

**OPINION 6**  
INDIANS MAKING IT  
BIG IN AUSTRALIA**WORLD 8**  
NO LET-UP IN HOSTILITIES IN  
UKRAINE DESPITE PRISONER SWAP**MONEY 10**  
FLAGSHIP SCHEMES' PORTAL TO  
HELP FOOD PROCESSING UNITS

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

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INDIA BEAT ENG  
BY 88 RUNS IN  
SECOND ODI  
11 SPORT

# NIA, ED swoop on 93 PFI spots in 15 States

Raids on charges of terror funding, radicalisation, supporting ISIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in coordination with the respective State police forces on Thursday conducted coordinated searches at 93 locations in 15 States against top leadership and cadres of Popular Front of India (PFI).

The Centre may impose a ban on PFI after evaluating the finds of the raid.

The raids were carried out in connection with ongoing probes in five separate cases related to alleged terror funding, radicalisation, and organisation of armed training camps besides supporting the international terror group Islamic State (ISIS).

The PFI has been under the radar of security agencies for its role in violent protests in different parts of the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, alleged forced conversions, radicalisation of Muslim youths, money



PFI general secretary Anis Ahmed (second, right) being produced to Patiala Courts, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

laundering and links with banned groups, informed officials said.

The NIA arrested at least 15 top PFI leaders, including Kerala State president CP Muhammad Basheer, national president OMA Salam, national general secretary Nasirudeen Elamaram, national executive member P Koya and State Committee Yahya Thangal among others.

The agency produced at least one person arrested from Thiruvananthapuram, A

Ashraf, at the NIA Special Court in Kochi and got his police custody. About 106 PFI leaders/activists were arrested so far, including 45 arrests by the NIA.

During the searches, many incriminating documents and digital evidence related to terror funding and radicalisation activities were seized by the agencies. The PFI on Thursday called for a State-wide hartal in Kerala on September 23 to protest against the raids.

Continued on Page 2

## Shah discusses action on PFI, terror suspects

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday held a meeting of top officials, including National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and is believed to have discussed the searches at premises linked to the PPFI and action against terror suspects, officials said.

# Punjab calls House session, to move SC against Guv order

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Punjab Governor withdrew his consent to summon a special one-day Vidhan Sabha session to take up the "trust vote" citing legal reasons, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have come face to face in Punjab.

On offensive, AAP-led Punjab Government on Thursday decided to convene a "regular" session on September 27 "to discuss important issues like the power situation and burning of stubble" besides holding a "shanti march" against the Governor's move to cancel the Thursday special Assembly Session.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has also announced to move the Supreme Court against the Governor's "arbitrary and anti-democratic"

decision to cancel the permission of holding the Assembly's Special Session, after giving permission for the same.

All this came after the Chief Minister held back-to-back meetings with all party MLAs, and later that of the Cabinet.

On the other hand, Punjab BJP too launched a protest against the AAP over its allegations of attempts to topple the AAP Government by offering money to its MLAs or threatening them with ED and CBI probes.

The leaders and party workers, led by Punjab BJP president Ashwani Sharma, courted arrests after they were made to face water cannons and lathis on their march towards the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh's Sector-2.

Continued on Page 2

# Fortis ex-promoters get 6-month jail for sale of shares

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday awarded six-month jail term to former promoters of Fortis Healthcare Ltd, Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh, in a case related to the sale of shares of Fortis to Malaysia-based IHH Healthcare.



A bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit also awarded six-month jail term to the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare who were earlier held guilty of contempt. The top court also ordered a forensic audit of the share sale in Fortis Healthcare Ltd. "Everything goes back to the executing court," the CJI said. The former promoters of

Fortis Healthcare Ltd were facing the court battle after a Japanese firm, Daiichi Sankyo, had challenged the Fortis-IHH share deal to recover the ₹3,600 crore arbitration award that it had won before a Singapore tribunal against the Singh brothers. The IHH-Fortis deal is stuck due to the legal fight between Daiichi and

the former promoters of Fortis Healthcare.

In 2018, when some Indian lenders sold the pledged shares of Fortis Healthcare to the Malaysia-based firm, Daiichi went to court alleging that the former promoters of Fortis had assured them that their shares in the Indian hospital chain will cover the arbitral award amount.

## US Prez reaffirms support for India as permanent member of UNSC

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden supports Germany, Japan and India as permanent members of a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC), a senior official of his administration has said.

At the same time, a lot of work needs to be done in this matter, the official told reporters on Wednesday on the condition of anonymity.

"We have historically and continue to stand behind the idea that Germany, Japan and India should be permanent members of the Security Council," the official said in response to a question.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Joe Biden in his address at the UN General Assembly reiterated his commitment to reforming the UN Security Council.

Detailed report on P-2

# India's veiled attack on China at UNSC for shielding Pak ultras

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India said on Thursday that it is regrettable that in the UN Security Council, when it comes to sanctioning some of the world's most dreaded terrorists, impunity is being facilitated and politics providing cover to evade accountability, in a veiled jibe at China which has blocked blacklisting of Pakistan-based terrorists on many occasions.

"The fight against impunity is critical to the larger pursuit of securing peace and justice. The Security Council must send an unambiguous and unequivocal message on this count," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the 15-nation UN Security Council briefing on Ukraine 'Fight against impunity'.

The briefing, chaired by French Minister for Europe and

Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna, was held on Thursday as world leaders gathered in the UN headquarters for the 77th session of the UNGA.

Addressing the Council briefing were UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverly and Foreign Ministers of other UNSC members.

"Politics should never ever provide cover to evade accountability. Nor indeed to facilitate impunity. Regrettably, we have seen this of late in this very Chamber, when it comes to sanctioning of some of the world's most dreaded terrorists," Jaishankar said.

# RSS chief visits mosque, madrasa in Muslim outreach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In his ongoing outreach to the Muslim community, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday visited a mosque and a madrasa, a step described by the RSS as part of the "continuous general 'Samvad' process".

The visits by the head of the BJP's ideological mentor came on a day multiple probe agencies conducted raids across the country and arrested more than 100 activists of the Popular Front of India (PFI) for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

The visit invited mixed reactions with the chief of the All India Imam Organisation Dr Umer Ahmed Ilyasi termed Bhagwat as "rashtra pita", while AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said these elites who are meeting Bhagwat have nothing to do with ground reality.

The RSS chief has been holding discussions with Muslim intellectuals for strengthening communal harmony over the last few weeks.

Senior RSS members, including Dr Krishna Gopal, Indresh Kumar, Ram Lal, and Karish Kumar, accompanied Bhagwat.

"Bhagwat visited on my invitation today. He's 'Rashtra-

pita' & 'Rashtra-Rishi'. A good message will go out from his visit. Our ways of worshipping God are different, but the biggest religion is humanity. We believe country comes first," tweeted Dr Ilyasi.

The All India Imam Organisation is the representative voice of the community of Indian imams and claims to be the largest imam organisation in the world.

Bhagwat first visited a masjid at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and then went to the Azad Market madrasa Tajweedul Quran in Old Delhi.

This is the first time Bhagwat visited a madrasa. The visit came at a time when a controversy is brewing over the survey of madrasas in Uttar Pradesh and the demolition of several madrasa in Assam.

During his visit to the madrasa, Bhagwat interacted with children and heard them reciting the Quran. Children raised the slogans of "Vande Mataram" and "Jai Hind", a Sangh functionary accompanying him said.

He said the RSS chief also spoke to the children about the need to know more about the nation and stressed that while the modes of worship could be different, all religions must be respected.

Continued on Page 2

# If picked as Congress chief, Gehlot to make way for Pilot as CM



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and others during the 15th day of party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Ernakulam, Kerala, on Thursday

PTI

## One man, one post, says Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

The Congress may be soon headed by a non-Gandhi president after Rahul Gandhi again ruled himself out of the race, paving the way for a contest in which Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot looks a clear favourite against his possible contender Shashi Tharoor, Thiruvananthapuram MP.

With the Congress high command "officially" backing the Rajasthan CM, a contest will be a mere formality. The elevation of Gehlot will also pave the way for the anointment of Sachin Pilot as Rajasthan Chief Minister after Rahul upheld the "one-man,

one-post" stand in line with the Udaipur Declaration.

"What we decided in Udaipur was Congress party's commitment. I expect that commitment of one man one post will be maintained," Rahul said talking to the media while taking a break from his padyatra.

So far, Gehlot and Tharoor seemed to be headed for a straight fight. However, names of senior Congress Kamal Nath, Prithviraj Chavan, and Manish Tiwari too were doing the rounds as contenders.

The Congress on Thursday issued a notification for the party president poll, setting the ball rolling for electing the successor to the longest-serving chief Sonia Gandhi, with senior leaders Gehlot and Tharoor being seen as potential contenders.

Continued on Page 2

## CAPSULE

### RAIN FURY: SCHOOLS IN NOIDA CLOSED TODAY


New Delhi: Schools in Noida for classes 1 to 8 will remain shut on Friday in the wake of heavy rain forecast. Gurugram was on Thursday inundated as retreating monsoon rain lashed Delhi-NCR.

### 6.8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE SHAKES MEXICO, 2 DEAD


Mexico City: A powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.8 struck Mexico early on Thursday, causing at least two deaths, damaging buildings and setting off landslides. The earthquake struck at 1.19 am near the epicentre of a magnitude 7.6 quake that hit three days earlier in the western state of Michoacan. It was also blamed for two deaths.

### MUMBAI REPORTS 98 COVID CASES, 2 DEATHS

Mumbai: Mumbai on Thursday reported 98 Covid-19 cases, the second time the addition to the tally was less than 100 this month, a civic official said. The metropolis also recorded two deaths, which took the toll to 19,728, he added.








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**NCRPULSE**

**BASIC RESEARCH IMP FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: L-G**  
New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday said encouraging research should be an important mandate for any premium medical institution along with teaching and training. During his address at the Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) where he handed over degrees to MBBS and postgraduate students, he underlined the importance of basic research for human development.

**HUSSAIN REVIEWS LEGAL METROLOGY DEPARTMENT**  
New Delhi: Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister, Imran Hussain today reviewed the functioning of Weights and Measures (Legal Metrology) Department. He directed the Weights and Measures Department to ensure that residents of Delhi provided quality products with accurate weights and also proper declaration as per commodity rules on each and every packaged product keeping in view the coming festive season.

**DBA GETS NEW TEAM OF OFFICE BEARERS**  
New Delhi: The Delhi Bar Association (DBA) has got a new team of office-bearers with Nitin Ahlawat and Girish Kaushik being declared elected president and vice-president, respectively. The other office bearers of the prestigious association are Manish Sharma -senior vice-president, Atul Sharma -secretary, Dharmendra Basoya -additional secretary, Shweta Rani - Joint Secretary and Sahil Puri as treasurer. Pardeep Nagar and Amarjeet Singh were elected member executives and Sachin Sharma and Puiya Singh were elected members. Renu Malik was elected a lady member. The elections for the DBA were held on 15th September.

**MAN HELD FOR POSTING PRIVATE PICS OF EX-GIRLFRIEND**  
New Delhi: A 22-year-old sketch artist was arrested for allegedly uploading private nude pictures of his ex-girlfriend on social media. The accused was identified as Mohd Tanzeem Ahmad, a resident of Doranda in Ranchi, Jharkhand. Police said the woman was influenced by his sketch art and impressive count of followers on social media. The victim, a student of a prestigious college of Delhi University, lodged a complaint at Cyber North Police Station.

**Public Notice**  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mrs. Devinder Kaur is the owner of Entire Third floor, with roof rights of Property bearing No. WZ-47-B/L, built on Plot No. 203-A, Kharsa No. 29, Village Nanagali Jadhvi, colony known as Krishna Puri, Gali No. 1, New Delhi vide a POA documents dated 04.06.2004. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the said property to a person who intends to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said floor, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

**From Page 1**  
During the searches, many incriminating documents and

**ICICI Bank**  
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**Public Notice: Builder Cancellation**  
This is to bring to your notice that **SHIKHA ANAND / SUDERSHAN KUMAR**(borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBDEL00002130320** located at **FLAT NO-803, 8TH FLOOR, BLOCK-A, AMRITSAR ONE, SHUBHAM ENCLAVE, NH-1, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB**. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **SEPTEMBER 19, 2022** informing that **ATM ESTATES PVT. LTD.** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

**Dated: September 23, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**For ICICI Bank Limited**  
**Sd-**

# US reiterates support for India as UNSC permanent member

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden supports Germany, Japan and India as permanent members of a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC), a senior official of his administration said.

At the same time, a lot of work needs to be done in this matter, the official told reporters on Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

"We have historically and continue to stand behind the idea that Germany, Japan and India should be permanent members of the Security Council," the official said in response to a question.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Joe Biden in his address at the UN General Assembly reiterated his commitment to reforming the UN Security Council.

Biden said he believes the time has come for the institu-



tion to become more inclusive so that it can better respond to the needs of today's world.

Members of the UN Security Council, including the United States, should consistently uphold and defend the United Nations Charter and refrain from the use of veto, except in rare and extraordinary situations, to ensure that the Council remains credible and effective, he said.

"That is also why the United States supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the Council. This includes permanent seats for those nations we've long

supported," Biden said.

The US also praised India for its significant contributions as a member of the 15-membered apex decision making body of the UN.

India has been at the forefront of efforts at the UN to push for urgent long-pending reform of the Security Council, emphasising that it rightly deserves a place at the UN high table as a permanent member.

At present, the UNSC comprises five permanent members and 10 non-permanent member countries which are elected for a two-year term by the UNGA.

The five permanent members are Russia, the UK, China, France and the United States and these countries can veto any substantive resolution. There has been growing demand to increase the number of permanent members to reflect the contemporary global reality.

# Delhi forms 4-member committee for route rationalisation of buses

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has formed a four-member committee to work out the implementation of route rationalisation, under which new bus routes will be introduced on a trial basis from October 2.

The committee will have the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) managing director as the chairman and the CGM, DTC, the deputy CGM (traffic), DTC and the vice-president, Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) as members. "After a review conducted by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on August 3, the recommendations of the route rationalisation study have been published for seeking public feedback by November 21. A trial will start with 50 per cent buses from October 2 on the new routes except the NCR

and feeder routes," Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said in a tweet in Hindi.

He urged those who travel by bus to send their feedback to delhircell@gmail.Com.

"Each and every suggestion of yours is valuable to us in making Delhi's public transport more convenient, in line with the suggestions of the route rationalisation study," he said in another tweet.

The proposed routes have been divided into six categories, based on the function and operational level of the services, according to an official.

The routes are -- Central Business District (CBD) circulators, trunk routes, primary routes, airport service routes, last-mile feeder routes and NCR routes.

The CBD circulators will provide or improve the connectivity between the major CBDs of Delhi and will be operational at a frequency of five to 10 minutes.

# Key decisions taken in DDMA meet: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said several key decisions were taken in the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) meeting and urged people to get the booster dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. The DDMA met to review the Covid situation in the city and conduct an assessment of dedicated resources deployed at hospitals to tackle the Coronavirus pandemic.

The DDMA is likely to lift the ₹500 fine in place for not wearing masks in public places along with scaling down deployment of staff and equipment in hospitals in a phased manner as the city witnesses a steady decline in Covid cases.

In its last meeting in April, the DDMA had made it

mandatory for people to wear face masks at public places prescribing a fine of ₹500 against defaulters. In the Thursday meeting, it was decided to enhance the surveillance of ILI-SARI cases to detect any early warnings, said sources present in the meeting. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena chaired the meeting, with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in attendance.

They said that there was also a consensus on bringing up the percentage of precautionary dose of vaccination that currently stands at 24, to at least 40 to 50 per cent. "Deployment of staff and equipment in hospitals will be scaled down in a calibrated and phased manner and health department will prepare an action plan," said a source.

# Shared concern over Indians' security with UK: Jaishankar

PTI/PNS ■ LONDON/NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar shared his concerns about the security and welfare of the Indian community in the UK with his British counterpart James Cleverly and welcomed his assurances on the same.

"A warm conversation with UK Foreign Secretary @JamesCleverly. Discussed taking forward Roadmap 2030. Appreciate his commitment to deepening our partnership," Jaishankar tweeted Wednesday.

He said his conversation also covered global issues, including Indo-Pacific, Ukraine and UNSC matters. "Shared my concern about the security and welfare of the Indian community in the UK. Welcomed his assurances in

that regard," Jaishankar said.

In Delhi, in the wake of incidents in Leicester and Birmingham involving violence targeting the Indian community, the Ministry of External Affairs said the Indian High Commission is in touch with the UK side to prevent further attacks and take action against perpetrators.

The Indian High Commission on Monday had strongly condemned violence against the Indian community and vandalism of Hindu premises in the eastern England city of Leicester and sought immediate action.

The UK police said on Wednesday a "minor disorder" during a protest outside a Hindu temple in the city of Birmingham involving fire-works targeted at police officers has resulted in a man's

arrest and stop and search powers being deployed.

Asked about the incidents, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi pointed to the statement issued by the high commission condemning the violence.

"Our high commission continues to be in touch with the UK side. We are in touch with diplomatic and security authorities to prevent further attacks and take action against perpetrators," he said.

On Indians held in the Myawaddy area in southeastern Myanmar, Bagchi said, "We're aware of IT companies recruiting Indian workers on pretext of jobs in Thailand who were then taken to Myanmar."

"Thanks to our efforts we have facilitated rescue of some of the people," he said.

# Over a dozen dead as rain plays havoc in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Incessant rain played havoc in the state with more than a dozen people, including four siblings in Etawah, losing their lives and several others getting injured during the last 24 hours.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed condolences to the bereaved families and announced Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased. He has directed authorities to make proper arrangements for those injured and undergoing treatment and has wished them speedy recovery, according to a statement from the chief minister's office.

In Etawah, four siblings were killed and two others were injured after a wall of their house collapsed due to heavy rainfall in Chandrapura village in the Civil Lines area of the district on Thursday.

"Four siblings, three boys and one girl, have died and compensation will be given to



the family as per the norms," said Etawah District Magistrate Avnish Rai.

The deceased children were identified as Sinku (10), Abhi (8), Sonu (7), Aarti (5) while Rishav (4) and their grandmother Sharda Devi (75) were seriously injured in the wall collapse. Both have been admitted to the district's Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Government Joint Hospital.

Similarly, 65-year-old Ramsanehi and his 63-year-old wife Reshma Devi died when a mud wall collapsed on

them in Kripalpur village of Ikdlil. Besides, 50-year-old Jabar Singh died due to the collapse of roof and mud wall of his house in Majra Bungalow area of Andawa gram panchayat of Mahewa block.

The fourth such incident in the district was reported from Kalli Sultanpur village under Basrehar police station. Three people were injured after the wall of a kutchra house in the village collapsed and they were buried under the rubble. All the injured were admitted to the local hospital.

# Punjab calls House session...

**From Page 1**  
Punjab Cabinet, in a meeting called on Thursday in the wake of Governor's withdrawal of consent, has decided to convene the session - this time to "discuss important issues like the power situation and burning of stubble", instead of moving the "confidence motion".

In an official statement, the spokesperson of the Chief Minister's Office said as per clause (1) of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, the Governor is authorised to summon the State Legislature to meet at such time and place, as he thinks fit. However, there should not be a time gap of more than six months between two sessions of the State Legislative Assembly. "The second (Budget) Session of the 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha

was concluded on June 30, 2022, so the Cabinet has recommended convening the third Session of the Assembly on September 27, 2022," added the spokesperson.

Mann, while informing about the decision, said the State Government has now decided to summon the Session of State Assembly on September 27 to discuss various issues pertaining to State.

A senior AAP leader, who did not wish to be named, told The Pioneer that this time, the Assembly Session would be a regular session. "As the Governor has cancelled his consent for the specials session, we have decided to hold a regular Session...it may be of two days...And there will be a Question Hour, Zero Hour, legislative business as usual. And, in the session, we will table the confidence motion as we had planned earlier," added the leader.

Punjab Government will

approach the Supreme Court against the "arbitrary and anti-democratic" decision of the Governor to cancel the special session of the Legislative Assembly, said Mann a day after Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit had withdrawn his consent to convene the special one day session, called by Mann, to get a majority on the floor of the House.

