Though just a figurehead, not a political head of the state, the Queen was never forgiven for the British military's crimes, some as heinous as genocide. Till her last breath, the carnage of Mau Mau rebels, and the Chuka and the Hola massacres tainted her "clean" image. Back home, after Princess Diana's tragic death in a car crash, the Queen was loathed by people for her crass remark that "someone must have greased the brakes". Elizabeth II was abhorred for vetoing the prosecution of her younger son, Prince Andrew, in the sexual assault case. The Queen was slapped with the epithet of the reigning monarch of the "raping genocidal empire". However, after all is said and done, the periodic abomination till the recent past didn't eclipse the global outpouring of grief when her end came.

Similarly, Congress leader Rahul has been given many demeaning epithets by his political opponents. Even trenchant critics from within the Congress repeatedly question Rahul's leadership skills in the wake of his political blunders like inexperienced absence soon after political drubbings, frequent sabbatical from political activities when the party needed his guidance for the revival of its lost glory, and philosophical utterances which are often spun out of proportion by the BJP's troll army.

Despite all the brickbats, the stark fact is that Rahul enjoys the unflinching support from the Congress cadre who look upon him for the party's revival strategy. Seen in this perspective, Bharat Jodo Yatra, it seems, is his first serious arduous endeavour to break the nagging doubt in his ability to lead the party from the front.

The massive support from the public, and the occasional succour by regional parties of the States concerned, to the yatra has for the first time in the past one decade put the Congress and Rahul back in the reckoning in the national political arena. The massive turnout has rattled not only the BJP, which has wrested the national political space, but also Congress' parasitic regional alliance partners who feed on the Congress' diminishing fortunes for their growth in the region.

Bharat Jodo Yatra has given the Congress and Rahul's leadership of the party a fresh lease of life, but as said earlier, the spectacle doesn't guarantee that the likely revival of the Congress will convert into electoral dividends.

However, there are three things clear to my mind.

First, the idea of Congress-mukt Bharat is a utopia. The Congress has taken root in the past 75 years to be uprooted by the recurrent political onslaught. Though its strength has diminished and voters have kept it on a roller coaster ride for over three decades, there is an unexpressed understanding among the masses that it is the only other nation-



sophical utterances which are often spun out of proportion by the BJP's troll army.

Second, defeating the Narendra Modi-led BJP is not a cakewalk for any single party or a ragtag coalition of "secular" parties. According to surveys, voters are not in two minds about who should be India's Prime Minister and Modi's towering stature is intact as that is the USP of the BJP even in the State elections. Though for academic records, the demonetisation and the "sudden imposition" of GST, in whose maze the traders were lost during the long initial period, were ill-conceived, the general public, particularly the poor, condone the failures as procedural lapses in the fervent conviction that the schemes had a pious intend for the greater good of the nation.

Third, though the BJP has retained the loyal vote of a section of the aggrieved Hindus who had been yearning for the change after years of neglect by appeasement politics, the Hindu vote is a misnomer. Those doubting the truth should recalibrate their scale: Hindus, the most plural and heterogeneous religious community, constituting 80 per cent of India's population, comprise 80 per cent of the voters. If there is a Hindu vote, the BJP would garner about 50 per cent of total polling from Hindu voters alone, considering that there is the usual 60 per cent turnout in an election. But the BJP secured only 31 per cent vote in 2014 and 37 per cent in 2019 elections, including those from minorities and tribals. Therefore, the "secular" parties are to blame for the BJP's securing the lion's share of the

al political party which can work on its dream to become a national alternative to the Modi-led BJP Government.

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Hindu vote by whipping up their sentiments. Then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assertion that "Muslims must have first claim on national resources" was the turning point that defeated the appeasement politics.

However, the same heterogeneity of the Hindu voters is cashed in on by the caste politics, seen in plenty in regional politics. But the revival of the Congress poses a threat to regional parties' prospects. Though JD(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is trying to cobble together a coalition of Opposition parties, including the Congress, until two major regional players, Mamata Banerjee and KCR, espouse the cause of the Opposition unity, the initiative will be half-baked.