Calling out the Governor for his "irrational decision", Mann said that the decision will be challenged in the Supreme Court to protect the democratic rights of the people and the federal rights of the states. Sources have also informed that the Chief Minister has already asked those concerned to prepare a case on the same. It has also been learnt that the state's Advocate-General's office has also started working on the same, and the State may move the Apex Court in a couple of days.

# If picked as Congress chief, Gehlot to...

**From Page 1**  
In a clear indication that Gehlot enjoys the backing of the high command, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh extended support to Gehlot and hit out at Tharoor saying his "only major contribution" to the party was to send letters to Sonia when she was hospitalised.

On one hand, there is Gehlot who has the experience of being a Union Minister, three times Chief Minister, five times MP, five times MLA, who defeated Modi-Shah in a direct contest in Rajasthan Assembly elections, and who has had 45 years of "spotless" political life, Vallabh said.

"On the other hand there is Tharoor who has only one major contribution to the party in the last 8 years -- sent letters to Sonia when she was hospitalised, this act caused pain to

crores of party workers like me. The choice is very simple and clear," he said.

Rahul, who represents Wayanad in Kerala in Parliament, declined to answer queries on whether he would contest the presidential polls by saying, "I have made my position clear (on that) in the last Press conference. I have repeated it several times."

Rahul had said he has made his decision on whether he will take up party presidential but did not divulge his plans, asserting he will give his reasons if he does not contest the elections for the post.

He said questions on whether he would contest in the party's presidential poll were "aimed at distracting me from the yatra" which he is undertaking on the 3,500 km Kanyakumari-Kashmir 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

# Durga puja celebrations shouldn't inconvenience anyone: Mamata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said Durga Puja committees in the state must take measures to ensure that pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement are regulated well without anyone having to encounter much hassle.

Inaugurating Sreebhumi Sporting club puja in Lake Town area, along VIP road, the CM told her ministerial colleague Sujit Bose that she won't hesitate to act if the crowd-puller pandal inconveniences common people - be it revelers or airport-bound public.

"Puja committees must ensure that vehicular and pedestrian movements do not face too many obstructions or hassles," the CM said.

Last year, curtains had to be drawn on Sreebhumi puja

on the day of Ashtami, as the place went choc-a-bloc for days with revelers from far and wide turning up to take a look at the Burj Khalifa-themed Durga puja marquee.

"I will be monitoring the situation from home. Hence, my action will be prompt and swift. Being the minister, I am sure you will certainly see to it that celebrations don't inconvenience other people," the CM told Bose after inaugurating the pandal, modelled on Vatican City this year, as the fire minister nodded in agreement.

Banerjee, accompanied by Bose, then left for Salt Lake, where she inaugurated Salt Lake FD block Durga puja pandal. That was followed by Tala Park Pratayay, another award-winning puja in the city.

The CM had last year unveiled around 100 puja pandals in the city.

# RSS chief...

**From Page 1**  
Ilyasi and Bhagwat held talks for about an hour at the mosque, which also houses the office of the All India India Organisation and the cleric's residence.

"He is a 'rashtara pita'. We discussed several issues for strengthening the country," Ilyasi told PTI, adding that Bhagwat had visited the mosque as well as madrasa on his invitation.

"With this visit of Bhagwat, a message should go that we all want to work towards strengthening India. For all of us, the nation comes first. Our DNA is the same, it is just that our religion and methods of worshipping god are different," Ilyasi said, echoing the RSS chief's words.

In a statement after the visits, RSS Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said, "Sarsanghachalak meets people from all walks of life. It is a part of the continuous general 'Samvad' process."

# NIA, ED swoop on 93 PFI spots in 15 States

**Public Notice**  
This is to bring to your notice that **SHIKHA ANAND / SUDERSHAN KUMAR**(borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number **LBDEL00002130320** located at **FLAT NO-803, 8TH FLOOR, BLOCK-A, AMRITSAR ONE, SHUBHAM ENCLAVE, NH-1, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB**. The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement. The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **SEPTEMBER 19, 2022** informing that **ATM ESTATES PVT. LTD.** has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication. Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

**Dated: September 23, 2022**  
**Place: Delhi/ NCR**

**For ICICI Bank Limited**  
**Sd-**

digital evidence related to terror funding and radicalisation activities were seized by the agencies.

The NIA searches were carried out in 15 States of India - Kerala (39 locations), Tamil Nadu (16), Karnataka (12), Andhra Pradesh (7), Telengana (1), Uttar Pradesh (2), Rajasthan (4), Delhi (2), Assam (1), Madhya Pradesh (1), Maharashtra (4), Goa (1), West Bengal (1), Bihar (1) and Manipur (1).

The PFI on Thursday called for a State-wide hartal in Kerala on September 23 to protest against the raids carried out in their organisation's offices, residences of leaders and other premises by multiple agencies led by the NIA for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

However, the BJP State unit termed the proposed hartal as "unnecessary" and urged the State Government to take stringent action against observing it.

Alleging that all the previous hartals called by the PFI had ended in riots, BJP State chief K Surendran said the State authorities should be ready to ensure adequate security for people's life and property.

As many as 300 agency sleuths were engaged in the operation that began at 3.30 am and the entire operation was monitored by the NIA chief,

NIA officials said.

"These searches were conducted at the houses and offices of the top PFI leaders and members in connection with five cases registered by the NIA following continued inputs and evidence that the PFI leaders and cadres were involved in funding of terrorism and terrorist activities, organising training camps for providing armed training and radicalising people to join banned organisations," a NIA spokesperson said.

The Nizamabad case (RC 3/2022/NIA/HYD), was initially registered as FIR No.141/2022 on July 4 at Nizamabad Police Station, Telangana against over 25 PFI

cadres, after Telangana Police found that the accused were organising camps for imparting training to commit violent and terrorist acts with the objective of promoting enmity between different groups on the basis of religion, it said.

Likewise, a large number of criminal cases have been registered by different States over the last few years against the PFI and its leaders and members for their involvement in many violent acts.

"Criminal violent acts carried out by the PFI such as chopping off the hand of a college professor, cold blooded killings of persons associated with organisations espousing the other faiths, collection of

explosives to target prominent people and places, support to Islamic State and destruction of public property have had a demonstrative effect of striking terror in the minds of the citizens," the NIA said.

During the searches, incriminating documents, cash, sharp edged weapons and a large number of digital devices have been seized. The NIA has made 45 arrests in these cases.

While 19 accused have been arrested from Kerala, 11 have been arrested from Tamil Nadu, seven from Karnataka, four from Andhra Pradesh, two from Rajasthan, one each from Uttara Pradesh and Telangana, it said.

As on date, the NIA is

investigating a total of 19 PFI-related cases (including the five in which the searches were conducted on Thursday). As many as 46 PFI cadres have been convicted in NIA cases till so far and 355 persons have been chargesheeted by the agency.

The 19 persons arrested in the case RC 14/2022/NIA/DLI include eight from Kerala. The arrested persons from Kerala include top leaders of PFI. Salam alias OM Abdul Salam, Jaseer KP, V P Nazaruddeen Elamaram alias Nazaruddin Elamaram, Mohammed Basheer, Shafer KP, E AbuBacker, Prof. P Koya alias Kaleem Koya and EM Abdul Rahiman alias EM.



# Wanted gangster with terror links arrested

Delhi Police's Special Cell nabbed mobster close to terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda from Bareilly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has nabbed a gangster-turned-terror associate from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Police said the accused, who was wanted for over two years, was connected to terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda, who is an accused in the terror attack at Punjab's Nawanshahr Crime Investigating Agency (CIA) building on November 8 last year.

The accused identified as Kavar Randeep Singh alias SK Kharoud, a resident of Baran near Patiala in Punjab, was also closely connected with Virender Pratap alias Kala Rana (deported from Thailand in 2022) and Satenderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar of the Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate. Police said that his name came up after the Special Cell arrested four assailants, along with two others, from different parts of Punjab and Haryana

between September 2 and 5 in connection with the firing incident outside a Nalagarh court in Himachal Pradesh last month which was part of a conspiracy to rescue the killer of Youth Akali Dal leader Vicky Middukhera.

HGS Dhaliwal, the Special Commissioner of Police, Special Cell said that initial technical leads were stabilised, intensive efforts, both technical and manual, along with the deployment of local informers, was resorted to for tracing Kharoud, who was in contact with criminals and terrorists from across the border.

"His tele-selector was located in village Khai Khera, Bareilly and Kharoud, a close associate of Rinda's criminal-terror nexus, was arrested on September 12," said the Special CP. "During interrogation, the accused revealed that his first crime was a local scuffle over a political matter in which he was booked under Section 307, IPC.

While in jail, he came in contact with Rinda and got closely associated with him," said the Special CP. "Along with Rinda, Kharoud was involved in five criminal cases, one of them being an audacious armed attack on the then President of SOI (Akali)

Manpreet Singh Aulakh in Chandigarh University in 2016.

Kharoud also got associated with dreaded gangster Dilpreet Singh Dahan alias Baba, a close associate of Rinda and has been a co-accused with him also in other crimes," said the Special CP. "After committing the murder of Tara Dutt, a resident of Vikas Nagar, Patiala, who was an elected Sarpanch and associate of jailed gangster Virender alias Binder Gujjar, Kharoud had taken shelter in Bareilly.

There, once he reconnected with Rinda, he was being instigated to work for community liberation and for the purpose, was amassing arms and ammunition," he said. "Police have also recovered five sophisticated semi-automatic pistols, including one Chinese PX-9, with ammunition from his possession," he added.

Police said that Kharoud is a Proclaimed Offender of Anaj Mandi police station in Patiala and his property, worth over Rs1.20 crore had been attached under Section 83 CrPC proceedings. Kharoud had also joined the Congress before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, which had then sparked a controversy in Punjab's political affairs.

## PICTALK



Mortal remains of comedian Raju Srivastava being taken for cremation at Nigambodh Ghat in New Delhi on Thursday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

# Rain brings down temp, jams raise tempers

Fresh showers just before withdrawal of monsoon from NCR will help cover 46% rainfall deficit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An incessant spell of light to moderate rain drenched Delhi for the second day on Thursday, leading to waterlogging, trees getting uprooted in some areas and affecting traffic movement on key roads across the city resulting in frayed tempers. The fresh spell of rain just before the withdrawal of monsoon from the National Capital Region (NCR) will help cover the large deficit (46 per cent till September 22) to some extent. It would also keep the air clean and the temperature in check.

According to the Delhi Traffic Police, a portion of a road caved in and their helpline received 23 calls related to traffic jams, seven regarding waterlogging and two related to uprooting of trees from various parts of the city.

Traffic jams were reported in Khajuri Chowk, Goyla Dairy, Yamuna Bridge, Outer Ring Road Paschim Vihar, Rohini Sector-8, Hanuman Mandir Pusa Road, Azad Market, Dwarka flyover, Dhaula Kuan to Gurugram, officials said.

Waterlogging was also reported from AIIMS flyover, Rajdhani Park to Mundka, Nigambodh Ghat, near Mayapuri flyover and uprooting of trees was reported from Burari and Abai Marg. The Delhi Traffic Police also took to Twitter to guide commuters

about the traffic situation. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also issued an 'orange alert', cautioning people about sporadic heavy rain which could reduce visibility, disrupt traffic and damage kutcha roads and vulnerable structures.

The Safdarjung Observatory, Delhi's primary weather station, gauged 31.2 mm of rainfall between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM. The weather stations at Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge and Ayanagar received 56.5 mm, 27.4 mm, 16.8 mm and 45.8 mm of precipitation during this period. "Light to moderate intensity rain would continue to occur in Delhi-NCR," the weather office said.

However, in a relief to Delhiites, the maximum temperature in the city dipped to 28 degrees Celsius, seven notches colder than normal for this season. The minimum temperature of the Capital stood at 23.8 degrees Celsius, one notch lower than the normal for this time of the year, according to the IMD data.

The relative humidity recorded on Thursday at 8:30 AM was 96 per cent and 100 per cent at 5:30 PM, at Delhi's base station, Safdarjung Observatory. The Safdarjung Observatory has recorded just 58.5 mm of rainfall against a normal of 108.5 mm in September so far.

The weather stations at Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge and Ayanagar received 56.5 mm, 27.4 mm, 16.8 mm and 45.8 mm of precipitation during this period. The Delhi University area, Jafarpur, Najafgarh, Pusa and Mayur Vihar recorded 16.5 mm, 18 mm, 29 mm, 24.5 mm and 25.5

# Gurugram goes under 3 feet of water in 5 hours of rain



7-km-long traffic gridlock near Hero Honda Chowk; residents and vehicles were seen wading in knee-deep water at multiple stretches

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Fresh rains on Thursday caused heavy waterlogging and a flood-like situation on multiple stretches and areas in Gurugram as the city recorded 395 mm of rainfall till 5 PM. A traffic gridlock stretching over seven kms was seen near Hero Honda Chowk, as one side of the Hero Honda flyover had been closed from Wednesday due to repairs, leaving several commuters stranded for hours. The rain only compounded the traffic problem. The rain started at around 12.15 P.M. on Thursday and it turned into a heavy downpour till 5.00 PM. In five hours of rain, nearly 70 per cent of the city was submerged in an average

of three feet of water with the worst-hit areas being Signature Tower Chowk, Ram Chok (Udyog Vihar), Narsinghpur (NH-48), Haldiram towards Manesar, Basai Road, Nathupur, Z Chowk near Huda City Centre Metro Station, Bilaspur Chowk, Dronacharya Metro Station, Iffck Metro Station, Galleria Market Road, Good Earth Mall, Mayfield Garden Chowk, Sector-12 Chowk, Mini Secretariat, Sector-21/22 T-point, Medicity T-point and Sheelta Mata Road. Residents and vehicles were seen wading in knee-deep water as multiple stretches across Gurugram turned into small rivers. There was bumper to bumper traffic as vehicular movement on several stretches was painfully slow due to waterlogging.

Gurugram residents took to social media to describe their anguish and held local authorities responsible for the huge mess. They shared their experiences and posted photos of flooding and traffic jams. However, officials claimed that

efforts were on to clear the water. "Vehicle flow is smooth in larger parts of Gurugram so far though there is vehicle slowdown reported at some locations. Our traffic personnel have been directed to continue their duties until rain and traffic flow are normalised. There is no jam reported so far," ACP Traffic said.

Apart from this, certain pockets received heavy rainfall and waterlogging was reported on a few sites such as Mayfield Garden, Artemis Road, Sheelta Mata road, one side carriageway of Hanuman Chowk, Narsinghpur and Hong Kong bazaar on SPR stretch. "Team has been deployed for clearing of water chutes and road gullies at all locations. At Artemis Road, the water level is gradually receding. Pumps have been activated at Sheelta Mata road and Narsinghpur to address the waterlogging. All underpasses were free of any water accumulation and open to traffic," said Vikram Singh, Executive Engineer, Infra 2 Division.

mm of rainfall, respectively. Overall, Delhi has recorded 405.3 mm rainfall against a normal of 621.7 mm since June 1, when the monsoon season historically sets in. According to the statement released by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi

(MCD), the city has reported three complaints of waterlogging in the areas including Fatehpuri Beri, Sangam Vihar and Tikri Kala Village. "Following the heavy rainfall, seven complaints of trees falling or parts of trees falling

reported in some parts of city including Madipur colony, Nangal Rai, Mahavir Enclave, Ramjas Road Karol Bagh, Inderpuri, Azadpur Commercial complex, Aruna Nagar and Majnu Ka Tila," the statement added.

# L-G orders probe in 'irregularities' in guest teachers' engagement

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena has ordered an internal enquiry into the alleged irregularities in engagement of guest teachers in AAP Government schools and embezzlement of funds in payment of salaries to "ghost" teachers. The L-G secretariat also directed the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar to submit a status report in 30 days regarding the matter.

Sources in Raj Niwas said that Lieutenant Governor has ordered an internal inquiry into the irregularities in engagement of Guest Teachers in city government schools and embezzlement of funds by paying salary to non-existent or "ghost" guest teachers. The L-G Secretariat has asked the Chief Secretary to advise Director



(Education) to immediately verify the engagement, physical attendance, and withdrawal of salaries of all guest teachers engaged by the city government in its schools.

The L-G said that such instance of fraudulent withdrawal of government funds should be met with exemplary and deterrent action. Saxena also said that the mechanism of internal audit should be

strengthened so that such instances do not go unnoticed and unpunished, they said.

As per the letter written by the secretary to the L-G, Ankita Mishra Bundela to the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, it stated, while disposing off vigilance matters, instances of irregularities in engagement of Guest teachers and embezzlement of government funds by way of drawl of salaries of such non-existent guest teachers for years together in Delhi Government schools have come to notice of L-G.

"Saxena has observed that such instances arc of serious concern and cannot occur without the connivance of the Principals / Vice Principals / Teachers / Accounts Functionaries / Staff of the schools and reflect lack of adequate monitoring and super-

vision by officers at various levels of the Education Department," it read. "The L-G has desired that any such instance of fraudulent drawl of government funds should be met with exemplary and deterrent action against officials / staff involved in such practices including those at the supervisory level.

Also the mechanism of internal audit should be strengthened so that such instances do not go unnoticed and unpunished," it read.

"In view of the above, as directed by the L-G, Director Education may kindly be advised to immediately undertake an exercise to verify the engagement, physical attendance, drawl of salaries of all guest teachers engaged in the schools of Directorate of Education and a status report

in this regard may kindly be furnished to this Secretariat within a month for kind perusal of Saxena," the letter further read.

The LG had earlier granted permission to the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) for conducting investigation against four serving and retired Vice Principals for fraudulent drawing Guest Teacher's salary in the name of "non-existent guest teachers" in Government Boys Senior Secondary School (GBSSS-I) in Mansarovar Park, Delhi.

The case pertains to the payment of Rs. 4.21 lakh to three persons namely Samiksha Arya - Rs. 1,35,900/-, Uma Shastri - Rs. 1,42,078/- and Chottey Lal - Rs. 1,43,678/- despite the fact that "neither of the three names were appointed in the school.

# L-G urges HC to restrain AAP from levelling allegations against him

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday urged the Delhi High Court to restrain the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and several of its leaders from levelling "false" allegations against him and his family after they claimed that he was involved in a Rs 1,400 crore scam during his tenure as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) chairman. Justice Amit Bansal, who heard the matter for two hours, reserved the order on the issue of granting interim relief to Saxena.

During the hearing, the judge observed, "I can imagine a politician saying things against another politician but not against a constitutional

functionary. He is a constitutional authority." To this, the counsel for AAP said "even constitutional authorities have some history."

Saxena has sought to injunct AAP, its leaders Atishi Singh, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Durgesh Pathak, Sanjay Singh, and Jasmine Shah, who was appointed by the Government of NCT of Delhi as Vice Chairperson of the Dialogue and Development Commission, to delete or take down the alleged false and libelous posts or tweets or videos circulated and issued on social media. He has also sought damages and compensation of Rs 2.5 crore along with interest from the political party and its five leaders.

Saxena's counsels Mahesh

Jethmalani and Maninder Singh urged the high court to direct Twitter and YouTube (Google Inc) to take down or remove the tweets, re-tweets, posts, videos, captions, taglines along with pictures of the plaintiff (Saxena) and his family members on their respective platforms.

Saxena's counsel contended that there was nothing to substantiate the allegations and even the documents were forged and fabricated and the content was based on hearsay. "So what these people have done is that they used forged documents to say that the demonetised currency belonged to me. They have made the allegations in press conferences and made hashtags day in and day out.

# Special Cell busts international cartel, seizes ₹60 crore drugs

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell arrested two key members of an international narcotics cartel from Bihar. Police said that they have also seized 10 kg heroin and 10 kg opium worth over Rs 60 crore from them.

The accused, who were arrested from Muzaffarpur, have been identified as Abhishek Raja (26) and Nizamuddin (34). The accused and their associates supplied drugs in Delhi-NCR and other states for the last three years. The recovered heroin and opium was smuggled into India from Myanmar via Manipur, the police said.