Nevertheless, it is too early to predict 2024. One and half years before the next Lok Sabha polls, nobody can hazard a guess as to what will shape the voters' behaviour and their choice at the polling booths. However, one thing is certain: Voters don't forget issues that affect their day-to-day life. People are getting weary of the rising inflation that is the only chink in Modi's impregnable armour, at present. The rising cost of living and unabated price rise of essential goods, particularly food items, can break the spell the Modi-led Government had cast on the majority of its voters. If Modi fails to stem the price rise, even the ragtag coalition of Opposition parties can cash in on the Achilles heel of the Modi Government in 2024.

(The writer is Associate Editor & News Editor, the Pioneer)

Defeating the Narendra Modi-led BJP is an uphill task for any single party or a ragtag coalition of "secular" parties. According to surveys, voters are not in two minds about who should be India's Prime Minister... but if Modi fails to stem the price rise, even the weak coalition of Opposition parties can cash in on the Achilles heel of the Modi Government in 2024



SWARN KUMAR ANAND

REMEMBRANCE

Arbaeen walk: Journey of love & compassion

Braving extreme weather and ominous security threats, Shia Muslims from around the world are thronging the holy city of Karbala in Iraq to pay their obeisance to the final resting place of the younger grandson of Prophet Mohammad, Hussain Bin Ali, popularly known as Syed al-Shohada (Master of Martyrs). Arbaeen pilgrimage — the journey of "love and compassion", not being obligatory for Shias — is a reaffirmation of a pledge to uphold the virtues propounded by Imam Hussain and the spirit of his sacrifice for the august cause.

It marks the 40th day since Ashura, the martyrdom day of Imam Hussain, who was killed by Umayyad caliph Yazid ibn Muawiya in the desert of Karbala. Apart from Iran and Iraq, pilgrims from India and Pakistan attend the event. Non-Muslims too visit Karbala to mark their respect and express their solidarity with the noble cause of Imam Hussain.

Imam Hussain was con-

sidered the third Imam in the line of succession of Shia Imamate tradition after the Prophet. He is a symbol of resistance against tyranny and injustice. He is not limited to any faith or religion. In India, he is also revered by Hindus and regarded as a symbol of communal harmony.

The martyrdom of Imam Hussain had a consequential and remarkable impact on the whole course of Islamic history. Having outrightly rejected the proposal of Umayyad caliph Yazid bin Muawiya's proposal to accept his illegitimate baiyyah (allegiance) and to recognise his sovereignty over the gullible people, Hussain clearly drew the line between haq (righteousness) and batil (falsehood).

According to him, regardless of any ruler's pedigree or religious, social or political status, the ruling clique should not be based on tyranny and injustice. He raised his voice against these injustices meted out by Yazid and reestablished

the human values that have been instituted by Prophet Mohammad and Ali bin Abi Talib, his grandfather and father respectively.

To achieve this objective, he believed that only making supreme sacrifice while fighting the army of Yazid and giving his life in the battlefield can salvage the high morals of Islam. Despite having 72 in numbers he valiantly fought in the plains of Karbala also called al-Taff in 680 AD followed by the imprisonment of his remaining female family members, including his only surviving son Zayn al-Abedin.

Famous Iranian philosopher Ali Shariati once said, "Martyrs gave their blood, now survivors have to carry the message of blood to future generations."

The ongoing Arbaeen commemoration in the holy city of Karbala in Iraq is carrying forward Imam Hussain's message of unity of humankind. His sister Sayyida Zaynab played a pivotal role in

disseminating his brother's message and she is considered avant-garde of this phenomenon. The tradition of visiting the graves of the martyrs of Karbala gained further impetus after the fall of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussain in 2003. The Iraqi rulers had banned the visit, yet people continued the pilgrimage secretly. These rulers even made unsuccessful attempts to raze the shrine.

Iraqi people deserve gratitude for their amazing hospitality of pilgrims from around the world who defy terror threats from ISIS to visit Karbala. According to some estimates, after the two year hiatus of coronavirus pandemic restrictions, around 30 million people are overwhelmingly converging in the holy city of Karbala, but unfortunately the coverage blackout of this largest human gathering in history by the Western mainstream media is pathetic.

(The writer works in development sector)

Iraqi people deserve gratitude for their amazing hospitality of pilgrims from around the world who defy terror threats to visit Karbala



MISAM ALI MIRZA