A Scorpio with secret cavities to conceal and transport the drugs was also seized. According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of

Police (DCP), Special Cell, a team of the Special Cell was working on information that an international drug cartel was active in Manipur, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi. "The gang received heroin, which was smuggled from Myanmar, from Manipur.

This was supplied to various parts of the country, including Delhi-NCR. It took three months' effort to gather the information. During this process, members of the cartel were identified and their activities kept under surveillance," said the DCP.

"A police team was sent to Bihar to arrest the cartel members. Acting on a tip-off, both the suppliers - Abhishek Raja and Nizamuddin - were apprehended on September 12 while travelling in a Scorpio near Jhanjharpur on NH 27 in Darbhanga district," said the DCP. "Interrogations revealed

that they were members of a big international cartel. They supplied the drugs in Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand from Manipur for the last three years," said the DCP. "The accused had procured the heroin and opium from a person in Manipur following the directions of their Bihar-based kingpin.

They had come to Delhi to deliver the consignment to a person, he added. "They revealed that their handler used to work in Manipur and developed contacts with drug suppliers. After coming back to Bihar, his home state, he developed his own network," he said.

The demand for heroin smuggled from Myanmar and Manipur is very high due to its superior quality, compared with the heroin manufactured from opium cultivated in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, said the DCP.

# Delhi Govt ruined education infrastructure of city: Bidhuri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Thursday slammed the Delhi Government over the education model and alleged that the model of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has completely collapsed and he started handing over schools to his close AAP workers.

Addressing the media, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said that Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia opened Sainik School in Delhi by doing a lot of publicity but has now handed over the work of running this school to a private company.

"The Psychorian Education Service Private Limited Company which has been given the responsibility of the school belongs to Sirisha Rao, a worker of AAP and was established in 2021 only," Gupta said. Gupta further said that this corruption worth crores of rupees is actually the education

model of Delhi and every work of Kejriwal starts with corruption so that they can get money all the time.

Meanwhile, leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri also claimed that the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia have ruined the education infrastructure of Delhi. "The AAP had come to office by promising to open 100 new schools every year.

Instead of opening of new schools in the national capital, 31 schools have been reduced due to the merger of schools," he said.

"The truth is that out of 1027 government schools in Delhi, 745 do not even have science and commerce studies.

In such a situation, from where will one become a doctor, engineer, or CA. In the last seven years, the number of children studying in government schools has come down by one lakh," Bidhuri informed.

# JNU V-C meets UGC Chairman, discusses slew of issues

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Vice Chancellor Santishree D Pandit met UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar and discussed a slew of issues, including the release of grants and faculty increment.

According to a statement issued by varsity, the meeting took place on Tuesday to expedite several pending issues pertaining to the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

"Meanwhile, the UGC chairman has assured to "positively look" into the pending matters of JNU at the earliest," the varsity said. "... Santishree D. Pandit, Vice Chancellor, JNU along with Registrar met Prof M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, UGC on 20th September 2022," varsity said.

# DIAL issues advisory over change in traffic movement at IGIA Terminal-1



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the ongoing Expansion work at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport's Terminal-1, the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has issued an advisory regarding the change in traffic movement at Terminal-1 departure from September 26. According to the advisory, due to the ongoing phase-3A expansion work at Terminal 1, there is change in traffic movement for the vehicles leaving the T1 Departure Ramp from mid-night of Monday.

"Any vehicle coming to T1 Departures will have to make a U-turn at the end of the Departure forecourt ramp and exit the terminal through the newly widened up-ramp to take Mehram Nagar Road for their airport exit," the advisory further read.

"The present exit of the Departure ramp will give way for the construction of Integrated Terminal 1. For easy movement of traffic, DIAL has also increased the width of Departure ramp in front of the Terminal 1. Passengers are advised to plan their travel accordingly," the advisory said.



# ED attaches ₹2,747 cr assets of ABG Shipyard

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached assets worth Rs 2747.69 crore in the ABG Shipyard Limited money laundering case. "The attached assets include Shipyard at Surat and Dahej located in Gujarat, agricultural lands and plots, various commercial and residential premises in Gujarat and Maharashtra and bank accounts owned by ABG Shipyard Ltd., its group companies and other related entities," the ED said in a statement.

The ED initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of a CBI FIR dated February 7 against ABG Shipyard Limited and others. The ED probe revealed that ABG Shipyard Ltd. and its Chairman and Managing Director Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal availed various cred-



it facilities/loans from consortium of Banks led by ICICI Bank, Mumbai on pretext of meeting its capital requirements and other business expenses.

But ABG Shipyard Ltd. misappropriated the credit facilities availed from the consortium and diverted the funds for the purposes other than its actual cause in the garb of various loans /advances/ investments to various related entities incorporated in India and abroad, that eventually caused monetary loss to the tune of Rs 22,842 crore to the consortium.

The ED has traced movable and immovable assets worth Rs 2747.69 crore belonging to ABG Shipyard Ltd., its group companies, Bermaco Energy Systems Ltd., Dhananjay Datar, Savita Dhananjay Datar, Krishna Gopal Toshniwal, Viren Ahuja and attached them under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), it said.

Further investigation is in progress, it added. The CBI had on Wednesday arrested Agarwal in the ongoing probe against ABG Shipyard.

# Mandatory to install alarm system for rear seat belts, says MoRTH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With cases of fatalities rising due to their non-use in cars, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH) has issued draft rules to make it mandatory for car makers to install alarm system for rear seat belts.

As per the proposal, seat belt reminders or alarms will be mandatory in M and N category vehicles, with audio-video warning in case the seat belts, including the rear ones, are not worn. Besides, there will be a speed alert system to check over-speeding and manual override for the central locking system. "Safety-belt reminder" means a system dedicated to alerting the driver when the driver and all other front-facing seat occupant(s) do not use the safety-belt.

The system is constituted by a detection of an unfastened safety-belt and by a driver's alert which is a first level warning and a second level warning.



"First Level Warning" means a visual warning activated when the ignition switch is engaged (engine running or not) and the driver's and front-facing seat occupants' safety-belt is not fastened.

An audible warning can be added as an option, said the proposal. "Second Level Warning" means a visual and audible warning activated when a driver operates a vehicle without fastening of driver and front-facing seat occupants' safety-belt.

The last date for public comments on draft rules is Oct. 5, according to the notification.

The government has been considering enforcing the use of rear seatbelts after Cyrus Mistry, the former chairman of Indian conglomerate Tata Sons, died in a car crash recently.

He was sitting in the rear seat and did not have his seat belt on as per the investigations so far. In India, one person dies every four minutes in road accidents, the World Bank said last year.

While it is already mandatory for all occupants in a car in India, the world's fourth-biggest auto market, to wear a seat belt failing which they can be fined, passengers at the back seldom do and enforcement is also lax.

The draft rules also said that for M and N category vehicles, reverse parking alert system will be applicable. 'M' category vehicles are the ones with at least four wheels used for carrying passengers, while 'N' category vehicles also have four wheels, but are used to carry goods and may also carry passengers.

# MoD signs pact for more Brahmos missiles for Navy



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In order to further enhance the operational capabilities of the Navy, the Defence Ministry on Thursday inked a contract for acquiring additional Brahmos supersonic surface-to-surface missiles in a deal worth over Rs 1,700 crore.

The missiles will be supplied by the Brahmos Aerospace Pvt Ltd (BAPL), a joint venture between India and Russia to manufacture these missiles. Giving details here, Defence Ministry officials said the deal will provide

further impetus to Aatmanirbharta in defence production, Induction of these dual-role capable Missiles is going to significantly enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.

The BAPL is making a crucial contribution to augment the new generation Surface-to-Surface Missiles (SSMs) with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks. This contract is going to give a boost to indigenous production of critical weapon systems and ammunition with active participation of indigenous industry.

# SC junks plea seeking modification of 2017 order on compensation to Narmada oustees



tion. We find no merit in this application, accordingly, the application is dismissed," the bench said.

Advocate Sanjay Parikh, advancing the arguments on behalf of an oustee, submitted that in items of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal, the entitlement of the applicant should have been for 4.293 hectares of land.

Parikh submitted that a proper reading of the top court's order would show that the compensation would have to be pegged at 30 lakh per hectare and the actual compensation would come to be Rs 1.28 crore.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, stated that the 2017 order was passed under Article 142 and a modification or clarification order cannot be passed as that would be a substantive review of the court's decision.

The top court on February 8, 2017, cleared the decks for monetary compensation for the oustees of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) on river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh by ordering Rs 60 lakh for each of the families which are likely to be displaced.

Earlier, Narmada Bachao Andolan had told the apex court that 192 villages and one township would be affected in Madhya Pradesh alone and about 45,000 affected people are yet to be rehabilitated.

# Hijab ban: SC reserves verdict on pleas against K'taka HC's order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the Karnataka High Court judgment refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state.

On March 15, High Court had dismissed petitions filed by a section of Muslim students from the Government Pre-University Girls College in Udupi seeking permission to wear hijab inside the classroom, saying it is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith.

The State Government had, by its order of February 5, 2022, banned wearing clothes that disturb equality, integrity, and public order in schools and colleges.

Several pleas have been filed in the apex court challenging the High Court verdict. A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia reserved its verdict after nine days of hearing.

# Top Opp leaders to attend INLD rally in Haryana

New Delhi: Top Opposition leaders, including NCP's Sharad Pawar, Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray and DMK's Kanimozhi, will be attending the Indian National Lok Dal's rally in Haryana's Fatehabad on September 25.

JD(U) chief spokesperson K C Tyagi said RJD leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister

Tejashwi Yadav, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury and BJP leader Birender Singh have also given their consent to attend the rally to mark the birth anniversary of former deputy prime minister and INLD founder Devi Lal. The coming together of so many regional satraps is being seen as an effort

towards opposition unity, and Kumar and RJD president Lalu Prasad are also likely to meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi after the rally to take the process forward. "It will be a historic meeting that will mark the consolidation of like-minded forces against the ruling BJP in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," Tyagi said.

The presence of so many opposition leaders, all heavyweights in their states, on one platform will be a fillip to the efforts for unity among the non-BJP forces.

Birender Singh's equation with the BJP leadership has soured for some time even though his son Brijendra Singh is Lok Sabha member of the party from Hisar. The rally is being seen as a show of

strength by the INLD, which is itself fighting for survival in Haryana following a split in its ranks after its patriarch Om Prakash Chautala's elder son Ajay Chautala formed Jannayak Janata Party, a BJP ally. The JJP had managed to secure most of the traditional INLD votes in the last assembly polls.

Lok Sabha member and Rashtriya Loktantrik Party's Hanuman Beniwal, a former BJP ally from Rajasthan, will also attend the rally besides former Haryana minister Venod Sharma, he said.

INLD leader and former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala has also sent invitations to several other regional bigwigs, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Telangana Chief Minister K

Chandrashekar Rao and TDP's Chandrababu Naidu, for attending the public meeting. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has also been invited.

Nitish Kumar has been stressing on the need for such a unity among the non-BJP parties, including the Congress, since he broke ties with the saffron party last month and came to Delhi to hold talks with a number of key leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Pawar and AAP's Arvind Kejriwal.

Though, the absence of the Congress, which has been a staunch adversary of the INLD in Haryana, and some regional bigwigs like Banerjee and Rao yet to confirm their participation also mean that a grand opposition unity remains a work in progress.



BJP national president JP Nadra addresses a consultative meeting of multidisciplinary experts, in Madurai on Thursday

PTI

# PM to attend Abe's state funeral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the state funeral of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on September 27 in Tokyo. Abe was shot dead on July 8 while delivering a political

campaign speech in western Japan ahead of the House of Councillor election on July 10.

The ministry of external affairs on Thursday announced that the Prime Minister will visit Japan on September 27 to attend the state funeral. He will also separately meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

during the visit.

Modi had a close relationship with Abe, the longest serving Japanese Prime Minister. He had consoled the demise of his "dear friend" Abe and said the former Japanese premier dedicated his life to making the world a better place.



**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank**

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

**Whereas**  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Yashwant Place Service Station/ Raj Kumar Goel/ Rajni Goel/ Pradeep Mehra/ LBNOD0000531284/ LBNOD00005119999	Plot No. 163, Moti Bagh- II, Satya Niketan, Delhi/ September 17, 2022	June 09, 2022 Rs. 4,51,58,484/-	Delhi/ NCR

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

Date : September 23, 2022  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number) Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sukumar Singh/ Rita Singh/ 9200002078/ QZZRH00005034714	Flat No 3, Ground Floor, Block B 14, Pocket 1, Sector 34 Rohini, Delhi/ September 19, 2022.	April 01, 2022/ Rs. 15,15,789/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Mansoor/ Ishrat Jhan/ 13300000731/ QZDEL00005014824	Property No 926, B- 1, Upper Ground Floor, Khalsa No. 93, Gali No. 8, Govindpur, Kalkaji, Delhi, New Delhi/ September 19, 2022.	April 01, 2022/ Rs. 18,49,549/-	Delhi/ NCR

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Date : September 23, 2022  
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

# Govt agencies evict 24 people every hour in India: HLRN study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A recent study has claimed that from January to July 2022 government agencies demolished as many as 25,800 houses affecting at least 124,450 people.

The study, titled 'Forced Eviction in India in 2021', was conducted by a NGO called the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN).

It claimed that Government authorities have evicted at least 567 people per day or 24 people every hour across India. "The eviction occurred despite the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic during January-March 2022," it said. Court orders and their implementation by state authorities resulted in the eviction of over 106,014 people in at least 11 incidents of demolitions in 2021, HLRN said.

The report said that the total number of people who faced evictions over the last five

years (between 2017 and 2021), exceeds one million. The study claimed nearly 15 million people across the country live under the threat of eviction.

According to the report, authorities evicted 207,106 people, including 13,750 during the peak of the COVID pandemic in April and May last year, from their homes citing reasons such as environment protection, infrastructure projects, encroachment removal, and beautification projects across the country in 2021. The report said the government has not resettled or compensated at least 59 percent of them.

The report said that as many as 57 percent were evicted for forest and environment protection, 27.13 percent for infrastructure projects, and 14.31 percent for encroachment removal and beautification projects. The demolition drives were carried out in at least 17 states and three Union Territories. The report said

government agencies demolished 62,330 houses and evicted over 331,560 people from January 1, 2021, to July 15, 2022. It added that over 25,800 homes have been demolished, affecting at least 124,450 people in India until July this year.

It has cited incidents showing how demolitions were also used as "punitive measures".

The report said in Punjab Bagh, the railways demolished 250 homes, in February 2022, to vacate its land of 'encroachments'. The families have been living at the same site post-demolition as they have not been resettled.

"Following the communal violence during the celebrations for the Hindu festivals of Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti in April 2022 in Madhya Pradesh, 16 houses and 29 shops of Muslim households were demolished in Khargone district, including a house built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All) Scheme.



# Another jolt to Maha: Now PhonePe to shift to K'taka

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A little over a week after the Vedanta Group moved its semiconductor manufacturing plant involving an investment of ₹ 1.54 lakh crore from the State to neighbouring Gujarat, the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis Government suffered another setback on Thursday, as Fintech app PhonePe announced through a public notice that it had decided to shift its registered office from Maharashtra to Karnataka.

In the public notice published in local newspapers, the company said that it had applied to the Centre under section 12 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking permission to shift its registered office from Mumbai in Maharashtra to Karnataka.

The company had at a general meeting held on August 16, 2022 passed a special resolution seeking approval for necessary amendments in the Memorandum of Association



(MoA). The development comes nine days after the Vedanta group signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Bhupendrabhai Patel Government to set up a semiconductor fabrication unit, a display fabrication unit, and a semiconductor assembling and testing unit in Ahmedabad district of the neighbouring State.

As per the MOUs signed between Vedanta and Gujarat Government in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel and Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal, the Vedanta

Group-Foxconn Joint Venture envisages a total investment of Rs 1,54,000 crore, while it promises to provide employment to around 1 lakh people.

The proposed semiconductor manufacturing fab unit will operate on the 28nm technology nodes and the display manufacturing unit will produce Generation 8 displays catering to small, medium and large applications.

Vedanta will hold 60 per cent of the equity in the Joint Venture while Foxconn will own 40 per cent. The Joint Venture will look at setting up a semiconductor manufacturing plant in the next two years.

# Lekhi flays Mamata for taking credit for inclusion of Puja in UNESCO list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi on Thursday hit out at West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee saying it was "horrendous" that a State Government which "banned" Durga Puja and idol immersion

was taking credit for inclusion of the festival in UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Lekhi, who is the Minister of State for Culture, said a proposal was sent by the Union Culture Ministry to include Durga Puja in UNESCO's list in 2019 which was accepted in December 2021. Addressing a press conference here, she said the Ministry of Culture has also sent a proposal to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to include Garba dance from Gujarat in its list of intangible cultural heritage of

humanity. Earlier this month, Banerjee had led a rally celebrating the inclusion of Durga Puja in Kolkata in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

"The West Bengal chief minister must be very busy and the advice she is receiving from her advisors is questionable. It is horrendous a state government that banned Durga Puja and idol immersion was taking credit for this feat," she said.

She said it was a matter of pride for entire India that Durga Puja was inscribed in UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage and "politics on it was improper".

She noted that all the traditions of the country should be appreciated in one voice, adding that Durga Puja was as much important in southern and western India as it was in eastern India.



# High Court's DA rap on Bengal Govt's knuckles

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Already under intense scrutiny of the ED and CBI in a plethora of corruption related cases the Mamata Banerjee Government received yet another jolt with a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court on Thursday rejecting a petition filed by the State seeking reconsideration of an earlier judgement by the same court to clear the unpaid Dearness Allowance (DA) of Government employees.

Not only the Court directed the Government to clear the arrears of the DA in three months' time but it also fixed November 7 as the date of next hearing when the Chief Secretary and Finance Secretary would be required to file their respective affidavits stating why contempt proceedings would not be started against them for violating the earlier Court order to clear DA.

The same Division Bench of Justices Harish Tandon and



Rabindranath Samanta had on May 20 directed the Government to clear the DA related arrears within the next three months. The State however preferred to file a review petition on the earlier order.

While the Court rejected the petition and directed the Government to clear the arrears within three months hearing a related contempt petition filed by the West Bengal Confederation of Government Employees the Court directed the two topmost bureaucrats to file their respective affidavits regarding why rule of contempt would not be passed against them for disobeying the Court order.

The State advocates however said that an "appeal will be

preferred before the Honourable Supreme Court."

The High Court had on an earlier occasion upheld a State Administrative Tribunal judgement. Hearing a petition --- seeking 32 percent DA --- filed in 2016 by the State employees unions SAT had in 2020 directed the Government to clear the dearness allowance of the government staff.

Upholding the SAT order the High Court earlier said that "DA is a legal right of the Government employees," Firdous Shamim one of the advocates of the government employees unions said.

"If the Mamata Banerjee Government can give out doles of Rs 250 crore to the 43,000 clubs of Bengal organisation Durga Puja just to ensure that her election machinery remains intact ... then why cannot she clear the DA of the Government employees who are asking for it not as an alms but as a legal right," one of the functionaries of the employees' union said.

# CPI(ML) slams fee hike in Allahabad Univ

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) criticised the fee hike by Allahabad University saying it was a whimsical decision that would mar the future of students.

In a statement, CPI-ML state secretary Sudhakar Yadav justified the agitation of the students against the hike in the fee which has been increased four times of the existing fee.

Expressing concern over the incident in which a student ended his life at the university hostel in protest against the fee hike, Yadav said education was a fundamental right. "The Bharatiya Janata Party govern-

ment's new education policy has caused the students to suffer the most. The government has made education an article of trade and poor students are unable to afford studying at government educational institutions while private institutes are out of their reach already. So an agitation against fee hike is the demand of the hour," he said.

Yadav said due to the novel coronavirus pandemic several people had lost their jobs and businesses and inflation was soaring high. "The fourfold hike in the fee will break the bones of the families who are getting their sons/daughters educated at the Allahabad University and the decision should be taken back," he said.

# UP Govt to launch Matribhumi Yojana from Gandhi Jayanti

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government will launch the Matribhumi Yojana on October 2 to help people connect with their roots.

Under this scheme, if a person wants to construct a community building, hospital, school, common service centre in the name of his or her ancestor in the village, he/she will have to pay 60 per cent of the total cost while the rest will be invested by the Government. The said building would be in the name of the person's ancestor, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said.

While virtually addressing the opening ceremony of Kisan Mela and Rural Development Exhibition organised by Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Mahotsav Samiti in Mathura, the chief minister said that the Bharatiya Janata Party was

celebrating seva pakhwara as September 17 was the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, September 25 was the birthday of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay and October 2 of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Keeping this in mind, many programmes have been designed. High speed internet and free Wi-Fi services will be introduced in many villages. We are going to connect every gram panchayat with better internet service. Once done, the villagers will get 243 types of services related to banks, police stations and tehsils," he said.

The chief minister said the economy of India was rural based and therefore the introduction of new technology in the farm sector was mandatory. He said the emphasis should be on increasing production and reducing the cost of cultivation.

# 75% of Covid patients recover within 12 months: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

At least 75 per cent of the people infected with the SARS-CoV2 virus recover within 12 months, irrespective of the severity, according to a study. However, the remaining 25 per cent of patients still face coughing, fatigue and breathlessness, said the study by Indian-origin scientists from McMaster University

Researchers also found that patients with persistent symptoms also had antibodies associated with autoimmune illnesses, as well as raised levels of cytokines, which cause inflammation.

They gleaned the results by surveying 106 people recovering from Covid-19 infections at three, six and 12 months after contracting the disease. All patients surveyed were otherwise healthy and had no pre-existing autoimmune conditions or any other underlying diseases pre-pandemic.



This study comes close of the heels of yet another study conducted by researchers at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health which had said

that a person going through phases of anxiety, depression, and loneliness before being infected by coronavirus has a much stronger chance of developing long Covid than those who have good mental health.

"Generally, one should not worry if they are feeling unwell right after their infection, as the chances of recovering within 12 months is very high, and just because you have typical long COVID symptoms at three months does not mean they will stay forever," said senior author Manali Mukherjee, an assistant professor of the Department of Medicine at the McMaster University.


"However, the study highlights that at 12 months, if you still feel unwell and the symptoms are persisting or worsening, you should definitely seek medical attention."

Mukherjee said patients with persistent long COVID symptoms should see a rheumatologist, as they specialize in autoimmune disorders and can better assess development of rheumatological complications and the need for an early intervention.

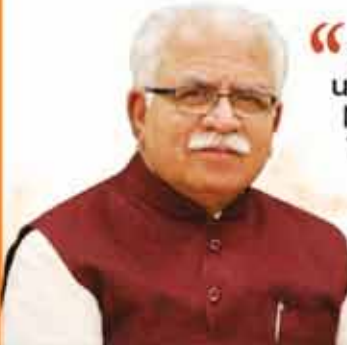


# Haryana Veer Evam Shaheedi Diwas


## Friday, September 23, 2022




हरियाणा के वीर जवान सरहद पर खड़े सीना तान



“It is a matter of great pride for us that every tenth soldier in the Nation's Army is from Haryana. We are always indebted to our brave soldiers, who are safeguarding our country day and night.”  
- Manohar Lal



“Our brave soldiers are our heroes and the Nation's pride. They keep inspiring every generation by their immense love for the motherland and strong will to sacrifice their lives for the honour of the country.”  
- Narendra Modi

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | [www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in) | Follow us on  @dipharyana



# Curb hate speech

The SC has termed hate speech as ‘poison’ that is hurting the social fabric of the country

When public discourse gets perverted, as is the case in India, sloganeering is confused with eloquence and platitudes with wisdom—and now uncouth blabber as forceful argumentation. So, it is hardly surprising that the incidence of hate speech is on the rise. The Supreme Court is rightly worried about this unsavoury development. On Wednesday, it termed hate speech as “poison” that is hurting the social fabric of the country. The apex court also expressed dismay over the lack of a legal framework that could deter odious remarks in television debates. It directed the Centre to reply in two months whether it (the Centre) intends to bring a law to make hate speech a penal offence. TV news channels are using “hate and all such spicy things” to improve their ratings, the apex court pointed out. Wondering why the government is a “mute spectator,” the court asserted that it was the duty of TV anchors to stop the airing of hate speech. “Where is our nation headed to if



hate speech is what we are feeding on? Hate speech is completely poisoning our social fabric,” observed a Bench of justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy. They said this while hearing a number of petitions which sought guidelines to regulate hate speech.

A few days ago, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur had also desired moderation in TV channel debates. He wanted to bring “back neutrality in news.” In fact, he went on to say that the biggest threat to the mainstream media is from mainstream media channels rather than new-age digital platforms. He was correct in his observation that if a news channel invites guests who are polarising,

they would spread false narratives and who shout, thus damaging the credibility of the news channel. Unfortunately, the credibility of several news channels is very bad; they are widely regarded as sympathetic to one political party or the other. Debates on political topics suffer from not just the ill-mannered and semi-educated outbursts of various participants but also the irresponsible behaviour of anchors but also biases. Such TV programmes generate a lot of heat and dust but little light. Political parties, including that of Thakur’s, should act proactively to ensure that political debate doesn’t get further degraded. Action on the part of the media should also be oriented around self-regulation. News channels, the Press Club of India, the Press Council, and other organisations related to the media should come forward with guidelines to regulate the behaviour of news anchors and other media-persons. They should draw the red lines which journalists should never cross. There should also be interaction between the Government and the media for bringing sobriety and impartiality back to news. For the alternative, the rules set by the Government or the Supreme Court, is not very appealing. Such rules may curb hate speech but will also be detrimental for free speech. All stakeholders need to exercise caution.

## PICTALK



A one-horned rhino inside the Buraphar Range of Kaziranga National Park, on World Rhino Day

# Bye, Gajodhar Bhaiya!

Raju Srivastava is gone but will always be remembered for the laughter he spread

Raju Srivastava the king of comedy is no more. He breathed his last on September 21 in AIIMS Delhi. Raju had suffered a heart attack 41 days back when he was at a gym and ever since had been fighting but unfortunately, the death got the better of him. His untimely death has left his fans shocked and condolence messages have been pouring from across the country. Raju was a comedian with many firsts, he started his career by mimicking his idol Amitabh Bachchan and then graduated to small roles in Bollywood. His big break came when he appeared on a TV comedy show “Indian laughter challenge” in 2005. He didn’t win it but became an instant star. His jokes often involved common people from small towns in UP which were till then seen as ‘no no’ on mainstream television. His ‘Gajodhar bhaiya’ became a household name and his eastern UP colloquial language a rage. The USP of Raju was his knack to relate to the common man. He picked the incidents from the lives of the common man and narrated them in his inimitable style which made him larger than life comic star, the highest paid in the country.



Raju’s story is the story of many youths from humble backgrounds in small towns of north India who to chase their dreams reach Mumbai. Many are lost in oblivion while others struggle to make a mark. Raju belonged to the second category He took struggle in his stride and never gave up on his dreams. His laughter came from his understanding of human nature and dealing with the common

man. And that is why he is so relatable to each one of us. Raju’s untimely death at 58, leaves a void that would be hard to fill. He was one of the faces of early standup comics who made it to everyone’s heart. Though now stand up comedy is well established in the country and has gone through a metamorphosis with a lot of young comics trying their hand at it and enriching it in their own way, they owe it to Raju as he was the one who took comedy to the masses in the time when this genre didn’t exist in the country. Raju never hesitated to crack a joke on the VVIPs in the audience. Raju is often criticised for joining politics which was not really his cup of tea. It divided his fans and took away his neutrality but he was quick to understand and tried to distance himself from it. Raju Srivastava rest in peace, your jokes will live on.

# Indians making it big in Australia

With its sheer determination and hard work, the Indian diaspora in Australia has carved a niche for itself in the Australian society

They drive cabs in the wee hours, man 7/11 franchises, and gather scattered trolleys at supermarkets, amongst a long list of arduous tasks. But they also teach at schools and universities, lead mega engineering projects, save lives at hospitals and treat the sick at medical centres, manage the information technology in big companies, showcase the best of the cuisines at Indian restaurants, and own micro, medium, and large businesses in Australia. Indian diaspora has entered into business, politics, the judiciary, government, civil society, academia, science, the performing arts, and sporting codes. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021 census 783,958 persons declared their ancestry as Indian constituting 3.1% of the Australian population. They constitute the second largest taxpayers and easily outnumber their Australian counterparts in stadiums during the Border-Gavaskar series.

20 years ago, not many may have anticipated their meteoric rise and role in ‘Advancing Australia Fair.’ A data-rich report prepared by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade entitled - “Australia’s Indian Diaspora: A National Asset: Mapping the Community’s Reach into the Australia-India Economic Relationship” - quite timely encapsulates the rise of the diaspora, especially when bilateral relations have hit a historic high.

Australia’s rapidly transforming demography wherein one in four Australian has been born overseas, the Indian diaspora is now turning heads. Calling the diaspora ‘aspirational’, the report shows that a comparatively younger diaspora is vital for meeting Australia’s skills shortage, technological development, and exports. Largely concentrated (70%) in the states of Victoria and New South Wales, the diaspora has moved interstate into Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia. In any



developing suburb, the Indian family is a common sight. The DFAT report indicates the cumulative effect of a generally highly educated youthful, linguistically diverse, and growing community, plugged into networks of innovation, and well represented in business, across services and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) sectors with strong export potential. It is a key contributor to not only bilateral trade and investment but Australia’s international competitiveness.

According to the 2021 Orbis database of company information collated by Bureau van Dijk, a Moody’s Analytics Company - people of Indian heritage are employed in at least 996 Australian organizations of which an estimated 2,840 (13%) as directors and managers (12.5% women), constituting 3% of the Australian population. The report says that 964 of these 2,840 could potentially drive bilateral business and trade engagements in health, tourism, ICT, and resources, across companies with a gross \$250 billion annual turnover. Surprisingly, in the flagship sector of education, and

AS OF 2021, NUMBERING OVER 780,000, INDIAN MIGRANTS HAVE OVERTAKEN CHINESE AND NEW ZEALAND BORN IMMIGRANTS. THEIR NUMBERS DOUBLED DURING 1996-2006, AND QUADRUPLED DURING 2006-2020

in agribusiness their role remains below par. But that may change rapidly as international education and student migration drive bilateral relationships. Indians were the largest source of skilled migrants in 2019-20 and the second largest source of international students in 2019-20 Australia. The DFAT report estimates that the diaspora’s role in senior academic positions roles at the lecturer level and above has increased from 1.75 per cent in 2016 to 1.92 per cent in 2020. Of the 721,000 Indians (2016 census) approximately 88% are of working age and 61% are in full-time and 27% in part-time employment making them the second highest tax-paying migrant community after the UK-born migrants, contributing over \$12 billion to the Australian economy. As of 2021, numbering over 780,000 Indian migrants have overtaken Chinese and New Zealand-born immigrants. Their numbers doubled during 1996-2006, quadrupled during 2006-2020, and were Australia’s fastest growing large diaspora community in 2020. Australia’s Department of Home Affairs has even established a Global Talent Officer

for South Asia, eying India as a source of global talent.

A 2013 path-breaking research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America entitled, “Genome-wide data substantiate Holocene gene flow from India to Australia” established that a substantial gene flow occurred between the Indian populations and Australia well before European contact, 4,230 years ago. The study links changes in tool technology, food processing, and the appearance of dingoes in the Australian archaeological record to migration from India.

In sum, over 4,000 years ago Indians made Australia their home and now they “toil with hearts and hands to make this Commonwealth of ours renowned of all the lands”. As India rises as a Vishwa Guru, Indians assume their long-due place in Australian society.

(The author is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement, Brisbane, National Sports Chair {Australia India Business Council} and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)

## SOUND BITE

It would have been better had the Congress started its Bharat Jodo Yatra from Gujarat where elections are due later this year,



Election strategist —Prashant Kishor

If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will without doubt use all available means to protect Russia and our people — this is not a bluff.

Russian President —Vladimir Putin

He (Raju) was my friend for 30 years. Big loss to his family, daughters, wife. He was a good husband, good father and a good friend.



Actor —Ravi Kishan

Such an important role, the keepers. This is where MS was so good.

Former cricket coach —Ravi Shastri

These speeches in media are unregulated. It’s (the anchors’) duty to see that hate speech doesn’t continue.



Supreme Court judge —KM Joseph

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TIME FOR PEACE

Sir — It is not the time to war, world need peace and delight, these are the lines of PM Modi that are grabbing global headlines and repeated lip sing from the leaders of the different nation. On the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in the bilateral dialogue with the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Narendra Modi has stated that we need we need global coordination not work for peaceful performance of this world.

It is good to see that even Russian President Vladimir V Putin, also agreed to the understanding of Indian PM. As we are in the Midst of tensed political narrative, thus we need corporation not war. We need dialogue not disturbances towards each other. Mr. Putin too understand the need of the hour, and tried to halt the tense situations by de-escalating the military forces to stop the war like situations. Ultimately we need global peace for happy world. But for that to happen we have to build pressure on our leaders to be more proactive for world peace and care about the issues like climate change, hunger and poverty rather than on the use of military to destroy peace and cause unimaginable sufferings on the humans. After all we are all humans and the planet is our only home where each one has equal right to live and flourish.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

### DUSSEHRA RALLY

Sir — The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has denied permission to both the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena as well as the Shinde’s faction for holding Dussehra rally at the iconic Shivaji Park on 5 October As the Mumbai Police raised law and order concerns.

The Shivaji Park police in their feedback said the permission for the rally to any of the two factions could lead to a “serious problem of law and order in

## Fair chance for guilty?



Supreme Court calls for providing accused a ‘meaningful’ hearing of their mitigating circumstances in death penalty cases. The

Supreme Court referred to a Constitution Bench the question of how to provide accused in death penalty cases a “meaningful, real and effective” hearing of their mitigating circumstances before a trial judge. Instead of safeguarding human dignity and life of poor, marginalized, women and minorities and saving democracy from dictatorship, someone is pursuing unimportant tasks and creating work for themselves for nothing. Like in the West why they are thinking too much on human rights of the guilty and accused? What about the ones who died owing to the murderer’s recklessness, anger, ego etc? How many lives he destroyed? If there is no fear of one’s life and capital punishment, then crimes will surely increase. Rapists and murderers when they are released and garlanded, they are a threat to the society at large.

CK Subramony | Kozhikode

the sensitive Shivaji Park area”. The civic administration has sent letters to both factions of the parties about the decision. With this the open fight between Thackeray and Shinde faction getting bitter and bitter every day and may take ugly turn in coming days which will be very serious and dangerous for the citizens of the capital city Mumbai.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS

Sir — One of the long-standing challenges that India has been facing when it comes to safety and well-being of its people is the appalling fire safety standards prevalent in workplaces, public buildings and homes. The fire tragedy that occurred in a hotel in Telangana very recently and fire that broke out in a commercial building near the Mundka metro station in outer Delhi in May this year, are stark reminders of how fire safety norms are flouted by building owners with impunity. Buildings must be planned, designed and constructed to ensure that fire safety measures are in

place in strict accordance with National Building Code of India’s guidelines which regulate the building construction activities across the country.

Even though NBC makes these measures mandatory, the majority of multi-storey buildings continue to ignore and violate the safety norms, and often play with human lives. In fact, many buildings lack even basic fire safety systems, like fire extinguishers. Also, there is no statutory provision for regular verification of adherence to fire safety norms in multi-story buildings.

To reduce fire accidents, First Safety Audit should be made mandatory across the country, and it must be entrusted to third-party agencies, who have the expertise in it. A comprehensive fire safety audit can address the inherent fire hazards associated with the day-to-day activities in an occupancy and recommend measures to reduce the potential fire accidents.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

BANKS AS GROWTH CATALYSTS

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Speaking at the 75th AGM of IBA on September 16, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that if India wishes to grow at a particular speed over the next 25 years, banks will have to play the role of a catalyst.

It is good that the importance of banks is recognised by the Finance Minister. But what is happening at the ground level is entirely different. The banks are made to bleed due to wrongful importance given to the borrowers at the cost of depositors who sacrifice their present consumption and enable banks to lend.

What is a catalyst? In chemistry, we call a catalyst a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. But banks' borrowers extract everything from the banks and try to finish the 'catalyst'. Initially, corporate borrowers want maximum finance from banks. They want it at concessional rates of interest too. Then they default and want the banks to reschedule the payment obligation. They want further credit by threatening that otherwise the previous loan cannot be recovered. Finally, they want waiver of interest, write off, one-time-settlement etc. This process goes on and on and to keep the banks viable, banks pass on this cost to the depositors by way of real negative interest.



Recently, the RBI released a handbook on statistics on the Indian Economy. This contains a table showing Weighted Average Domestic Term Deposit Rate and it pertains to the end of the respective financial year. For the years from 2014-15 to 2020-21, the following are the WADTD Rates respectively in percentages 8.57, 7.73, 6.97, 6.67, 6.89, 6.38 and 5.28. The following are the annual consumer inflation rate during the same period, again in percentages: 4.91, 4.95, 3.30, 3.94, 3.73, 6.62 and 5.13. When we adjust for inflation the real interest the depositors got for their Term Deposit will be as follows: 3.66, 2.78, 3.67, 2.73, 3.16, 0.76 and 0.15 per cent of returns. This is the fate of persons who keep their savings with banks as fixed deposits. For persons who are leaving their surplus in a Savings Account, the real return will be negative. If this trend is not corrected, a day will come that the retail depositors will desert banks and there may not be any role of finance intermediation by banks.

If banks have to lend more, they must have resources. As per Financial Stability Report of RBI released in June 30, 2022, after reaching a high of 11.9 per cent in March 2021, aggregate deposit growth (y-o-y) of Scheduled Commercial Banks moderated gradually through 2021-22 reaching 9.9 per cent in March 2022 and further to 9.1 per cent by June 3, 2022. This should be a warning signal for policy makers. By paying pittance, you cannot expect depositors to patronise banks forever.

Banks have to mandatorily maintain a Cash Reserve Ratio of 4.5 per cent and Statutory Liquidity Ratio of 18 per cent of their deposits. When CRR can be in the form of cash holding or balance the RBI, it does not earn any interest for banks. The SLR is maintained by investment in permitted government securities, which earns low yield for the banks. In other words this is government borrowing from bank deposits and this in turn reduces the lending capacity of banks to others.

Banks are again mandated to lend to priority sectors like agriculture, small scale industries, etc., for which they charge a concessional rate of interest. Banks are targeted to provide 40 per cent of their credit to the priority sector with various sub targets for agriculture, etc.

*(The author is a retired banker)*

# Equality remains an elusive dream

The fundamental right to equality stays on paper, for there exist several reasons for negation of the abiding dream of the Constitution



ISHANEE SHARMA

The idea of equality in India goes back to the days of the Vedic wisdom, which treated every individual as an embodiment of the divine spark. Equality as a spiritual and philosophical precept was founded on this theory of the divinity of humans. The Upanishads and the Dharmastras insisted that every individual should be given an equal opportunity to pursue the Purusharthas (the four-fold legitimate goals of life) without any arbitrary interference from any external agency, including the state, in order to enable him or her to realise his or her full personality.

Perhaps the notion of legal equality can be traced back to the natural law doctrine of the Stoics, which, in the name of universal reason, postulates equality of individuals, races and nations. However, only on a spiritual and philosophical plane it may be said that all people are equal, but in the actual world of material and social life it may not appear to be so.

There may exist natural inequalities as well as artificially created social inequalities and economic disparities among people and groups of people in society. In such a society, to pursue the principle of formal or legal equality, which insists that all people are to be treated equally by law, would be only to perpetuate the existing inequalities, for the same law for the ox and the lion is oppression. Therefore, the concept of equality to be meaningful and intelligible should essentially be a dynamic and relative concept, capable of accommodating the necessary equalisation strategies as permissible means to remove the existing social and economic inequalities and to secure the goal of equality and social justice.

While we celebrate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, there still remains glaring inequalities in the society around us. The beloved dream of the makers of the Constitution is far from materialisation.

The adoption of our Constitution was also a declaration of a desire for a society where everyone would enjoy equal access to education, good health, freedom of speech and dissent, employment, and political participation.

Some people experience inequity from the beginning, because they are born blind, physically impaired, or mentally ill. We must be given exactly equal opportunity, intelligence, strength, health, and money if we were to be born equally.

Legality became a synonym for justice in the Athenian republic because it was derived from the Greek/Latin word aequalis, which meant the sameness of two objects in amount or value or as in the Islamic algebra, which is still in use today. It later came to be used interchangeably with the concept of liberty, which was first articulated by influential thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries like John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Hegel, and later by Frenchmen like Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who



ANY VIBRANT SOCIETY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REQUIRE THAT ALL HUMANS ARE TREATED EQUAL AND WITH DIGNITY. SUCH A CONVICTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY WARRANT A WISE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY ON THE GROUNDS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

*(The author is a lawyer)*



are known for the statement "Man is born free".

These concepts had a significant impact on our ancestors. It had a profound impact on the society, which was a colony of the British Empire. They battled against their oppressors after rising up in rebellion, won the war, and then went on to draft the clause that reads, "All men are created equal".

People who have lived in abject poverty are given hope when we say that there will be equality. However, if this hope is not realised, there will be strife between the "haves and have nots" in society. Additionally, according to Karl Marx, this disturbs society and may therefore spark a revolt. This is the fundamental idea of the disharmonic society that India has accepted, which implicitly includes the idea of conflict.

The overarching principle of equality is established in Article 14, which calls for equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws and forbids unjustified discrimination against individuals. It is acknowledged as a fundamental right in the Indian Constitution. No discrimination should exist on any grounds. The phrase "equal protection of the law" is a good one. Simply put, it means that everyone in comparable situations should be accorded the same rights and obligations. In essence, it means that everyone should be treated equally.

Equals and unequals cannot coexist on an equal footing or get equal treatment. The concept of equality before law does not mean absolute equality among human

beings which is not possible to achieve. It is a concept implying absence of any special privilege by reason of birth, creed or the like in favour of any individual, and also the equal subject of all individuals and classes to the ordinary law of the land. Equal protection of the laws does not postulate equal treatment of all persons without distinctions. What it postulates is the application of the same laws alike and without discrimination to all persons similarly situated. It denotes equality of treatment in equal circumstances.

The rule of law, in Dicey's opinion, is equality before the law. It means that no one is above the law and that ordinary courts have jurisdiction over everyone, regardless of status or circumstance. All people with identical circumstances must be treated equally in terms of the rights granted and obligations imposed by the law. There shouldn't be any distinction between one individual and another, and everyone should be subject to the same laws in the same circumstances. The rule is that similar things should be handled similarly rather than dissimilar things similarly.

In the case of Stephen's College v. University of Delhi, the court determined that the phrase "Equal protection of the laws" is now understood to be a positive obligation on the state to ensure equal protection of the law by enacting the necessary social and economic changes to ensure that everyone can enjoy equal protection of the law and nobody is denied such protection. The state violates its obligation to offer everyone the

same protection under the law if it ignores the existing inequality. Citizens of India and those who are not will get equal protection from the state.

The US Constitution's 14th Amendment serves as the foundation for the concept of "equal protection of the law". It stipulates that everyone in India should receive equal legal protection so they can exercise their legal rights without any exceptions or favouritism. This is a good idea since it suggests that the State has a responsibility to take steps to guarantee this right to all citizens. It makes the State responsible for taking all necessary actions to ensure that the promise of equal treatment of everyone is upheld. This rule states that like individuals should be treated similarly, yet it also states that unlike people shouldn't be treated similarly.

It hardly needs any mention that any vibrant society would undoubtedly require that all humans are treated equal and with dignity and that all must be supported to the fullest possible development. Such a conviction would obviously warrant a wise affirmative action policy on the grounds of social justice and equity. Here, one needs to know that while access could be ensured in a variety of ways, it is the equality of opportunity which is much more important than anything else as it requires the support of whole range of antecedental variables commencing from curriculum to pedagogy, differential inputs, assessment, remediation, feedback, attitude, institutional care, etc.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

WHEN THE STUDENTS FACE THE WORLD, THEY WILL FACE THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY. SO THIS (HIJAB) CAN BE A CHANCE TO PREPARE THEM.  
—KARNATAKA HIGH COURT JUDGE  
SUDHANSHU DHULIA



IN A SCHOOL, HOW WILL YOU INCULCATE THE VALUES? THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE CLAIMS AND WHERE WILL YOU DRAW THE LINE?  
—ADVOCATE  
VENKATARAMANI

# New King of Britain has deep India connections

King Charles III understands the importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals

Prince Charles, who held this title for a long time, acceded to the British throne after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last week. He has a robust Indian connection and has been familiar with Indians for decades. After his accession, he became Head of the Commonwealth, a group of 56 independent countries, representing 2.4 billion people, including India. India was a "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire.

To go back in history, the East India Company came to India in 1600 for trade, and by the 1800s, it had generated almost half of England's commerce. Soon India became a British colony. So, it is not surprising that several members of the British



KALYANI SHANKAR

*(The author is a senior journalist)*

royal family visited India at various times.

Charles came to India 10 times as heir to the British throne, while his parents also visited thrice during the Queen's long reign. Charles indeed developed a warm relationship with India and its age-old traditions like Yoga, Ayurveda, and diversity. He once stated that "having had the pleasure of visiting India so many times, I've always been struck by her extraordinary diversity and the deep well of creativity, ingenuity and resilience upon which she draws. This is a source of great inspiration to me personally".

Charles has been a strong advocate for global environmental concerns and climate change. He understands the

importance of India in achieving the world's climate action goals. Over the decades, Charles developed close relations with many cities in India. They include Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Puri, and Punjab, apart from Delhi and Agra. He was comfortable with the Jaipur and Patiala royal families, who hosted him during his visits.

There were some embarrassing moments when the 16-year-old Bollywood actress Padmini Kolhapure gave him a peck on his cheek when he visited a Bollywood studio in 1980. The same year Charles had visited Hariipur village in the Puri district, going through the bumpy roads in the heat and dust. He showed interest in coconut

plucking, basket weaving, and paddy harvesting.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana's first visit to the country revealed a strained marriage. The unhappy Diana sat alone outside the Taj Mahal on a bench in February 1992, while Charles was in Hyderabad. King Charles and his present Queen Camilia have a Bengaluru connection. Dr Issac Mathai has been the holistic physician of the Royal couple for the past 15 years. Another memorable event was his interaction with Mumbai's 'Dabbawallahs' in 2003. He was curious about how they ride bicycles, lift crates full of tiffins and provide them to many people with punctuality. He invited them for his second marriage

to Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005, where they presented a nine-yard Paithani saree for the bride and a kurta lehenga for the groom.

Charles even celebrated his 71st birthday with school children at the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai in November 2019.

The Jullianwallah bagh carnage in Punjab has popped up often, even during one of the Queen's visits. Before his tenth visit, to mollify the Sikhs, Charles sent good wishes to them across Britain and the Commonwealth on the 550th Birth Anniversary of the religion's founder Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Long-time patrons of the Asian Elephant Alliance, Prince Charles and The Duchess of Cornwall witnessed an official preview of the colourful elephant parade at the residence of the British High commissioner in Delhi in 2017. India has been changing since Independence with no fascination for colonialism. Colonial-era street names, redundant laws, and even flag symbols are changed. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi renamed the iconic Rajpath in Delhi to Kartavya path, claiming that "a new history has been created". The renovated avenue now has a statue of Subhash Chandra Bose in place of King George V.

Barely hours after the Queen's death, Indian social media made renewed calls to return the famous Koh-i-Noor, the 106-carat diamond discovered in India, which

has become part of the British crown jewels.

Charles hosted Modi in April 2018 at the Science Museum in London to establish a first-of-its-kind global network for evidence-based research on Yoga and Ayurveda. He spoke of his "great love for India" when he launched an emergency Covid appeal last year and helped raise millions for India.

Beyond his involvement with the Bharatiya Yuva Shakti trust, an NGO set up by Lakshmi Venkatesan, daughter of former President R. Venkataraman, he also helped farmers through his British Asian Trust and his encouragement of practitioners of Indian traditional medicine in India and the UK.



# No let-up in hostilities in Ukraine despite prisoner swap

AP ■ KYIV

Russian and Ukrainian forces exchanged missile and artillery barges that killed at least six people Thursday as both sides refused to concede any ground despite recent military setbacks for Moscow and the toll on the invaded country after almost seven months of war.

Russian missile strikes in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia left one person dead and five others wounded, Ukrainian officials said. Officials in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk said Ukrainian shelling killed at least five people.

Demonstrating that neither side was ready to ease up or pause the fighting, the exchange of fire came hours after the two sides made a major prisoner swap and the day after Russian President Vladimir Putin called up reserve troops to supplement his forces.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy of the Ukrainian president's office, said a hotel in the central part of Zaporizhzhia, said a hotel in the center of the city was struck and rescuers were trying to free people trapped in the rubble.

The governor of the Zaporizhzhia region, Oleksandr Starukh said Russian forces targeted infrastructure facilities and also damaged nearby apartment buildings. The region is one of four where officials installed by Moscow plan to hold referendums starting Friday on becoming part of Russia, but the city itself is in Ukrainian hands.

Meanwhile, the mayor of the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk, Alexei Kulemzin, said at least five people were killed when Ukrainian shelling Thursday hit a covered market and a passenger minibus.

Just hours before Thursday's attacks, a high-profile prisoner swap saw 215



Ukrainian and foreign fighters exchanged — 200 of them for a single person, an ally of Putin's. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov wouldn't confirm if the lone Putin ally - pro-

Russian Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Medvedchuk - was part of the swap.

Among the freed fighters were Ukrainian defenders of a steel plant in Mariupol during

a long Russian siege and 10 foreigners, including five British nationals and two U.S. Military veterans, who had fought with Ukrainian forces.

A video on the BBC news

website Thursday showed two of the released British men, Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner, speaking inside a plane. It said they had arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"We just want to let everyone know that we're now out of the danger zone and we're on our way home to our families," Aslin said in the video, as Pinner added: "By the skin of our teeth."

The speed with which the Russian missile attack came after the swap suggested that the Kremlin was seeking to dispel any notion of weakness or waning determination to achieve its war aims following recent battlefield losses and setbacks that gravely undercut the aura of Russian military might.

Those losses culminated Wednesday in Putin's order for a partial mobilization of reservists to bolster his forces in Ukraine. The order sparked rare protests in the Russia and was derided in the West as an

act of weakness and desperation.

The partial call-up was short on details, raising concerns of a wider draft that sent some Russians scrambling to buy plane tickets to flee the country.

Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, said the mobilization was needed because Russia was "de facto facing all of NATO," a reference to the military aid and other support that alliance members have provided to Ukraine.

A senior Kremlin official on Thursday repeated Putin's threat to use nuclear weapons if Russian territory comes under attack.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council, said on his messaging app channel Thursday that strategic nuclear weapons are one of the options to safeguard Russian-controlled territories in eastern and southern Ukraine. The remark appeared to serve as a warning that

Moscow could also target Ukraine's Western allies.

Pro-Moscow authorities in Ukraine's Russian-controlled regions are preparing to hold referendums on becoming part of Russia — a move that could allow Moscow to escalate the war. The votes start Friday in the Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions.

Foreign leaders have called the votes illegitimate and non-binding. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said they were a "sham" and "noise" to distract the public.

— One person was killed during Russian shelling overnight in the center of Nikopol city, across the river from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, according to Dnipropetrovsk region governor Valentyn Reznichenko.

— The office of Zelenskyy's office said five people were killed by shelling in the Donetsk region over the past day.

## Zelenskyy: Russia not serious about ending Ukraine war

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy suggested Wednesday that Russia's decision to mobilize some reservists showed that Moscow isn't serious about negotiating an end to its nearly seven-month-long war.

Speaking by video to the UN General Assembly meeting of world leaders hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement, Zelenskyy insisted his country would prevail in repelling Russia's attack and forcing its troops out. "We can return the Ukrainian flag to our entire territory. We can do it with the force of arms," the president said. "But we need time."

Putin's decree Wednesday about the mobilization was sparse on details. Officials said as many as 3,00,000 reservists could be tapped. It was apparently an effort to seize momentum after a Ukrainian counteroffensive this month retook swaths of territory that Russians had held.

But the first such call-up in Russia since World War II also brings the fighting home in a new way for Russians and risks



fanning domestic anxiety and antipathy toward the war. Shortly after Putin's announcement, flights out of the country rapidly filled up, and hundreds of people were arrested at antiwar demonstrations across the country.

A day earlier, Russian-controlled parts of eastern and southern Ukraine announced plans for referendums on becoming parts of Russia. Ukrainian leaders and their Western allies consider the votes illegitimate.

Zelenskyy didn't discuss the developments in detail. But he suggested any Russian talk of negotiations is only a

delaying tactic, and that Moscow's actions speak louder than its words.

"They talk about the talks but announce military mobilization. They talk about the talks but announce pseudo-referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine," he said.

Russia hasn't yet had its turn to speak at the gathering.

Putin, who is not attending the event, has said he sent his armed forces into Ukraine because of risks to his country's security from what he considers a hostile government in Kyiv; to liberate Russians living in Ukraine — especially its eastern Donbas region — from

what he views as the Ukrainian government's oppression; and to restore what he considers to be Russia's historical territorial claims on the country.

Zelenskyy's speech was striking not only for its contents but also its context. It took place after the extraordinary mobilization announcement. It was the first time he addressed the world's leaders gathered together since Russia invaded in February.

It wasn't delivered at the august rostrum where other presidents, prime ministers and monarchs speak — but instead by video from a nation at war after Zelenskyy was granted special permission to not come in person. He appeared as he has in many previous video appearances — in an olive green T-shirt. He sat at a table with a Ukrainian flag behind his right shoulder and large image of the UN flag and Ukraine's behind his left shoulder.

The leader opined that Moscow wants to spend the winter preparing its forces in Ukraine for a new offensive, or at least preparing fortifications while mobilizing more troops in the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II.

## Ukraine's Mariupol defenders, Putin ally in prisoner swap

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine announced a high-profile prisoner swap early Thursday that was the culmination of months of efforts to free many of the Ukrainian fighters who defended a steel plant in Mariupol during a long Russian siege. In exchange, Ukraine gave up a prominent ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and 55 other prisoners.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his government had won freedom from Russian custody for 215 Ukrainian and foreign citizens, with the help of Turkish and Saudi mediation efforts. He said many were soldiers and officers who had faced the death penalty in Russian-occupied territory. Russian officials didn't immediately confirm or otherwise comment on what appeared to be the biggest prisoner swap during the nearly seven-month war.

Of the total, 200 Ukrainians were exchanged for just one man - pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Medvedchuk, who is Ukrainian. The 68-year-old oligarch escaped from house arrest in Ukraine several days before Russia's invasion Feb. 24 but was recaptured in April. He faced up to life in prison on charges of treason and aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation for mediating coal purchases for the separatist, Russia-backed Donetsk republic in eastern Ukraine.

Medvedchuk came to know Putin while serving as chief of staff for former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. The Russian leader is the godfather of



Medvedchuk's daughter. His detention sparked a heated exchange between officials in Moscow and Kyiv.

Medvedchuk is the head of the political council of Ukraine's pro-Russian Opposition Platform-For Life party, the largest opposition group in Ukraine's parliament. The Ukrainian government has suspended the party's activity; Putin has repeatedly spoken about Medvedchuk as a victim of political repression.

"It is not a pity to give up Medvedchuk for real warriors," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video speech. "He has passed all the investigative actions provided by law. Ukraine has received from him everything necessary to establish the truth in the framework of criminal proceedings."

In another swap, Ukraine gained the release of five commanders who led Ukraine's defence of the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol in exchange for 55 Russian prisoners it was holding, Zelenskyy said.

More than 2,000 defenders, many in the Azov Regiment, marched out of the

Azovstal steel plant's twisted wreckage into Russian captivity in mid-May, ending a nearly three-month siege of the port city of Mariupol.

Zelenskyy said the five leaders, including Azov Regiment commanders Denys Prokopenko and Svyatoslav Palamar, are in Turkey, where they will remain as part of the deal "in complete safety" until the end of the war, under the protection of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The complex prisoner swap also brought the release of 10 foreigners, including five British nationals and two US military veterans, who had fought with Ukrainian forces. They were released by Russian-backed separatists as part of an exchange mediated by Saudi Arabia, US and Saudi officials said. A video on the BBC news website Thursday showed two of the released British men, Aiden Aslin and Shaun Pinner, speaking inside a plane.

"We just want to let everyone know that we're now out of the danger zone and we're on our way home to our families," Aslin said in the video, as Pinner added: "By the skin of our teeth."

The BBC reported that the two men, along with a third British detainee, John Harding, have arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It said they appeared to be accompanied by a group of Saudi officials.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the exchanges, calling them "no small feat," but adding that "much more remains to be done to ease the suffering caused by the war in Ukraine," his spokesman said.



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CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866  
Website : www.ujvnl.com

RO No. 681

**Tender Notice**

Dated : 22/09/2022

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-1), UJVNL Limited, Guptkashi, Rudraprayag, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-  
Tender No.: 09/EE (Civil-1)/ Guptkashi/2022-23  
Name of work: Special Repair & Maintenance work at approach road of Kaliganga-I SHP (2x2 MW) in Distt- Rudraprayag.  
Estimated Cost: Rs 12.25 Lakh (Plus GST Extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 22.09.2022 from 17:00 Hrs onwards  
Last date for submission of Tender: 17.10.2022 up to 16:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)"  
**Executive Engineer (Civil-I)**  
**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**  
**DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and  
In the matter of **AGRANTE DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".  
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address **DTJ-704, 7TH FLOOR DLF TOWERS- B, JASOLA NEW DELHI 110025** within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:  

**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Gurnam Singh**  
**Director**  
**DIN: 02128421**

**Date: 23/09/2022**  
**Place: New Delhi**

**BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**  
**DELHI REGION**

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and  
In the matter of **AGRANTE LEISURE PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers- B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.  
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".  
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**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Arvinder Singh**  
**Director**  
**DIN: 00112063**

**Date: 23/09/2022**  
**Place: New Delhi**

## Baltics say no automatic asylum for Russians fleeing draft

AP ■ VILINIUS (LITHUANIA)

The three Baltic states say they are not prepared to automatically offer asylum to Russians fleeing mobilisation into the military, hoping that discontent with the Russian authorities will grow at home instead.

Large numbers of Russians rushed on Wednesday to book one-way tickets out of the country after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial mobilisation of military reservists for the war in Ukraine.

There was little sign of any

pressure at the borders of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania after those countries closed their borders to most Russians earlier in the week.

In Latvia, Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics said on Thursday that Latvia would not issue humanitarian or other visas to Russians seeking to avoid mobilisation, citing security reasons.

"We must not give in to his (Putin's) blackmail and must support Ukraine as much as we can. Russia today is as dangerous to Europe and world peace as Nazi Germany was in the last



century," said Rinkevics, according to the Baltic News Service.

Meanwhile Lithuanian Defence Minister Arvydas Anusauskas said on Thursday

that "being drafted into the army is not enough" of a reason for Russians to get asylum in his country, which borders the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

"Political asylum is granted to those who are persecuted for their beliefs" or other similar reasons, Anusauskas told The Associated Press.

On Wednesday, Estonian Interior Minister Lauri Laanemets called Russia's invasion of Ukraine "the collective responsibility of Russian citizens" and argued that allowing in those fleeing possible army service would violate European Union sanctions aimed at Moscow.

"Putin's latest move in some ways reinforces the sanctions we have imposed to date, because it will hopefully

increase discontent among the population," Laanemets was quoted by BNS as saying.

"It is no longer just professional soldiers, people from remote regions or convicts who are being sent to the front, but the desire is for everyone to be relegated to cannon fodder," he said.

Russians seeking to avoid being called up to fight are primarily flying to countries which still have direct plane connections, such as Serbia, Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia — flights that quickly sold out after Putin's announcement of a partial mobilisation.



**SRF LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi-110091  
Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003  
Tel. No (Regd office) : (+91-11) 49482870; Fax : (+91-11) 49482900  
E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereof have been received by the Company. Shareholder(s)/Claimant(s) shall also be entitled to Bonus Shares in the ratio of (4:1) on these shares from Investor Education & Protection Fund Authority :-

Sl. No.	Folio No.	Name of the Share Holder / Legal Heir (Claimant)	Cert-No.	Dist-No. (from)	Dist-No. (to)	Lost Shares
1	SRF0118764	V K GUPTA	573855-7	26259367	26259516	150
2	SRF0109520	H B STOCKHOLDINGS LIMITED	90032084-5	7315466	7315545	80
			90119986-7	7315386	7315405	20
3	SRF0103341	SHLOK DEEPANKAR (Deceased Shareholder)	394136	17498825	17498874	50
		INDRA GUPTA (Jt. Holder 1 & Claimant)				
4	SRF0042115	GORDHANDAS LILADHER (Deceased Shareholder)	90088163-5	9605306	9605405	100
		MRUDULA GORDHANDAS (Jt. Holder 1 & Claimant)	90197375	15210515	15210564	50
		PANKAJ GORDHANDAS (Jt. Holder 2)				

Any person having any claim /objection in respect of the above requests should lodge such claim/ objection with the company at its Corporate Office within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above requests.

Public is hereby cautioned against dealing with the aforesaid share certificates.

**for SRF LIMITED**  
**Sd/-**  
**RAJAT LAKHANPAL**  
Vice President (Corporate Compliance) & Company Secretary

**Place: Gurugram**  
**Date: 22-09-2022**

## At UN, Russia's war in Ukraine is both text and subtext

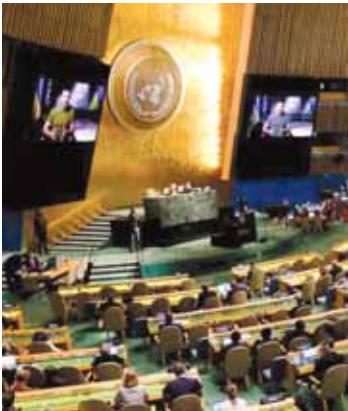
AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

After two years of discourse dominated by the coronavirus pandemic, this year's UN General Assembly has a new occupant of center stage: the war in Ukraine.

The pleas made by leaders from around the world for peace were both an altruistic amplification of besieged Ukrainians' plight as well as born from self-interest. As several speeches made clear, the repercussions of the Russian invasion have been felt even thousands of miles away.

"It is not just the dismay that we feel at seeing such deliberate devastation of cities and towns in Europe in the year 2022. We are feeling this war directly in our lives in Africa," Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo said Wednesday. "Every bullet, every bomb, every shell that hits a target in Ukraine, hits our pockets and our economies in Africa."

The speeches that elided any direct reference to the conflict were few, but the war resonated even in the absence of its direct invocation.



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the president of Kazakhstan, never let the words "Ukraine" or "Russia" slip from his lips, but he made several seemingly pointed allusions.

He opened his remarks by painting a bleak picture of a world catapulted into a "new, increasingly bitter period of geopolitical confrontation" that's engendered "the prospect of the use of nuclear weapons, and not even as a last resort."

Just hours later, Russian President Vladimir Putin — who is not attending the UN General Assembly — declared that he would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons to defend his country's territory.

Russia is a key ally of Kazakhstan, and the war in Ukraine has left the former Soviet country in an awkward spot. Tokayev performed a similar dance last week during Pope Francis' visit, refusing to speak directly about Ukraine while generally decrying a morbid state of affairs.

On Tuesday, Tokayev laid out "three primordial principles: the sovereign equality of states, the territorial integrity of states, and peaceful coexistence between states."

"These three principles are interdependent. To respect one is to respect the other two. To undermine one is to undermine the other two," he said.

The theme of territorial sovereignty resonated in other speeches, as countries who have faced infringements invoked their own traumas or cited the fate of Ukraine as a fear.



# House passes election law overhaul in response to Jan 6

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The House has passed legislation to overhaul the rules for certifying the results of a presidential election as lawmakers accelerate their response to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and Donald Trump's failed attempt to remain in power.

The bill, which is similar to bipartisan legislation moving through the Senate, would overhaul an arcane 1800s-era statute known as the Electoral Count Act that governs, along with the US Constitution, how states and Congress certify electors and declare presidential election winners.

While that process has long been routine and ceremonial, Trump and a group of his aides and lawyers unsuccessfully tried to exploit loopholes in the law in an attempt to overturn his defeat to Joe Biden in the 2020 election. Democrats are pushing to pass the bill before the end of the year and ahead of the 2024 election cycle as Trump is considering another run.

While at least 10 GOP senators have signed on to the Senate version, the House vote fell mostly along party lines. House Republicans — most of whom are still aligned with Trump — argued that the legislation shouldn't be a priority and that it is a political vehicle for Democrats ahead of November's midterm elections.

The final vote was 229-203, with nine Republicans joining all Democrats in voting for the bill. None of the nine Republicans is returning to Congress next year.

The legislation would set new parameters around the Jan.



6 joint session of Congress that happens every four years after a presidential election.

The day turned violent last year after hundreds of Trump's supporters interrupted the proceedings, broke into the building and threatened the lives of then-Vice President Mike Pence and members of Congress. The rioters echoed Trump's false claims of widespread fraud and wanted Pence to block Biden's victory as he presided over the joint session.

The legislation intends to ensure that future Jan. 6 sessions are "as the constitution envisioned, a ministerial day," said Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, a Republican who co-sponsored the legislation with House Administration Committee Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. Both Cheney and Lofgren are also members of the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack.

Ahead of the vote, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the legislation is necessary as there

have been attempts in states across the country to change election laws to make it easier to nullify future results.

"Now we have a solemn duty to ensure that future efforts to undermine our elections cannot succeed," Pelosi said.

The bill would clarify in the law that the vice president's role presiding over the count is only ceremonial and that he or she cannot change the results. It also sets out that each state can only send one certified set of electors after Trump's allies had unsuccessfully tried to put together alternate slates of illegitimate pro-Trump electors in swing states where Biden won. "This bill will make it harder to convince people that they have the right to overthrow an election," Lofgren said.

The legislation would increase the threshold for individual lawmakers' objections to any state's electoral votes, requiring a third of the House and a third of the Senate to

object to trigger votes on the results in both chambers.

Currently, only one lawmaker in the House and one lawmaker in the Senate has to object. The House bill would set out very narrow grounds for those objections, an attempt to thwart baseless or politically motivated challenges.

In addition, the bill would require courts to get involved if state or local officials want to delay a presidential vote or refuse to certify the results.

The House vote comes as the Senate is moving on a similar track with enough Republican support to virtually ensure passage before the end of the year. After months of talks, House Democrats introduced their legislation Monday and held the quick vote two days later in order to send the bill across the Capitol and start to resolve differences. A bipartisan group of senators introduced legislation this summer and a Senate committee is expected to vote on it next week.

# Nine killed as Iran protests spread over woman's death

AP ■ DUBAI

Clashes between Iranian security forces and protesters angry over the death of a 22-year-old woman in police custody have killed at least nine people since the violence erupted over the weekend, according to a tally on Thursday by The Associated Press.

Widespread outages of Instagram and WhatsApp, which protesters use to share information about the government's rolling crackdown on dissent, continued on Thursday.

Authorities also appeared to disrupt internet access to the outside world, a tactic that rights activists say the government often employs in times of unrest.

The demonstrations in Iran began as an emotional outpouring over the death of Mahsa Amini, a young woman held by the country's morality police for allegedly violating its strictly enforced dress code.

Her death has sparked sharp condemnation from the United States, the European Union and the United Nations. The police say she died of a heart attack and was not mistreated, but her family has cast doubt on that account.

The protests have grown in the last four days into an open challenge to the government, with women removing their state-mandated headscarves in the streets and Iranians setting trash bins ablaze and calling for the downfall of the Islamic Republic itself.

"Death to the dictator!" has been a common cry in the protests.

Demonstrations have also rocked university campuses in Tehran and far flung western cities such as Kermanshah.



Although widespread, the unrest appears distinct from earlier rounds of nationwide protests triggered by pocket-book issues as Iran's economy staggers under heavy US sanctions.

The unrest that erupted in 2019 over the government's abrupt gasoline price hike mobilised working class masses in small towns.

Hundreds were killed as security forces cracked down, according to human rights groups, the deadliest violence since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran's state-run media this week reported demonstrations in at least 13 cities, including the capital, Tehran, as protesters vent anger over social repression.

Videos online show security forces firing tear gas and water canons to disperse the protests. London-based Amnesty International reported that officers fired birdshot and beat protesters with batons.

At least nine people have died in the confrontations, according to an AP count based on statements from Iran's

state-run and semiofficial media.

Officials have blamed unnamed foreign countries, which they claim are trying to foment unrest.

In Amini's home province in the northwest, Kurdistan, the provincial police chief said four protesters were killed by live fire.

In Kermanshah, the prosecutor said two protesters were killed by opposition groups, insisting that the bullets were not fired by Iran's security forces.

Meanwhile, three men affiliated with the Basij, a volunteer force under the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, were also killed in clashes in the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz and Mashhad, semiofficial media reported, bringing the death toll on both sides to nine.

As the protests spread, authorities shut down the internet in parts of the country, according to NetBlocks, a London-based group that monitors internet access, describing the restrictions as the most severe since the mass protests of November 2019.



# Contested Jerusalem holy site: Hamas threatens violence

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Palestinian militant group Hamas on Thursday threatened hostile actions against Israel over what it called "violations against Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque" ahead of the upcoming Jewish High Holidays.

Hamas's threats came just ahead of Sunday's Jewish new year, and a day after a group of Jewish religious extremists visited a contested holy site revered by both Jews and Muslims and blew the shofar — a ram's horn that's trumpeted in the run-up to and during the Jewish High Holidays.

The Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah, begins at sundown on Sunday, and in the succeeding weeks thousands of Israelis are expected to visit Jerusalem.

Omer Barlev, Israel's minister in charge of police, told Kan public radio on Wednesday that Israeli authorities would not limit Jewish visits to the contested Jerusalem holy site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Visitations and prayers by hard-line Jewish radicals at the site have triggered previous rounds of violence between Israel and the Palestinians.

For Jews, the site is the holiest on earth, the location of two ancient Temples.

# Khmer Rouge tribunal ends work after 16 years, 3 judgments

AP ■ PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA)

The international court convened in Cambodia to judge the Khmer Rouge for its brutal 1970s rule ended its work on Thursday after spending USD 337 million and 16 years to convict just three men of crimes after the regime cause the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million people.

In its final session, the UN-assisted tribunal rejected an appeal by Khieu Samphan, the last surviving leader of the Khmer Rouge government that ruled Cambodia from 1975-79.

It reaffirmed the life sentence he received after being convicted in 2018 of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Busloads of ordinary Cambodians turned up to watch the final proceedings of a tribunal that had sought to bring justice, accountability and explanations for the crimes.

Many of those attending Thursday's session lived through the Khmer Rouge

terror, including survivors Bou Meng and Chum Mey, who had given evidence at the tribunal over the years.

Khieu Samphan, sitting in a wheelchair and wearing a white windbreaker and a face mask, listened to the proceedings on headphones.

He was the group's nominal head of state but, in his trial defence, denied having real decision-making powers when the Khmer Rouge carried out a reign of terror to establish a utopian agrarian society, causing Cambodians' deaths from execution, starvation and inadequate medical care.

It was ousted from power in 1979 by an invasion from neighbouring communist state Vietnam.

"No matter what you decide, I will die in prison," Khieu Samphan said in his final statement of appeal to the court last year.

"I will die always remembering the suffering of my Cambodian people. I will die seeing that I am alone in front of you. I am judged symbolically rather



than by my actual deeds as an individual."

His appeal alleged the court made errors in legal procedures and interpretation and acted unfairly, making objections to more than 1,800 points.

But the court noted on Thursday that his appeal did not directly question the facts of the case as presented in

court. It rejected almost all arguments raised by Khieu Samphan, acknowledging an error and reversing its ruling on one minor count.

The court said it found the vast majority of Khieu Samphan's arguments "unfounded," and that many were "alternative interpretations of the evidence."

Thursday's ruling makes little practical difference. Khieu Samphan is 91 and already serving another life sentence for his 2014 conviction for crimes against humanity connected with forced transfers and disappearances of masses of people.

The court ordered that Khieu Samphan, who was arrested in 2007, be returned to the specially constructed jail where he has been kept.

His co-defendant Nuon Chea, the Khmer Rouge's No. 2 leader and chief ideologist, was convicted twice and received the same life sentence. Nuon Chea died in 2019 at age 93.

# 6.8 magnitude earthquake shakes Mexico, 1 dead



AP ■ MEXICO CITY

A powerful magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Mexico early Thursday, causing at least two deaths, damaging buildings and setting off landslides.

The earthquake struck at 1:19 a.m. Near the epicenter of a magnitude 7.6 quake that hit three days earlier in the western state of Michoacan. It was also blamed for two deaths.

The US Geological Survey said Thursday's earthquake was centered 31 miles (50 kilometers) south-southwest of Aguajalita, Michoacan, at a depth of 15 miles (24.1 kilometers).

Michoacan's state government said the quake was felt throughout the state. It reported damage to a building in the city of Uruapan and some landslides on highways.



# Uganda confirms 7 Ebola cases, races to halt outbreak

AP ■ KAMPALA (UGANDA)

Uganda confirmed seven Ebola infections on Thursday as authorities try to track down 43 contacts of known Ebola patients two days after authorities in the East African country announced an outbreak of the contagious disease.

A total of eight deaths, including one confirmed, are "attributable to the virus," said Dr. Henry Kyobe, a Ugandan military officer who is tracking Ebola cases.

He spoke of a "rapidly evolving" situation where "we think cases may rise in a few days."

The epicentre of the outbreak is the central Ugandan district of Mubende, whose main town lies along a highway into the capital, Kampala.

That travel link and several crowded artisanal gold mines there is concerning, Kyobe told the World Health Organisation.

Ugandan authorities have not yet found the source of the outbreak, and neither have they discovered the key first case.

But they were able to confirm an Ebola outbreak of the Sudan type earlier this week after testing a sample from a 24-year-old man who had been initially treated for other illnesses, including malaria and pneumonia, when he sought care in his home town.

Six others in the same area, including three children, died earlier in September after suffering what local officials called a strange illness.

There is no proven vaccine for the Sudan strain of Ebola, and "its very critical at this point that we treat this outbreak as serious, because we may not have the advantage that we have gained in terms of the advancement in medical countermeasures," said Dr. Patrick Otim, an epidemiologist with WHO in Africa.

# UK Govt formally confirms lifting of fracking ban

AP ■ LONDON

The UK government formally confirmed on Thursday that it's lifting a ban on fracking in England, arguing that the move will help boost the country's energy security amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Liz Truss announced within days of taking office earlier this month that she would reverse a 2019 ban on hydraulic fracturing, a controversial technique used to extract oil and gas from shale rock.

Britain needs to "explore all avenues available to us through solar, wind, oil and gas production — so it's right that we've lifted the pause to realise any potential sources of domestic gas", business and energy secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg said on Thursday.

Truss said she "will not be going ahead with anything that carries a risk", but stressed that "energy security is vital".

The UK government suspended fracking in November 2019, saying it wasn't possible to accurately predict tremors associated with the drilling.

## BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and In the matter of **AGRANTE INFRA LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers - B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address **DTJ-704, 7TH FLOOR DLF TOWERS - B, JASOLA NEW DELHI 110025** within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

**Date: 23/09/2022**  
**Place: New Delhi**

**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Arvinder Singh**  
**Director**  
**DIN: 00112063**

## BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DELHI REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 and In the matter of **AGRANTE REALTY LIMITED** having its registered office at **DTJ-704, 7th Floor DLF Towers - B, Jasola New Delhi 110025**, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **9th September, 2022** to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Haryana".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address **DTJ-704, 7TH FLOOR DLF TOWERS - B, JASOLA NEW DELHI 110025** within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

**Date: 23/09/2022**  
**Place: New Delhi**

**For and behalf of the Applicant**  
**Gurmeet Singh Kalsi**  
**Director**  
**DIN: 01137469**

## STATE BANK OF INDIA

Bahadurgarh Main Branch, District Jhajjar Ph. No. 01276-230617  
Email Id: sbi.00743@sbi.co.in

### [Rule-8(1)] SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of the State Bank of India, Bahadurgarh Main Branch, District Jhajjar under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on date mentioned below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 21th day of Sept. of the year 2022.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Bahadurgarh Main Branch, District Jhajjar. for an amount mentioned here below besides interest.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No	Name of Borrower / Guarantor & Loan A/c No.	Description of the immovable mortgage	Date of demand notice	Amount as per demand notice	Date of possession notice
1.	Brower M/s Chahar Tractors Near Ram Cinema Jhajjar Road Bahadurgarh-124507 through its Partner J. Sahil Kumar R/o H No A-3/153, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085	Equitable Mortgage of Property Freehold DDA built up MIG Flat No 136, 3rd Floor, Pocket -07, Sec-12, Dwarka Residential Scheme Dwarka, Phase-1, New Delhi vide Sale deed no 7940, Vol No 2079 dt 27.05.2005 in the name of Smt Sulaxna w/o Sh Satish Kumar.	16-07-2022	Rs.30,00,782/- (Rupees Thirty lakh and seven hundred eighty two rupees only) as on 15-07-2022	21-09-2022
2.	Manjeet Singh S/o Dhrampal, Zardakpur (61), Soldha, Jhajjar, Haryana-124507	3. Ravi Kumar Chahar S/o Attar Singh, Zardakpur(61) Soldha, Jhajjar, Haryana-124507 through its Guarantor Smt. Sulaxna w/o Satish Kumar(Guarantor & owner of collateral property) H No 153, Pocket-A-3, Rohini, New Delhi-110085			

**Date: 23/09/2022**  
**Place: Bahadurgarh (Jhajjar)**

**State Bank of India**  
**(Authorized Officer)**

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

### E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. **230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14-2RT**. The details are as under:

1	Name of the Work	Overhauling of Air Dryer of Trident make of Electric Locomotive.
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 47,87,984.52
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 95,800.00
4	Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender.	14.10.2022 (11:00 Hrs.)
5	Date & Time of Opening of tender document	14.10.2022 (After 11:00 Hrs.)
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

**Note:** (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2020-21-14-2RT Dated: 21-09-2022 2483/22

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Phone No. 011-26441015-18, Website: [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com)  
E-mail id: [complianceofficer@perfectpac.com](mailto:complianceofficer@perfectpac.com)

### NOTICE OF RECORD DATE FOR SUB-DIVISION/SPLIT OF EQUITY SHARES

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Company has passed the Resolution through Circulation on Thursday, September 22, 2022, has approved and fixed the "Record Date" on **Friday, October 21, 2022** for the purpose of ascertaining the name of shareholders entitled for Sub-division/Split of every 1 (one) Equity Share of the Company having face value of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) each fully paid up into 5 (five) Equity Shares of face value of Rs. 2/- (Rupees Two) each, as approved by the shareholders at Annual General Meeting of the Company held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 through Video Conferencing or Other Audio Visual Means.

The above information is available on the website of the Company [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com) and on the website of the stock exchange where the shares of the Company are listed, i.e., BSE Limited [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

For Perfectpac Limited  
Sd/-  
Sanjay Rajgarhia  
Managing Director



# Flagship schemes portal to help food processing units

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The convergence portal of the Government's three flagship schemes implemented by agriculture and food processing ministries will help micro units engaged in food processing, according to the Union Food Processing Ministry.

The convergence portal between the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on September 21.

After the launch, both Food Processing Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had expressed confidence that this initiative will add a new chapter in the lives of micro units engaged in food processing.

According to the food processing ministry, through this convergence, the eligible beneficiaries under PMFME and PMKSY schemes availing credit-linked subsidy would be able to avail an additional benefit of interest subvention at 3 per cent on the interest rate being charged by the banks over and above 35 per cent subsidy provided under the PMFME.

For the ease of approval of projects under both schemes, the AIF MIS portal has been modified for the acceptance of applications from the beneficiaries



under the PMFME and PMKSY scheme.

The PMFME beneficiaries would be able to apply directly for the benefit of interest subvention on the AIF portal with the detailed project report (DPR) approved under the PMFME, the ministry said in a statement.

Similarly, AIF beneficiaries eligible under the PMFME scheme can seek additional benefits of subsidy by applying in the PMFME MIS portal with the sanction letter under AIF and DPR, it added.

AIF, implemented by the Agriculture Ministry, is a medium to long-term debt financing facility started in July 2020 for the creation of post-harvest man-

agement infrastructure and building of community farming assets. Benefits under the scheme include 3 per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

The two other schemes PMFME and PMKSY are implemented by the Food Processing Ministry.

PMFME provides financial, technical and business support for the upgradation of micro food processing enterprises in the country, while PMKSY is envisaged as a comprehensive package that will result in the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

# Sensex tumbles 337 pts post Fed rate hike; FMCG cos buck trend

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks retreated for the second session on the trot on Thursday, in lock-step with a bearish trend overseas after the US Federal Reserve increased interest rates by 75 basis points and projected more rate hikes to quell scorching inflation.

The rupee plunging 90 paise to an all-time closing low of 80.96 against the US dollar further weighed on sentiment.

The hawkish stance by US Fed and anticipated rate increases by other global central banks sparked a sell-off across emerging markets, hitting equities, currencies and other asset classes.

Falling for the second session, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 337.06 points or 0.57 per cent to close at 59,119.72. During the day, it tanked 624 points or 1.04 per cent to 58,832.78.

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty went lower by 88.55 points or 0.50 per cent to end at 17,629.80.

PowerGrid was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, dropping 2.80 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank and UltraTech Cement.

On the other hand, Titan, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Maruti, ITC and Dr Reddy's were among the gainers, spurring as much as 2.73 per cent.

"Fed turned more hawkish



than anticipated increasing its rate forecast to 4.4 per cent by the end of 2022. The indication is that 125 bps more rate hikes can be expected in the next 2 policy meetings scheduled this year. Following this, the US dollar index rose above 111, depreciating INR to beyond 80.

"Indian stock market was able to sustain its resilience with limited cuts but if the rupee continues its weakness domestic market would turn less attractive for foreign investors in the short-term, effecting performance," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said, "Recessionary fears could keep globally linked sectors like IT, metals and pharma under pressure for some time."

"On the other hand, consumption and crude inputs sectors like FMCG, paints, tyres and autos are likely to benefit from strong domestic demand and fall in commodity prices," he added.

# Rupee tanks 83 paise to close at all-time low of 80.79 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged by 83 paise — its biggest single-day loss in nearly seven months — to close at an all-time low of 80.79 against the US dollar on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and its hawkish stance weighed on investor sentiments.

Forex traders said the US Fed's rate hike and escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine sapped risk appetite.

Moreover, the strength of the American currency in the overseas market, a muted trend in domestic equities, risk-off mood and firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 80.27, then fell further to an all-time intraday low of 80.95 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 80.79, down 83 paise over its previous close of 79.96. The rupee suffered its biggest single-day fall since February 24 when it had declined by 99 paise.

The US Fed hiked interest rates by 75 basis points to 3-3.25 per cent. It was the third straight 75 basis points hike. Fed Chair Jerome Powell reiterated the central bank's commitment to taming inflation.

Focus will be on Bank of Japan (BoJ) and Bank of England (BoE) monetary policies next, forex traders said.

Meanwhile, the dollar



index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.38 per cent to 110.06.

Besides the hawkish US Fed stance, the US Dollar extended gains against its major crosses after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced partial military mobilisation.

"An aggressive Fed Chair Jerome Powell and Russian President Vladimir Putin's escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine turned on the green light for King Dollar against most currencies," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Rupee along with other Asian peers tumbled to a record low.

"We believe the current downtrend in the rupee may continue for a while even after strong domestic fundamentals. The local currency will react to a stronger greenback but there could be outperformance among the regional currencies," Parmar said, adding that spot USD-INR now has resistance in the area of 81.25 to 81.40 while the previous top 80.12 would act as support.

# Air India signs agreement with Willis Lease Finance Corp



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Air India on Thursday said it has signed a definitive sale and lease back agreement with Nasdaq-listed Willis Lease Finance Corporation for 34 CFM56-5B engines installed on its Airbus A320 family fleet.

The engines will be covered under Willis Lease's ConstantThrust, which will deliver significant reliability and cost savings over a traditional MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operations) shop

visit programme, the company said in a statement.

Under the sale side of the transaction, Willis Lease will purchase 34 engines from Air India, powering 13 Airbus A321 aircraft and four Airbus A320 aircraft, it said.

Through the programme, Willis Lease will provide replacement and standby spare engines, allowing the airline to avoid potentially costly and unpredictable shop visits on engines powering a transitioning aircraft fleet.

# 'Recent rain in Jharkhand, Bihar, & UP to slavage kharif paddy production loss to some extent'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Recent good rains in Jharkhand, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh will save the paddy crop and arrest to some extent the anticipated loss in India's rice output in this Kharif season, according to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Director A K Singh.

In its first estimate, the Agriculture Ministry has pegged a 6 per cent drop in the rice production at 104.99 million tonnes in the Kharif season of the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), from over the year-ago period.

Paddy is the main Kharif (summer) crop, sowing of which had begun with the onset of the Southwest Monsoon in June and harvesting starts next month. Speaking to PTI, IARI Director A K Singh said the lag in paddy sowing due to poor rains in a few states has been a cause of concern.

Fortunately in the last few days, there have been good rains in eastern UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. This has come as a great relief to farmers as at this

particular time water is required for the long-duration paddy varieties crop, he said.

The paddy crop is in the most active phase of growth and this rain will be very helpful, he said, and added, "This (rains) will in fact cool down the anticipated paddy crop loss of 10-15 per cent due to non-availability of rains and poor irrigation."

The rice production loss will be arrested to some extent, which will be captured in the next crop estimate by the ministry, he added.

Till last week, paddy coverage remained lower mainly in Jharkhand by 9.37 lakh hectares, followed by Madhya Pradesh (6.32 lakh hectares), West Bengal (3.65 lakh hectares), Uttar Pradesh (2.48 lakh hectares) and Bihar (1.97 lakh hectares) on account of poor rainfall.

The IARI Director said otherwise, the paddy prospects are bright in the northwestern states of Punjab, western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Many states have started the harvest of early varieties of paddy like in Pusa-Basmati variety 1509 and 1692.

# Gold jumps ₹442; silver climbs ₹558

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price in the national capital rose by Rs 442 to Rs 50,399 per 10 grams on Thursday amid a rise in international precious metal prices and sharp rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the yellow metal had closed at Rs 49,957 per 10 grams.

Silver also climbed by Rs 558 to Rs 58,580 per kilogram from Rs 58,022 per kg in the previous trade.

The rupee depreciated 51 paise to an all-time low of 80.47 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and its hawkish stance weighed on investor sentiments.



In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,677 per ounce, while silver was flat at USD 19.69 per ounce.

"Gold prices recovered sharply paring early losses as dollar index fell from 20 year highs during the day," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities) at HDFC Securities.

# BPO services provider ICCS plans to hire over 7,000 people in next 12 months



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Business process outsourcing service provider ICCS on Thursday said it plans to hire over 7,000 people in the next 12 months across business verticals.

ICCS currently has delivery centres in eight locations and manages 15 million customer interactions every month with the support of over 6,600 executives, ICCS said in a statement. The company will consider hiring 7,000 talent in a variety of areas, including customer support, operations, out-

bound and inbound support, market research, human resource, finance, marketing, customer satisfaction surveys among others.

ICCS, after generating Rs 115 crore in revenue in 2021-2022, now aims to reach Rs 175 crore by the end of this financial year.

"Alongside actively recruiting new talent, we onboard 500 plus callers every month across multiple geographies so that we are able to serve our diverse customer base better," ICCS CEO and founder Divij Singhal added.

# Ageas Federal Life Insurance becomes first life insurer with foreign partner as majority stakeholder

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ageas Federal Life Insurance on Thursday said its partner Ageas Insurance International has raised its stake to 74 per cent, making the company the country's first life insurer having a foreign partner as majority shareholder.

Belgium-based shareholder Ageas Insurance International NV has completed the acquisition of the remaining 25 per cent stake from IDBI Bank, taking its overall stake to 74 per cent from the earlier-held 49 per cent, a company release said.

## BUSINESS BRIEF

### SRM OBSERVES WORLD TOURISM DAY

**Kattankulathur:** SRM Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur observed World Tourism Day at the institute's premises.

The chief guest of the event was Sandeep Nanduri, Director of Tourism and Managing Director of Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC). The guest of honor was Manpreet Kaur, Managing Director of VIMAAN Aviation Academy & Executive Cabin crew of Gulf Stream. The event was presided over by SRMIST's Registrar S.Ponnusamy, Director (IHM) D. Antony Ashok Kumar, and Vice Principal (IHM) Lalitha Shri among others.



### CLIMATE CHANGE BURDENS WOMEN WORKERS

**Mumbai:** The impact of climate change and its mitigation or adaptation measures that exclude women in decision-making and overlook their specific needs can compound the challenges to achieving gender equality in the world of work. For the past 10 years, ActionAid Association (AAA) has been working closely with women groups of Cooch Behar, which is experiencing extreme weather events, and engaging with tea plantation workers of the neighbouring communities, said Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director

### HEALTHY WORKPLACE AIDS TO REVENUE GROWTH

**Mumbai:** As per a recent Health & Wellness survey conducted by MediBuddy, a healthy workplace contributes significantly to revenue growth. The survey involves a workforce of more than 150 corporate clientele across the IT/ITES, banking, FMCG, manufacturing, and allied sectors. "There's an old adage 'health is wealth'. It holds even more prominence and value in today's day and age," said Satish Kannan, co-founder & CEO, MediBuddy.

# Loan disbursals by microfinance institutions rise in Q1 of 2023

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Loan disbursals by microfinance institutions during the first quarter of 2022-23 increased to ₹45,830 crore as compared to ₹25,503 crore in the same period last fiscal, a report by Micro-Finance Institutions Network (MFIN) said.

MFIN, a self-regulatory organisation recognised by RBI, said in the report that the number of loans disbursed in the first quarter of the current fiscal stood at 116 lakh, as compared to 71 lakh in the same period of last financial year.

CEO of MFIN Alok Misra said in a statement that after the announcement of harmonised regulations for microfinance, most of the institutions took some time in making policy changes and adapting to new guidelines, but were still able to record a growth of 23.5 per cent in portfolio on a year-on-year basis.

"This will see further strengthening in the coming quarters with a supportive operating and regulatory environment," he added.

# MFIs' gross loan portfolio rises 23.5% to ₹2.93 L crore as of June 2022

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Micro lenders' gross loan portfolio (GLP) rose by 23.5 per cent to ₹93,154 crore in the April-June quarter of 2022 compared to the year-ago period, a report said on Thursday.

The GLP grew 2.7 per cent during the June quarter compared to ₹2.85 lakh crore at the end of the preceding March quarter, the report by industry lobby grouping and RBI-recognised self-regulatory organization Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) said.

The body's chief executive

and director Alok Misra said he expects a further strengthening of the portfolios in the coming quarters with a supportive operating and regulatory environment.

"After the announcement of harmonized regulations for microfinance in Mar'22, most institutions took some time in making policy changes and adapting to the new guidelines, but the industry was still able to record a growth of 23.5 per cent in portfolio," he said, reflecting on the quarter gone by.

Its chairperson Devesh Sachdev said the credit quali-

ty of post-Covid disbursements is at 95 per cent plus.

"During the remaining period of FY22-23, riding on robust branch expansion, pent up demand and conducive policy, the sector is poised for sustainable growth," Sachdev said.

Banks continue to hold the largest share in the GLP but the same has slipped to 38.4 per cent in June from 40 per cent in March, the report said, adding that dedicated NBFC-MFIs are the second largest provider of micro-credit with a 35 per cent share in GLP.

# Indian startups raise over \$995 mn VC funding in Aug

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the funding winter, 128 Indian startups have raised over USD 995 million (around Rs 8,000 crore) venture capital funding in August, GlobalData said on Thursday.

The funds raised in August are 9.7 per cent more than that in the previous month, the data and analytics company said in a statement.

Aurojyoti Bose, Lead Analyst at GlobalData, said: "Although the total VC funding amount still remains below USD 1 billion akin to July, August

managed to reverse the decline in fundraising, despite a 2.3 per cent fall in deal volume." The growth has come at a time when fundraising in other key global markets such as the US and UK witnessed decline. "China and India were the two notable exceptions to this trend," Bose said. An analysis of GlobalData's Financial Deals Database revealed that India saw the announcement of 1,239 VC funding deals during January to August 2022, while the disclosed funding value in the year-ago period stood at USD 17.7 billion.

# Hero MotoCorp hikes two-wheeler prices by up to ₹1K

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hero MotoCorp on Thursday said it has increased prices of its two-wheelers by up to Rs 1,000 to partially offset the impact of cost inflation.

In a regulatory filing, the company said, it has made an upward revision in the ex-showroom prices of its motorcycles and scooters, with immediate effect.



"The price revision has been necessitated to partially offset the impact of cost inflation," it said, adding, the hike "will be up to ₹1,000 and the exact quantum of increase will vary by model and market".

Hero MotoCorp sells a variety of motorcycles and scooters ranging from entry level bike 'HF 100' priced at ₹55,450 to XPULSE 200 4V priced at ₹1.36 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).



# INDIA'S WAIT IS OVER

Captain Harmanpreet powers India women to first series win in England in 23 years

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

**S**kipper Harmanpreet Kaur smashed a scintillating unbeaten ton to power India to a comprehensive 88-run win in the second ODI, that sealed country's first series win against England since 1999.

A vintage Harmanpreet rekindled the memories of 2017 World Cup with a magnificent 143 not out which came off just 111 balls as India put on board a mammoth 333 for 5.

India bundled out England for 245 in 44.5 overs with medium pacer Renuka Singh (4/57) claiming four wickets on Wednesday night.

Danni Wyatt's 58-ball 65 was the lone bright spot, in an otherwise, dismal show by England batters.

The last time Indian women won an ODI series in England was in 1999 when they triumphed 2-1.

Chasing the imposing total, what England needed was a brisk start, but Renuka denied them by dismissing two top-order batter in Emma Lamb (15) and Sophia Dunkley (1).

Tammy Beaumont (6) was run out as the hosts were reduced to 47 for 3 by the end of the eighth over.

Alice Capsey (39) and Wyatt stitched 55 runs for the fourth wicket and then Wyatt shared another 65 runs with skipper Amy Jones (39) before the England's chase fell apart with Renuka cleaning up Wyatt in the 30th over.

Towards the end, Charlie Dean (37) and Kate Cross (14) tried their best but the



asking was too tall as India recorded a magnificent win.

Sent into bat, Harmanpreet smashed 18 fours and four sixes en route her 111-ball knock and also enjoyed a fine 112-run

stand for the fourth wicket with Harleen Deol (58 off 72 balls).

She also added 50 with Pooja Vastrakar (18) and another 71 runs in four overs with Deepti Sharma (15 not out) for

the unbroken sixth wicket stand.

However, it was in the last three overs in which Harmanpreet literally took the game away from England's grasp as the 334-run target in a WODI always looked

## India eager to give befitting farewell to retiring Jhulan at Lord's: Harman

PTI ■ CANTERBURY

**T**he series already in the pocket, India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants to give a befitting farewell to veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami by winning the "special" final ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday.

Goswami, 39, is set to bid adieu to the game after a glorious two decade-long career at the end of the ongoing tour of England, and Harmanpreet feels a series sweep would be the perfect gift to the fast bowler.

The Lord's game is very special for us because it's Jhulan's retirement and we wanted to enjoy that game without any pressure and I'm really happy that we were able to win today and now we can just have fun in that game," the India skipper said after trouncing hosts England by 88 runs to win a series on their soil after 23 years.

The last time the Indian women

won an ODI series in England was in 1999 when they triumphed 2-1.

"It's very important (to win) because that will be her last game. It will be a very emotional moment for all of us and we definitely want to win that game," Harmanpreet said.

"Moreover, after winning the series now we just want to have fun because I know it's the last game for her."

The skipper said Goswami has been a true inspiration for all the players, including herself.

"She's someone who has taught us a lot," said Harmanpreet, who made her ODI debut at the 2009 World Cup under Goswami's leadership.

"When I debuted she was a leader and I learned a lot from her and now our young bowlers, like Renuka (Singh) and Meghna Singh, they are also learning from her. They are learning how she bowls and getting that rhythm from her. She's been a great inspiration for all of us and we've learned a lot from her."

ures.

The worst sufferer was debutant left-arm seamer Freya Kemp, who did decently till the end of her seventh over in which she had conceded only 28 runs.

Such was Harmanpreet's dominance that Deepti Sharma, who still holds the individual record (188) by an Indian batter in WODIs, was more of a spectator during their sixth wicket stand.

**Brief Scores: India Women** 333/5 in 50 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 143\*, Harleen Deol 58, Freya Kemp 1/82). **England:** 245 all out in 44.2 overs (Danni Wyatt 65; Renuka Singh 4/57).

## Federer teams up with Nadal at Laver Cup for farewell match

AP ■ LONDON

**R**oger Federer will partner long-time rival Rafael Nadal in the final match of his glittering career at the Laver Cup in London on Friday.

The Swiss great has enjoyed a storied rivalry with the Spaniard over nearly two decades and together they have won 42 Grand Slam singles titles in a golden era for the men's game.

The two veterans, representing Team Europe at the Laver Cup, will face Team World doubles opponents Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock in Friday's evening session at the O2 arena.

The six-strong Team Europe also includes Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray -- the other two members of the so-called "Big Four".

Federer, whose most recent competitive match was a loss to Hubert Hurkacz in last year's Wimbledon quarter-finals, has been struggling with a knee problem and will not play singles at the Ryder Cup-style event in London.

"Of course, it's super special playing with Rafa," Federer said at a packed pre-tournament press conference on Thursday. "Feels really different, you know."

"Also just walking out on court and having the chance to play with the likes of Rafa or Novak also in the past has been an



amazing experience for me.

"So to be able to do that one more time, I'm sure it's going to be wonderful. I will try my very best. I hope to be good out there, and of course I will enjoy it but it will be hard."

Nadal, who first played Federer on the ATP Tour in 2004, said he was looking forward to an "unforgettable" match alongside the Swiss.

"After all the amazing things that we shared together on and off court, to be part of this historic moment is going to be something amazing, unforgettable for me," said the 36-year old.

## Osaka withdraws from Pan Pacific Open, Pliskova loses

AP ■ TOKYO

**D**efending champion Naomi Osaka withdrew from the Pan Pacific Open ahead of her second-round match due to illness on Thursday.

"I am really sorry that I am not able to compete today," Osaka said in a statement.

"It's an honor to be able to play at the Toray Pan Pacific Open in front of the amazing fans here in Japan. This has and always will be a special tournament for me and I wish I could have stepped on court, but my body won't let me. I will see you next year."

Osaka didn't specify the illness and said before the tournament she was fit and healthy. She was champion of the previous Pan Pacific in 2019 and advanced to the second round this week after Daria Saville retired with a knee injury in their first-round match.

Fifth-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil benefited by a walkover from Osaka's withdrawal and has a quarterfinal against fourth-seeded Veronika Kudermetova, who dominated



Mexican qualifier Fernanda Contreras Gomez 6-0, 6-1.

In other second-round matches, Petra Martic upset sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova 6-3, 6-4, and in a match of unseeded players,

## Raducanu surges into quarter-finals at Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

**F**ormer US Open champion Emma Raducanu reached the quarter-finals of the Korea Open on Thursday, beating 396th-ranked Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium in straight sets.

Raducanu, who crashed out of the US Open in the first round last month, overcame a sluggish start and a late wobble to win 6-3, 7-5 in Seoul.

The 19-year-old Briton, the sixth seed, will face third seed Magda Linette of Poland next.

Liudmila Samsonova squeezed past China's Xinyu Wang 7-6 (5), 6-3.

In Friday's quarterfinals, Martic will play China's Zhang Shuai, Samsonova faces third-seeded Garbine Muguruza, and America's Claire Liu meets China's Qinwen Zheng.



## Mancini 'not worried' about injury crisis

AP ■ MILAN

**R**oberto Mancini on Thursday said that he is not letting Italy's injury crisis worry him before the Nations League visit of England, a team he says are one of the world's best.

Mancini lost midfielders Marco Verratti, Sandro Tonali, Lorenzo Pellegrini and Matteo Politano in the lead up to Friday's League A, Group 3 match at the San Siro, one of the European champions' last until next year, because they failed to qualify for the upcoming Word Cup in Qatar.

He told reporters on Thursday that AC Milan's Tonali would miss the England match and Monday's trip to Budapest to face group leaders Hungary as he "wasn't in great condition" when he arrived at the Azzurri's Coverciano training centre.

"I'm not worried. It's a match that we're taking on in a delicate period for us as we're missing a lot of players," said Mancini.

"Unfortunately, we have had problems for a long time. Not having lots of players playing in the league compared to the past is a problem but we can't keep going on about it. We need to find solutions and we will, just

as we did in the past."

England risk being relegated to League B. Gareth Southgate's team sit bottom of the group without a win.

England are five points behind Hungary and face Germany on Monday after taking on recent bogey team Italy.

"They're a great team, they were at the Euro and they were a few years before that too. They're a team full of great young players and can still get better," said Mancini.

"I think they're one of the best teams in the world. They're bursting with talent, especially in attack. They have a lot of players starting with Kane who is extraordinary. Then all the young guys he has around him can also make the difference."

Gianluigi Donnarumma will return to the San Siro as an Italy player for the first time since March's Nations League finals, when he was booed and whistled by home supporters livid at his decision to move to PSG on a free transfer.

Captain Leonardo Bonucci called the supporters who harangued Donnarumma "brainless", saying that "all players who play for the national team represent their country and represent you who's booing".

## Aditi to lead Indian charge in Women's Indian Open golf

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**O**lympian Aditi Ashok and Diksha Dagar will lead a strong Indian field in the 14th edition of Hero Women's Indian Open golf tournament, which will be held after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aditi is India's first and only Women's Indian Open winner and has since graduated to LPGA. She came tantalisingly close to winning a medal in Tokyo Olympics, finishing fourth.

Besides Aditi and Diksha, the Indian line-up also includes Tvesa Malik, Amandeep Drall, Vani Kapoor, Ridhima Dillawari, Camisole Chevalier, Aditi and Caroline Hedwall.

At least five former winners have already confirmed their participation, including defending champion Christine Wolf, 2018 winner Becky Morgan, Camisole Chevalier, Aditi and Caroline Hedwall.

Four-time Ladies European Tour winner Linn Grant will also be seen in action in the \$400,000 tournament, to be held at Gurgaon's DLF Golf and Country Club from October 20 to 23.

Regulars in domestic circuit, Pranab Urs, Hitachi Bakshi, Jahnavi Bakshi, Seher Atwal and Sneha Singh will also get a chance to rub shoulders with the best in the business.

This year the field has been curtailed to 114 golfers keeping in mind day light problem.

"We would like to have a much bigger field but we had to shorten the field due to limited number of day light hours in the month of October," said Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI) secretary general Champika Sayal during the launch of the event here on Thursday.



## Julius Baer Cup: Indian GMs Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa sail to quarterfinals

PTI ■ NEW YORK

**T**eenaged Indian Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa moved to the quarterfinals after finishing second and fourth respectively in the preliminary phase of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament early on Thursday.

While World Champion Magnus Carlsen finished with 34 points, way ahead of the second-placed Erigaisi, who had 25

points, American Hans Niemann took the third spot with 24 points.

Praggnanandhaa, who made a strong start with three victories on day 1, ended up with 23 points. His tally included five wins, eight draws and two defeats.

Carlsen was in stupendous form, winning his last five games including three on the final day of the preliminaries to end with 10 victories.

His only loss was to Niemann, against whom he

resigned after making only one move.

The 19-year-old Erigaisi endured a poor final day, losing to Vincent Keymer (Germany) and Dutch GM Anish Giri after beginning with a draw against Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland.

But despite a forgettable day, the Indian GM managed to finish second. He scored seven wins along with four draws and four losses.

The 17-year old Praggnanandhaa, on the other

contenders for the title," Upadhyay said.

"Our aim now is to take advantage of the home crowd to showcase a scintillating performance and hopefully win a medal," he added.

India are placed in Group D in the World Cup alongside England, Spain and Wales.

Since making his debut in 2014, Upadhyay has so far turned out for India in 133 matches and was also a member of the team's historic Bronze medal-winning side at the Tokyo Olympics.

But Upadhyay, who has 31 goals to his name, is in no mood to take his place in the team for granted.

"I feel very proud while donning the Indian jersey every time I step onto the pitch, always keeping in mind that this could very well be the last



## 'Want to capitalise on home advantage to end WC medal drought'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

**S**enior men's hockey team forward Lalit Upadhyay wants to take advantage of the home conditions to end India's 48-year World Cup medal drought when the country hosts the game's showpiece event next year.

India are set to host the men's hockey World Cup for the second consecutive time jointly in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29 next year.

In the last edition of the event in 2018, India crashed out in the quarterfinals losing 1-2 to the Netherlands.

"Unfortunately, we conceded a goal in the dying minutes of the quarterfinal game in the previous World Cup in Bhubaneswar but since then the team has improved leaps and bounds, we are considered as serious

time I experience this.

"When I first joined, I worked really hard to make my place in the team and worked on my fitness to match the level of the team," he said.

"Over the last few years, I have gotten more consistency in my game and I'm proud that I'm considered one of the senior players in the team and embrace the added responsibilities that come along with it."

Prior to the World Cup, India will face Spain and New Zealand in the FIH Hockey Pro League matches to be held in Odisha from October 28.

"We have positive momentum from the Commonwealth Games and Olympics. The awareness among the general public for hockey in the last few years is a real motivation for us to give our best at the camp and the World Cup," Upadhyay said.



# DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Jasprit Bumrah's fitness status will be a matter of attention when an out of sorts Indian team will look at course correction options against Australia in the second T20 International and strive to keep the three-match series alive, here Friday.

Bumrah, who has been out of action since the end of England tour, skipped the Asia Cup due to back injury.

However, to everyone's surprise, the team management didn't play him during the high-scoring first T20I in Mohali, raising doubts whether he has still attained peak fitness or not.

To compound the team's worries, the 'three-and-a-half' pronged pace attack, including Hardik Pandya, conceded 150 runs in 14 overs.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the seasoned pro, has already been taken to cleaners. He has leaked 49 runs in the three penultimate overs (19th) that he bowled against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

In this backdrop, a fit and fiery Bumrah is a pre-requisite for India as the home bowlers are increasingly being found out on batting belters.

The worst part about the team is that with five more official T20Is left before the opening T20 World Cup game against Pakistan on October 23, the Indian team looks highly unsettled.

If the approach of top three was a problem going into the Asia Cup, the bigger worry has been the bowling which has been exposed in good batting conditions.

Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been India's go-to spinner in all conditions, isn't looking menacing anymore. He has been expensive in the last few games and he will have to find a way to trouble the batters on wickets which doesn't offer much purchase.

However, all-rounder Axar Patel, who



India vs Australia  
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was shod in as a like-for-like replacement of injured Ravindra Jadeja, has once again proved his worth with a three-wicket haul on Tuesday.

India were also sloppy on the field, as they were guilty of dropping three catches, which drew criticism from former head coach Ravi Shastri.

In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team beyond the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

Designated finisher Dinesh Karthik didn't get much chance on Tuesday and is likely to be given extended game time with the management looking to keep all options open going into the world cup.

Australia, on the other hand, have looked like a well-oiled machine, despite the absence of key players such as David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Marsh.

All-rounder Cameron Green nicely slipped into the shoes of Warner with a sizzling fifty at the top in only his second T20I, while Steven Smith and debutant Tim David also gave the team the required impetus with crucial cameos.

The experienced Matthew Wade too lived up to the finisher's role with a stellar 45 not out off 21 and India will have to pull up their socks to stop Australia from going on a rampage.

Australia, however, would hope for a more disciplined show from their bowling unit after the pace trio of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Green bled runs in Mohali.

The wicket at VCA stadium, however, will be different than the Mohali track. It is expected to be on the slower side, which will make bowlers' role more prominent in this game.

With dew setting in the evening, teams will prefer to chase than defend totals.

## 4 injured in rush to buy tickets in Hyderabad

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Four people got injured when a stampede-like situation prevailed on Thursday at the Gymkhana Grounds in the city, where thousands of cricket-lovers gathered to buy tickets for the India-Australia T20 match scheduled here for September 25.

The injured people, including two women, were hospitalised and were fine, police said.

The stampede-like situation took place as a large crowd tried to get in at once when it rained, they said.

Police said they faced a tough time in managing the situation.

About 15,000 people gathered at the ground and some of them said they arrived there early on Thursday.

Some of them alleged that tickets were sold in black.

Telangana Sports Minister V Srinivas Goud on Wednesday said tough action would be taken against those selling tickets in black.

Media reports said the rush for tickets is because Hyderabad is hosting an international match after over two years.



## Experience of playing IPL in India helped to stay calm: Tim David

PTI ■ NAGPUR

The experience of playing in Indian conditions during his IPL stint helped him to stay calm under pressure during the opening T20I, said big-hitting Singapore-born Australian Tim David on Thursday.

The 26-year-old made his IPL debut for Royal Challengers Bangalore in Sharjah against Chennai Super Kings last year. He was then bought by Mumbai Indians and played eight matches for the franchise this year.

"I think having had the experience of playing in India before and playing a fair bit of T20 cricket recently, I felt calm the other night because I knew that we're in a good position to be able to chase those runs," said David during a virtual press conference.

"And the way the pitch was playing so I think to get over the line, you know, that still has to happen. It doesn't just happen straight away. And that was some brilliant performances from our batsman, the chase that score down."

David scored a 14-ball 18 on debut and added 62 with Matthew Wade (45) to guide Australia to a four-wicket win in the first T20 on Tuesday.

"Having some good experience playing in India, I think finishing off games and understanding how it can go and how the pitches can play or when it kind of lights up in front of you, so you know, there can be an advantage batting second in Indian conditions."

"That was a good experience - that IPL - to draw on to the other night out there in the middle," added David, who is 6 ft 5

inches tall."

Talking about his role in the Australian team, David said: "I think my role on the team here is to be batting in the middle order. So that means that I'm not going to be facing a lot of balls in matches."

"And I'm probably going to try and put the foot down with my batting first or if we're chasing, trying to finish off the game. So I've got to tick off my boxes of trying to play powerful shots, trying to clear the boundary and I think that's a big part of my training."

"So I try and get volume in the nets because, let's say, in a three-match series here I like face 20 balls ... So I've got a lot of my work done in the nets. And be prepared to kind of be on for every ball."

"I think it's pretty straightforward. It's very similar to what I've been playing T20 cricket over the last year and 18 months so I guess I'm trying to bring my experiences that I've had so far and just take the game on and help the team win games."

Asked if he had ever thought that he would be playing the T20 World Cup for Australia, David said: "To be honest, I didn't give it very much thought. It's just it's kind of evolved naturally to be here at this stage. Yeah, I haven't thought about that too much."

"I just look to win a game which is in front of me and don't put any expectations on that."

"I just try and keep the game very simple. I don't look too far ahead of myself. I'm trying to stay pretty grounded and train harder than that and just improve as much as I can."

## Absolutely nothing to worry about, Bumrah is ready: Surya

PTI ■ NAGPUR

India batter Suryakumar Yadav on Thursday played down concerns regarding Jasprit Bumrah's fitness, saying there is "absolutely nothing to worry about" and the pace spearhead is ready to return after recovering from his back injury.

Bumrah didn't feature in the opening T20I against Australia with the team management deciding to give the pacer a little more time since he was returning after recovering from a back injury.

The India pacer has been out of action since the end of the England tour and also skipped the Asia Cup due to the injury.

"Actually I am not aware of any such communication, it is not my department, you should not ask me about it (laughs), these are for physios and team management to answer."

"But in the team, the environment is good and all are first-class fit and ready for second T20I," Suryakumar said when asked about Bumrah's match fitness and also where Umesh Yadav fit in the scheme of things.

When he was probed further on Bumrah, Suryakumar said: "Absolutely, he is ready, nothing to worry."

India, sans Bumrah, put up a shoddy performance as they failed to defend 208 in the series opener, with the pacers going for 150 runs.

However, Suryakumar came out in defence of the bowlers.

"Actually after the last game, we didn't have any discussion but as you have seen last day the match went on long and there was also dew, and you also have to give credit to them, they kept attacking, we are trying our best," he said.

In his comeback match, Harshal Patel conceded 49 runs for no wicket, which included a 22-run 18th over.

Asked if Harshal's variations are becoming predictable, Suryakumar said: "He is very deceptive. I don't bat in net sessions much, but as much as I have played him and also Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar) bhai is also difficult to decipher..."

"But Harshal's slower balls and his different variations are really deceptive and he has just come from an injury, so this much benefit of doubt should be allowed."



In batting, India's aggressive approach reaped dividends as KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav took the team across the 200-mark after top order batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were dismissed early.

"Assessing the pitch is very important. Everyone is playing their role, they know their responsibility, what they have to do in different situations."

"The openers know their role really well and then it comes down to middle order how we need to set up the game of what they have to do so, and it was set up well by the finishers, everything is going on really well and we will look to do it again and again," he said.

Asked if any particular role has been assigned to him to attack the spinners in middle orders, Suryakumar quipped: "I have hit two sixes against fast bowlers also, so I should get a little credit for that, what say?"

"I'm very flexible, no particular role. Actually plan myself for every situation. I am flexible to bat in anywhere, whichever number I'm asked to bat, I know I just have to do my role and I am happy to do it."



## Thakur, Sen star in India 'A' win in 1st ODI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A superb performance by medium-pacers Shardul Thakur (4 for 32) and Kuldeep Sen (3 for 30) helped set up a seven-wicket win for India 'A' against New Zealand 'A' in the first unofficial ODI here on Thursday.

Sent in to bat by India 'A' captain Sanju Samson, incisive bowling by Thakur and Sen had the visiting team in trouble from the start.

At one stage, the New Zealanders looked in danger of being bundled out for less than 100 but some rearguard action by Michael Rippon (61, 104 balls, 4 fours) and Joe Walker (36, 49 balls, 3 fours, 1 six) helped them post 167 in 40.2 overs.

The Sanju Samson-led team overhauled the target set by the Kiwis in 31.5 overs with the captain (31 not out, 1 four, 3 sixes) and Rajat Patidar (45, 41 balls, 7 fours) finishing the job.

There were also useful contributions from opener Ruturaj Gaikwad (41, 54 balls 3 fours, 2 sixes) and Rahul Tripathi (31, 40

balls, 4 fours).

Earlier, on a pitch offering pace and bounce for the bowlers, Thakur struck the first blow by casting Chad Bowes (10) with NZ 'A' at 14 in the third over. In his next over, he had Dane Cleaver (4) caught by Sen.

Sen got into the act by dismissing Joe Carter (1) and Rachin Ravindra (10) in the space of three balls to leave the Kiwis at 26 for 4.

In his next over, Sen dismissed Tom Bruce for a duck to leave the opposition in shambles at 27 for 5.

Captain Robert O'Donnell and Sean Solia got down to the job of resurrecting the innings and took the score to 51 before the latter was run out by Rishi Dhawan.

O'Donnell batted for 39 balls for his 21 before nicking one to 'keeper Samson. Logan Van Beek (1) fell to Kuldeep Yadav and NZ 'A' slumped to 74 for 8.

Rippon was joined by off-spinner Walker and the duo slowly but surely mounted a fight. Rippon was the more cautious of the two and gathered

runs and reached 50 from 82 balls. No.10 batter Walker hit the first six of the match in the 29th over, slogging Shahbaz Ahmed over mid-wicket.

The duo took the score past 150 and looked good for some more before Rajat Patidar's throw from the cover caught Walker short of his crease. The Rippon-Walker partnership for the ninth wicket yielded 89 runs and gave respectively to the total.

Rippon fell to Thakur for a well-compiled 61 as the Kiwis folded for 167.

Speaking after the game, Thakur, the star performer, said he was surprised to see New Zealand lose five wicket in the Powerplay. "Because of 9 AM start, there was something in the air which we were able to exploit," he added.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 'A' 167 all out in 40.2 overs (Michael Rippon 61, Joe Walker 36, Robert O'Donnell 22, Shardul Thakur 4 for 32, Kuldeep Sen 3 for 30) lost to India 'A' 170 for 3 in 31.5 overs (Rajat Patidar 45 not out, Ruturaj Gaikwad 41, Rahul Tripathi 31, Sanju Samson 29 not out).

## IPL to return to its old home and away format in 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will return to its original, pre-COVID-19 home-and-away format from the 2023 season, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly has conveyed to the board's affiliated state units.

The IPL has been held at only a few venues since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 as the lucrative league unfolded behind close doors across three venues in UAE -- Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

In 2021 too, the tournament was held across four venues -- Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Chennai.

However, with the pandemic under control, the cash-rich league will return to its old format

in which each team plays one home and one away match.

"The next season of men's IPL will also go back to the home and away format with all ten teams playing their home matches at their designated venues," read a Ganguly's note to state units.

The note gave them a "snapshot" of the ongoing domestic season.

### WOMEN IPL

The BCCI is also working to host the inaugural edition of the much-anticipated Women's IPL early next year.

It was reported that the tournament is likely to take place in March after the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

"The BCCI is currently work-

ing on the much-awaited Women's IPL. We are expecting to start the first season early next year," Ganguly wrote in the letter dated September 20.

The Women's IPL is expected to raise the standard of women's cricket in India.

Besides the Women's IPL, the BCCI is also launching a girls under-15 ODI tournament.

"We are glad to introduce a girls U15 One Day tournament from this season. Women's cricket has seen phenomenal growth across the world and our national team has been performing well. This new tournament will create a pathway for our young girls to play at the national and international level," Ganguly wrote.

## Indrajith, Gowtham take South past West's score

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

Baba Indrajith's scintillating hundred and Krishnappa Gowtham's rearguard 43 took South Zone past West Zone's first-innings total on an interesting second day of the Duleep Trophy final.

Indrajith's 118 off 125 balls, along with contributions from Manish Pandey (48) and Gowtham (43 off 55 balls), ensured that South finished the second day on 318 for seven -- 48 runs clear of West Zone's first innings score of 270.

The match did turn out to be interesting when South were in a spot at 243 for six, but all-rounders Gowtham and T Ravi Teja (26) added 63 for the seventh wicket in just 16.2 overs, and in the process, surpassed West's total.

However, with the final being a five-day affair South are



still some distance away from ensuring a healthy lead, which might not happen with only Teja remaining among the recognised batters.

He has R Sai Kishore (5/86 in 35.3 overs) for company, but

the left-arm spinner would be more happy that he could grab a fifth five-for and deny young Het Patel (98) a chance to get to the coveted three-figure mark.

Mayank Agarwal pounced his catch, but later, when he

came on to bat, he was caught in the slip cordon by Yashasvi Jaiswal off seamer Atit Seth's delivery.

Hanuma Vihari (25), whose Test batting slot is in line was then caught plumb in-front,

but Indrajith was more dominant during their stand of 61.

The Tamil Nadu right-hander played some gorgeous drives but was equally adept while working the deliveries pitched on his legs.

His 13th first-class hundred had 14 fours in it and the 105-run partnership for the fourth wicket, with the seasoned Pandey, put South in the driver's seat.

Pandey, who had quickly hit four fours and a couple of sixes, should have converted it into a big score but Tanush Kotian, the Mumbai off-spinner, castled him two short of fifty.

**Brief Scores:** West Zone 1st Innings 270 all out (Het Patel 98, R Sai Koshore 5/86). South Zone 1st Innings 318/7 (Baba Indrajith 118, Manish Pandey 48, Krishnappa Gowtham 43, Jaydev Unadkat 3/52, Atit Seth 3/51).